



GO ONLINE

www.ipohecho.com.my

FOR THE LATEST NEWS.  
WE UPDATE REGULARLY

www.ipohecho.com.my

# IPOhecho

Your Voice In The Community

March 1-15, 2010

PP 14252/10/2010(025567)

FREE COPY

ISSUE 92

>> Pg 3

COURTING  
THE  
CHINESE



>> Pg 4

SURVIVAL OF  
IPOH'S ICONIC  
TAMBUN  
POMELO  
ASSURED



>> Pg 8

REINVENTING  
THE WHEEL



>> Pg 11

OUR INTRO-  
DUCTION TO  
TEMENGGOR /  
BELUM FOREST  
AND LAKE



## SAVING THE LAST OF THE GIANT TIN DREDGES

The last tin dredge in Chendrong, along the Batu Gajah-Tanjung Tualang Road, is described as "a heritage icon" of the once world renowned tin mining region of the Kinta Valley. Following a report that the dredge was in danger of flipping over and sinking, Ipoh Echo highlighted it and even carried out an on-line poll to gauge the views of the people, especially those in the Kinta Valley where the tin mining industry had meant a lot to them, on whether to preserve it or not. The result has been an overwhelming "yes" for preserving the tin dredge, although it is clearly understood that it would be a mammoth task and as well as a costly one. It is also agreed by those favouring the preservation that the tin dredge by itself and on its own could not be sustained as a viable project. Other activities need to be developed around it.

continued on page 2



Celebrates International Women's Day with BP Healthcare Group

### International Women's Day 国际妇女节

#### International Women's Day Basic Package 妇女节配套1

Pap Smear + Ultrasound Breast + Ultrasound Pelvis  
子宫颈膜片检查 + 乳房超音波扫描 + 盘骨超音波扫描

RM200

Normal Price RM 250

#### International Women's Day Comprehensive Package 妇女节配套3

Blood & Urine testing with tumour markers (56 tests) + Resting ECG + Bone Mineral Density + Lung Function Test + Ultrasound Upper Abdomen + Ultrasound Pelvis + Ultrasound Breast + Pap Smear  
血液、尿液及肿瘤检验 (56项) + 心电图 + 骨密度扫描 + 肺部功能检验 + 腹部超音波扫描 + 盆骨超音波扫描 + 乳房超音波扫描 + 子宫颈膜片检查

RM650

Normal Price RM 650

#### International Women's Day Standard Package 妇女节配套2

PDN (43 Blood & Urine tests) + CA125 (Tumour Marker - Ovary) + CA153 (Tumour Marker - Breast)  
PDN (43项血液及尿液检验) + 卵巢肿瘤检验 (CA125) + 乳腺肿瘤检验 (CA153)

RM140

Normal Price RM 250

#### Supplements 营养品

Purchase 1 bottle of Calcium Plus + 1 bottle of Evening Primrose Oil and get a complimentary BCA test (worth RM50).  
凡购买1瓶钙质补充剂和1瓶月见草油将获赠1项体质分析检验 (价值RM50)。



RM70

Normal Price RM 155

附带条款及条件。Terms and conditions apply.

有效期至31/3/2010, Valid until March 31, 2010.



Diagnostic Centre

275, Jalan Raja Permaisuri Bainun (Jalan Kampar), 30250 Ipoh, Perak. Tel: +605-241 8484 Fax: +605-241 9226 Email: bphq@bphealthcare.com

1-800-88-7171 www.bphealthcare.com



## Promises to Save the Dredge comes with major financial implications and wise planning

Subsequently, the state government through its state executive councillor in-charge of tourism, Dato' Hamidah Osman, stated that the tin dredge would be saved. Dato' Hamidah said there had been discussions of relocating the tin dredge to some other suitable location. However nothing has been finalised until the full scope and cost of the project has been determined.

The Perak Government's plan to preserve it as a monument of the tin mining industry and as a unique tourist attraction has been received with approval from various quarters in the state. "Ideally it should be part of a Tin Museum with the dredge

accessible location."

### Heritage Buffs Join the Fray

The preservation of the dredge had also caught the attention of the local heritage buffs. Chairman of the Perak Heritage Society, Law Siak Hong, said "everything must be done to preserve it. Not only did it help make Kinta Valley world famous, it helped provide the wealth which built our country's infrastructure and development". "The dredge was presented by the mining company to the State for the people. That should be the inspiration for its conservation and subsequent re-use", added Law.

Elizabeth Cardosa, executive director of Badan Warisan Malaysia, had similar sentiments. "Tin mining played an integral part in our nation's economic growth and a tin dredge is part of this legacy", she commented. She added that the Tanjung Tualang Number 5 Dredge, if repaired, and well managed, would provide an excellent way to share the story and the very important role played by tin mining in the Kinta Valley, and in the development of the nation as a whole.

An on-line debate, started following a commentary written by the Director of Ipoh World, Ian Anderson, on his views that preserving the dredge

would be a "drain on resources forever", resulted in a wealth of ideas to make it a viable tourist attraction by injecting economic activities in the vicinity of the dredge. Among them is the idea to induce various developments, such as allocating a piece of land for the construction of a large petrol station with attached fast-food outlets and shop-houses.

### Dredge Co-Centre of Attraction

A reader, engineer Aaron Ong, felt that the dredge could be successfully preserved as a heritage by making it a co-centre of attraction with the existing tourism-based industries. He stressed that the dredge, by itself and on its own, could never be a centre of attraction. "No one would drive miles along empty roads to visit a dredge, no matter how nicely dressed up", he said.

Therefore, local folk should be enticed to set up shops for their famous Tanjung Tualang's freshwater prawns in clean and hygienic surroundings, with lots of open air for alfresco dining and ample parking; and using state machinery and media to promote this as a tourist spot.

"Sure this will take at the fastest a couple of years, so in the meantime some public money will have to be used for maintenance. But after this, the public money will be withdrawn and the owner/maintainer has to think of ways how to make the tourists appreciate the dredge so that the dredge will be self supporting", Ong said.

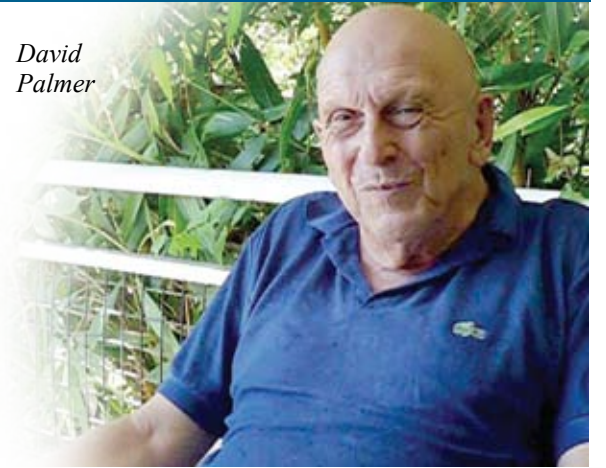
"I will certainly agree to the use of limited public money for maintenance of the dredge for the first two years, on condition that an economy is developed to boost and upgrade the existing prawn-based tourism for the benefit of the local folk. I mean who wouldn't be happy? For sure these people will be happy."

### Big Spruce Up

First and foremost, he said the dredge would have to be thoroughly repaired to display condition. All the riggings and the winches have to be inspected and made fast so nothing loose could come crashing down on the heads of visitors. Paint up the sides in bright beautiful colours like what they did to the Penang ferries. Next fix it up with beautiful lights inside and outside.

Ong has seen how ships and buildings, far older than the dredge, have been saved and preserved in Europe for future unborn generations so that their rich history is not lost to time. "To save the dredge, if not too late, the Government would have to use public money for limited maintenance. By limited I mean, to arrest and recover the list and to make the hull waterfast. That is a priority. If this is not done, the dredge would list past its centre of gravity

David Palmer



and would totally collapse. How much is needed I have no idea, and it depends on a detailed hull examination by a competent engineer, and may even require the services of a professional diver, welder from a salvage company. If the leak is localised and not too serious, a ballpark figure maybe in the region of 10's of thousands, perhaps", he said.

### Costing Taxpayer

Responding to Ong's suggestions, Ian Anderson says, "It is a good idea and if it could be achieved then that would be great, but, and it is a big BUT, it does need a far-sighted developer to come in with several million to put up front. Meanwhile the dredge will still be costing the taxpayer, or someone, however many millions it will take to bring it up to an acceptable tourist level in terms

of maintenance, repair and safety."

The dredge was built in 1938 by the consulting engineering firm of F.W. Payne and Co. It started operations at Teja, Gopeng, and after 44 years ceased operations and moved to its present location in 1982. The company responsible for managing the dredge, Century Mission Sdn Bhd is unable to repair the pontoon due to financial constraints.

Meanwhile, with the pontoon rusty and leaking the situation of the tin dredge is getting worse each day. Ipoh Echo hopes that the commitment made by Dato' Hamidah to save the dredge will materialise in the very near future to preserve the last visible heritage of the tin mining industry that brought the Kinta Valley the fame and glory that it enjoyed in the past.

JAMES GOUGH



being the main attraction and promoted strongly to attract the tourists to enable it to be sustainable", said David Palmer, a retired mining engineer and the ex-Director of Osborne & Chapel, the company that introduced hydraulics to the mining industry and operated mines in Perak and Selangor. "The dredge, as it is, needs to be upgraded and be made safe and sound for tourists to appreciate it. If possible, the dredge should be relocated to a viable and easily

## KOON YEW YIN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FINANCE/ ACCOUNTANCY DEGREES

Pre-degree or Foundation Course

Pays for all the fees and cost of living until the PTPTN loan is secured.

### Criteria:

- Scholarship based on eventual acceptance by UTAR
- Total family income is less than RM2,000 per month.
- No payback, only the commitment to help other poor students when financially solvent after graduation.

