

# IPOH echo

Your Voice In The Community

August 1-15, 2010

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ISSUE **102**

### DELIVERY

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>> Pg 3

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>> Pg 7

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>> Pg 8

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>> Pg 9

'Muhibbah Emcee'



## PERAK'S HOME-GROWN TALENT



*Ipoh Echo's 100<sup>th</sup> Issue Anniversary Party promises to be a festive evening showcasing local talents to make Perak proud. A line-up of dance, music and song to be performed by home-grown, born and bred Perakeans, will see the 400-strong supporters who bought tables for the gala evening tapping their feet, and swaying to the exciting programme in store for them. In this issue, we are introducing our team of performers for the evening in order for Ipohites to acquaint themselves with the veritable treasure trove of talent waiting to be appreciated by a wider audience.*

*Continued on page 2*



Iqwal



Stephy Leow



Wern Sze Gill



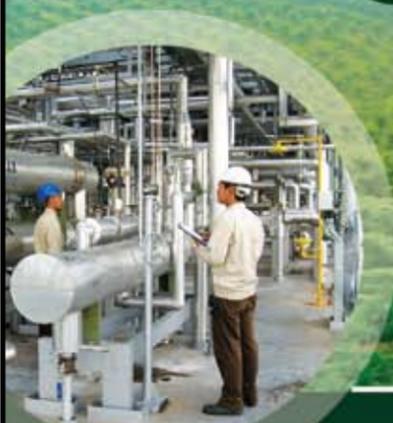
Rosli Mansor



Eunice Phuah



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## An evening of non-stop entertainment led by 'Muhibbah Emcee' K.T. Pillai – see Anak Perak on page 9

• By SeeFoon Chan-Koppen



### Dance and Musical Troupe

The Department of Culture, Arts and Heritage Perak's dance troupe consists of 13 dancers and five musicians. The troupe was formed in April 2007 with an initial strength of 21 which was eventually trimmed to its current size. It became fully operational in June 2007 and is the department's official "mascot" of sorts.

To date, the team has performed at over 40 state and departmental functions, in and outside of Ipoh. Its primary objective is to showcase the cultural diversity of the various races in the country through dance and music. Team members, ranging in age from 18 to 30, are led by Pn Shaliza Azlin, an accomplished dancer. Shaliza choreographs the troupe's dance routines.

The musical group, a recent addition, was formed last February. The team of five plays a mixed bag of traditional musical instruments which forms an integral part of the show. Besides playing music they also sing.

"Talents borne out of necessity", said Department Director, Abdul Mutalib Abdul Rahman. Since stepping into the driver's seat in June, Mutalib has been actively promoting cultural programmes to meet the needs of Perakeans.

### Wern Sze Gill

Ipoh-born Wern Sze Gill has been singing and performing in choral groups since the age of 12. While at school, she directed and produced school plays in MGS Ipoh and also conducted the school band. She had her first experience in musical theatre when she was invited to play the lead role 'Luisa' in the ACS production of The Fantastics while waiting to leave for Australia to further her studies. While in university, Wern Sze joined her university choir, and was even invited to represent her college

at an inter-college musical soiree. After completing her Masters degree in Australia five years later, she enrolled in a musical theatre programme at the Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne, Australia, and rediscovered her passion for singing and acting in musical theatre. Upon returning to Ipoh in 1997, she joined the Perak Society of Performing Arts (PSPA) and was soon cast in principal roles such as 'Maria' in West Side Story, 'Tzeitel' in Fiddler on the Roof, and 'Fiona' in Brigadoon.

A marketing communications practitioner by profession, Wern Sze currently manages Media Masters Publishing, a Media and Publications Company based in Ipoh, and is also a busy mum to a 7-year-old son and 5-year-old daughter. Married to Hospital Fatimah's Consultant Ophthalmologist Dr. S.S. Gill, Wern Sze Gill also leads and conducts the Canning Garden Methodist Church Choir.

### Gavin Tang

Gavin started singing late, around the age of 23 when he completed his studies in the UK and returned to Ipoh. His father, in an effort to prevent him from bumming around, introduced him to the Perak Society of Performing Arts who was coincidentally producing a



Gavin Tang

musical at the time called "Bursting Out". Gavin had some background in theatre as an actor but had never sung in any of his roles and when he auditioned for the musical, he was select-

ed primarily for his acting ability. Subsequently, there was an opening for a solo piece in the musical and he was encouraged to audition for it and was surprised to be selected to sing the solo. That initial exposure to singing awakened his love for singing.

Gavin Tang is a lawyer by profession and has been in practice for 9 years. He is married to Evelyn Chen. Music is a passion of his which dates back to his childhood when his mom bought him his first cassette at age 9 which was "Hunting High and Low" by A-Ha. For Gavin, music is the one constant in his life which has seen him through times of joy, sadness, angst, celebration, anger and euphoria.

### Iqwal Hafiz (featured in Anak Perak IE101)

The journey of success into the world of show business of this young talent began when he was only four years old. The dramatic rise of this super young talent has been breathtaking. He had recently made Malaysia proud by winning four gold medals, one silver medal and one Hollywood Industry Award in the World Championship of Performing Arts (WCOPA) in Los Angeles in five vocal categories which includes Pop, Rock, Contemporary, Open Style, and Original Work.

This young talent, not only can dance well, but also sings in 14 languages: Italian, Spanish, Mexican Latin, Tagalog, Arabic, Hindi, Thai, Korean, Japanese, Cantonese, Mandarin, Tamil, Malay and English.

### Rosli Mansor

Rosli Mansor is Ipoh Echo's own hidden talent. Rosli who by day works in the Ipoh Echo as its graphic designer, photographer and occasional reporter, at night and on weekends transforms into a crooner, winning local talents and entertaining spontaneously on request.

Perak born and raised in Malim Nawar, Rosli is the second of six children and has a Diploma/Degree in Multimedia Animation and Programming from Cosmopoint International University College. For a time, Rosli was a reporter at Sinar Harian Perak and has been singing since he was a child.

### Sunway Idol 2010 Runner-Ups

**Jerry Chan Git Leong**, the first runner-up Idol, is doing a Diploma in Business Information System (DBIS). He is currently in his first year in Sunway College Ipoh. Jerry, who enjoys singing, has been singing since secondary school.

**Stephy Leow Pui Kei**, Second runner-up, describes herself as an ordinary girl who loves singing. Stephy who is a student at Sunway College took part in the Sunway Idol competition to gain some experience. As a result, we'll be



Jerry Chan Git Leong

seeing a lot of Stephy in the years to come.



Mrs Irene Lim

### Mrs Irene Lim

Ipoh Echo supporters will have a real treat on August 6 when Irene Lim will sing some very old Chinese classics. With her forte which is her high soprano voice, she has been singing since the age of two. During her teen years she represented her school in singing competitions up to state level and had enjoyed podium finishes. Currently, Irene sings with the Gospel Evangelism Team and the Cantonese Opera Troupe.

Irene is a lawyer by profession with her own legal practice and is married to Dr. Andy Lim Boon Kheng and they have two children.

### ISH's Hidden Talents

Nineteen-year old **Eunice Phuah See Yen** has been singing since she was eight. Another linguistic talent, Eunice sings in more than 10 languages including

Cantonese, Malay, English, Hindi, Arab, Japanese, Korean, Hokkien and Thai. She was awarded Top 5 in the Malaysian Anti-Smoking singing competition, Ren Jian Yin Yuan Top 20 (Astro AEC) both in 2009 and represented Perak State for BIMA (Bintang Irama Malaysia) RTM2 Top 10 in 2010.

Eunice currently works in Ipoh Specialist Hospital's PR/Marketing Services and performs at the hospital lobby every Saturday.

