



Australia Indonesia Association (ACT) Inc.
PO Box 7252 Duffy ACT 2611

58th Annual President's Report 2022-2023

This is 58th 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

This AIA (ACT) financial year AIA has been successful 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 2022-2023 the financial membership was:

- ✓ Life Members: 3 (Yetty Daly, Bill Rhemrev and Ike Supomo)
- ✓ Single Memberships paid: 45
- ✓ Family Memberships paid: 22
- ✓ Student Membership paid: 6
- ✓ Thus, a total adult membership, including Embassy corporate staff and families, of approximately 133.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: The main social activities since the 57th AGM were:

- ✓ AIA held an enjoyable 2022 End of Year Function at the Ginseng Restaurant in the Hellenic Club WODEN, on 4 December 2022.
- ✓ AIA held a very successful Australia Day 2023 Function that AIA arranged and set-up for and invited the combined Australia Indonesia organisations in the ACT. We had over 90 attended and all the AIA provided halal lamb chops and sausages were eaten along with the 300 satay sticks provided by the Ambassador. There was a wonderful array of Indonesian food provided by the attendees and it was 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 hat competition with prizes.
- ✓ The Ambassador and Ibu Marcia very kindly hosted the AIA members and language students for dinner and language practice at the Ambassador's residence on 3 April 2023.
- ✓ AIA held a farewell dinner for Pak Dody and family on 14 July 2023 at the Ginseng Restaurant in the Hellenic Club Woden.
- ✓ AIA held an enjoyable Indonesian dinner at Good Life Café in Woden on 29 June 2023.
- ✓ AIA held a very successful Winter Dinner at the Deakin Sports Club on 19 August 2023.

After having to cancel the 2020 and 2021 Winter Dinners due to COVID lockdowns, it was wonderful on 19 August 2023 to hold our second consecutive AIA-ACT Winter Dinner 2023 (WD23). 100 attended WD23 at the Deakin Sports Club and it was a very successful Gala event. The evening was masterfully MC'd by Ibu Shinta Benilda and started with a Javanese Gamelan Group consisting of Pak Gede, Pak Soegito, Pak Ragil & Pak Rubby playing as guests arrived. The Borobudur Dance Group, led by Ibu Ifa, provided two wonderful dances that displayed the richness and range of Indonesian culture. We were fortunate to have Pak Gede arrange a band called 'Cah Cilik Band' and they provided great music, singing and back up to other performers. This year we tried to improve the Indonesian themed dinner by changing to a buffet service. While we believe we can improve it with more serving points next year, the food was a great success with many thinking it was cooked by an Indonesian. We were fortunate to have Ian Burnet as our Guest Speaker and he gave a wonderful presentation on some key interesting places to visit in Indonesia. We were also fortunate to have famous singer Ibu Iis Dunbar sing for us with her band. Thanks to all who provided raffle prizes, especially Indo Café and Ibu Yetty for the great main Raffle prize and Phil Domaschenz for the promotion of the raffle that enabled us to raise \$1,170 for two projects (costumes for

Borobudur Dance Group and Teacher in a Box for poor Indonesia regions). The night concluded with a Ukelele Group which included Ibu Marcia. WD23 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. In 2020 COVID forced us to change from face-to-face lessons to online classes. This has proven so successful that most students and teachers do not want to go back to face-to-face classes. The skills and commitment of the native speaking teachers continues to ensure the success of the classes and again this year the teachers 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. The use of Zoom and the low cost for student participation has also greatly contributed to the success of classes, which peaked at 60 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:

- ✓ **NTA Training of Teachers Program** – AIA again this year provided AUD3,000 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.
- ✓ **Teacher in a Box** – AIA committed AUD700.00 to help fund two Teacher in a Box applications in Indonesia to help the disadvantaged, especially school children, with access to training online in poor areas in Indonesia. This program is managed by Rotary and a further \$970 was provided from our WD23 raffle.

SUPPORT TO INDONESIAN LANGUAGE TRAINING AT ANU: AIA is still seeking to identify the top ANU Indonesian Language Student at year 3 for 2022, to award a \$500 prize.

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. Last year I sadly reported that on 19 December 2021 AIA-ACT suffered theft of \$3,980.60 through a Scam and a breakdown of our financial management processes through a human error. I am thrilled to be able to report that through the work of our Treasurer, Karim Najjarine, and the bank, this year we recovered \$3,953.48.

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. For a relatively small fee Trybooking collects all the details from the registering participants and those records enable better management of events and easier accounting.

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 12th 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, Treasurer Karim Najjarine and Ibu Shinta and Pak Damon on our web site who all work so hard for AIA. It was good to welcome Sharen Mack and have Pamela Davis back on the Committee this year. I strongly encourage our younger members to join our committee to ensure the continuity of AIA and provide new ideas and energy.



Les Boag President