Send request with IC details, proof of family income to: [scholarship@ipohecho.com.my](mailto:scholarship@ipohecho.com.my)

## Get your FREE copy of the Ipoh Echo from:

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Canning Gdn:</b>    | <b>Ariff Store</b> , 40 Jalan Lee Kwee Foh.<br><b>New Wing Fook Merchant</b> , 56 Jalan Lee Kwee Foh.<br><b>Lourd Enterprise</b> , 7 Lorong Cecil Rae.   |
| <b>Ipoh Gdn:</b>       | <b>Muhibah Hair Stylist</b> , 103 Jalan Dato Lau Pak Khuan.<br><b>Mama's Home Baked Bread Stall</b> (after 7 pm), Aneka Selera.  |
| <b>Ipoh Gdn South:</b> | <b>Pasar Mini Manaf</b> , 17 Jalan S.A. Lingam.  |
| <b>First Gdn:</b>      | <b>LSF Sun Li Hardware Sdn Bhd</b> , 50, Jalan Ng Weng Hup.  |
| <b>Labrooy Road:</b>   | <b>LSF Sun Li Hardware Sdn Bhd</b> , 16A Jalan Labrooy.  |
| <b>Meru:</b>           | <b>Golf Reception Counter</b> , Meru Valley Golf & Country Club.   |
| <b>New Town:</b>       | <b>Kedai K.S. Maran</b> (nxt Maybank), 212 Jln Sultan Idris Shah.<br><b>Chan Sam Lock Photo Studio</b> , 77-81 Jln Sultan Idris Shah.<br><b>Pooran Enterprise</b> (opp Super Kinta), 5 Jln Dato Onn Jaafar.<br><b>S.Y. Dry Cleaning &amp; Laundry</b> , 1 Jln Chung Thye Phin. |
| <b>Simee:</b>          | <b>News vendor</b> (morning), Opposite Simee Market.   |
| <b>Tmn Ipoh Jaya:</b>  | <b>Rasu Enterprise</b> , 271 Jalan Gunung Rapat.   |
| <b>Tmn Tambun:</b>     | <b>Bawal Jaya Enterprise</b> , 66 Psnr Desa Tambun 7, Desa Tambun.   |
| <b>Tiger Lane:</b>     | <b>Perak Academy</b> , 28 Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah.   |
| <b>Golf Club Road:</b> | <b>Fitness Junction</b> , 2 Jalan Kelab Golf.  |
| <b>SITIAWAN</b>        | <b>P.N. Book Centre</b> , 7 Jalan Dato Ahmad Yunus.  |

**KOLEJ WIT**  
Wholly Owned By Kolej WIT Sdn. Bhd.  
(233505-P) KP (JPS) 5195/812  
NO. 1 PRIVATE COLLEGE  
Specializing  
In Technical Programs  
In Northern Region

**City & Guilds**  
Jabatan Pembangunan  
Kemahiran  
**IMI**  
THE INSTITUTE OF THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

**Free Courses / Kursus Percuma (Diiktiraf oleh CIDB)**

- Pemasangan Pendawaian Bangunan-3 Bulan
- Tamat Tingkatan 5
- 17 tahun ke atas
- Warganegara Malaysia
- Sihat Tubuh Badan

For more information call or visit us at:  
Nasir: 012 523 3500, Seow: 012 517 3104  
Office: 05 527 4069  
Web: [www.wit.edu.my](http://www.wit.edu.my)

**KOLEJ WIT SDN. BHD (IPOH CAMPUS)**  
No.8, Jalan Charleton, Off Jalan Tun Abdul Razak,  
30100 Ipoh, Perak.

**MLVK/JPK COURSES**

- Juruteknik Kenderaan Motor/Automotif
- Juruteknik Elektronik
- Juruelektrik
- Pelukis Pelan Senibina
- Mechatronics
- Pinjaman Tabung Pembangunan Kemahiran (TPK) Disediakan

**INTAKE**  
JAN, MAC, JUN & SEPT  
Sijil Kemahiran Malaysia (SKM)

- 2 tahun pengajian, Thp 1, 2 & 3
- PMR, SPM atau SETARAF
- Bahasa Pengantar (BM)
- Sihat Tubuh Badan
- Part-time / full time

**City & Guilds Programs**  
-UK Certificate,  
**Diploma & Advanced Diploma**

- Mechatronics
- Electrical & Electronic Engineering
- Automobile Engineering
- Information Technology (E-QUALS)
- Business Skills

-Part-Time / Full Time  
**Entry Qualification FLEXIBLE**



• by Fathol Zaman Bukhari

# COURTING THE CHINESE

One week before the big day, Chenderiang, a sleepy hollow 55 km south of Ipoh with the imposing Gunung Kampar and the spectacular Lata Kinjang Falls as its backdrops, was a hive of activity. Council workers and staff of the state Public Works Department were busy clearing and levelling a sparsely wooded shrub land near the entrance to the town. The tempo was fever pitch.

Those unfamiliar with the goings-on had wrongly assumed that a big carnival was coming to town. It was only upon checking with the workers that the truth was told. The state-level Chinese New Year open house, normally the

main event would take place. Nothing was left to chance to organise the most expensive party in town.

The banners bade welcome to visitors to the CNY open house scheduled for Sunday, February 21 beginning at 6.30 p.m. Dignitaries attending included the Sultan, Raja Muda, their consorts, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Dr. Zambray Abdul Kadir and host, Dato' Dr. Mah Hang Soon. The intended guests, obviously, were the Chinese population of Chenderiang and their neighbours from the surroundings.

## Focus Shift

Chenderiang was once a Communist hotbed. Right

Suddenly, their support becomes *nombro ono* although Thamby Chik, an Umno Vice President, once told an Indian-based party that its members' votes meant little since Indians represented only a fraction of the Malaysian voters. Another party stalwart, and a Najib's aide, had more insidious remarks for both Indians and Chinese. He branded them as *pendatang*, *pengemis* and *pelacur*.

The order to woo Indians and Chinese was out. Najib visited Batu Caves during Thaipusam on Sunday, January 30 – the first ever by a serving prime minister. He and wife, Rosmah, attended the much-touted CNY open house in Pandamaran, Selangor, on Saturday, February 20. The mainstream media trumpeted a turn-out of over 20,000 when the open space could barely support 5,000 revelers. Incessant rain almost ruined the programme. The Prime Minister visited three Chinese families but chose to sit on a tastefully carved government-supplied chair rather than the chairs in the houses. Many felt slighted by his insensitivity. Was it deliberate? If so, Najib's 1Malaysia sloganeering now sounds hollow.

## Rained Out

A heavy downpour preceded the Chenderiang CNY open house too. The week-long dry spell in the state culminated with this sudden deluge. It was a welcome relief for Perakeans who were reeling under the scorching tropical sun. Like in Pandamaran, some had hailed it as a *rahmat* (salvation). I, however, disagree. May be God was angry with the charade and had opened up the sky to show his displeasure.

I left my house for Chenderiang at around 6 p.m. on Sunday, hoping to beat the traffic before show time. But the driving rain got into my way.



preserve of Ipoh Padang, would be held there instead. The barren laterite-filled ground could accommodate some 5,000 people at any one time.

## Expensive Party

Flags, bunting and banners were hoisted and hung on poles and lamp-posts along the trunk road to Chenderiang. At an uninhabited stretch, workers were busy fixing solar-lights on custom-made metal lampposts – a novelty for Perakeans. Soon tents and covered stands dotted the open field where

through the 70s, troops were still deployed in the hills around the town to secure the high grounds. The British found it expedient to build a new village under the Brigg's Plan in the 1950s to separate the people from the terrorists. Will the town's less than savoury past have an impact on the event unfolding? Only time will tell.

Why the sudden interest in the Chinese? Since the setbacks suffered by Barisan Nasional in the 2008 General Election, attention has shifted to the Indians and the Chinese.

It was raining cats and dogs and visibility was poor. There were a couple of nasty accidents on the Plus Expressway near Gua Tempurung. One heavily smashed MPV laid precariously on the roadside. It had rammed into the iron railings guarding the side of a deep ravine.

Like all government-sponsored activities (where dignitaries are involved), the event was characterised by a heavy police presence. Cars and buses jammed the road leading into the

town. With some clever manoeuvring I reached Chenderiang town unscathed, saved for a creaking wiper blade. A crowd had gathered at the site but most were huddled in the covered stands, shielding themselves from the pouring rain. A lone policeman, in a white reflective raincoat, was directing the traffic in the downpour. He seemed oblivious of things around him.

## Gone Fishing

I stopped by a *kopi-*

*tiam*, located in a pre-war building along the main street, and ordered a cup of hot white coffee.

While waiting for my drink, I asked an elderly Chinese gentleman sitting next to me what he thought of the open house. "Aya... dia olang mau pancing Orang Cina punya undi. Kita olang bukan bodoh." (They want to fish for Chinese votes. We're not stupid).

Does this sum up the feelings of the people on the ground? I think so.



## 3-Course Carvery Set Lunch

Enjoy a hassle-free yet affordable set lunch of your choice.

Mondays to Saturdays  
12.00pm to 2.30pm  
RM25 nett per set

## 4-Course "Provincial Fare" Set Dinner

Savour an authentic Western Set Dinner specially created by Executive Chef, Ricky Partanti.

Mondays to Saturdays  
7.00pm to 10.30pm  
RM48 nett per set

## Wine & Tapas

Great chance to try 2 glasses of Premium Wines with delicious selections of Cold / Hot Tapas.

Mondays to Saturdays  
6.00pm to 7.00pm  
RM35 nett per pax

## Late Night Happy Hours

Relax and enjoy your drinks in a cozy atmosphere and be entertained by our live band duo, Mac & Zel.

Mondays to Saturdays  
9.00pm to 12 midnight  
Beer @ RM12 nett per mug  
House Wine @ RM15 nett per glass

For reservations, please contact extension 8008

The Bistro

18, Jalan Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah, 30250 Ipoh, Perak Darul Ridzuan, Malaysia. (T) 60151255 5555 (F) 60151255 8177 (E) resv@impiana.com  
\* The above prices are inclusive of 5% Government Tax and 10% Service Charge \* The above information is correct at the time of printing \* Terms & Conditions apply

## SCENE & HEARD

### JAZZ WITH MAC & ZEL @ THE BISTRO

Mac & Zel, a two-piece Jazz Duo is now performing at The Bistro of Impiana Hotel Ipoh.

Razel (Zel) the lead singer has strong vocals while Marcos (Mac) is an experienced yet multi-talented musician both on keyboard and guitar.

Catch their performance at The Bistro from 8.30 p.m. to 12 midnight nightly, except Sundays.

For reservations and enquiries, please call 05-255 5555 ext. 8008.