Thirty-four year old **Kamarul Bin Abd Razak** has played musical instruments since the age of 16. Instruments included keyboard & bass. Additionally, Kamarul sings English and Malay songs having performed in hotels and pubs for 8 years. Like Eunice, Kamarul is also currently attached to Ipoh Specialist Hospital's PR/Marketing Services and performs at the hospital lobby every Saturday.



Kamarul Bin Abd Razak

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# IPOH DRAFT LOCAL PLAN 2020

*Ipohites, exercise your rights judiciously. Inspect the draft local plan and make your objections and representations known....*

## Local Plan

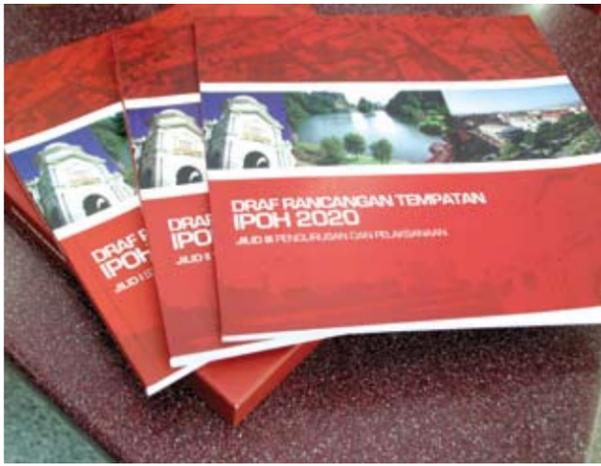
Based on the Town and Country Planning Act 1976, a local planning authority is allowed to prepare a local plan. However, it has to be integral to the state structural plan. This proviso is provided in Section 12(1) of the aforesaid Act. In complying with this requirement, Ipoh City Council (MBI) together with the Perak Town and Country Planning Department (Jabatan Perancangan Bandar dan Desa Perak), had crafted a draft local plan to cover a period of ten years (2010 to 2020). The Ipoh Draft Local Plan 2020 is now available for inspection.

In drawing up the plan, city council had initi-

ated actions to publicise its intent. A publicity exercise was conducted in 2007 at Heritage Hotel, Ipoh. Representatives from both the public and private sectors were invited to give their input. The meeting conformed to Section 12 A of the Act which categorically states, *before commencing the preparation of a draft local plan, the local planning authority shall take steps to secure the following: (a) that publicity is given to the draft local plan that is being prepared (b) that those wishing to make representations are given an opportunity to do so.*

## Relevance

And since I was a party to



the discussion, I vouch for its relevance with reservations, of course. My one concern is I am unsure whether participants' feedback was taken into consideration. No one could possibly know as there has been no communica-

tion between the interested parties and the planners since then. I had proposed low-impact and sustainable developments and the revamping of the city's woeful public transport system.

Three years down the road and the draft local plan for Ipoh is now ready. The plan is contained in a 470-page book complete with maps, diagrams, statements and proposals for the improvement of traffic, transportation, road system, landscape, preservation of buildings etc pursuant to Section 12 of the Act. The book, which comes in 3 parts, costs RM150 while the condensed version costs RM15. They are available at the designated display centres.

**Publicity and Inspection**  
The plan covers the 643

sq km of the city under the council's jurisdiction. It is divided into eight "planning blocks". Since nearly 31,000 hectare or 48 per cent of the city limits are forested, developments are only concentrated within the city and portions of the 10,040 hectare uninhabited areas, which consisted of abandoned and disused mining lands. The eight "planning blocks" radiate outwards, from inner city to industrial zones to tourist belts and eventually to the forested areas in the west and east (Bukit Keledang and Bukit Kinta forest reserves).

Before the draft plan is adopted, as provided for under Section 15 of the Act, the local planning authority is required under Section 13(1) to make copies of the draft local plan available for inspection at its office and at other places as it may determine; and each copy must be accompanied by a statement of the time within which objections or representations may be made to the local planning authority.

Insofar as publicity is concerned, Section 13 (2) states, *the local planning authority shall publish in three issues of at least two local newspapers, one of which being in the national language, a notice stating the dates, time*

*and places when the draft local plan is available for inspection.* The time frame within which objections or representations may be made to the local planning authority in respect of the draft local plan is not less than four weeks from the date when copies of the draft local plan are available for inspection.

Although there is discrepancy in the manner the draft plan is being publicised, the fact that the launching by Dato' Dr. Mah Hang Soon, at Impiana Hotel on Friday, July 23, was carried in mainstream media, including Ipoh Echo, is proof of intent by MBI.

## Objections

So, Ipohites exercise your rights judiciously. Inspect the Ipoh Draft Local Plan 2020, which is on display from July 23 to August 22. Make your objections and representations known to the planners. Do you want to wake up one morning and see workers laying LRT tracks right across your lawns?

The plan can be viewed at the foyer of MBI and at Jabatan Perancangan Bandar dan Desa, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Bangunan Seri Perak, Jalan Panglima Bukit Gantang Wahab between 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily (working days only).

## Honey! Your Son and My Son Are Beating Our Son

● by Peter Lee

Steve is a widower and has a son named Jason who is 10 years old. He is now married to Janice who is a divorcee and single mother. Her son Joe, from her previous marriage, is now 8 years old. After Steve and Janice were married, they were blessed with another son named Jack who is now aged 5. Steve is a businessman while Janice is a homemaker taking care of all the three sons. They always noticed that Jason and Joe are constantly fighting with Jack over every little thing. Then one day Steve receives a call from Janice and she says to him: "Honey! Your son and my son are beating our son. So can you come back and sort out the problem". With such a family issue staring at them, Steve and Janice decide that they should do some planning for their children if something like death occurs to either one of them or even to both of them. But the question is how to go about doing it?



The solution for both of them is to write a will. However, with their current position, the first important matter in the will is the choice of the executor/trustee. They can choose each other to be the first executor/trustee in their respective wills and then a trustee company like Rockwills Trustee Bhd to be the substitute executor/trustee. Because of the children's ages, the executor/trustee appointed must manage the estate for Steve or Janice for a longer period, probably until Jack attains the age of 22. Thereafter, only the balance of the estate can be distributed to all their three children. Therefore, the best alternative is to appoint a trustee company like Rockwills Trustee Bhd to be their main executor/trustee because it has the expertise, impartiality, professionalism and most importantly, perpetual existence.

Having the appointment of executors/trustee in place, then comes another important issue, which is the appointment of a guardian. Since Steve is not the natural father of Joe, Janice being a divorcee must state in her will that Steve must be appointed as guardian of Joe if she wants Steve to take up the responsibility. Having said that, if for some reason Joe's natural father was to appear and fight for custody over Joe, then legally Joe will be returned to his natural father if his father is proven to be capable of looking after his welfare.

On the other hand, Steve being a widower and presuming that he doesn't have many family members to rely on must also appoint Janice to be guardian of Jason since she is not the natural mother of Jason. In the case of Jack, Steve and Janice are the natural parents. Therefore, their appointment of guardian for Jack is only for reasons of sudden death occurring for both of them. With the appointment of the first level of guardian in place, then the appointment of a substitute guardian for all their three children would depend on the relationship between their children and relatives of both Steve and Janice. This can mean Jason, Joe and Jack from their current age until 22 years old could probably be under the care of different relatives if Steve and Janice were to pass away together.

