

**Australia Indonesia Association (ACT) Inc.**

**PO Box 7252 Duffy ACT 2611**

**60th Annual President’s Report 2024-2025**

This is 60th year in the ACT that AIA has been successful in achieving our aim:

*To promote friendship and understanding between the people of Australia and the people of Indonesia*

Australia Indonesia Association (AIA) (ACT) has in it’s Diamond Jubilee year been very successful again due to the wonderful commitment and hard work of the committee. The Indonesian Embassy has again provided greatly appreciated support. We are indebted to Bapak Siswo Pramono and all the Indonesian Embassy staff members who are always extremely helpful and support AIA.

For the AIA (ACT) financial year 2024-2025 the membership was:

* Life Members: 4 (Yetty Daly, Bill Rhemrev, Ike Supomo & Les Boag)
* Single Memberships paid: 41
* Family Memberships paid: 18
* Student Membership paid: 6
* Thus, a total adult membership, including Embassy corporate staff and spouses of approximately 117.

**SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:**  The main social activities since the 59th AGM were:

* AIA Committee members attended the Indonesia National Day Reception at WISMA on 10 October 2024 at which President Les Boag was honoured to be served from the tumpeng in front of the 600 guests.
* AIA joined with the Indonesian Embassy (KBRI) and Australia Indonesia Business Council (AIBC) to host an Indonesian night at the Commonwealth Club on 7 November 2024 which included performances by the Borobudur Dance Troupe and refreshments for the participants. The night was a great promotion of Indonesia with good networking.
* Members of AIA travelled from Canberra to Cowra on 10 November 2024 on Hari Pahlawan (Heroes’ Day) to join with members of AIA NSW to respect the Indonesians who died whilst interned at Cowra during World War 2.
* AIA hosted a dinner at the Mecure Hotel Ainslie on 24 November 2024 for 20 participants of the Australia Indonesia Youth Exchange Program (AIYEP), that DFAT arranges annually. This was enjoyed by all and the AIYEP students performed some great singing and dancing.
* AIA held an enjoyable 2023 End of Year Function at the Ginseng Restaurant in the Hellenic Club at Phillip on 8 December 2024. This included farewells for the Attachee DIKBUD Pak Najib (Mukhamad Najib) and Minister Councillor Pak Didi (Gunarmand Nainggolan) and their spouses.
* AIA held a very successful Australia Day 2025 Function that AIA arranged and set-up and again invited the combined Australia Indonesia organisations in the ACT. We had about 40 attend and AIA provided halal lamb chops and sausages. It was again a truly enjoyable event in the delightful location of the park at the end of Black Mountain Peninsula and included singing of both national anthems and an Australia Day attire competition with prizes. It concluded with Ibu Marsia’s Ukulele group leading the singing of popular songs.
* AIA Committee members attended the Indonesian Embassy Stall at the ACT Multicultural Festival on Saturday 8 February 2025 to promote our Indonesian language classes and support the KBRI staff.
* Bapak Dr Siswo Pramono and Ibu Dr Marsia Pramono very kindly hosted the AIA Committee and Indonesian language students to a learn Satay Cooking dinner on 28 February 2025 at Wisma.
* Members of the AIA Committee attended the Flag Raising Ceremony for Independence Day at the Embassy on 17 August 2025.
* AIA held an extremely successful Diamond Jubilee Dinner to celebrate our 60th Anniversary since we were founded at ANU. The Dinner was held at the Deakin Sports Club on 30 August 2025.

154 attended our Diamond Jubilee Dinner and it also helped Indonesia celebrate their 80th Independence Day which is 17 August each year. This year the dinner was well MC’d by Dan Schuurman and started with a Javanese Gamelan played by Pak Ragil as guests arrived. The 11 member Borobudur Dance Group, led by Ibu Ifa and Ibu Ayu provided two very skilful and spectacular dances that displayed the richness and diversity of Indonesian culture. This year the band was provided by the very talented Pak Enoeg with his son Sebastian and great singing by Ibu Diva. The Indonesian themed Buffet Dinner was “enak” and serving from both sides was again very successful. We were fortunate to have KRBI organise for three visiting members of Universitas Negeri Jakarta, who are in the Indonesian Language Education Support Program, to also perform two wonderful dances. Ambassador Bapak Siswo provided a very interesting update on developments with the Australia Indonesia relationship. President Les Boag gave a presentation of the genesis and the 60 year history of AIA in the ACT, following which Vice President Ibu Yetty Daly presented Les Boag with a Life Membership certificate. Our Raffle was again a great success thanks to all who provided raffle prizes, especially Indo Café and Ibu Yetty. Thanks to Phil Domaschenz for the promotion and conduct of the raffle that enabled us to raise $1,790.00 to help SMP2 Playen in the Gunung Kidul Regency. Special mention to Ibu Yetty Daly for providing the beautiful flowers on each table and Pak Rubby and the other KBRI staff who assisted to set up the venue sound system. The dinner was attended by a wide range of people from many of the Indonesian Groups in the ACT and enjoyed by all who attended.