## PUBLISHER

Ipo Echo Sdn Bhd  
(Regd No 687483 T)

No 1 Jalan Lasam  
30450 Ipoh Perak Darul  
Ridzuan  
Tel: (605) 249 5936  
Fax: (605) 255 2181  
Email: [editorial@ipoecho.com.my](mailto:editorial@ipoecho.com.my)

## EDITORIAL

Fathol Zaman Bukhari  
G. Sivapragasam  
Jerry Francis

## REPORTER

James Gough

## GRAPHIC DESIGN

Rosli Mansor Ahd Razali

## MARKETING &amp; DISTRIBUTION

MANAGER  
Ramesh Kumar

## WEB ADMINISTRATOR

Titus Raj

## PERMISSION AND RE-PRINTS

Materials in Ipoh Echo may not be reproduced in any form without the written permission of the publisher

## PRINTER

Konway Industries Sdn Bhd  
Plot 78, Lebuhraya  
Kampung Jawa  
11900 Bayan Baru,  
Pulau Pinang  
Tel: (604) 644 7507

## USEFUL CONTACTS

## Ibu Pejabat

Polis Daerah (IPD)

05 2451 500

999 (emergency)

Ipoh General Hospital

05-253 3333

Ipoh Ambulance

05-522 2506

993 (emergency)

Ipoh Fire Brigade

05-547 4444/994

(emergency)

Perak Immigration Dept

05-5017100

Perak Water Board

05-254 6161

Ipoh City Council

(Complaints)

05-208 3378/9

Perak Anti-Corruption

Agency

05-253 1982

State Secretariat

05-253 1957

Railway Station

05-254 7987

Airport

05-312 0848

Registration Department

05-528 8805

Tenaga Nasional Berhad

05-253 2000

Lembaga Air Perak

1800-88-7788

Directory Service

103

Perak Women for

Women Society

012-521 2480

012-505 0547

05-5469715 (office)

AA Ipoh

019-574 3572

017-350 8361

## THINKING ALOUD

● By Jerry Francis

The Perak Government's decision to grant a 99-year-lease to the pomelo orchards in Tambun is a logical move to ensure the survival of the locally grown pomelo, which has become synonymous with Ipoh.

The growers, cultivating the land on Temporary Occupation Licence (TOL), have been facing an uncertain future for years as they had no control over the land and many growers had been forced to vacate their orchards to make way for other projects, including the North-South Expressway. Recently, one of the last patches of orchards was under threat of being taken over for housing development. But, the State Government had wisely revoked the order and prevented about 300 growers from being stripped of their orchards.

## Zambry's Good Move

Thus, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Dr. Zambry Abdul Kadir had with the stroke of his pen prevented a successful fruit farming industry in the Kinta Valley from dying and at the same time fulfilling the wishes of the growers who had been lobbying for land of their orchards in the past two decades. He had also corrected a "mistake" made

SURVIVAL OF IPOH'S ICONIC  
TAMBUN POMELO ASSURED

by the State Government some years back to allocate the land uniquely suitable for pomelo cultivation to housing development.

## Man Behind the Scenes

The announcement was therefore greeted with cheers from the growers at a gathering in Tambun recently. What more, they are also exempted from back payment of the land premiums. And the man, who had been working behind the scene to

only as 'Limau Bali' has been grown around Tambun and neighbouring Ampang for over two generations. Due to the quality of the fruit it has become well-known throughout the country and abroad. Initially 62 growers with a total of 285 hectares of orchards will benefit from this gesture by the State Government and will receive their land titles within three months, while others will get their land titles once the details of those eligible are finalised. The condition imposed on them is that they must use 80 per cent of the land for pomelo orchards.

## Mineral Rich Soil of Tambun

Ipoh pomeloes have always been a perfect 'Buah Tangan' (gift) to bring when visiting relatives or friends out of town. It is so because the City has been synonymous with this citrus fruit for generations. Those grown in the iron-ore soil of Tambun and Ampang just outside the city centre are reputed to be the best in the country. The soil of the orchards, which are surrounded by limestone hills, are also rich in minerals such as calcium for the tree to

achieve this, is the Member of Parliament for Tambun Dato' Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadziah, who is also the Finance Minister 2. He had been meeting the growers to hear their plights and complaints over the years.

## Generations of Growers

Pomelo or known com-



thrive and produce the best of the fruits.

## Acreage Decimated by Housing Development

These facts are well known, yet the State Government had in the last number of years allocated the land for housing projects. The growers, who had toiled the land for so long, were ordered to move out. As a result, the once striving pomelo growing industry which supported thousands of growers, their workers and families, began to dwindle. And, so the area of pomelo orchards in Tambun and Ampang had reduced from 12,000ha in the 1980s to just over 140ha now. The construction of the north-south highway in 1992 alone resulted in the felling of about 1,600 trees belonging to some 35 growers.

## Unfathomable Logic

It is hard to understand the logic behind the move by a previous State Government when there is ample land for housing and industrial projects such as former mining land around the city. However land suitable for pomelo cultivation, so rich in minerals, is scarce.

The State Government has, instead of protecting a striving pomelo industry that has brought fame to the city, given priority to housing in the area. Is it because the interests of some well-connected housing developers were being given preference over the welfare of pomelo growers? These are the grievances of the pomelo growers.

The orchards in Tambun and Ampang also hold tremendous potential for tourism as every week busloads of foreign tourists visit them. It has also come under the state's tourism guideline of "one district, one product."

## Reprieve and Relief

Long time grower Mr Chow Sun, 74, who is also the chairman of the Tambun Pomelo Farmers Association, described the move by the state government as "a long wait that finally bore fruit."

"I've been growing pomeloes since my father's time which is over 80 years ago. For close to 30 years we have been asking for the land and now we have finally been granted our request", he said.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Kinta Medical Centre Prenatal Class** conducted by Dr (Mrs) Dharmini Prushothaman. Saturday 6 March, 3-5 p.m. Free admission with attraction gifts. Contact **05-2439590** for registration.

**Kechara House Buddhist Association**, Ipoh Study Group, Open House on 7 March, 11 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. At Kechara House Ipoh Study Group Centre, 15B Jalan Che Tak, Wisma Tan Sri Chong Kok Lim, Off Jalan Yang Kalsom, Ipoh. For enquires call Dr. Ming at **012-2841009** or Mr Wan **012-2150968**.

**International Women's Day** at the concourse of Kinta City shopping centre, Ipoh from 8 to 14 March between 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. There'll be a cheerleading display by the Titans at the Opening Ceremony. See page 12 for more information. For details call PWW at **05-5469715** or **012-521 2480**.

**Olympia College Ipoh Campus Open Day**. 20 March 2010, 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. SPM result takers are encouraged to attend as there will be free counselling sessions & career pathway guidance. For further information, contact the counsellors at **05-2433868** or Nirmal at **012-5390020**.

**Mayor Roshidi's "Turun Padang" programme.**  
a) Visit to Zone 1 (Chemor) on April 7 at Dewan Orang Ramai Chemor commencing 9 a.m.  
b) Visit to Zone 15 (Sg Rokam/Ipoh Jaya/Ampang) on March 10 at Dewan Orang Ramai Sg Rokam commencing 9 a.m.  
c) Visit to Zone 4 (Kinding/Tg Rambutan/Putra) on March 24 at Pusat Khidmat Adun Hulu Kinta commencing 9 a.m.



## MUSING ON FOOD



seefoon@ipohecho.com.my

By See Foon Chan-Koppen

## SeeFoon Gets to Reinvent the Gourmet Wheel

Ask any Chinese food connoisseur in Ipoh if he knows Tuck Kee and chances are a positive nod of the head. In fact if you drive down Jalan King, off Pasir Pinji you'll notice a queue beginning to form from around 12 noon onwards outside number 1, where Tuck Kee is located. They're all lining up to purchase the take-away roast duck, *char siew* (roast pork) and suckling pig, for which Tuck Kee has solidified its reputation as one of Ipoh's leading Chinese restaurants.

## Seducing Traditionalists

In the early days when I first arrived in Ipoh 14 years ago, I used to go to Tuck Kee for their braised Sharks Fin Tureen which at that time was a great value at RM45 each. These days as it is politically incorrect to eat or order sharks fin, I have reluctantly eschewed this dish and moved on to other gusta-



Smoked duck breast

to my explorations. And since Ah Tuck has returned to his roots in Ipoh after learning all the tricks of the culinary trade in Kuala Lumpur over a period of 20 years and taken over the kitchen and restaurant from his father; new epicurean delights beckon to me as Ah Tuck applies his wizardry in the kitchen, reinventing the culinary wheel to woo new fans while working on seducing the diehard traditionalists who have patronized his father's restaurant for years.

And he is succeeding. Judging by the raucous ambiance, every square foot of both the upstairs and downstairs area was packed like sardines on the two occasions when I dined there recently. And for good reasons too. Tuck Kee today does not print an ala carte menu. Yes there was a menu of sorts for Chinese New Year with various options for tables of 10 but for the rest of time, one can sit down with the serving staff or Ah Tuck himself and discuss what they'd like for their

meal, tailored for individual tastes.

## Hawker Dishes Upgraded

On his own, Ah Tuck has upgraded two popular local hawker dishes and brought it up to 'Michelin' (the yardstick by which the cream of restaurants around the world are rated) status. His 'Har Meen' or prawn noodle soup, commonly available at most hawker stalls for a mere RM4.00 is now served in his restaurant for a whopping RM13.00. But what a dish and worth every ringgit we pay! A meal by itself, two very large prawns sit on top of velvety smooth rice noodles complemented with the addition of two bunches of the Japanese crunchy 'shirataki' yam noodles, garnished with local chives, the soup base redolent with prawn essence. Totally addictive!

Ah Tuck assures me that his soup base is pure stock, made without the slightest smidgen of MSG, that

scourge of Chinese food and often the reason why I seldom eat this dish at hawker stalls.

As if any other noodle dish could get better, but it does. His 'Wat Dan Hor', literally 'smooth egg rice noodles', the same rice noodles but pre-fried to give it the essential 'wok hei' (that quintessential Chinese expression for high heat, wok fragrance) was melt-in-mouth smooth, with the same prawn fragrance that comes from the same stock that he uses for his soup base.

## Unbeatable Duck's Breast

I have been so busy raving about the noodles that I am putting the cart before the horse literally. I must go back to the beginning, the starters. Here again forgive me if I wax lyrical. Ah Tuck's smoked duck breast will beat any 'Magret de Canard' (same duck's breast in French



Braised beef short ribs

and a very popular dish served in a myriad of ways) hands down. Using fresh duck breast, he marinates and smokes them before putting a slight crust on by grilling. Served on a bed of lettuce, this is one dish I can eat ad infinitum. RM18.

Following this was another appetizer with frog's legs, smoked garlic and onions. The frog was fresh and succulent with the garlic and onions lending flavour to what is usually a bland meat. RM40.