Since all the children are still minors, Steve and Janice could choose to distribute their estate to each other first and if both them are not around, then their respective movable and immovable estates can be distributed to their three children. However, when their estate goes to minors, they would not be able to receive it due to their age. As such, there must be a clear instruction in the form of a testamentary trust in both their wills specifying the allocation of funds from the estate for their children's monthly living, medical and education expenses. On top of that, it is also important to specify the duration of the trust. In other words, the trust could end when the youngest child attains the age of 22 and only then the balance of the estate can be distributed to all their three children. That is the reason why one has to seriously consider appointing a trustee company like Rockwills Trustee Bhd to be the executor/trustee of the estate judging from the duration of the testamentary trust.

Peter Lee is an Associate Estate Planning Practitioner (Wills & Trust) with Rockwills International Group. He is also an Islamic Estate Planner providing Wills & Trust services for Muslims. He is based in Ipoh and can be reached at: 012-5078825/05-2554853 or [excelsec@streamyx.com](mailto:excelsec@streamyx.com).



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## THINKING ALOUD

By G. Sivapragasam

# THE CLASS THAT GREW UP WITH THE NATION

## SMI Class Of '60



For me and my classmates, the end of the 1960 school year in St Michael's Institution marked the end of life as we had known for most of our conscious years. We had graduated. Some went on to Form Six; others went overseas while still others began working. As young as we were, the nation was barely three years old. Fifty years have passed since then and, not unlike the nation, we too had to face and overcome challenges. The nation celebrated the golden anniversary of its independence three years ago. Similarly this year we celebrate the time we too assumed responsibility for our destiny. To celebrate our shared history, the Class of '60 will come together for five days between this 25th and 29th of September.

### A Five-Day Celebration

The festivities commence on September 25 when we join all the old Michaelians at the annual reunion dinner at Red Crescent Hall. The event will include members of the class of '60 being honoured with each receiving a certificate to mark the occasion.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> morning they will visit the school where the class will be welcomed by the School Orchestra, given a guided tour of the school premises and receive a briefing on how the school had progressed. In the evening the class will celebrate at a grand dinner in Syuen Hotel where they will host Rev. Bro. Vincent, former teachers and the current head and other members of the School.

The next morning the whole class will leave for

Pangkor Island and spend two nights at Pangkor Island Sea View Hotel hoping to relive the holidays they spent there when they were school boys.

About 80 members of this class will be attending the celebration. The number is quite remarkable considering that there were only three classes and the total number of students only 125. Whilst most of the participants will be from within Malaysian shores there will be many who will come from Australia, England, Singapore, Canada, Switzerland, China and Hong Kong to celebrate this event.

### Results of a Well-Rounded Education

Though the class was not remarkable academically, they count among their numbers Accountants, Architects, an Air Traffic Controller, Bankers, Businessmen, Civil servants, Doctors, Dentists, Entrepreneurs, Inventors, Lawyers, Professors, Musicians, Officers in the Army, Navy and Air Force, Police Officers, Pharmacists, a Psychiatrist, Planters, Politicians, Scientists, Teachers and key personnel in the private and public sector. What is more incredible is that many achieved positions of distinction in occupations that had little to do

with their academic qualifications. This phenomenon can only be attributed to the well-rounded education they all received in school.

### Experiencing History Real Time

This class could be said to have lived through the birth and growing up period of modern Malaysia. We were all born during the Japanese occupation. Through much of our school days we were under British Colonial rule. By the time we left school, the Nation had attained independence and we had become citizens of the new nation, Federation of Malaya.

The emergency was at its height during much of our school days. Many cars were fitted with bullet proof shields, scout cars roamed the highways and road blocks manned by armed soldiers in battle fatigues were a common sight. Airplanes used to drop leaflets on our houses with all manner of messages but mostly telling the communists to give up. News of the ongoing battle between the insurgents and the armed forces dominated radio channels and newspapers. It was also the time of the Korean War which brought to us the realisation of how adverse events in one part of the

world could bring prosperity to another part as this event brought to our lives. It was also a time when the first elections took place, exposing us to the reality of the democratic process.

### Being Part of School System Changes

Our school days were also a time of change in the school system. When we began school there were two primary and nine secondary classes. Promotion to a higher class was by passing examinations set by the school. Those who failed had to repeat the class and those who did well obtained double promotion. When we were in secondary school the system changed into a primary school of six grades and a secondary school of five grades. The secondary school was divided into the lower and upper secondary. School examinations lost significance and public examinations were introduced to qualify entry to the lower and upper Secondary. We were among the earliest to undergo the Standard Six and Lower Certificate of Education examinations. It is ironic that as we celebrate our 50th anniversary there are now moves to do away with these examinations.

### It Needs Only One Person to Impact Change

My class was fortunate in having a home room teacher in forms four and five by the name of Phillip Low. He was not from the old school establishment. Though he abandoned us halfway during our form

five he influenced the way we saw things. He made us question everything, told us never to accept injustice and fight for what we believed to be right. To illustrate this, let me narrate one incident. A book from the library went missing and the Brother in charge of the library informed us that as we were the last ones in the library before the loss was discovered we will each be fined some cents as punishment. The class took umbrage and filed a petition that it will not comply. We reasoned that we had been adjudged guilty unjustly and submitting to the fine would be an admission of guilt. Uncharacteristically for that time our Form teacher supported us in our stand. However to show our magnanimity we donated a replacement book.

### Unconsciously Citizens of One Malaysia

The vast majority of the students in the class were Chinese with a few Indians and fewer Malays. Other than for a few exceptions all of us came from middle and working class families. Whilst racial differences were freely and openly acknowledged and perceived characteristics teased, there was no malice. Bonds were formed not on racial lines but on shared interests. Whilst we competed with each other we also found true value in complementing each other's strengths and weaknesses. Each was an individual recognised and respected for what we were.

Come to think of it we were One Malaysia though we did not know it then.

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### SITIAWAN

## Announcement

### Noah's Ark Ipoh

Noah's Ark Ipoh Animal Welfare Group's Animal Awareness Day on Sunday, 15 August 2010, at the Ipoh Polo Grounds from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The focus of this event is to provide information on responsible pet ownership, benefits of neutering and pet grooming. Another highlight on the day is a drawing competition for children between the ages of 8-12. Any interested participants must pre-register by calling: **019-5568292** (Dr. Ranjit) or **017-5751556** (Ms. Malika). It will be an event filled with exciting talks, fun music and an added bonus of a taster session in laughter workout by Ms. Jeya Jayaratnam.



seefoon@ipohecho.com.my

By See Foon Chan-Koppen

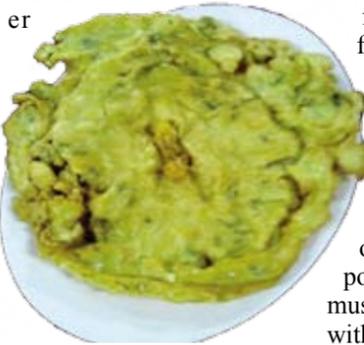
# SEEFoon DISCOVERS AYER TAWAR

When Dato' Daniel Tay offered to take me for some Hock Chew food in Ayer Tawar, I was completely at sea as to its whereabouts and willingly accepted. Dato' Daniel who is a true blue Sitiawan boy should know, I figured.

So when my friends Edward and Ginla Foo said they would come by to pick me up at 6.00 p.m., I was surprised. "So how long is the drive", I inquired. "At least one hour", I was told. Sitting comfortably in the back seat, chatting away (mostly about food), the hour went by very quickly and soon the sign for Ayer Tawar loomed. Thinking we would be turning off into a side street, I was surprised to discover that this corner restaurant, Sun Hon Siong is right on the main Lumut highway easily accessible to anyone on their way to Lumut.

