

NEWSLETTER

Australia–Indonesia Association (ACT) Start of Spring 2020

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President's Greetings – Welcome to Spring in the ACT – Les Boag

I hope you are all staying safe and healthy. After a terrible start to the year with drought, bushfires, storms and then COVID-19, it is good to have had rain. Things are looking up: Spring has arrived and the ACT has not had any COVID-19 cases for a couple of months. Although we still must be COVID alert and ensure we comply with social distancing requirements, it is good to be able to get out more and enjoy the beauty of Spring in the ACT and to do some socialising.

Like with most organisations, the COVID-19 restrictions have prevented the Australia–Indonesia Association (ACT) holding some events this year, especially our great Winter Dinner that we scheduled to celebrate Indonesia's 75th Independence Day on 17 August. However, thanks to the adaptability of the native-speaker teachers and the wonderful coordination efforts of Vice-President Phil Domaschenz we were able to continue our Indonesia language classes online at all five levels with good numbers in classes. We have also continued our charitable support to Indonesia and are planning to resume social activities, as much as ACT COVID restrictions allow.

Australia's floral emblem is the Australian Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*). At this time of the year, the ACT and its surrounding countryside are wonderfully displaying the beautiful green and gold of the Golden Wattle from which Australia takes its sporting colours. For any not already aware, the ACT floral emblem is the Royal Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia gloriosa*) and both floral emblems are flowering now. I hope you all find time to enjoy the beauty of the ACT in Spring.

AIA Annual Membership Renewal now due

The AIA financial year is from 1 September to 31 August the following year. Thus, AIA (ACT) annual membership fees are now due. Please take action now to renew your membership or to join the AIA. Membership brings many benefits, especially to the language students who receive a \$20 membership discount each semester. Importantly, the membership fees help us cover incorporation, insurance and other operating costs and contribute to our charitable efforts. The fees have remained unchanged for decades at:

- Individual: \$10
- Family: \$14
- Student: \$5

Here is the link to pay your membership online, safely and securely: <https://www.trybooking.com/BLHZA>

Annual General Meeting (AGM) – 6pm on 30 September 2020

Notice is hereby given that the AIA (ACT) Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Wednesday 30 September 2020 commencing at 6pm, at the Indonesian Embassy. The Embassy has very kindly offered us the use of Balai Kartini for our AGM.

Please consider joining the committee. In accordance with our Constitution, all Committee positions are elected annually at the AGM. Nomination forms and further information can be obtained by contacting the Secretary, Bill Rhemrev, at rhemrev@pcug.org.au or calling him on 0438 881 750. Regardless of wishing to nominate to be on the committee, the attendance by as many members as possible will be greatly appreciated. Please do come along to the AGM; it is a chance to meet other members and to discuss our organisation. As banquets are not allowed, a supper box will be provided so please advise our Secretary if you will attend.

Indonesian Language Classes for 4th Semester – Bookings now open

AIA (ACT) has for 10 years now been running weekly Indonesian Language Classes in Canberra. The teachers are all native speakers and the classes are very successful. They offer a relaxed, positive and enjoyable environment where students learn and advance at their own pace.

Classes will again be online for this term (Semester 4) which will start in the week commencing 12 October 2020. Please note that if there is a high demand, preference will be given to ongoing students who book before the discount cut-off date. The classes are for two hours and the starting time can be 6pm or 7pm, depending on which class you attend. The classes run for eight consecutive weeks.

The classes are designed to cater for the very advanced through to beginners and attract a range of very interesting mature students who share a common interest in developing Indonesian language skills, and, for some, to help prepare them for work (paid and charitable) in Indonesia.

There are five levels offered

Advanced – Tuesdays 7–9pm

Intermediate – Thursdays 6–8pm

Beginners Level 3 – Mondays 7–9pm

Beginners Level 2 – Wednesday 7–9pm

Beginners Level 1 – Thursdays 7–9pm

Here is the link to book a place: <https://www.trybooking.com/BLIMQ>

Support to SMP2 Playen continues

For the past 19 years, AIA has provided funding to support the education of disadvantaged students at SMP2 Playen in the Gunung Kidul district which is South East of Yogyakarta. AIA provides AUD1,500 per annum and is in the process of sending the funds for 2020. AIA (ACT) President, Les Boag, last visited the school on 12 September 2019. The school continues accounting for and managing the funds excellently and ensures that the funds help the most disadvantaged children.

Support to fight COVID in Nusa Tenggara and Sulawesi

AIA has provided funds in a quick response to requests to help provide material to support good hygiene practices to fight the spread of COVID. The first contribution was AUD1,500 to the Nusa Tenggara Association (NTA) which used the funds to buy and supply COVID prevention materials in the poorer villages in Nusa Tenggara. The second was AUD1,000 sent to Sulawesi through a local contact to provide COVID prevention materials in the poorer traditional villages. It is well recognised that using the hygiene materials, such as masks, washing points, disinfectants and sanitisation products, helps raise awareness and

really helps to stop the spread of this worst in a century pandemic. We hope the AIA contributions have had a real effect to stop the spread of the disease.

Support for NTA teacher training in Nusa Tenggara

For a few years now, AIA has been a main contributor to the running of a program in Nusa Tenggara conducted by NTA to train the honorary teachers in using the national curriculum and syllabus to teach their students. This has proven to be very successful and this year AIA (ACT) provided AUD1,500 for the program. Interestingly, AIA (VIC) is funding the other AUD1,500 needed to run the program this year.

Functions

While ensuring we comply with the latest ACT COVID requirements, AIA ACT is pushing ahead to organise some social functions.

- **Online Masak Masak on Saturday 19 September 2020 - FREE.** The Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has very kindly arranged for a top Indonesian chef, William Wongso, to conduct an online Zoom meeting to advise on Indonesia cooking. This will be in Bahasa Indonesia and participants will be able to ask questions. This is a great opportunity to practise and improve your Indonesian language skills and expand your knowledge of cooking Indonesian dishes. The meeting will be from 8pm to 9.30pm, due to the chef's availability. The link details will be provided to all who advise they wish to participate. Here is the link to advise you wish to participate:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BLIZG>

- **Trivia Night on Sunday, 8 November 2020 - FREE.** The trivia night last year was a great success. This year it will again be held at the Kingston Hotel, Kingston, where we have a reserved the same room for this AIA function and attendees can buy food (dinner) and drinks from the adjoining room. This year Robin and Tieke Brown have kindly offered to organise the Australian and Indonesian questions. This really is a fun night with prizes to be won and lots of great camaraderie while conforming to the COVID requirements for social distancing etc. The current COVID social distancing restrictions require that the numbers be limited to 33. Please book early and don't miss out. Here is the link to book to attend this FREE event. Please ensure that you cancel your booking if unable to attend; this will allow others to come along. Book now at:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BLIOE>

- **End of Year Dinner, 6 December 2020.** The location is still being negotiated but please lock this date into your diaries and we will advise when the details are finalised and the event is up on Trybooking.

Please be COVIDSafe

Canberra has benefitted from people being responsible and we all need to keep making COVIDSafe choices to help stop the spread so we can all enjoy life. Please play your part:

- Keep physical distancing in public spaces.
- Practise good hygiene.
- Protect others and stay at home if you're unwell.
- If you're experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms, speak to your doctor about getting tested.
- If you haven't already, download the COVIDSafe app.