This was followed by a 'fusion' dish, that of Foie Gras (imported from Hungary), pan fried and served with a brown sauce. I found this an unusual offering from a Chinese restaurant and testimony to Ah Tuck's creativity. RM35 per portion.

Next came individual portions of braised beef short ribs served on a bed of greens that was divinely tender, every mouthful smothered in a rich creamy sauce.

## Piece de Resistance

The piece de resistance of the evening had to be the dessert. Fragrant coconut steamed with a still-quivering egg white custard inside. This suited my palate to a T as I don't have much of a sweet tooth and the custard was just sweet enough to be a dessert without the usual cloying sugary mouth feel that accompanies most desserts. For RM8.00 per portion, it's great value considering that just buying one of these coconuts at the supermarket already costs around RM3-4 without the other ingredients and if you consider labour and the time required for steaming (at least 2-3 hours). Another wonderful dessert is their homemade almond cream, a combination of US almonds and apricot kernels. RM12.

So if you're into experimenting or have a jaded palate do go to Tuck Kee and experience their 'laboratory' and reinvent the gourmet wheel. Speak to Ah Tuck or one of their experienced staff who'll be more than happy to help you.



**Tuck Kee Restaurant**  
1&3 Jalan King, Off Pasir Pinji,  
31650 Ipoh  
Tel: 05 2553870 or 05-2419071

## HAWKER FOOD



## Hor Hee

**H**or Hee noodle seems to be an Ipoh 'thing'. Old Town White Coffee has added it to their menu. Basically it is noodle in a fish soup base, with small springy fish balls, thinly-sliced fish cake, crunchy *tong choy* (a preserved vegetable), bean sprouts or shredded lettuce, and savoury *sui kao* (fish wonton), served with sliced bird's eye chilli drenched in light soya sauce. *Tong choy* with its unique texture and piquancy, adds to the flavour of the soup. Usually made with *kuey teow* noodles, other noodles are also available; glass noodle (*tong fun* or *tunghoon*) is also another favourite choice. The most distinguishing thing in Hor Hee is the *sui kao*. Triangular in shape, one has to fish around for it as only one piece is given in a normal serving. (One is very lucky if there are two!) Some food stalls even charge extra for it. Hor Hee makes a deliciously light soup noodle meal.



NAME	WHERE	COMMENTS	PRICE (RM)	STARS
RESTORAN LI HENG FATT (Evening)	14 Jln Panglima, Old Town	Soup is flavourful & includes tasty <i>sui kao</i> , <i>tong choy</i> , bean sprouts, fish balls & fish cake.	2.60	★★★★
SEE SEE HENG (EE FUN) (Evening) 3-11pm	Embassy Restaurant 35-37 Jln Chamberlain, New Town	Soup very tasty but <i>sui kao</i> not included. Enough of other ingredients.	3.60	★★★★
LOKE WOUI KEE RESTAURANT (Day) 10.30am-4.00pm	26 & 28 Jln Mustapha Al-Bakri (opp. Kamdar), New Town	Fish balls look homemade; soup is flavourful with fair amount of <i>tong choy</i> . Extra 70¢ for <i>sui kao</i> .	3.60	★★★★
STALL #4 (Evening) 6pm-1am	Stadium	Soup is tasty and has all the accompaniments.	3.00	★★★★

Our next food review will be **CLAYPOT CHICKEN RICE**  
Email your favourite recommendations to: [food@ipohecho.com](mailto:food@ipohecho.com)

## RECIPE



By MARGARITA LEE

## BLACK FUNGUS (WOOD EAR) KERABU

## Ingredients:

50 gm black fungus  
250gm chicken meat  
- steam and shredded finely.

## Dressing:

3 tbsp Sambal Belacan  
3-4 tbsp lime juice  
3 tbsp finely chopped shallots  
3 tbsp finely sliced ginger flower (Bunga Kantan)  
2 tbsp grated toasted coconut

## Method:

1. Soak the fungus for 1-2 hours.
2. Slice the fungus thinly.
3. Scald the fungus in the pot of water with pinch of salt.
4. Drain the fungus for later use.
5. Combine Sambal Belacan, lime juice,



7. Garnish with ginger flower and toasted coconut.
6. Mix well and toss with the fungus and shredded chicken.



**LETTERS**

We reprint some of our reader's comments from our online paper. Go to <http://www.ipohecho.com.my/> to read more. The views expressed in these letters are not necessarily shared by the Editorial Board. We reserve the right to refuse or modify the letters we publish.

**Such Naïvety**

It is naïve of Dato' N.H. Chan, a learned man and former court of appeal judge, to assume that just because a foreign word appears in the English dictionary it has become an English word. Chan made this observation in his article, "But The Word "Allah" Is A Word In The English Dictionary" (IE 90) thus implying that anyone can now use the word, "Allah". There are many foreign words found in the English dictionaries, as in "The Great LIFCO Dictionary (English-English-Tamil)" and "Oxford Dictionary (English-English-Tamil)". Here are some examples:

- "masjid" (n) – mosque.
- "Kaaba" (n) – small building in the holy mosque in Mecca.
- "Quran" (n) – the sacred book of Islam.
- "kameez" (n) – a piece of clothing like a long shirt worn by people in South Asia and Middle East.
- "temasha" (n) – an entertainment, fun.

Have all these words become English? A foreign word may find its way into an English dictionary but that does not make it English. It would be ridiculous for a non-Muslim, when asked where he was going replied, "I am going to the mosque," when, in actual fact, he was going to his prayer house (church or temple).

The Arabs did not pronounce "Al-ilah". It is wrong to say that "not even the Arabs or the Jews would pronounce the word "Allah" for their God". Jews do not but Arabs do. Not only now but even before the time of Prophet Mohammad (pbuh). When King Abrahah of Yemen invaded Mecca with the intention of demolishing the Kaaba, he camped some distance away from the Kaaba. When his soldiers seized the Meccans' livestock, Abdul Mutalib, leader of the Quraishi tribe and grandfather of Prophet Mohammad, rode up to him and requested the king to release his tribe's livestock. A surprised King Abrahah asked, "Why the livestock and not Kaaba?" Abu Mutalib replied, "We own the livestock. Kaaba belongs to Allah. He'll take care of it". This episode took place 40 years before Prophet Mohammad (pbuh). Abu Mutalib said "Allah" not "Al-ilah". Therefore, "Allah" is not an Arabic mispronunciation.

The phrase "Allah the deity among the Mohammedans" from the Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology is a mischievous ploy to discredit Islam. "Allah" is not a deity, as deities have physical forms and it is not "Mohammedans". Unlike the followers of other religions (Christians followers of Jesus Christ; Buddhists followers of Buddha, etc.), followers of Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) are not called "Mohammedans" but "Muslims".

Books and dictionaries will not teach us new knowledge but learned scholars do, as the Quran states: "Ask those who know if you do not now" (Chapter 16: Verse 43).

I shall be happy to meet N.H. Chan to further clarify. If he can forward me his address, I shall send him my recent article, "All Religions Are One".

**DR. MOHAMED AMIR**  
Perak Islamic Information Centre  
[piic@streamyx.com](mailto:piic@streamyx.com)  
February 6, 2010

**MY LORD! HE IS 100% MY FATHER**

by Peter Lee

Taiwanese plastic magnate, Wang Yung-ching died at the age of 91 in year 2008 without a will. He left behind a wife, 9 children with other women and a personal fortune estimated at nearly RM24.6 billion. Several of Wang's 9 children want to be the administrator of his estate. All of the children stood before the judge and said: "My Lord! He is 100% my father". The battle for the billions was so complex that one of the children's lawyer opened arguments by displaying an elaborate family tree and a diagram of Wang's holdings in several countries.



If this case were to occur in Malaysia, then the estate would have to apply for a Letter of Administration (LA) when there is no will. Before family members apply for LA, they have to first appoint an Administrator (or if there are minor beneficiaries, at least 2 Administrators are required). The Administrator will have to be agreed upon by ALL the beneficiaries. This will be difficult for Wang's case as several of the children want to be appointed as the Administrator. The court will not be able to intervene when the beneficiaries cannot agree on the appointment of an Administrator. Until such time, the estate is frozen and no beneficiary has any legal right to deal with the estate. If and when an Administrator can be agreed upon, there is a need to have at least 2 Sureties (who act as Guarantors) to provide an Administration Bond that is equivalent to the gross estate value of the deceased. The requirement of an Administration Bond is required under the Probate and Administration Act 1959. The question here is how many individuals do have assets that are equivalent to the gross estate value of the deceased and whether he/she would want to provide such an Administration Bond? The purpose of the Administration Bond is to ensure that the inheritance of the beneficiaries is protected in the event the Administrator absconds with the assets of the estate, where the Sureties will have to pay for the loss created by the Administrator.

The next issue is to identify the legal wife of the deceased (assuming the deceased is a male). Under the Malaysian law for non-Muslim, if a man married 2 wives before 1<sup>st</sup> March 1982, by way of customary marriage, both wives are legal wives. However, if one wife was married before 1<sup>st</sup> March by customary marriage and another after 1<sup>st</sup> March by way of registration, the legal wife will be the one that was married before 1<sup>st</sup> March. If there was no marriage before 1<sup>st</sup> March and a marriage took place after 1<sup>st</sup> March by registration, this would be the only legal marriage because any marriage that took place after 1<sup>st</sup> March 1982 to be valid must be registered and monogamous. The legitimacy of the children will depend very much on the status of their mothers, whether as legal wife or not. If they are illegitimate, then under the Malaysian intestacy law (Distribution Act 1958, as amended in 1997), they will not be entitled to inherit their father's estate.

If Wang was a Malaysian, the problems above could be easily avoided by getting a Will and/or Trust done. As the estate of Mr. Wang is substantial, it is important to appoint a licensed trustee company like Rockwills Trustee Bhd to be the Executor and Trustee of his will and trust. The reason for appointing a Trustee Company is to ensure that they are impartial, provide continuity, accountable and are experts in carrying out their responsibilities. When applying for the Grant of Probate (GOP), the Executor/Trustee will obtain the Death Certificate from family members. If individual Executors were to be appointed, they may face the problem of obtaining the Death Certificate because it may be due to other rival family members holding to it as a bargaining power. This would eventually delay the process of applying for the GOP.