## Sweet and Sour

When the Hock Chew migrants from China settled in Sitiawan in the early 1900s, they brought with them a host of interesting specialities. Distinctive for their sweet and sour taste, this Hock Chew or Fuzhou cuisine is significantly different from most other kinds of Chinese cooking. There is a tendency for deep fried, sweet and sour and the taste difference whether



it be fish, pork or chicken is minimal. So it's purely a matter of what takes your fancy in sweet and sour for that particular meal. There are some dishes though that are very distinctively Hock Chew and certainly worth the drive there.

## Signature Mee Sua

For starters, the first dish to arrive was a steaming big bowl of their Mee Sua, fine wheat vermicelli cooked in a homemade fermented rice wine broth with ginger and chicken. The rice wine which has a characteristic red colour is sweet in its original form but mixed with the vermicelli and chicken and made tangy with ginger, loses its cloying sweetness and presents itself as a refreshing sweet broth that lends its flavour to the vermicelli and chicken. RM10 for a tureen enough for 10.

Next to arrive was the oyster omelette, small oysters buried in an omelette pancake of eggs, crispy on the edges and succulent inside. It was so good that we promptly ordered another. RM9. Sweet sour pork ribs followed, crispy succulent morsels combined with cucumber, potato chunks and a tangy dark sauce that was just right, neither too sweet nor too sour. RM25.

## A Must-Have

Plain sautéed kangkong with garlic RM5 followed as a respite from the sweet and sour taste to be followed by a typical dish to be found on every Hock Chew banquet, the Fish Maw delight, a steaming soupy tureen of fish maw with minced pork, carrots, wood ear mushrooms and thickened with egg white. For those

who like sea cucumber, this dish also comes with that option. This dish is also slightly on the sweet side and the fish maw with its characteristic jelly-like texture lends itself well to the contrasting crunch of the wood ear mushrooms. RM38 plain and RM50 with sea cucumber.

## Soupy Fare

I noticed with interest that a lot of Hock Chew dishes are brothy or soupy and the number of bowls we had to change for each dish was quite exhausting. As observed, the next dish to arrive was the Fish Ball seaweed soup. No ordinary fish balls, these, these fish balls are different from most as they are stuffed with salted minced pork and prawns making them distinctively Hock Chew. For me I felt that they could have done with less seaweed in the soup as the fishy tang was somewhat overwhelming...so readers be warned...when ordering, tell them to go easy on the seaweed.

## Distinctive Biscuits

Now a visit to Sitiawan and its vicinity, in this instance Ayer Tawar, will not be complete without either tasting or bringing back the mouth-watering Hock Chew 'Gong Pian' biscuits. These savoury biscuits are one of the oldest favourites brought by the Hock Chew settlers from China. Unlike the ones found in Ipoh, these are hard and crispy on the outside, slightly salty and filled with a choice of fried onions or char siew. They did not look like much to my naked eye but one bite into one and I was sold and became a fan. In fact the night we were there the group ended up taking back a whole bagful. These 'Gong Pian' were ordered with the proprietor of Sun Hon Siong, who instead of buying from the more



popularly known outlet in Sitiawan purchased them from an outlet in Ayer Tawar itself. So order in advance.

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## Facelift Given To Medan Kidd Bus Station



I frequently drive past Medan Kidd Bus Station but never bothered to have a second look at it. Recently I went there to meet a visitor. The Bus Station has been painted in a bright attractive yellow and looks most appealing now. The ticketing counters of the various bus companies have also been painted.

The compound has also been cleaned up and looks comparatively neat and tidy. However, in one corner of the compound, rubbish has been thrown on the ground. This can be avoided by placing a dustbin where the rubbish can be collected and disposed of properly.

The public must also play their role; the newly painted columns have already been defaced. Malaysians must be trained to be civic minded and maintain public property.

The authorities must maintain the cleanliness and provide more dustbins in the waiting areas. Preventing private cars from entering the compound would improve the image of the bus station.

A. Jeyaraj

## No Action Taken On Flaking Plaster at Town Hall

In Issue 85, November 2009 of Ipoh Echo, we highlighted the flaking plaster at the Town Hall. Since then, more of the plaster has flaked off. The paint is also peeling in a number of other locations in the building. The Town Hall was renovated about two years ago. The paint used on external walls of buildings is normally weather proof and should last for at least five years or more. Why is the paint flaking so fast?

At the base of the wall a section of the panel has been removed exposing the burnt brick wall which is not plastered. What is this for?

The Town Hall and the park in front of it are popular tourist sites. On Sundays, tourists, especially foreigners and those from other states, arrive by buses and visit the park and Town Hall. Tourists walk around



and take photographs of the Town Hall. This is a heritage building and must be well maintained.

Without any further delay, MBI must repair the defects. It should not be an eyesore to tourists. The contractor as well as the MBI supervisor must be investigated for the shoddy paint job done. We must not let down the image of Ipoh.

A. Jeyaraj

## IPOH BRIEF Writing Novels and Short Stories



Popular local writer, Dr. Chuah Guat Eng, gave a talk on "How to Read and Write Short Stories and Novels" at the Ipoh Swimming Club recently. It was organised by Perak Academy under its Perak Lectures series. The audience consisted mainly of the young and not so young and most were there for a reason. They wanted to learn the basics of writing short stories. Some of the writer's notable books are "Echoes of Silence",

"Days of Change" and "The Old House" – titles which were familiar to the eager listeners. Chuah's presentation was packed with details on how to get started and useful pointers, especially for beginners and those who have an aversion to writing. It was laced with jokes and innuendos, which kept the 120-odd listeners glued to their seats. She paid tribute to great novelists such as E.M. Foster, Stendhal and Vladimir Nabokov while alluding to their writing styles and techniques. This inspired the crowd and judging from their mood, they had definitely benefited from the expose. The session ended with Chuah signing her books, which were on sale.

DK

### BUSINESS



**REALISING A DREAM**

Nothing comes easy, as the saying goes. For Kumaravelu (Velu), 50, and Rohn Mani (Ron), 43, their careers have been one roller coaster ride, moving from one job to another. There were times when they had to face insurmountable obstacles which befuddled the mind and numbed the nerves. They served bosses who did not give two hoots for their suggestions, no matter how well-meaning they were. Lesser mortals would have backed down and drifted into obscurity. But not Velu and Ron, the hardships they encountered only helped to strengthen their resolve. Both shared the same dream – to be their own bosses and not having to take orders from others. This was the motivating factor that drove the pair to do the inevitable – to strike out on their own in the hospitality industry where rewards are minimal and heartbreaks aplenty.

Velu's and Ron's forte is in managing hotels where they began at the bottom winding their way up to the top. Both have been in the business for over 25 years.



They have served almost all hotels in Ipoh starting with Excelsior to Syuen to some budget outfits but always with mixed results. Their final posting were as managers of a Taiping hotel where they remained for about two years before leaving.

"Our bosses were more interested in what we did rather than how we performed. That's was the last straw. We decided to quit and move on", said Velu.

With the money that they saved, they began the arduous task of identifying a suitable site in Ipoh for a budget hotel. "We went about town trying to locate a good spot to plunk our investment and finally settled for this", said Ron, pointing to the greenish-

coloured double-storey building upfront.

Hotel Shanng was opened to the public in early July. "We don't have the luxury of a grand opening like most hotels do", Velu enjoined.

The modest hotel has 25 tastefully furnished rooms with fittings that rival that of a 4-star hotel. The rooms are large, carpeted and air-conditioned. Additional amenities include a 29-in colour TV with Astro connections, fridge and free wi-fi to suit the budget-conscious travellers and businessmen on the move. At RM75 a night, it is value for money.

