

AIAV NEWS

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PHOTO: ELISSA AND KERRYNN SHOPPING FOR VEGGIES AT A LOCAL MARKET, AUTHOR SUPPLIED

REFLECTING ON IMMERSION IN INDONESIA

Kerryann Murray, AIAV member

You know how sometimes you just have to take a leap? Well that's how I felt travelling to Java for the first time for the AIAV 'Adult Immersion Course' to Bandung, Indonesia. I had travelled many times before, all over the world, and numerous times to Bali, but I was sure that this was going to be different and much more challenging.

There were three participants on this journey: myself and Owen (both from Melbourne) and Elissa, from Ballarat. Each of us had our own motivations for joining this immersion course – to improve our listening and speaking skills, to gain an insight and awareness of Indonesian beliefs and practices and to immerse ourselves in a new culture.

After settling in with our host families, we participated in a two

week short course in Indonesian language at the local university – UPI. Our teachers, Nana and Mamay, were experts in sharing both the grammar and the wisdom of their years of experience in Indonesia. Our 'mitra' (language partners) attended classes with us each day, and helped us with difficult questions, assisted us when interviewing local people and helped us experience many local activities, like catching the angkot (local minibuses) and ordering food.

Each day was structured so that we had a few hours of class, then an afternoon of activities. One of the main activities was interviewing locals about a variety of topics. Some of the people we interviewed included 'tukang becak', 'apoteker', 'penjaga masjid' and various local 'mahasiswa'. Other activities included setting up a scavenger

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**WHAT'S
IN
THIS
EDITION?**



PHOTO: IFF WEBSITE

Indonesian Film Fest

What to see at this year's Indonesian Film Festival

THIS YEAR the AIAV is sponsoring the IFF. It's an annual festival of Indonesian screen culture, find out more about the program of events.

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PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY IRENE RITCHIE

Tolerance and religion

Part One of a series by Irene Ritchie.

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hunt on the university grounds, playing gamelan and trying our hand at Batik as well as shopping for ingredients then cooking our own gado-gado from an Indonesian recipe.

During the weekend, we had the added treat of playing a number of traditional Indonesian games with some of the Australian secondary students participating in the AIAV student exchange, which were great fun. Many involved both teamwork and water, which was an entertaining combination. We also visited a local hot springs for a good soak.

Each of us had very different opportunities and experiences with our host families. My host family was very warm and welcoming and went to such an effort to include me in their family events, including wedding planning, a close friend's death, a large number of meals with extended family and various shopping and eating experiences. I was very lucky that my host mother's hobby was cooking, and I had the chance to try a variety of Sundanese dishes, both home made and from the market. My favourites were 'Awug' (a kind of coconut baked rice with palm sugar syrup), 'pisang goreng dengan keju' (fried banana with cheese on top) and 'Bakso Tahu Goreng' fried tofu dumplings with satay sauce). There were also some strange food experiences, like trying avocado juice with chocolate syrup (surprisingly tasty) and 'tape' - a fermented rice (never again).

Overall, it was a very fun and enriching experience. I would highly recommend anyone currently involved in Indonesian language classes (of any skill level) to investigate participating in this program next year. The teachers catered to our abilities and were very flexible, patient and engaging.

Feeling inspired?

If you'd like to participate in our next adult immersion course please contact immersion@aiav.org.au

PHOTO: KERRY AND ELISSA BEFORE TRYING "TAPE" AT THE LOCAL MARKET, AUTHOR SUPPLIED



Language Tip:

Compensate for your lack of linguistic ability by occasionally using your native language, asking for help (repeat, clarify, slow down, give examples) guessing, using mime or gesture, and describing the concept for which you lack a word. (Or describe it in Indonesian. This way you are using the language that you do know to try to obtain that which you don't. It's not only good practice, but can be a confidence boost when your companion tells you the word because he or she understands the rest of your dialogue.)

Masoud Shafiei, University of Houston, adapted by Karina Noontil