With the Death Certificate, the Executor/Trustee can begin the process of applying for the GOP. Once the GOP is obtained from the High Court, then the Executor/Trustee have the task of having an inventory of the assets of the deceased (including those that are overseas) such as monies in the bank, investments, properties, insurance proceeds, company shares, motor vehicle, etc. Once the inventory is more or less complete, the Executor/Trustee can begin to collect the assets. The Executor/Trustee is advised to advertise in the newspaper with a grace period of 2 months being given for creditors to claim any unsettled debts against the estate. If there are any debts, the Executor/Trustee will have to settle these debts first by using the money from the estate. It is very important that the Executor/Trustee seek clearance from the Inland Revenue Board regarding any unpaid taxes of the deceased. After this exercise is completed, only then the balance of the estate can be distributed to the beneficiaries according to the wishes in the Will.

Under such complex circumstances as Mr. Wang's, it is advisable to do a Will for one family and setting up separate Trust for other families. This would avoid a clash in distribution of specific assets to different family members. By planning for a proper estate distribution, it will avoid as much as possible conflicts between family members.

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).

**Malaysians' Mis-Manners**

Boorishness – a word that comes to mind when a person disregards the speech of his host and continues with his mindless chatter. Walk into any dinner in Ipoh, or in any other part of Malaysia for that matter, and a cacophony that only increases in intensity greets you.

Of course, noisy dinners are an Asian tradition, albeit a not too adorable one. But cawing unconcernedly while a speech is being made is just plain rude, to the host as well as fellow diners.

Malaysia aspires to a developed status but are we really heading towards that direction if plain, old-fashioned, good manners are wanting? It would be safe to say that a society is truly developed if its progress is commensurate with civility. Picture a well-heeled but callous and loud Ah Beng and you get the picture. This Ah Beng might want to argue that we need not ape the West, but doesn't politeness transcend all cultures and inclinations?

Showing consideration to others is a step up towards social progress and is the universal language of class. If the need to talk is irrepressible while someone, especially one's host, is making a speech, then at least tone it down or, better still, just zip up and pretend to listen.

Let us show the world that we do have a little bit of class buried underneath all that noise!

**VALERIE CHAN**  
Ipoh

**FREEHOLD VIRGIN LAND**

**翠林城 BANDAR SERI BOTANI**

SJK(C) Padang Gajah is now in operation. Interested parents can contact the school at 05-312 4813 for information on student enrolment.

showhouse viewing time  
weekday 10am - 6pm  
weekend / public holiday 10am - 7.30pm

**Phase 1.7A Double Storey Link Houses**  
Standard lot size: 20' x 70'  
Price: from RM218,800

**Phase 3.1C Double Storey Link Houses**  
Standard lot size: 22' x 75'/80'  
Price: from RM245,000

**Project Managing Agent: TAIKO PROPERTIES SDN. BERHAD** (222811-01)  
No.1, Jalan Zarib 8, Zarib Industrial Park, 31500 Ipoh, Perak. Tel: 05-323 6622 (6 lines) Fax: 05-323 6633 Website: [www.bandarseriobotani.com](http://www.bandarseriobotani.com)

**Developer: PINJI BOTANICS SDN BHD** (121074-A)  
No.1, Jalan Zarib 8, Zarib Industrial Park, 31500 Ipoh, Perak. Tel: 05-323 6622 (6 lines) Fax: 05-323 6633 Website: [www.bandarseriobotani.com](http://www.bandarseriobotani.com)

Phase 1.7A | Developer's License: 9429-18/06-2012/535 Validity Period: 10.06.2009 - 09.06.2010 Advertising Permit: 9429-18/1902/2010291 Validity Period: 18.09.2009 - 15.09.2010 MBI Approved Plan No.: OSC1089/42/888/07  
Land Tenure: Freehold Land Encumbrance: Nil Expected Completion Date: Dec'11 Units: 138 Selling Price: min RM218,800 max RM390,805 Phase 3.1C | Developer's License: 9424-13/07-2010/938  
Validity Period: 26.07.2007-25.07.2010 Advertising Permit: 9429-11/230/2010071 Validity Period: 02.02.2010 - 25.07.2010 MBI Approved Plan No.: OSC1829/21/474/07 Land Tenure: Freehold  
Land Encumbrance: Nil Expected Completion Date: June'12 Units: 121 Selling Price: min RM245,000 max RM410,156



KAMPUNG TALES

# TALENTED PERAK



By Yusuf Martin

If you look very, very carefully there is a long list of very talented people associated with the enigmatic Silver State of Perak. From the ubiquitous literary talents of Tash Aw (writer) to the eminently delectable actress Datuk Michelle Yeoh, their stars forever shine in the heavens of the international firmament. Aside – In my haste to impart this, I am not, of course, forgetting either my old mate, the silver-tongued Patrick Teoh (broadcaster, acerbic writer and thespian), or fellow writer, and thoroughly nice individual, Preeta Samarasan.

However, what you may, or may not know is that there are still many mega-talented people, who actually prefer to live in the Silver State, rather than write about it from afar. They are brave, hearty souls who shun the bright lights and big cities to live in the comparative quiet of a rural setting,

wherein they may listen to their hearts and comprehend their muse – not read the SMS screen and facebook themselves out of existence.

It was recently, having well girded my loins, I stepped out from my misnamed studio, kick-started my monolithic jeep and reached out to the cowering world at large, to meet with some (hopefully) fellow humans. In my questing I was hugely fortunate enough to meet with two charmingly gifted sons of Perak – Raja Shahrman b Raja Aziddin (aka Raja Shahrman), sculptor, painter and all round nice guy, and, equally as nice, contemporary artist, musician and academic Kamal Sabran.

To be fair, I only met Raja Shahrman en passant as it were – while he was accompanying my buddy, the artist Rafiee Ghani, in Kuala Lumpur, but shortly excused himself to return to his beloved state and family. I sincerely hope to meet more fully with Raja Shahrman at a later date, perhaps in his residence at Kuala Kangsar, where he creates the sculptures he is known for. Kamal Sabran I met, in Ipoh, at a mamak restaurant to talk about

his forthcoming music CD entitled ‘The Space Gambus Experiment’ – more of that later.

Raja Shahrman currently has an exhibition of his profound sculptures, paintings and sketches at the Galeri Petronas, KLCC, Kuala Lumpur; profound, in the sense that within the painted, twisted metal forms lies a greater depth of meaning, and significance too. While it is the three dimensionality of Raja Shahrman’s sculpted forms which greets the visitor at first glance, on second spine tingling glimpse, one notices the intricate play of light on the works, and, obviously, the vividness of the shadows. For it is within the forms of those pronounced shadows, spread from the sculptures that give them life, which the artist’s greatness comes into play. Through Raja Shahrman’s mastery of his medium, he deftly reveals the vicious shadow creatures, which inhabit the rabid consciousness of the brutal warrior – his martial spine a bandolier of bullets.

People of a nervous disposition might stand in the corner of one of the galleries, staring at Raja Shahrman’s sculptures,

waiting for the blatant shadows to come to life, so eerily real are they, in an abstract way. These same visitors, out of the corner of one eye, may see shadows, as if in a wayang kulit play, engage in their incipient warfare, rising out from curved metal flames and doing battle with tendril-like hands and protuberances, which may in our imaginations, be fashioned as swords.

While the shadows of Raja Shahrman’s sculptures eerily poise for battle, Kamal Sabran’s music CD soothes those parts that other music CDs cannot soothe, with its unique blend of sounds from space and music from the traditional Malay gambus (a lute-like instrument).

Just back from Kuala Lumpur, promoting his short film – LUMPUR, for 15 Malaysia, Kamal Sabran spoke with me about his collaboration with Mohd Zulkifi Ramli, and the unique music they have created for the CD ‘The Space Gambus Experiment’.

An observant reader will have noticed the word – Space in the title of this CD, as in The Space Gambus Experiment, and maybe scratched an itchy follicle or two on



its significance. To put your inquisitive minds at rest, I am not referring to some post-hippy, pseudo-psychedelia, but in this case – real Space, as in “one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind”, the National Space Agency and the planet Jupiter.

Kamal Sabran developed ‘Sonic Cosmic Music from Outer Space’,

while he was ‘artist in residence’ at the National Space Agency and some of that celestial material, along with the more traditional gambus music, graces this present album. It is therefore a credit to both Kamal Sabran and to Mohd Zulkifi Ramli, that together they have been able to create such a distinctive and richly melodic sound.

**We specialise in flyer printing & distribution**

**Flyer Sam**

3¢ for Ipoh Area

6¢ for Outstation

Distribution to all areas

Cheapest in town

Good service provider

**Flyer Sam** 012-5866112  
019-4025020

## Luxurious Detached Homes

in a Master-Planned, Guarded Community

**新天地 Sri Klebang**  
FREEHOLD

**LANCASTER** PHASE 2Ciii

1 STOREY DETACHED HOME

STANDARD LOT SIZE: 60' X 100'

BUILT-UP: 2,608 SQ. FT.

4 + 1 ROOMS / 3 BATHROOMS

**REGENT** PHASE 2Ciii

2 STOREY DETACHED HOME

STANDARD LOT SIZE: 60' X 100'

BUILT-UP: 3,480 SQ. FT.

4 + 2 ROOMS / 5 BATHROOMS

**MAYFAIR** PHASE 2Ciii

2 STOREY DETACHED HOME

STANDARD LOT SIZE: 70' X 100'

BUILT-UP: 4,160 SQ. FT.

5 + 1 ROOMS / 6 BATHROOMS + 1 POWDER ROOM

**MODERN 2 STOREY LINK HOMES** PHASE 2Gii

STANDARD LOT SIZE: 20' X 75'

BUILT-UP: 1,788 SQ. FT.

4 ROOMS / 3 BATHROOMS

**SPECIAL FEATURES FOR PHASE 2Ciii (PARKLANE RESIDENCES):**

- Landscaped Eco Parks
- 24-hour Guarded Community
- CCTV Cameras
- Solar Water Heater System
- Water Booster Pump
- 2'x2' Porcelain Tiles
- Granite Top for Master Bath
- Smoke Detector
- Home Security Alarm System
- 5 Years Warranty on External Paint
- Roof Insulation
- All Air-cond Points with Piping
- Walking distance to Clubhouse, Golf Driving Range, Shops and Schools

Two Schools

Play areas and landscaped Parks

In-house Security Team

Freehold, virgin land

Low Density Development

24-hour Guarded communities

Close proximity to shops & schools

Surrounded by parks and lush landscape

**Show Homes** Open daily from 10am – 6pm • Weekends / public holidays 10 am - 7pm

**KINTA PROPERTIES**  
Building Homes, Developing Communities

**Kinta EcoCity Sdn. Bhd.**

012-500 8018 / 019-513 3315  
www.sriklebang.com.my | sales@kintaproperties.com



LETTER FROM ULU KINTA

The Orang Asli (OA) have suffered for too long, with scores of people taking advantage of them on the pretext of helping them.