Hotel Shanng is easily accessible as it is located at: 37, Jalan Long Boon Swee, in between Jalan Bendahara and Jalan Pasir Putih. It is close to restaurants and shopping outlets and, therefore, is most convenient for those wishing to taste Ipoh but prefer to stretch their ringgit. The famous Sun Yoon Loong Restaurant is just around the corner. There is ample parking space.

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# PROTECTION GRANTED FOR KINTA NATURE PARK

After 10 long years Kinta Nature Park will be protected to ensure that it stays natural for future generations

The move, which has been pursued by conservationists for the last decade, is to ensure that the park stays natural for future generations. The task of protecting the park has been entrusted to the Kampar District Office.

"Effective today notices will be sent to the existing stake holders. Hopefully within six months there won't be any economic activities to disturb the ecosystem of the area" said Dato' Hamidah Osman, state chairman for tourism.

Dato' Hamidah, who was observing an operation conducted by the Kampar District Office to remove a barbed wire fence illegally erected a year ago around the 41-hectare Pucung Lake on July 19, said it was necessary to enforce the regulations now as efforts to gazette the park would take some time.

According to her, the area for the park was approved in March this year. However, the Kampar District Office was identified last week as the department to oversee the management of the area.

"The nature park especially the Heronry is a natural heritage and must



Enforcement officers cutting the barbed wire

be protected otherwise it will become extinct" added Dato' Hamidah. The Heronry, where five major families of herons and egrets have made a permanent home is on an island on Pucung Lake, opposite the visitors' area and observation tower.

Dato' Hamidah also announced that the state department has allocated RM200,000 to construct an information centre, three chalets of Orang Asli design and three prayer huts at the visitors' centre. The chairman of Kg. Pisang's security and development committee (JKKK) has been appointed as the caretaker of the visitors' centre. The kampong is adjacent to the park, "We want this to be a community based programme and the immediate community headed

by the JKKK of the area is best suited to explain why we must maintain this area as a heritage for the future. We will also be working with the NGOs such as Malaysian Nature Society and Kinta Heritage to train members from the community to be tour guides," she said.

The removal of the barbed wire fence is the first enforcement activity in the 900-hectare park. Helping to remove the fence were the enforcement teams from Kampar and Batu Gajah Districts and a team from the Land and Mines Department.

Stake holders of similar activities which are located at the border of the park will also be affected by the new rulings as their close proximity is deemed to affect the ecosystem.

Duck breeders will be given till their next harvest before being required to vacate their premises.

Malayan Nature Society, Perak Branch Chairman, Leow Kon Fah, when informed of the latest development was full of praise for the measures taken by Dato' Hamidah, saying that "these are practical and positive steps to ensure the protection and maintenance of the nature park."

"Removing the fencing is positive. Fishing or casual angling is acceptable as it is a recreation for the community but not throwing a net into the lake. The gradual phasing out of economic activity too is friendly and would help ease any hardship. Furthermore, involving the local community to

# PC Show 2010



The much anticipated computer fair slated for the month of August at Stadium Indera Mulia has much to offer for both computer buffs and the casual visitors. Those wishing to dispose off their old computers can do so with convenience. They can exchange them for cash vouchers which can then be used to purchase ICT products on sale. "This is a good way to keep the environment safe and clean," said Sugumaran, the President of Kelab Anak Malaysia, during the launch of a recycling campaign at the conference room of the State Economic Planning Unit, State Secretariat building on Thursday, July 22. The fair, co-sponsored by Kelab Anak Malaysia and MBI, will last for three days, beginning on August 6 till 8. Opening hours are between 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

Besides computers and gadgets, visitors get to participate in lucky draws held daily with high-end laptops as prizes. A colouring contest for kids will be the highlight of the 3-day fair to be held on the final day. The contest is divided into two categories one for children between the ages of 5 to 8 and the other for those between 9 to 12 years old. Attractive prizes await the winners of each category. For details on the contest please call Puah Chun Sen at 012-5055173.

RN

participate and take charge of their heritage is a very positive gesture."

Interestingly, what started as an effort to preserve a potential nature park has somehow evolved into a community empowerment programme. Undoubtedly this is a new and bold challenge.

However if the community and government can team up to make this program a successful eco-tourism venture, positive repercussions will reverberate throughout the country, a progressive improvement that will benefit both the community and district.

JAG

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COMMUNITY

# Mudslide Affecting Sikh Temple



**G**urdwara Sahib, the Sikh temple in Tambun, faces a bleak future as it is under threat. No, not from humans or animals but something less sinister: mudslides. The temple, which is located adjacent to Masjid Jamik Tambun, was built in 1919

and has been a focal point for devotees for many years.

“We’ve raised the matter with the relevant authorities”, said Harder Singh, the chairman of the temple committee, to Ipoh Echo recently. MP and State Assemblyman

for Tambun, Dato’ Rosnah Kassim, had referred the matter to the Ipoh City Council and the state government but there were no words of comfort for those concerned. “It’s getting worse by the day”, Harder added. “Anything that affects the temple will also affect the mosque nearby.”

In spite of the looming danger, the faithful continue to flock to the temple. It serves over 600 devotees from the Sikh community, in and around Tambun. Harder hoped the authorities would respond soonest as the current rainy spell would further aggravate the situation. “A retaining wall costing about RM150,000 is all that’s needed to overcome the problem. Is it too much to ask?”, he said.

# Minimising Time

**P**erak Chief Police Officer, DCP Dato’ Pahlawan Zulkifli Abdullah assured the public that they would not be unnecessarily delayed when making reports at police stations. “A minimum time of 30 minutes will be allotted to take down a simple report”, he told reporters. “For cases which require detailed investigation, a longer time frame is required. It may take an hour or two”, he added. Zulkifli was addressing the media at a press conference following his monthly meet-

ing with department and district chiefs at the contingent headquarters on Tuesday, July 20. Present at the briefing was the Criminal Investigation Department chief, SAC II Dato’ Dzuraidi Ibrahim. Earlier at the meeting, he revealed that the state crime index, up until July 15, had decreased by 17 per cent while street crime had reduced by 35 per cent. According to Zulkifli, the Police had managed to solve 46 criminal cases as at end of the first half of the year. Another plus point



was the selection of the Sg Senam Police station as winner of the Category B award for the best kept station in a competition organised by Bukit Aman. “This is a positive sign indeed”, remarked the police chief.

RN

DIRT VIGILANTES

# Irresponsible Attitude of City Residents



**I**t is said that a photograph speaks a thousand words. Certainly this photograph (above) taken at the entrance of Taman One Pertama in the Silibin area recently is no exception. It too could describe with a thousand words, the irresponsible attitude of the residents in the area.

Look at the metal loader, which was meant to contain construction wastes, filled to the brim with domestic waste and spilling on to the road. Surely, the residents have their own rubbish bins, which are being regularly emptied by the city council workers.

The contractor, who was carrying out renovation works to one of the houses, had paid for the metal loader to contain his construction waste, not domestic waste. Unlike rubbish bins, the loader will not be carted away in two or three days. It will be there until the contractor completes his works.

As such, whatever domestic waste thrown into the loader will be left to rot and stink. They will also attract flies. Don’t the residents realise that their action would only create an unhealthy environment in their area?

It also shows how quickly some irresponsible

domestic wastes.

Yet, these are the same residents who will be the first to complain whenever the city council’s dumpsters fail to turn up on schedule to collect the domestic waste. How can the city regain its reputation as one of the cleanest towns in the country if its residents are not co-operating with the city council to keep it clean? The situation in the city is already bad as it is, with the thousands of illegal dumps. Do not be responsible for creating more.

Jerry Francis

IPOH BRIEF

# New Team for Community Services



**T**he Rotary Club of Ipoh will continue to concentrate on its various community services by injecting new blood and new ideas. Its newly installed president, Kevin Chow, has set it as the objective of his team of board of directors.