**INDONESIAN LANGUAGE**: Phil Domaschenz has continued his great dedication and very professional and successful organising of the Indonesian Language Training. The classes changed to online during COVID and that is now preferred by the large majority. The skills and commitment of the native speaking teachers continues to ensure the success of the classes and again this year the teachers (Ibu Betsy Phillips, Ibu Yuni Ryan and Ibu Wanda Samuel-beeby), have done a wonderful job. During the year we have had four semesters with from five to six classes of about 6-12 students per class of 8 weeks per semester. We seek to provide classes at Advanced, Intermediate, Continuing Beginners and three Beginners levels. Using Zoom and the low cost for students has also greatly contributed to the success of classes, which peaked at 53 students per semester this year.

**CHARITIES**: AIA has continued providing assistance to help the disadvantaged in Indonesia and assist with their education throughout the year. The main efforts have been:

* **SMP2 PLAYEN** - For the last 24 years AIA has been providing funding to support the education of disadvantaged students at SMP2 Playen in Kecamatan Playen in Kabupaten Gunung Kidul in Provinsi Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta. This year AIA provided AUD 1,200.00 which was not shown on our bank balance until 2 September 2025. The school continues accounting and managing the funds excellently. President Les Boag accompanied by his wife, at their own expense, visited the school on 7 July 2025 and were impressed by the appreciation of the teachers and especially the wonderful students AIA has assisted.
* **NTA Training of Teachers Program** – AIA again this year provided AUD 3,000 to the Nusa Tenggara Association (NTA) to support training of local teachers. This assistance is critical as the poor rural schools in the Nusa Tenggara area struggle to attract fully qualified teachers and rely to a large extent on *guru honor* (teachers with a basic school education usually sourced from local communities). The training program provides some basic exposure for these teachers to teaching techniques and the school curriculum.
* **Donation to Borobudur Dance Troupe Costumes:** AIA provided $280.00 to the Borobudur Dance Troupe to help them purchase costumes for the dances from the various regions in Indonesia.

**FINANCIAL**: Again this year, AIA-ACT has been managed in a responsible and effective manner that enables us to be financial and fund charitable causes and activities that support our goals.

**USING ONLINE BOOKING:** AIA has continued the use of Trybooking for Pay online, Pay at the location and Free events (no Trybooking fee). This continues as an excellent aid to managing membership, Indonesian Language class bookings, and other events.

**WEB SITE:** We have again been fortunate to have Shinta Benilda and Damon Searle maintain the AIA (ACT) website. *aia-act.org.au* provides important information for members and the public and linking to events and language training for payments. We continue to look for opportunities to provide more AIA stories and photographs to display on our site and thank Damon and Shinta for their efforts.

**COMMITTEE**: This is the 14th year I have had the honour of being President and I always greatly appreciate the willing and dedicated efforts of all our very committed Committee Members. I thank all the AIA committee members who have done a wonderful job over the last year, and many of them for a very long time. Special thanks to Vice Presidents Ibu Yetty Daly, Phil Domaschenz, Secretary Bill Rhemrev and Treasurer Karim Najjarine. I appreciate the contributions of such a supportive and active Committee. I encourage our younger members to join our committee to ensure the continuity of AIA and provide new ideas and energy. I have to conclude with a very special recognition of the superb contribution made by Bill and Pam Rhemrev over decades. They have advised they are not re-standing for the Committee this coming FY. The effort of Life member Pak Bill, especially as President for 9 years and Secretary for the last 14 years has been truly of the highest standard of dedication and service and worthy of the highest accolades.

Les Boag President