Without doubt, our OA are poor and marginalised. For centuries, they lived in isolation along the jungle fringes because of persecution by various people. In the 18th and 19th centuries, warring Malays invaded their villages to kidnap the women and children for slavery.

**Aboriginal Peoples Act**  
The British abolished slavery but OA welfare was again sidelined, as they were convenient subjects in anthropological study. Later, in the Emergency, they helped hunt the communist insurgents. In 1954, the Aboriginal Peoples Act was formed to protect the OA and their lands.

With the formation of Malaysia, a programme of integration and assimilation started in 1961. As the Act only covered certain ground rules, the tendency

was to regard the OA as wards of the government. Unwittingly, their culture, identity and culture were slowly being eroded.

In addition, they discovered that the Act failed to recognise their rights to their own land. Alarming, it was the State that had the final say in their land matters. This gave rise to dissatisfaction involving land possession, displacement, resettlement and even choice of crops for cultivation. To make matters worse, a form of social engineering was being practised with their definitive social structure being dismantled and conversions into Islam being encouraged.

**Taskforce**  
In 2008, an Orang Asli Taskforce was formed by Pakatan Rakyat, when they were in power, to help resolve issues of the OA community in Perak. In appreciation of the technicalities and complexities associated with OA land matters, they appointed a legal advisor, with long involvement, both at grassroots level and

REINVENTING THE WHEEL

legal issues pertaining to the OA. The objective, for the band of independent experts making up the Taskforce, was to formulate a comprehensive solution for OA problems in Perak (and possibly Malaysia). This proceeded well, but before the Taskforce could implement its aims, the PR government fell.

**Development Advisory Committee**  
Then, in January 2010, Perak's BN Menteri Besar Dato' Dr. Zambry formed an Orang Asli Development Advisory Committee. Many wondered if this was in addition to the original Taskforce or just another name for it. Although not exactly shrouded in secrecy, neither was much information made public about it. Some questions were raised if the new members had any tangible knowledge, expertise and feel for the true nature of OA problems. Why reinvent the wheel when the original taskforce could have been mobilised



at a moment's notice?  
When contacted, a member of the original taskforce was disappointed that none of them had been asked to offer their input, and claims that by overlooking them, "speaks volumes of what the current committee intends to achieve". They maintain their emphasis on the best possible solution for OA issues.

**Land Issues**  
Crucially, the OA existence, identity and well being, centres on land. Customary land claims must be recognised. So, if Zambry

is genuinely concerned, meaningful solutions can be found, if his committee is formed from a mix of honest, independent people with integrity. Without this proviso, the future well-being of the OA will be compromised.  
The OA have long held the view that they are rarely consulted in matters that affect them, are unable to exercise their full rights and are subject to intense discrimination. Many

will be left wondering if the new Orang Asli Development Advisory Committee will have the appropriate composition of people with adequate expertise and independence to help them.  
If left unsupervised and unregulated, the danger is for an unscrupulous land grab by the very people who should be protecting the Orang Asli. And that would be tragic.  
YAM

CHARITY DINNER AND BRANDING AWARDS CEREMONY

The Yayasan Bakti Khidmat Masyarakat Malaysia (Loyal Community Service Foundation), Perak Branch, organised a branding awards presentation ceremony and fund raising dinner at the Tower Regency Hotel in Ipoh recently. The occasion was also used to usher in the Chinese New Year. The charity and trust foundation, which was formed about ten years ago, is to help set up the government's efforts to achieve Vision 2020 and improve the economy, and for the society to help people with disabilities.

The presentation was not only to merit those who had contributed towards its

objective but also to recognise our local content. The target of this ceremony is preserving our local culture in the products offered and in promoting tourism.

The guest-of-honour was State Executive Councillor Dato' Mah Hang Soon, who in his opening address said that entrepreneurs in Perak should develop more local Brand Names and make them popular. He added that he would look into expanding the kacang putih business to enter the export market. On the topic of tourism, from now onwards the State will take up aggressive marketing strategies to attract tourists to the Perak.



Phytobiophysics Academy's Yeap Heong Moi receiving her award

He had identified local places of interest which could be highlighted in brochures to attract tourists. He also said companies must help the needy under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Dato' Mah congratulated the companies that received the Branding Award and requested them to continue bringing out new local brands as well as continue to popularise existing ones.  
Dato' T. Murugiah, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, presented the Brand Award trophy and Certificate to the recipients. The function ended with presentation of ang paws to the needy who were invited to the ceremony. AJ

Raja DiHilir Perak visits St John Ambulance's Exhibition



DYAM Raja DiHilir Perak with SJAM members

St John Ambulance Malaysia's division of Anderson School Ipoh held an exhibition on the importance of First Aid to create an awareness among the students of the school recently.  
It was in conjunction with the school's 100 Years Celebration and launching of Time Capsule by Raja DiHilir Perak Raja Jaafar Ibni Raja Muda Musa. Raja Jaafar also visited the exhibition and witnessed first aiders on Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation and the Heimlich

Manoeuvre.  
He left after posing for a group photograph with members and congratulating them on their services. About 200 teachers and students attended the talks on first aid.  
The divisions NCO In-Charge, Jegathiswaran, said doing first aid in the right way and safely is not an easy thing. Such activities by members of the organisation will inspire members of the public to learn about it. He said his team is ready to promote first aid through exhibitions and trainings.



**FORMERLY KNOWN AS PERAK INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY**

Campus Add: No 4, Jalan Charleton, Off Jalan Tun Abdul Razak 30100, Ipoh Perak Malaysia. Mailing Add: P.O. Box 592, 30760, Ipoh Perak Malaysia  
Tel: 605-528 1888, 605-528 7168 Fax: 605-526 7168 URL: http://www.maxwell.edu.my Email: info@maxwell.edu.my




**APRIL 2010 INTAKE**

- COMPUTER ENGINEERING DIPLOMA(A1701)
- ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING DIPLOMA(A1702)
- MECHATRONIC ENGINEERING DIPLOMA(A1703)
- ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATE(KA10125)

**Entry Qualification:** SPM 1 credit for KA10125, and 3 credits for A1701, A1702 & A1703.

**Special Features:**

- @All courses are accredited by MQA
- @SPM 3 credits are eligible to apply for PTPTN Loan.
- @Hostels available for outstation student.
- @All Text Books are provided FREE for student
- @Internet Access free for student
- @100% work placement on graduation
- @ 3+1 program(3 yrs at Kolej Maxwell and 1 yr topup degree at UK) save up to RM250K.



**IPOH IN BRIEF**

**MUZIUM GOPENG LAUNCHES ITS CORPORATE LOGO**

Muzium Gopeng which first opened its doors last year launched its corporate logo on 15<sup>th</sup> February at 2 p.m. on the second day of the Year of the Tiger.

The auspicious ceremony complete with a roaring lion dance performance was held at its premises at 28 Eu Kong Street, Gopeng, the heritage home of the Yaw family for 5 generations.

Bernard Yaw, the Chairman of Muzium Gopeng in his opening address welcomed the almost 200 guests that afternoon. Many amongst the guests were former students of Sekolah Menengah Jenis Kebangsaan Idris Shah, Gopeng, including their 'beloved' Headmaster Y. Bhg Dato' Seri N.S. Selvamany.

Selvamany, who was the guest of honour, praised Bernard and his family for "bringing back glory and a future to the town of Gopeng. Bernard has shown his love for the town and country by contributing his Mun Chong heritage home and turning it into a museum, a gesture that cannot be measured".

Selvamany then presented to Bernard and its museum curator Phang See Kong, an antique clock and a box of 'kam' ('gold' mandarin oranges). A sum of RM7,000 collected by the ex-students of Sekolah Idris Shah was also presented to curator Phang.

Commenting on the launch of the logo Bernard clarified that they could now get serious about promoting the museum and confirmed that he had registered their website [www.muziumgopeng.org](http://www.muziumgopeng.org) and the page was currently being designed.



In conjunction with the launch, the museum had organised a month-long exhibition of antique wall and table-top clocks. Most of the clocks on display were of European origin and was originally sold by 3 main Gopeng clock shops during its heyday. The exhibition ends on 16<sup>th</sup> March.

JAG

**EVERYBODY'S BIRTHDAY**



Our Mother of Perpetual Help Church in Ipoh Garden celebrated the "Yan Yat" or "everybody's birthday" by "throwing a birthday party for its parishioners."

According to Chinese tradition, the seventh day of the Lunar Calendar is known as 'Yan Yat' or 'everybody's birthday', which fell on February 20 this year.

The church organised the 'birthday' bash at its St Gerard's Cafeteria immediately after their Sunset Mass last Saturday.

Father Phillip Lai, the church's parish priest, said that the church decided to celebrate "everybody's cultural birthday together as a community this year as the day fell on a Saturday. Celebrating together would foster a community spirit", he said.

Food for the night was a bring-along potluck shared amongst the parishioners. Events for the evening included the traditional lion dance, fan dance presentation and best dressed contests. A total of 22 tables of 'loh sang' had 200 plus parishioners 'tossing for prosperity' together but not before Father Lai said grace before meals.

Overall it was a fun-filled cultural evening shared with the parishioners.

JAG

**ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS**



students of that period. Since their number was small, the reunion serves the need of keeping them abreast of developments. The outcome of the meeting was the formation of the ACS Ipoh Muslim Old Boys' Association. A pro-tem committee was formed with four serving teachers from the school, who were present at the function, nominated as advisers. For those keen on knowing more about the newly-formed association, please call Nizam (Spek) at 016-9726308.

RM

An impromptu gathering of 41 former students of ACS Ipoh was held at Hotel Seri Malaysia, Ipoh, recently. The get-together, consisting of those from the classes of 1988 to 1993, was aimed at regrouping Malay

**DIRT VIGILANTES**

**PLAINCLOTHES OFFICERS TO CATCH CULPRITS OF ILLEGAL DUMPING**

by JERRY FRANCIS

*Come on Ipohites, bring out your civic conscience!*

Ipoh City Council is faced with a mammoth problem of keeping the city clean. It has identified 14,000 illegal dumpsites within the city – an average of about 50 residents to an illegal dump. This is a shameful achievement for a city, which was once proclaimed one of the cleanest cities in the country. What has gone wrong? Is the City Council inefficient or are the residents uncooperative and do not care about cleanliness? But a responsible community newspaper like the Ipoh Echo cares.

