

# Green, yellow, red...

## Following the Indonesian election trail on the Web

Oliver Mann, National Library of Australia

Indonesia's general elections on 29 May were preceded by a month of well regulated campaigning by the three political parties allowed to contest the ballot. The parties were permitted to hold campaign rallies on consecutive days, and each party was recognisable by the use of distinctive colours: yellow for Golkar, the government backed party; green for the United Development Party (PPP), a Muslim oriented group; and red for the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI), an alliance of several Christian and nationalist parties. For a month the streets of Jakarta were festooned with this threefold colour scheme. Even the most disinterested political observer could not ignore the fervour and colour of May 1997.

Acquiring material about the elections for the National Library of Australia and its participants in the Indonesian Acquisitions Program included contacting the parties and the General Elections Institute, purchasing short-run booklets from newspaper sellers at traffic lights, and 'surfing the net'. It is an indication of Indonesia's development in the five years since the last elections that all three parties saw the value in promoting their respective platforms on the worldwide web for the first time. The launch of their homepages co-incided with news of the attempts of Portuguese hackers to infiltrate the homepage site of the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI), all of which served to heighten local interest in the new campaign (kampayne) medium.

The three sites are <http://www.golkar.or.id/> (Golkar); Indonesian

Democratic Party, <http://www.banteng.org>; and the United Development Party <http://www.ppp.or.id>. Although the homepage connections are at times patchy and slow, their construction is quite sophisticated, and their contents are informative and regularly updated. The United Development Party [<http://www.ppp.or.id>] has the best maintained site, with the occasional foray into criticising government policy. The interactive homepages include statements from party leaders, election news, editorials, campaign schedules, party doctrines, and information about the electoral system.

As a new source of information on the Indonesian electoral processes the homepages constitute a comfortable option for affluent Indonesians and the outside world. It is estimated there are 40 000 internet users in Indonesia, two-thirds of whom live in Jakarta. But it is the skilful use of television which remains the most effective and pervasive medium, with the government run TVRI network reaching more than sixty-five per cent of Indonesia's 200 million people.

The National Library of Australia maintains its Asian homepage at <http://www.nla.gov.au/1/asian/> and links to the Indonesian government and politics homepage at <http://www.nla.gov.au/1/asian/indo/indogov.html#pol>

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Swanston and Little Lonsdale Streets. 7pm for 7.30pm, \$15. Contact: Margaret Zarifeh, ph 03 9527 5853, fx 03 9898 9872, [graeme=Oke@vut.edu.au](mailto:graeme=Oke@vut.edu.au). RSVP by 10/10.

**22/10 FLIS Training Pty Ltd.** Basic essential skills for library and information staff. Monash Uni Conference Centre, 30 Collins Street, Melbourne. 9.15-5pm. Cost \$170. Contact: Elizabeth Yates, ph 03 9813 1925, fax 03 9882 4274, [libflis@vicnet.net.au](mailto:libflis@vicnet.net.au).

• **24/10 Vic Health Libraries section.** Vicgratis/Country librarian's day. Venue to be confirmed. Suggestions for speaker and/or demonstrations are encouraged (to any committee member). Publicity officer: Helen Cotsell, ph 03 9344 2398, fx 03 9347 8591, [cotsellh@cryptic.rch.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:cotsellh@cryptic.rch.unimelb.edu.au).

**31/10 Cultural Organisations and Multimedia conference.** Held in conjunction with the Asia Pacific Interact Multimedia Festival 1997. State Library of Victoria Theatre. For further information please contact: Janice Van de Velde, conference administrator, State Library of Victoria, ph 03 9669 9869, [jvanveld@slv.vic.gov.au](mailto:jvanveld@slv.vic.gov.au), <http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/slv/events/commcon97>.

• **15-16/11 Vic CYSS section.** Bridging the gap — a literary weekend. Confirmed speakers: Maureen McCarthy, Margaret Clark, Michael Pryor, Louise LeNay. Old Castlemain Gaol, Bowden Street, Castlemain. \$205 ALIA members, \$230 non-members (accommodation and meals). Contact: Terry May, ph 03 9743 1168.

• **5/12 Joint Vic Branch and ACLIS Christmas party.** Parliament House, \$15. Bookings to: Janette Gribble, ph 03 9669 9722, [alia@slv.vic.alia.au](mailto:alia@slv.vic.alia.au). Transport subsidies available for Regional groups to attend. Contact: Trevor Wakely, ph 03 9669 4301, fx 03 9669 4611, [t.wakely@bom.gov.au](mailto:t.wakely@bom.gov.au).

• **12/12 Vic Health Libraries section.** AGM and Christmas party. Venue still to be confirmed, but put the date in your diary now!

### WA

• **5/9 WA Special Libraries section.** Breakfast at King's Park. Speaker: Alan Brian, Visitor Services and Cultural Studies. Fraser's Restaurant, Kings Park, \$15 (full breakfast or vegetarian). Contact: Ling Heang, ph 041 894 1861. RSVP by 29/8 with choice and cheque payable to ALIA Special Libraries section, PO Box 7582, Cloisters Square 6850.

• **9/9-18/11 WA Library Technician section meeting dates** (9/9; 22/10; 18/11). For further details contact: Jodie Stevens, ph 08 9222 9265, fx 08 9222 9290, [jstevens@mpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:jstevens@mpc.wa.gov.au)

• **11/9-11/12 ALIA National Special Libraries section committee meetings.** Alexander Library Building, Ground Floor, Room G2. Time: 5pm. (11/9; 9/10; 13/11; 11/12). Contact: Joyce Steveni, ph 08 9459 0602.

• **17/9 WA Branch and CPD committee.** Information packaging panel discussion. Representatives from: Aust Bureau of Stats, Search Research, Kondinin Group, Aust Nutrition Foundation, on how they package information to suit cli-

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