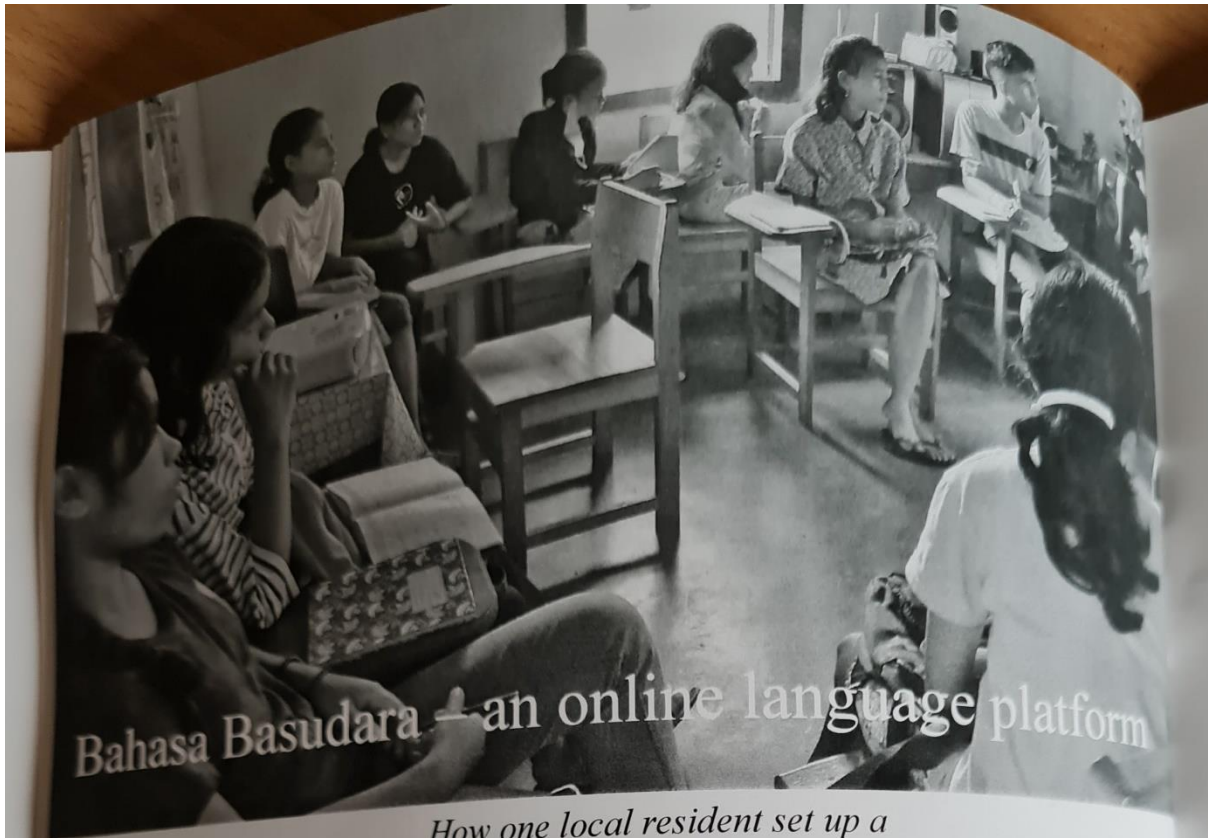


CHART *News*



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EASTER 2022



Bahasa Basudara – an online language platform

How one local resident set up a world wide teaching platform

Did you know about Limpsfield Chart's connection with the world's largest archipelago, Indonesia? Or to be more specific, with Maluku (the Moluccas)? This group of islands is easily overlooked, and is located north of Australia, south of the Philippines, west of Papua New Guinea and east of Malaysia. At one point these islands played a significant role in the history of the British empire. When you put cloves in your mulled wine or nutmeg on your coffee and in your cakes, the spices originated from the Spice Islands, also known as... Maluku. And spices have played a vital role in British history. The British and the Dutch exchanged Maluku for Manhattan in New York, because of these spices. Tip: do read Giles Milton's book *Nathaniel's Nutmeg* if you want to know more about this.

So, what do these Islands on the other side of the world have to do with our community here in Limpsfield Chart? A few Moluccans, including me, came up with the idea of setting up a free online language training platform in early 2020 and called it Bahasa Basudara, which translates as *Language for Family*. We are an



online language learning community for Moluccans in Indonesia. The platform was designed to have fluent and native English speakers (and other languages) tutor students in Maluku via online training, focusing on conversation skills. The first classes started in May 2020. All classes are **free of charge** so everyone who wants to can learn or improve their language skills.

Unfortunately, Maluku is still one of the poorest, least developed and least educated provinces in Indonesia. Many Moluccan students, due to their remote locations or poor economic background, don't have access to good English language training, and miss out on scholarship and work opportunities abroad. Many Moluccans who live overseas still have knowledge and experience, which were gained in the industry and academic world. We now have 165 registered tutors worldwide. To have such a large pool of volunteer tutors enables us to match the students' skills levels appropriately with the tutor's background. Those that speak Indonesian will tutor beginners, whilst native speakers will tutor more advanced classes. At the time of writing, we have completed 272 classes and are running 29 weekly classes.

We have now started our Year of Literacy and the first the first online Spelling Bee Contests for students aged between 12 and 17. Last year we introduced our Summer of Poetry where, during August and September we presented a collection of thirty poems written by twelve poets from Maluku. Their work was also translated into English, and we are currently in the process of publishing an anthology of their diverse and amazing work. Their work can be seen on Bahasa Basudara YouTube channel (the channel also has student testimonials).

We have been going for nearly two years and are growing fast. We can already see the real impact and benefit it has. If you are interested in joining us on this journey through volunteering, supporting or donating, please visit our website www.bahasabasudara.org. There you can also find our Frequently Asked Questions which will hopefully help with any questions you might have. And thank you for taking the time to learn about Bahasa Basudara and the work that is being done right from within our village.

Jeff Malaihollo