

**Address of Mrs Jane Duke  
Acting Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia  
to the Australia Day 2014 reception  
22 January 2014**

Salam sejahtera dan selamat datang ke majlis sambutan Hari Kebangsaan Australia. Saya amat berbesar hati dengan kehadiran para tetamu pada petang ini untuk majlis ini.

Australia Day, held on 26 January, is an occasion for us to reflect on our vibrant multicultural society and the outstanding contribution made by Australians in many different fields and in all walks of life.

I have the great privilege to host you tonight as the Acting High Commissioner, together with my husband Simon, following the return to Australia of High Commissioner, Miles Kupa, on completion of his impressive term.

High-Commissioner-designate, Rod Smith, will be arriving in-country tomorrow, and is a highly professional and experienced diplomat – we all look forward to working with him.

The Australian government, headed by Prime Minister Tony Abbott, is extremely committed to the Asian region, and places a very strong emphasis on enhancing bilateral relationships.

And in this region, Australia has particularly substantial and long-standing historical ties with Malaysia.

Every year we become more interconnected, our people-to-people links deepen and the bilateral relationship grows from strength-to-strength.

In fields as diverse as trade, education, defence, border protection, law enforcement, the arts and culture, and many others, Australia and Malaysia share extensive cooperation. We look forward to developing even closer ties in the years ahead.

All of you who are here today have assisted our work in taking forward Australia-Malaysia relations and we thank you for your contribution.

The theme for tonight's event is "Australia Rocks!" We hope you enjoy a fabulous night that celebrates Australia's excellence in music, film, theatre, literature, and food, against the backdrop of our glorious and sweeping landscapes.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Datuk Peter Brokenshire in his last year as General Manager and the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre team for their inspirational creativity in supporting this event.

I would also like to thank our generous sponsors and all the team at the Australian High Commission for making this event so spectacular, and for me personally over the past month as Acting High Commissioner.

This will be my last Australia Day event in Malaysia – my term concludes at the end of 2014. My family and I have enjoyed every minute of it,

particularly the joy of experiencing Malaysia's diverse culture, delicious food, rich history, warm people and natural beauty.

I look forward to another productive and busy year and wish you all a Selamat Hari Australia.