In response to our ongoing campaign for "dirt vigilantes" to report, with photographs, areas found to be filthy, several photo-

graphs have been received. These reports and photographs indicate that there are pockets of dirty spots, such as clogged drains and irresponsible dumping, in and around the City. In some cases, even buffaloes and cattle are often seen in the housing estates causing damage to plants. The Mayor, Datuk Roshidi Hashim has openly admitted that it is his desire to see the City be once again proclaimed as one of the cleanest. He said that the City Council would go all out to eliminate illegal dumping grounds and send enforcement teams in



plainclothes to catch culprits who throw rubbish indiscriminately.

Up to date, the City Council has cleared 9,500 of the illegal dumpsites. "We have made sure there is prompt rubbish collection and as a result there has been a significant drop in the number of complaints over uncollected rubbish,

and the collection service", said Roshidi. "We have also ensured better municipal services in housing schemes, especially in areas concerning rubbish collection, grass cutting and cleaning of drains."

Residents are being advised to put their household refuse in bins and place the bins in front of their houses for collection.

The frequency of collection is

thrice a week while the collection of garden refuse is twice or thrice a month depending on the locality.

However, the City Council's determination and efforts to eliminate the illegal dumping



Sg Senam, Ipoh Garden



these irresponsible residents get from creating illegal dumps. Yet, the same residents would be quick to criticise the City Council whenever they felt it had failed to deliver.

Therefore, it will do justice for the City Council to take stern action, including sending plainclothes enforcement officers to catch those irresponsible residents who throw waste indiscriminately. Are you in favour of such actions? Let us know. Vote in our on-line poll at [www.ipohecho.com.my](http://www.ipohecho.com.my).

One wonders what



Taman Gempaka

Jln Sg Senam Ipoh Garden





# TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By Keeshaanan Sundaresan

Together we can make a difference. That sentence explains everything about our team. Radical Allianz Football Club is a football club formed in 2007. A bunch of boys were so keen to begin something new or to depart from tradition. If you think of youths nowadays, what comes to our minds are smoking, drugs, illegal racing etc. But we wanted to show people that there was another perspective of youth. That is when, Megat Muzzammil came up with the idea of Radical Allianz.

It may look normal to see a group of teenagers playing football but the reason why we named our beloved team Radical Allianz is because we wanted to bring something new. Teenagers normally just meet up once in a while to play football for fun. But we proposed something else. We began to take football seriously. We started to understand each and every member of the team. We had a simple mission, to show the world that we understood the importance of teamwork and how soccer can help change a person's life.

We strongly believe in the quote, 'we were not born footballers, but we



were

certainly had finished our PMR. There are many people out there without the opportunity to play soccer even though they like the sport. It may be caused by several factors. But we wanted to provide people like that with the opportunity to showcase their talent. Proudly we can say, Yes We Did! We have about 30 members in our team. Most of them are 16 years now and we also have members who are 15, 14 and 13 years. We even have a group of girls that always cheer for us and we would like to express our deepest gratitude to Mai Sarah, Ameira, Fiona, Asilah and Adlina.

Approaching the end of last year, we realized that there must be someone who would be leaving for boarding school since we

Therefore, our newest member at that time, Farhan Aziz proposed that we should make a team jersey. We collected money and that is when I saw the true quality of the Radicalians. Some of them paid for other members who were poor. This is a great example considering that the jersey was priced at RM65 including printing. This is proof that Radicalians would never hesitate to sacrifice for each other. We did not have any sponsors but we managed to have our own jersey and the credit goes to Farhan.

Our motto is 'Play with heart, win with style'. Credit goes to Ariff for the motto. We certainly play with our hearts but we may not always win with style.

We do not win all our matches. But we certainly do value all our victories. Over the two years, we have improved tremendously in terms of skill, determination, teamwork, passion and not forgetting discipline. It is very obvious how soccer and Radical Allianz have changed our lives.

We may not have the skills. We may not have the talent. We may not have the money. But we

have the quality which matters the most. We have the passion for football. I have always been proud to be a Radicalian and I will always be.

So, to teenagers out there, please do not waste your time engaging in useless activities. You don't need to start a football team, you can start anything. Just don't

waste your time. Always stick to the fact that we are the future of the nation. I hope I have inspired you guys. That is why I say: "Together we can make a difference! Play with heart, win with style!"

*Keeshaanan Sundaresan was featured in our story on the Gavel Club in IE87.*

To contact the team:

email us at:  
radicalallianz@footballer.com  
or visit our web page at:  
www.facebook.com

**太平山莊**  
Prestavest Memorial Park  
Taiping 太平  
Alor Setar 亚罗士打

Lot 8517, Jalan Taman Semarak, Pokok Assam, 34000 Taiping, Perak.  
Tel: 05-8076688, 05-8076868 Fax: 05-8066868  
Email: pmpt@tm.net.my

Meru Valley Winner of CNBC International Property Awards 2008 Best Golf Development, Asia Pacific Best Golf Development, Malaysia HILL TOP

**MODERN RESORT HOMES**  
in Asia Pacific's Best Golf Development



<b>CARISBROOKE</b> 1 storey bungalow Land size: 7200 sq. ft. Built-Up: 3255 sq. ft.	<b>BERKELEY</b> 1 1/2 storey detached home Land size: fr. 7200 sq. ft. Built-Up: 3848 sq. ft.	<b>ASHFORD</b> 2 storey detached home Land size: fr. 8643 sq. ft. Built-Up: 4601 sq. ft.
---	---	--

A Premier Development by: **KINTA PROPERTIES** Building Homes, Developing Communities

**Show Homes** Mondays to Fridays 10am-6pm Saturdays, Sundays & Public Hols. 10am-7pm

**+60175045 689** Jacky / **+6019-5555 838** Sri  
[www.meruvally.com.my](http://www.meruvally.com.my)

Kinta Properties Sdn. Bhd. (Co No. 2855-P)  
A-G-1, No.1, Psn. Greentown 2, Greentown Business Centre 30450 Ipoh, Perak

Dev. License No: 265-24/01-2012/41 Validity Period: 09/01/2009 - 08/01/2012 Sales & Adv Permit No: 265-24/2417/2011(01) Validity Period: 16/01/2010 - 15/01/2011 Approval Plan No: OSC(169)LB/1/57/1095/07 Exp Date of Completion: Nov 2010 Land Encumbrance: RHB Bank Berhad Land Tenure: 99 years (3 June 2107) Total Units: 26 Price: Min: RM 1,320,000, Max: RM 2,500,000 Approving Authority: Majlis Bandaraya Ipoh



**ECO TOURISM**

**OUR INTRODUCTION TO TEMENGGOR/BELUM FOREST AND LAKE – first of a two-part series**

•By Ian Anderson

After promising ourselves for more than 12 months that we would visit Temenggor/Belum, we finally got around to confirming a booking just after Christmas and took off for the trip on 31<sup>st</sup> January. The following describes our experience.

The first problem was where to stay as there are many tourism internet sites extolling the virtues of possible places – campsites, houseboats, floating chalets and more – but local advice was that there were only two places to be seriously considered if we wished to experience genuine attempts at ecotourism, the Belum Rainforest Resort on Banding Island or the Belum Eco Resort on Temenggor Discovery Island. A visit to each website made it abundantly clear that this would be an easy decision to make as they are as much alike as chalk and cheese.

**Belum Rainforest Resort**

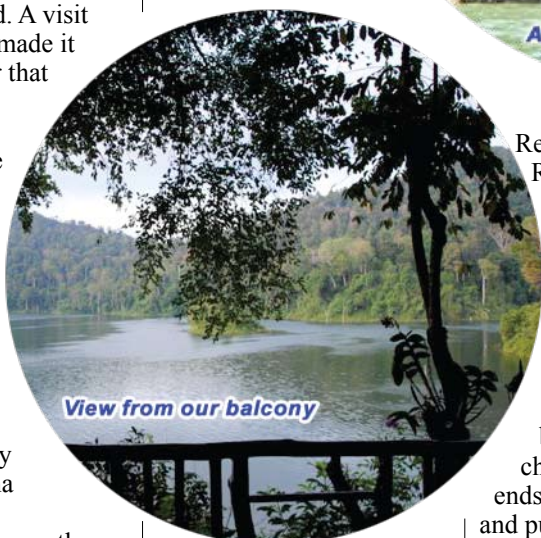
The Belum Rainforest Resort, owned by Tan Sri Mustapha Kamal's Emkay Group, is almost exactly what you would expect from any good quality resort in Malaysia with nicely fitted, air conditioned, en suite, hotel rooms providing telephone, mini bar and the like, just a few steps away from Reception and the Dining Room. But we discovered that Banding Island is, in fact, not an island but part of the Temenggor mainland projecting into the lake and the resort is close to the main road, easily accessible by vehicle and well above the lake, thus allowing only glimpses of the water from most areas. Therefore you really do not get the feeling of being close to nature. To some extent this is combated

by cladding the external concrete walls with bamboo, a landscaped garden of rare local herbs and fish ponds rearing rare and almost extinct fish for eventual release into the wild.

However the resort's great advantage is their close relationship with both the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), who provide eco-advice and the oc-



Rainforest Resort range from RM350 to RM500++ for one twin/double room and breakfast for two. All other meals and excursions are at additional cost. Promotional rates may be available, but there is a surcharge during weekends, school holidays, eve and public holidays.



casional lecture for visiting parties of young people. With trepidation we understand that additional chalets are planned as are development of homestead land parcels, a Rest and Recreation area and the establishment of two five-star boutique resorts north and south of Pulau Banding. Despite the resort's good record of caring about the ecosystems so far, we wonder if all these developments are necessary or whether they will bring any good to the area (other than profit for the developer). Such "development" usually translates into "destruction" and we fear for the future of Pulau Banding. Rates at the

**Discovery Island**  
Totally different in every aspect is Belum Eco Resort on Discovery Island. First of all it is a real 6-acre island 7 km by boat from the Banding Island Jetty. Secondly, the accommodation has none of the luxuries of the Rainforest Resort – just small, twin-bedded, timber or bamboo chalets with atap roofs, each with a fan and an open-air balcony, the latter incorporating a shielded, but open to the elements, shower and wash hand basin. The toilets are in a spotlessly clean communal block just a few metres away, ensuring that

all effluent is piped to an effective sewage treatment system rather than into the lake. Here you really are close to nature without any sign of

civilization or pollution – you are in a world of your own and believe it or not it is mosquito-free! Additional facilities include an open sundeck below the breezy open air dining area, above which is a beautiful general purpose lounge where multi-media presentations about the lake and its wildlife are given. A shortcoming for the not-so-fit is that these general facilities and the chalets are a short walk from each other and require some 80 steps to be negotiated, 40 up and 40 down, to match the contours of the terrain. Being adventurous and really wanting to get a feel for the area we chose Discovery Island and booked their 3-day, 2-night package. It costs RM550 per person all inclusive. Pick up and drop off was at Banding Island jetty. We did not regret our decision for one moment.

