

TRINITY COLLEGE COLAC CELEBRATES INDONESIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY



On August 13, Trinity College celebrated seventy years since Indonesia proclaimed Independence. It was a great day full of action in the Tuck Wing where students and teachers were involved in the activities which included playing games, viewing cultural displays, bracelet-making, eating traditional Indonesian food and buying lollies and wristbands with Indonesia's currency, Rupiah, that were distributed to students earlier in the day.

The College welcomed some very special guests from the Indonesian Consulate in Melbourne, State Parliament and Colac Otway Shire Council for the celebrations. A massive thank you to Bu Cole for all the time and effort towards making the day successful, to Pak Danu for the incredible amount of food he cooked and to Bu Wheal and Bu O'Loughlin for their ongoing support and promotion of Indonesian activities.

*Selamat Hari Kemerdekaan
Tess O'Brien Year 12 student*

Independence Day in Canberra

On Monday, 17th August, Indonesia celebrated its 70th year of independence. The senior students undertaking VCE Indonesian were invited by His Excellency, the Indonesian Ambassador, to attend the celebration at the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra. Two of us were incredibly fortunate to be able to accept the invitation.

The day began with an early trip to Canberra and we quickly made our way to the Embassy. As we walked through the big, black gates and up the drive, we were able to marvel at the Indonesian buildings adorned with beautiful stone carvings and guarded by dragon sculptures. Almost as soon as we walked into the courtyard, we were greeted by His Excellency and his wife and many ministers, including the Minister of Education.



Soon after the initial introductions, the flag-raising ceremony began. A group of students dressed in pristine white suits marched into the courtyard and raised the flag as the Indonesian anthem was sung. The Indonesian people, after receiving various speeches from His Excellency and others, raised their fists into the air and cried, 'Merdeka!' This cry of freedom was incredibly moving, as it made me realise how lucky I am to have lived a free life in a free country.

Next we moved into the Kartini building to experience the cutting of the Tumpeng, a pyramid of nasi kuning (yellow rice) with various seafood, vegetables and meat. They are used in the ceremony of Selamatan as a celebration and the most important person, in this case His Excellency, does the honours of cutting the top of the pyramid off. All of the guests lined up for the traditional Indonesian meal. As we moved to begin eating, His Excellency sought us out and guided us to the VIP table, much to our surprise. We ate our food and talked to other students who won the scholarship and to Indonesian teachers, ministers and other honoured guests.

After the food, there was the important task of taking selfies with everyone present. We were reprimanded for using the wrong lighting and given a crash course in the art of the selfie. We took selfies with His Excellency, his wife, military officials and their wives, Indonesian politicians, beautiful women in their traditional batik, the students who were part of the flag-raising ceremony and students who sang Indonesian songs after the ceremony.

Once the celebrations at the Embassy were complete, we travelled to the Canberra War Memorial where we received an in-depth tour that allowed us to learn about the confrontation with Indonesia and to increase our knowledge of Australia's role in war, both past and present. Next we visited the Canberra Art Gallery where we viewed 101 paintings that depicted the story of Ramayana, the Romeo and Juliet story of Indonesia.

I would like to thank Bu Cole for all of the effort that she put in to allow us to be invited to this inspiring event and to His Excellency and the Indonesian Embassy for being such generous and kind hosts. All of the people that were so bright and cheerful made my experience the best that it could be.

I am incredibly grateful that I received this opportunity and I wouldn't have traded this experience for anything.

Emily Vaughan Year 12 student