Among the projects carried out yearly are the Secondary School Scholarships Project, Aid to Handicapped, Project for Special Children, Student Exchange programme including hosting and sponsoring of Group Study Exchange Team,

Pride of Workmanship Award, Career Talks for school leavers, and Inter-School Debates.

His team of officials are Vice-President – Gavin Tang, Secretary – Dr. Tan Teong Heong, Treasurer – Dato’ Mohamed Ariff, Club Service Director – Anthony Ang, Community Service Director – Edwin Seibel, Vocational Service Director – Chan Siew Yee, International Service Director – Peter Ng Puay Tek, and Service to New Generation Director – N. Jawahar.

JF

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# Gopeng Consolidated Reunion Lunch



**D**avid Palmer, the last Managing Director of Gopeng Consolidated, recently held a reunion lunch with the company’s former employees at the Gopeng Town Hall.

Over 200 people, the majority of whom aged between 50 and 70 years, turned up. The Gopeng Consolidated ceased its mining operations in the late 80s and is now known as Gopeng Berhad. Palmer came to Gopeng 50 years ago and began working with the company as a mining engineer. His address to his former employees began with, “50 years ago I couldn’t speak Malay, sekarang juga saya lagi tak tahu”, in his Mat Salleh slang which brought claps of joy from his guests.

Palmer, together with an ex-fellow colleague, will be launching a book entitled, “Tin Mining in Malaysia, The Osborne and Chappel Story”. It is due to be out before the end of this year.

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## ANAK PERAK

●By SeeFoon Chan-Koppen

I guess you have to have the 'gift of the gab' to be a successful Emcee and that is what K.T. Pillai has in abundance. Effervescent as a glass of champagne, one will probably have to 'cork' him up for him to stop talking....and in a multitude of languages at that.

Fluent in Malay, Chinese (both Mandarin and Cantonese dialects), Tamil and a smattering of French, and other European tongues, K.T. keeps audiences entertained with his continuous patter at functions throughout Peninsula and East Malaysia. Willing to try anything, he's even been known to 'rap' with

the professionals when he's on stage and judging by one of the videos I saw on YouTube, does a pretty good job of it too.

A native Perakian, Pillai grew up in Bruas, Perak, and attended school there finishing his junior school at ACS Ipoh culminating in obtaining his Malaysian Certificate of Education (M.C.E.).

He finished his secondary school in Toronto, Canada, and went on to get a B.A degree in Marketing and Communications from the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada.

Pillai returned to

Malaysia to begin working in advertising in Kuala Lumpur, returning to Ipoh in 1985 to join a local agency. In 1988 he started his own advertising and promotions company PR Project handling advertising and promotions as well as events management and he has not looked back since.

Since then, Pillai has garnered a reputation as being one of the most experienced and renowned Emcees who is also amongst the most successful in Malaysia for proven reasons and a track record that is rarely matched. His list of successful projects reads like a veritable 'what's what' of events and the guest list a veritable 'Who's Who'.

He has successfully handled numerous national-level Government Open-House Celebrations namely, the National Christmas Day Open House 2004 attended by His Majesty the King and Queen including foreign dignitaries as well as Deepavali Open House Celebration 2007 (at KL Central) & 2009 (at Port Dickson) that were attended by audiences of

over 20,000 people. He also successfully handled the Tadau Kaamatan 2008 (Harvest Festival) in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, attended by the Prime Minister and several Cabinet Ministers. He has also successfully hosted the Open House Celebrations for Chinese New Year, Deepavali and Christmas for the Perak State Government.

He has hosted a wide range of functions for the Perak Royal Family and also for Y.A. Bhg. Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Y.A.Bhg. Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and current Prime Minister Y.A.B. Dato' Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak including other federal Cabinet Ministers around the country.

At state level, Pillai is the 'priority English-language Emcee' for the Perak Menteri Besar including the Sultan and Raja Permaisuri of Perak since 1998. Till today, he remains the preferred choice. He has also handled numerous Annual Dinners, Family Days, Conventions, Symposiums, Conferences, Gala Events, Beauty Pageants and Product Launches.



K.T. Pillai was the Official Master of Ceremonies for the highly successful national-level Miss Malaysia-Universe Grand Finale and Mrs Malaysia-World Pageant Grand Finale for the years

2001 to 2007 held in Kuala Lumpur.

Pillai's eloquence in different local languages such as Bahasa Malaysia, English and Cantonese makes him the incomparable first choice in most major events and with some minor touches of Tamil, Mandarin and French, he has long been the firm favourite for government and important corporate functions throughout the country. It is little wonder that he is better known as the 'Muhibbah Emcee'.

Pillai will be donating his services to the Ipoh Echo for their 100<sup>th</sup> Issue Anniversary Celebration Dinner on August 6.



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# Knowing More about Geriatrics

By SeeFoon Chan-Koppen

Admitting to seeing a Geriatrician is a big step for most, especially for women but explaining to someone what a Geriatrician is, is quite another matter altogether. So when I suggested to my friend Ella MacDonald that we go and see Dr. Dev Teo, the new Consultant Geriatrician at the Ipoh Specialist Hospital, she looked at me blankly and said, "A what?" I had the same blank look subsequently when speaking to some other friends and figuring that Ipoh had a higher proportion than usual of retirees and aging population, decided to interview Dr. Dev on his medical specialty.

"So why did you choose Geriatrics?" I asked of Dr. Dev Teo. "A geriatrician is a medical doctor who is specially trained to prevent and manage the unique and, oftentimes, multiple health concerns of older adults. Older persons may react to illness and disease differently than younger adults. Geriatricians are able to treat older patients, manage multiple disease symptoms, and develop care plans that address the special health care needs of older adults", was his reply.

"At what age should a person come to see you?", was my next question to which he responded with, "Anyone over the age of 50 who presents with multiple disease symptoms would do well to be managed by a Geriatrician. As we're trained in multiple disciplines, we are familiar with most of the major medical issues connected with the aging process and by providing an 'umbrella' management, we can help minimise drug interactions and give referrals to other specialist disciplines when the need arises".

And the training is certainly long and arduous. Dr. Dev completed his medical degree receiving his MRCP from the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Ireland, followed by housemanship and medical rotation at the Beaumont Teaching Hospital. A stint in general medicine gave him the qualification of Registrar to be followed by post graduate exams which earned him a Diploma in Medicine for the elderly. Not one to rest on his laurels, Dr. Dev then spent 5 years training in Geriatric and General Medicine at the Oxford John Radcliff Teaching Hospital



where today he is listed in the General Medical Council as a specialist in Geriatrics.

During this time he had the good fortune to train under Professor Buchan who is a world authority on strokes and stroke management. He also gained extensive experience in working with people with dementia, Parkinson's disease and falls.

According to Dr. Dev, the major age-related afflictions to be aware of are strokes, diabetes, dementia, Parkinson's disease, depression, incontinence and for men, prostate problems. For stroke prevention, he recommends being very vigilant about monitoring one's blood pressure especially if it leans on the high side and to take the blood pressure medication faithfully when prescribed.

On the issue of diabetes which appears to be rampant in Malaysia, Dr. Dev recommends a very stringent curbing on all sugars, white starch (white rice, noodles, white bread) and desserts, and also warns against most

fast food which is laden with hidden sugar.

Depression in the elderly is very common and it is time for people to recognise that there is no stigma attached to being depressed. He trains carers on recognising the symptoms of depression and dementia in their elderly family members and urges early treatment for ease and comfort both for the patient and the carers. He is also very patient in explaining to carers and giving tips on how to cope with episodic tantrums and easing the trauma for the dementia patient.

