Taking groups to the Flinders Pendopo is a fun and encouraging way of teaching students about Indonesian culture and, in particular, the gamelan orchestra.

Students have the opportunity to play a variety of instruments and learn traditional music patterns that may be unfamiliar to them. The instructors are enthusiastic and friendly and have a good knowledge of the instruments, music and, of course, the Indonesian language and culture. Students love the hands-on experience in a traditional setting — especially the inclusion of cultural sensibilities, for example — removing shoes before entering the Pendopo, and avoiding walking over instruments so as not to offend the ‘spirits’.

Tim Rodgers – Victor Harbor High School

The Flinders Asia Centre has provided wonderful support to the teaching of Indonesian at Mercedes College for many years. Each year our Year 10 students attend the Pendopo for a gamelan workshop and students really enjoy this experience. Our students have really enjoyed and benefited from these sessions and have gained valuable knowledge about post-school options in studying Indonesian. In 2010, our Year 7 students were fortunate enough to attend a grass puppet-making workshop, presented by Jumaadi, Artist-in-Residence at Flinders University during the OzAsia Festival. The students and staff of Mercedes College greatly appreciate the assistance provided by the Flinders Asia Centre.

Jumaadi – Flinders Asia Centre Artist-in-Residence 2010

Flinders students visited our school on several occasions to work with the children in a passionate, enthusiastic and sharing way.

Flinders students provided a meaningful and authentic language exchange — from modelled language with which the children were familiar through to extending students. It was also very useful for me as a continuing reference point, as some reluctant language learners claim that it is difficult to envisage an application for language learning and so speaking with real live Indonesians in the flesh gave a clear purpose for learning language!

Lyndal Chittleborough – The Hills Montessori School

Stephanie Ray – Mercedes College

Flinders Asia Centre School Outreach Program 2011

Flinders University has been connecting Australians with Indonesia since 1978.

Getting to know our largest and most exciting neighbour has never been as important for Australia and Australians as it is now.

The Flinders Asia Centre offers a range of resources and programs to South Australian primary and secondary schools, to enhance students’ experience of studying Indonesian language and culture.

2011 Availability

Gamelan workshops and conversation with Indonesian native speakers can be booked for any week during school terms.

Other programs are available during the following weeks:

| TERM 1 | Weeks 3-4 | (weeks commencing: 14 Feb, 21 Feb) |
| TERM 2 | Weeks 5-10 | (weeks commencing: 30 May, 6 Jun, 13 Jun, 20 Jun, 27 Jun, 4 Jul) |
| TERM 3 | Week 9 | (week commencing: 19 Sep) |
| TERM 4 | Weeks 4-9 | (weeks commencing: 7 Nov, 14 Nov, 21 Nov, 28 Nov, 5 Dec, 12 Dec) |

Further information

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CRICOS No. 00114A
What can the Flinders Asia Centre offer your school in 2011?

Primary and secondary students

Puppet-making ^^
Students can learn to make their own shadow puppets by weaving reeds and grasses or using cardboard. A screen is available for them to try out their puppets. With prior notice, the screen can be borrowed for up to a fortnight giving teachers the opportunity to incorporate shadow puppetry into a unit of work. [duration: 1.5 hours]

Conversation with Indonesian native speakers ^^
Students can meet and talk to students from Indonesia who study at Flinders and who enjoy meeting young Australians who are learning Indonesian. [duration: up to 1 hour]

Gamelan workshop
The Flinders University Pendopo houses the beautiful Sekar Laras gamelan instruments. Students can learn about this traditional Javanese percussion orchestra and learn to play a simple gamelan piece, working together as an ensemble. No prior instrumental experience necessary. Gamelan workshops are the most popular activity for Indonesian students visiting Flinders. [duration: 1-2 hours]

Specialist gamelan workshops for special interest music schools
These workshops introduce students to the theory and practice of gamelan ensemble playing at a more complex level. [duration: 2-3 hours]

Customised Indonesian language/culture workshop ^^
Flinders Asia Centre can create a half-day program for your students, incorporating games, music and language tasks based on the work you are currently covering in class. [duration: 2-3 hours]

An authentic Indonesian meal
Flinders Asia Centre can arrange for an Indonesian caterer to prepare an authentic Indonesian meal for your class to enjoy in the Flinders Pendopo. [duration: 1-2 hours]

Contact Flinders Asia Centre for details of nominal costs involved.

Year 11 and Year 12 programs

Film day
Feature, documentary and independent films, including films made by young film-makers. Teachers can choose what will suit their class. Screenings can be followed by discussion with Flinders Asia Centre staff and Indonesian postgraduate students.

Half-day language immersion program
Bring your students to Flinders for a half-day exposure to Indonesian through conversation with native speakers, writing and listening activities, short films and music.

Chat Online! #
Year 11 and Year 12 students can sign up for online chatting (in Indonesian) with third or fourth year Flinders students and/or Indonesian postgraduate students on our Indonesian@Flinders Facebook fan page.

SACE Research Project
Flinders Asia Centre staff and postgraduate students can be a resource for students doing Indonesia-related SACE research projects. Areas include: Indonesian film; women in Indonesian politics; Indonesian migrant domestic workers; popular music, and more!

Country school visits

Every two years local students who are studying Indonesian, Indonesian overseas students, and staff from the Flinders Asia Centre take to the road for a few days’ holiday in a country town. In 2009 we spent three days in Nhill, bushwalking and camping in the Little Desert. On one of the evenings we cooked an Indonesian meal for the Year 12 Indonesian students from Nhill College and their parents. The students practised their Indonesian over dinner, and afterwards each Year 12 student and the students studying Indonesian at Flinders gave a short speech about themselves in Indonesian to a very appreciative audience. It was a memorable few days for all participants.

If you would like the Flinders Asia Centre to visit your country school, please contact Dr Rosslyn von der Borch.

* *

All programs listed are offered at the Flinders University Pendopo, a traditional Javanese pavilion located on our main campus at Bedford Park. Opened in 1990, and standing in a lovely Australian bush setting, the Flinders University Pendopo is recognised as one of the most beautiful outside Indonesia and houses the Sekar Laras gamelan instruments.

** These programs can also be offered on school campuses.

# Chat Online – Flinders correspondents are third year or fourth year students and/or Indonesian postgraduate students who have cleared a criminal history check and who have signed an undertaking only to correspond with their ‘pen-pals’ in Indonesian via the Indonesian@Flinders Facebook page.