Discovery Island is owned and run by a father (Steve Khong) and son team who started several years by renting out houseboats on the lake and then moved on to the island on a longish lease. They have done everything they can to build



the resort without spoiling the environment and have carefully constructed the buildings without cutting down trees or making them glaringly obvious to other users of the lake. All garbage is regularly removed from the island and many other eco-friendly practices are carried out. They have six young male staff, very capable in maintaining the resort, running the boats safely and providing tasty, quality local food whilst also fulfilling any special dietary arrangements necessary. Father and son eat with the guests thus maintaining the quality. Notwithstanding, it is fair to say that there are several improvements that could be made and Steve has some great plans for the future, finances allowing.

**Treks and Campsites**

Their 3-day, 2-night package, is based on the principle of free play in the mornings with swimming, canoeing and fishing available and short treks in the afternoons. Generously an unprogrammed extra was also thrown in FOC – a very memorable, early morning, boat trip to view the hornbills. Each day is rounded off, after dinner, with multimedia presentations on the locality and wildlife. The treks were reasonably easy although in part very steep, and on the first day they included Pulau Tujuh and its seven waterfalls, Kampung Chuweh, an Orang Asli Village on a

separate island and Pulau Besar with its Rafflesia site. Day 2 took us on a short, (50 minutes) steep climb up to the viewing tower on Pulau Talikali. The view was well worth the climb. Our guide was reasonably knowledgeable about the flora and fauna but could only speak Malay which could be a setback, although it was no problem to us.

Considering the treks in more detail, it seems that the Rainforest Resort also use Pulau Tujuh for their treks and camping and have built some permanent structures, toilets and pondoks. Our local guide was very careful to steer us around these and off the normal track and it was clear that he considers them as off-limits to us and not for use of anyone other than the Rainforest Resort. This seemed strange as the islands are government land that should be completely available to all. After all heritage and nature belong to everybody! How can one resort lay claim to public property at the expense of others? We do hope that this is not the old story of those rich in cash and contacts using their position to trample on others less well endowed as so often happens. That is certainly not the spirit of 1Malaysia!

**Next issue: Orang Asli village, Rafflesia and more...**

**IMPROVED FRONT DESK SERVICES IN MBI**

The first person we meet upon entering an office is the receptionist or counter clerk. Very often, especially in government departments, we come across a person who is not very helpful. However, the situation in MBI is different. As we enter the building, on the left is a One Stop Counter and on the right is the Information/Complaints Counter. The staff are pleasant, friendly and helpful. The One Stop Counter handles issues relating to buildings. When a complaint is lodged, the complainant is issued a printout acknowledging receipt of the complaint. The



staff also direct the people to the relevant department to lodge their complaints. I accompanied my friend who had a number of complaints regarding his

housing area. The clerks in all the departments were friendly and helpful. In one department the clerk even said he was sorry for keeping us waiting since

the person authorised to sign the acknowledgment was not in. However proper signage must be put up in the landscaping and engineering departments.



What impressed me most was that the banner listing the services provided is in all four major languages. This is in line with 1Malaysia concept and makes people happy seeing that their language is recognised. This is good PR of MBI.

Meanwhile action must also be promptly taken on complaints received.

**A. JEYARAJ**

**KAUNTER KHIDMAT PELANGGAN**  
**KHIDMAT KAMI**

Tekan / Press A : OSC  
 \* Kelulusan Menoring  
 \* Planning Permission  
 \* 规划/ 规划申请  
 \* 建築工程/ 建築工程

Tekan / Press B : OSC  
 \* Pelan Bangunan  
 \* Building Plan  
 \* 建築工程/ 规划申请  
 \* 建築工程/ 建築工程

Tekan / Press C :  
 \* Aduan  
 \* Complaint  
 \* 公共投诉  
 \* 投訴

Semoga tuan/puan selesai dan berpuas hati dengan perkhidmatan kami  
 Terima kasih...  
 Jumpa lagi!



**IPOH IN BRIEF**

**Jusco Kinta City** will be a hive of activities as plans to celebrate International Women's Day will be held in the centre court from March 8 to 14. An opening ceremony will see a cheerleading display by the Titans, followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony performed by State Executive Councillor Dato' Hamidah Osman, President of Perak Women for Women (PWW) Dr. Sharifah Halima, and President of Soroptimist International Ipoh (SI Ipoh) Jeya Jeyaratnam. The two NGOs, PWW and SI Ipoh, are the organisers of the event. Dato' Hamidah will then lead the advocacy activity by sticking mock figures of both male and female to signify "equality" and "progress for all", followed by invited guests



*Planning Committee at work*

who will also add their signatures. This is to signify support for the United Nations theme this year – EQUAL RIGHTS, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES.

The purpose of the week is to focus on eliminating all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls; fostering the respect of human rights and working for social justice in the community; to motivate and

to empower women; to advance women's equality and participation in society by working to bring about social, political and economic change for women; to make new connections and gain inspirational business tips through their winning formula of different networking activities; to bring communities together and build cohesion; and also to celebrate and to mark the successes and achievement of women in the society.

A total of 12 booths from various NGOs such as organisers PWW and SI Ipoh, Rose Virginie Good Shepherd, Buddies, Legal Aid Bureau, Befrienders, KAMI, Pink Champion, as well as health providers, KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital, Fatimah Hospital and the social welfare unit of Ipoh General Hospital, will be on hand from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day throughout the week offering activities such as: Advocacy for Equal

Opportunities by PWW; blood donation; health screening; free legal advice; free nutritional advice for children and mothers; free financial advice; information on where and how to seek help for counselling, temporary shelter etc; information on support group for mental health; information on SI Ipoh's Home Assistant project; and an art competition for children.

The public especially women are encouraged to explore the week-long event in order to stop violence against women, to stop sexual harassment and enjoy freedom from sexual crimes. They will learn about their rights to obtain help, to an education, to be financially independent,

to have a voice, to make decisions and not be suppressed, to recognise their contribution to family and society and to be accepted with equal participation in the work place and in politics. They will also ensure equal access to education and training for women, assure women's advancement in management, politics and decision making.

Activities will cater to all ages with performances on stage to include Belly dance, 1Malaysia dance by Kumpulan Pesara, Hip Hop, jazz/mime, Indian classical dance, dance by Orang Asli, performance by City Ballet and more. Your attendance and participation is needed. Do put the dates down in your diary.

SFCK

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**CARING FOR STRAY DOGS Is The Mission For Kelly And Jacinta**

*"The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated."*  
~ Mohandas Gandhi

If this quotation is anything to go by, we have failed miserably as a nation or in Ipoh at least.

Kelly Tan Juat Jong (pic) was not a dog lover and had never owned a pet.

All that changed when a neighbour picked up a stray puppy one day, and so began her love affair with dogs. Kelly adopted the pup and appropriately named him Gao Chai (little dog, in Cantonese). That was 16 years ago and Gao



*Animals don't ask for much, just food, shelter & a little love*

Chai died over a year ago.

Today, Kelly and her friend Jacinta Emmanuel, have 50 dogs which they care for and house on a privately-owned piece of land about 17 km from Ipoh and which they have occupied since mid 2007.

The shelter, funded from their own pockets, takes about RM4,000 each month to run. These ladies are by no means rich; one is a housewife and the other in government service. Kelly also goes around in the evening feeding dogs that have homes but are neglected by their owners.

Most of the dogs at the shelter were found in and around Ipoh Garden area where both of them reside. These strays were abandoned by their owners and found wandering the streets rummaging through garbage. Some are thrown alive into rivers and monsoon drains and some tied to trees and bushes. There are many more horror stories that reflect the stupidity and cruelty of humankind but also show the

compassion and humanity of people like Kelly and Jacinta.

Having no electricity and water, their 'shelter' is about 2 km off the main road and accessible only by a badly pot-holed dirt road; the ladies had to invest in a battered old car to ferry food and water to the dogs. They have stopped using water from the nearby river after the dogs became sick from drinking it.

It takes 22 kg of dry dog food to feed 50 dogs for 2 days plus about 4 tins of canned food or 30 eggs to moisten. A bit of rice is also provided for the few fussy eaters and those who are not well. All the female dogs have been neutered costing an average of RM120 per dog.

Financially strapped and having space constraints at the shelter, Kelly and Jacinta cannot afford to take in any more dogs. However, they are committed to caring for those that they have be-

cause they do not believe in putting down healthy animals. They welcome any help in cash, dog food, etc.

Why do they do it? It is not for fame and fortune that's for sure. What is their driving force? When most of us are immune to or have turned a blind eye, they see the need to ease a little of the pain and suffering of the poor defenceless creatures they come across.

Our city is better off because of them and others like them, who go

around picking up and caring for strays (both dogs and cats) without any aid from the authorities.

In fact, the Ipoh City Council should consider providing the shelter an annual grant for taking the strays from the streets and saving its dog shooters from mercilessly killing the dogs, including puppies.

Their mission is an act of love and compassion to the animals.

VWSL

**Here are some tips on what you can do:**

- If you are a pet owner, be a responsible one.
- The care and cleaning of your pet and their 'deposits' is solely your job, so ensure your pet does not use your neighbours' premises (inside or outside) as a toilet.
- Don't add to the problem of strays. Neuter your pets (both male and female).
- Don't give your child a pet as a present if you yourself don't want one. Cute as they may be, a pet is not a toy and it may be dependent on you for at least the next 10 years.
- If you want to help, contact: Jacinta - 012-5150803 and Kelly (in Chinese) - 016-5397192.

**Plantations - Core Business**

**KUALA LUMPUR KEpong BERHAD**  
(15043-V)

Servicing our customers with refined palm products, natural rubber and oleochemical products.

Wisma Taiko,  
1 Jalan S. P. Seenivasagam,  
30000 Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia.  
Tel: 605-241 7844 Fax: 605-253 5018  
[www.klk.com.my](http://www.klk.com.my)

**Manufacturing**