Having worked in 'Falls Clinics' extensively, Dr. Dev recommends steps for families of the elderly to minimise the incident of accidental falls at home. As one of the highest causes of death amongst the elderly arises from falls, he has many tips for carers to prevent this. Concurrently he also recommends that people by the age of 60 should have a baseline bone scan done to eliminate the presence of osteoporosis or thinning bones which is prevalent particularly in older women.

Incontinence is a subject that is seldom discussed as there appears to a shroud of embarrassment over the topic. But Dr. Dev maintains that incontinence can be helped with specific pelvic floor exercises for both men and women. Men however should have their prostate checked by the time they reach 60 with both a manual examination as well as a PSA (Prostate Serum Antigen) blood test.

*I first went to Dr. Dev as a patient and having experienced his professionalism and gentle yet deeply probing manner; I can certainly vouch for his expertise. Not for him, the I-am-God-the-doctor-and-you-do-as-I-tell-you approach but rather an exploration between equals about the ailments that afflict me and how best to treat them.*

Having only been in Ipoh Specialist Hospital for 4 months, Dr. Dev has great plans to run clinics and forums on his favourite topics for the elderly as well as for the care and management of them. Timely ones would be Stroke Recognition, Prevention and Management, Diabetes Prevention and Management and just about any of the diseases that afflict the older person.

Ipoh Echo wishes Dr. Dev much success in the future and looks forward to his public forums.

## YOUNG PERAK

## National English Debate Champions

**SM** St Michael's Institution Ipoh recently came out tops at the 8th National English Debate Competition organised by HELP University College in Damansara, Kuala Lumpur.

The competition this year attracted a total of 96 schools from throughout Malaysia. Under a new format, at the preliminary round, all teams had to participate in four debates over one weekend whereby the points achieved would determine which teams moved onto the next round.

The SMK St Michael's team, which was made up of James William Foong, Noel Anthony Mano, Frederick Dylan Pereria (Form Five) and Muhammed Imran (Form Four), won all debates at the preliminary round. Their teacher advisors were Mr. Thederajan and



Mr. Palaiswaran.

For winning the national competition, the team members and the school received a total of RM80,000 worth of prizes. Each of the speakers received partial scholarships from the college valued at RM12,000 each, digital camera, mobile phone and trophies.

James who additionally won the Best Speaker Award, also took home a full scholarship award valued at RM20,000 and RM500 in cash. Prizes for the school included a desk-

top computer, LCD TV and the challenge trophy.

If there was one factor that contributed to the school's win it would be good all round teamwork. According to Palaiswaran, this included the Parent-Teachers Association providing the finance to cover the teams' travel expenses. Additionally the team also had a 'consultant' in their ex-Principal Mr. Louis Rosario Doss, an avid debater himself, whom they could call on when they needed advice.

JAG



## All-American Boys Chorus

The All-American Boys Chorus performed at the Wesley Methodist Church Ipoh to a sell-out concert. Proceeds from the night's performance went towards the cost of renovating the Kesselring Building which will be used for the Wesley Methodist Primary

School.

Conducted by Wesley Martin, the 32-strong looked resplendent in red blazers, singing in perfect harmony. The crowd was enthralled by their angelic and powerful voices singing from big-band swing to Broadway musicals to

movie hits, marches and patriotic songs to spirituals; a true reflection of American music and composers. They even included an old-time favourite: Teresa Teng's 'The Moon Represents My Heart', to the complete approval of the audience.

VWSL



## DiGi Extreme Sport

**D**iGi extreme sport made an appearance in Ipoh recently. It proved to be a hit with Ipoh's youths who came in droves. Over 500 extreme sport enthusiasts took part in activities such as cycling, football

and skateboarding.

"Perak is our fifth pit stop on our tour of the country", said Siew Chee Kong, DiGi Northern Region chief, to Ipoh Echo. Chiew was obviously pleased with the

huge turnout. "These kids have talents. They need the exposure to and remain competitive to be in the forefront of the sport", he added. DiGi's objective is clear. The company wants to target the youths as they are the major users of mobile phones.

The colourful event, held at MBI Square, ended with a musical concert in the evening. The night crowd was entertained to songs and music by popular local artistes such as Kristal, Anna Raffali, Estranged and Sixth Sense.

RM

## COMMUNITY

## CALLING MBI RETIREES

The MBI Retirees' Association (Persatuan Pesara MBI) was formally opened by mayor, Dato' Roshidi Hashim on Wednesday, June 2. The association office is located at the top floor of a shopping cum office block in Greentown Business Centre, Greentown Ipoh. "There are about 600 ex-staff of the council but so far only 15 have registered with the association," said Sayed Azlan bin Sayed Ahmad, a member of the pro-tem committee. Sayed Azlan was formerly the PRO of Ipoh City Council.

The primary objective of the association was to look into the welfare of



retirees, said Sayed Azlan to Ipoh Echo. "We plan to organise programmes to maximise on business opportunities for members," he added. A presentation on Nivovo, a locally developed Internet search engine, was the first on the association's agenda. The Alor Star-based company's forte is in e-commerce and is looking for fresh customers, especially

among small and medium industrial players, to help promote their products via the Internet.

"Besides exploring business opportunities the association will also advise city council on matters pertaining to the city's developments," said Azlan, mindful of the association's influence and clout. He implored former staff of MBI to come forward and register themselves with the association. "We definitely can do with a larger number."

The chairman of the pro-tem committee, incidentally, is former mayor, Dato' Mohd Rafai Mokhtar. Sayed Azlan can be contacted on his mobile at 013-5187730.

FZB



## SMJK Yuk Choy Orchestra Night

SMJK Yuk Choy, Ipoh, organised an Orchestra Night in the school hall recently. A close collaboration between the Board of Governors, Parents

Teachers' Association, the teachers and students, made the evening of Chinese orchestral pieces, vibrant cultural dances and Chinese martial art per-

formances, a roaring success.

The function was graced by the Minister of Finance II, YB Dato Seri Haji Ahmad Husni bin Mohamad Hanadzlah. He gave a Federal government grant of RM300,000 for the school building fund. In his speech, he urged the students of SMJK Yuk Choy, to study hard and work together for the nation's development in the spirit of 1Malaysia.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements must be sent by fax: 05-2552181; or email: [announcements@ipohecho.com.my](mailto:announcements@ipohecho.com.my), by the 9<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> of every month in order to meet deadlines. Announcements by phone will not be entertained. Ipoh Echo reserves the right to verify any announcement before it is published.

**Mariaville Kindergarten's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Family Carnival** on August 7 (Saturday) 9am-1pm. Food, pony rides and fun-filled activities. All are welcome. For further information, contact: 05-5454344 (office).

**Talk on "Cognitive Education for Autistic Child"** by Mr. Roland Hifler at Hospital Pantai Ipoh on August 7 from 9am-5pm. Fee: RM70. For further information contact: 016-5535803 (Pek Imm) and 016-4227076 (Charlotte).

**Y's Men's Club Ipoh 45<sup>th</sup> Installation of the President and Board of Directors** will be held at Hotel Excelsior Ipoh (14th Floor) at 7.30pm Saturday, August 14. For more information, con-

tact: 012-5381939 (K. Letchimanan) or 016-9719098 (K.N. Chandran).

**Portuguese Eurasian Association Perak (PEAP).** Are you an Eurasian of Portuguese descent or know of anyone who is but has yet to register with PEAP? If you do, please forward details to: Portuguese Eurasian Association Perak (PEAP), P.O. Box 594, Taman Ipoh, 31407 Ipoh. Email: [peap09@gmail.com](mailto:peap09@gmail.com).

**Cosmopoint International College 'English Open Day'** on August 10, at 9.30am. Activities planned include drama, speech, English games, choral speaking, etc. For further details: 05-2492626.

**"Lorong Blues"** a musical stage play directed and choreographed by Fauziah Nawi is currently on show at Auditorium Taman Budaya Negeri Perak, Jalan Cadwelli Ipoh from July 30 to August 1 at 9 pm. For reservations please call Anna at 017-3167 995 or access blog: [akulahrawana.blogspot.com](http://akulahrawana.blogspot.com) or email to: [sanggarstefani@gmail.com](mailto:sanggarstefani@gmail.com)

**A beautiful toy breed dog** was found wandering along the road near the Christian church/cemetery at Tambun Ipoh. Owners please contact Dr. Ranjit Kaur on 019-5568292. Please produce proof of ownership.

LETTER FROM ULUKINTA

# One of Perak's Greatest

Few will have heard of him but his name is V. Murugeson and he died on 11 July 2010 after a short illness.

Murugeson had been the earliest distributor of The Star in Lumut when the newspaper was first published in 1971. His son said, "When he started out as a vendor in the early 50s, a newspaper only cost 5 sen and was shared by several families".

In the intervening years, other publications have entered the market. The papers have sections and are several pages long. The cost of each is many times what it was in 1971. Online newspapers have also taken off, leading to a decline in printed newspaper sales.

Murugeson was special because he had scored two 'firsts': He was one of our country's pioneer newspaper vendors; he was also 100 years old. But it is his message that we should treasure most. Murugeson used to stress the importance of reading to his nine children.

People like Murugeson are a dwindling breed. At one time, they were a familiar sight on our roads, with papers piled high behind them, almost dwarfing them.

I didn't know Murugeson, but I do know our newspaper vendor very



well. His name is Morgan and he took over from his father who is too old to ride the motorbike and so mans their family-run shop.

Morgan rises before dawn, collects newspapers from distributors and delivers them to subscribers, every morning, come rain or shine. Vendors, like him, promptly bring the news to us, at the breakfast table.

Although Morgan would never reveal the actual figure for the newspapers he sells, he would hint that it was in the thousands, "Oh, ribu-ribu ada". The 'territory' he covers probably means he chalks up around 15-20 km per day.

Morgan doesn't just deliver newspapers. His other unofficial role is to relay 'neighbourhood information'. He would know if Miss "X" was stay-

ing over at her boy-friend's or if Mrs "Y's" son was still having marital problems, or if the wife of Mr "X" was away - the telltale sign was the 'visitor's' car which blocked Morgan's access to the letter box.

Morgan always finds time for a quick gossip but he is equally informed about developments taking place in the country and is able to make an acute analysis of current events.

Unfortunately, most of us are unaware and unappreciative of the contributions that our newspaper vendors make. These men may not have any tertiary qualifications but they are good, honest and hard-working.

They are up around 4 a.m., in all sorts of weather, to collect their newspapers from the appointed distribution centres. After pre-sorting them, they are off on their rounds.

By 9 a.m. they will take a short break for breakfast but resume work to deliver the afternoon papers, the distribution of magazines and other publications, like the Ipoh Echo, for a small number of clients. Their work is only over in the afternoon, after which time they may go home to spend time with the family, or in Morgan's case, help out in the shop.

At the end of the

month, they issue the invoice to each household and collect payment. Some households promptly settle the bill; others require a few additional visits.

Morgan tells me that the stresses in his job are high as some of his colleagues elsewhere have been victims of street gangs who target them in the early morning. He says that business is also slow as more people are sourcing their news on-line.

He rarely goes on vacation and says that he has only four days of holiday each year. When asked if he would choose another vocation if he had the choice, he says, "I wouldn't change anything".

The older generation like my parents, are not internet-savvy and consider Morgan's service invaluable. The newspaper he delivers is their lifeline to the outside world.

Our family considers Morgan special. Our continued friendship, which started off with his father and now him, extends to festival days. Morgan's wife, Maliga, who makes excellent putu mayam (string hoppers), supplies our household with this delicacy for Hari Raya or birthday parties.

Who says newspaper vendors are only good for news?

YAM

Birthdays



Staff and consultants at Pantai Hospital Ipoh threw a surprise birthday party for their CEO Dr. Dilshaad Ali recently. A video presentation with messages from ex-teachers, old classmates and friends paid tribute to his leadership qualities, fol-

lowed by a performance from the Pantai choir dedicating songs of love to their beloved CEO. The party then proceeded with a sumptuous buffet spread. Pictured above with members of his family as he cut the birthday cake.



Many happy returns Dato'!

Dato' Chan Yew Mun celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday with a lunch for over 400 guests at Mun Choong Restaurant in Pasir Puteh. Guests karaoke'd till almost evening and a wonderful time was had by all. Photo above shows Dato' Chan surrounded by his 'harem' of women friends.

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## Ave Maria Convent's Shanghai Nite



Ave Maria Convent Secondary Primary Teachers' Day was celebrated recently with a Shanghai Nite held at Lee How Fook Restaurant. Teachers, students, PTA and OGA (Parent/Teachers

and Old Girl's Associations) members dressed up and put on their best performances in joint productions. Datin Irene Lee, Primary PTA President and Mdm. Moi Ooi Thye, President OGA put on their best cheongsams and danced to routines choreographed by Caroline Wong who was responsible for the whole night's programme of songs and dances.

## Waller Court to Provide Comfortable Living

Ipoh City Council is looking into the possibility of redeveloping one of its oldest housing projects, Waller Court, to provide comfortable living for low-cost flat dwellers. Mayor Dato' Hj Roshidi bin Hashim said that the city council would be carrying out a study at the instruction of the State Executive Council with the purpose to upgrade and re-develop the area.

"Hopefully, the proposals to upgrade the area will be accepted by the residents in order to move forward and improve their living standard", he said during a dialogue with the residents recently.

Dato' Roshidi said the size of each housing unit which is 400 sq. ft. was "not comfortable or suitable by today's standard" as some of the units have



a family of six. According to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government guideline, the minimum size of each unit is 900 sq. ft.

Waller Court, constructed in 1962, is located on a 2.88-ha. site along Jalan Dato Onn Jaafar. It comprises of 34 four-

storey blocks with a total of 500 units of flats and 30 shop-lots. The monthly rental is between RM50-RM125 for the housing units and RM140-RM160 for the shop lots.

Such talks of redeveloping the project have been on-and-off since the 1990s.

JAG

## A Big Thank You

Ipoh Echo would like to thank the following for their contributions towards our 100th Issue Anniversary celebration:

1. FlyFirefly Sdn Bhd
2. Majlis Bandaraya Ipoh (MBI)
3. Impiana Hotel Ipoh
4. Crabtree & Evelyn, London
5. Indulgence Patisserie Sdn Bhd
6. Paradise Sandy Beach Resort Penang
7. Meru Valley Golf & Country Club
8. Lost World of Tambun
9. Trois International
10. KinderJoy Educare Services
11. The Haven
12. Kinta Properties Holdings
13. Hovid Bhd
14. Nyan Yin Groundnuts
15. Hexza Corporation Bhd
16. K.T. Pillai
17. Department of Culture, Arts and Heritage Perak's dance troupe
18. Wern Sze Gill & Gavin Tang
19. Iqwal Hafiz
20. Rosli Mansor
21. Sunway Idol 2010 Runner-Ups: Jerry Chan Git Leong & Stephy Leow Pui Kei
22. Mrs Irene Lim
23. KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital's Eunice Phuah See Yen & Kamarul Bin Abd Razak
24. Tong Lee Liquor Shop



## Around Town with Caroline

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