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ISSUE **158**

■ My Wish for 2013



Page 3

■ Teaching – a Noble or Notorious Profession?



Page 4

■ SeeFoon dines in Moghul Magnificence.



Page 5

■ Ipoh Old Town Walking Street



Page 6



SeKeping Kong Heng's Family Room – a fine example of sustainable urbanism/architecture

Youth Making Waves In Ipoh

By Vivian Tan & Joanna Gough

Vivian Tan was home for Christmas from Melbourne after graduation. It was a Friday night when she and a friend entered Barbeza. Lips the bartender greeted them with "Vivian! Want to make friends? There's an event happening inside. Quick! Go join!" She laughed and brushed Lip's idea off. At that point all she wanted was her standard Friday night, chatting with her friend and unwinding over a couple of drinks. This was her concept of a Friday night in Ipoh after all. Everything easy and laid-back.

Vivian continues in her own words:

Continued on page 2

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“This place is packed with youngsters, all ready to shine” – a returnee from Melbourne

I sat there talking to my friend but my attention was on what was happening behind him. Every few minutes I would hear a bell ring and people would swap seats and shake hands with the next person they were seated with. During that couple of minutes, people were engrossed in conversation, reading off sheets of paper and jotting down notes. Curious about the energy, I was interested and wanted to be part of it.

Lips introduced me to Joanna Gough who was in charge of this interesting activity. She gave me a quick run through and before I knew it I was seated talking to another participant. I referred to the sheets of paper Joanna gave me, following the instructions. It contained some examples of questions I should ask, things I should and should not do. It was telling me to get to know the other person, the aim was to make friends and share ideas. This has the concept of speed dating, I thought. Except this ‘chat’ made the whole idea seem more approachable.

Then it hit me; I’m participating in a little event in Ipoh. It did not matter that it was a little event; it is the fact that there are people who are making the effort to create connections, to share their ideas. It takes one person to go the extra mile and make it happen and I realised that the people around me were all interested in this idea; they just needed to be brought together.

Speedychatz – A personal Social Network

I sat down over coffee with Joanna, the brainchild behind *Speedychatz*. There is a much bigger picture behind this event. *Speedychatz* was created so that each individual is given the opportunity to build a personal social network. It connects everyone for the greater benefit of self development and allows people to collaborate with each other and push their ideas forward.

“The youths who stay in Ipoh need to be connected to the society around them not only on a local level but also on an international level. Living in Ipoh with its slower pace of life, I personally think that the youth here have greater opportunities of learning than if they were in Kuala Lumpur. I learnt many, many skills and heard many stories from the adults and experienced/retired elders here. Growing up here, at age 4 I helped design a stage for my church. At 8, I was raising funds with my friends for the old folks home; at 14, I wrote for a newspaper and at 16 I was creating concepts to rake in at least RM2000 in 45 minutes and when I went to KL for my tertiary education, I noticed how different my life was from many other youths around my age. From then on, I got hired for jobs based on my attitude, personality, skills, connections...and never once wrote a resume. I learnt entirely from my community and knew how to deal with problems from a young age.



Bridging the Generation Gap



Mohamed Faried (left) a scholarship student from UTP sharing about his lifestyle in his hometown in Egypt

That was my asset growing up in Ipoh. It’s because I had a strong community who supported me since I was a child. The funny part though, is that everyone thinks I’m so smart because I’ve studied in America, a place I’ve never been”, chuckles Joanna Gough.

Where are our Ipoh Youths headed in the next 10 years

The online registration of *TEDxIpoh* (story on page 10) was an overwhelming

response from the 18-25 year olds, most wanting to learn, connect and be inspired to push the city forward. The older generation of Ipoh were also interested in the topics and wanted to, in some way, discuss through an open dialogue or contribute. When *Speedychatz* was held on December 7, it saw people from Egypt, Austria, returning fresh grads from Australia mixing with 60+ year old ‘Uncles’, one from Amnesty International Ipoh, and where a 21-year-old participant exclaimed that one of the Indian ‘Uncles’ was so cool because he was traveling to China at the end of the month.

“The youths of today are slowly going to start putting themselves in positions that will allow them to grow. The most important factor of growth is connections. Around the city, we are already starting to see the desire for youths to connect. Everyone wants to be where everyone is at. Within this year, communities are going to open up. Collaboration ties and ideas are going to start flourishing. Energy is based on fun. And fun will be ‘The Everything’,” continued Joanna.

Lifestyle: Food and Fashion

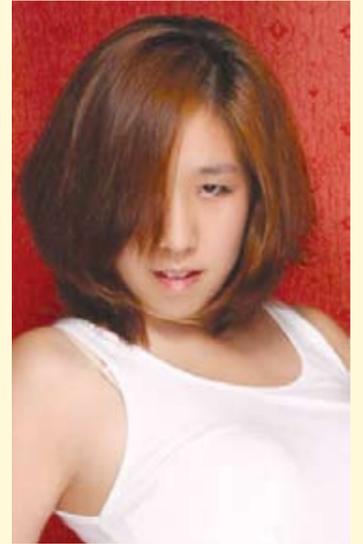
The food industry already has youths setting up franchises and restaurants around the city. However, the quality of food and service at these restaurants are in no way competitive on a global market. The current generation of youths are leaning towards more concept dining. Most of these restaurants are concept-based with less



Sakai – neon lights on sand

emphasis on food. A good example would be *Sakai* where the menu is basic with pastas, chicken and fish but it is the innovative décor that appeals to the youth of Ipoh. The restaurant has its dining area in sand, like a beach, with soft blue neon lights for room ambience.

Malaysia being a food haven and Ipoh, being branded as a food heaven, is going to see a drop in reputation if culinary skills are not upgraded. The current/future generation of food makers in Ipoh are going to compete with Kuala Lumpur, Penang and eventually other cities. Our hawker food is second to none and renowned throughout SE Asia. But it’s a start to know that these days, people don’t just eat the food, they take photos of it before eating and immediately update the shots to their Facebook profile to tell the world what they’re eating. The evolution will continue from there.



Joanna Gough, founder of Speedychatz

Digital Entertainment and Sustainable Living

As Digital Entertainment in Ipoh is slow in picking up, it’ll be awhile before actors, dancers, producers, artists and all those involved in visual arts, jump in and push forward the talent field.

On the other hand, heritage conservation in Ipoh is starting to see a rise in interest. The concept of ‘Preserving the Past in the Present’ in keeping the interior designs rustic and bringing a semblance of nature into city projects such as: *SeKeping Kong Heng’s Boutique Hotel*, *Burps and Giggles Cafe* and *Bricks and Barrels Pub*. These are fine examples of sustainable developments and are aligned with world standards. According to renowned architects, Hubert Klumpner and Alfredo Brillembourg “The sustainable cities of the future, can’t be built (or built out) from scratch; sustainable urbanism will require retrofitting and reimagining existing infrastructure. Throughout the world, the new will be built on or in the old.”

Ipoh has great potential in Architecture and Design, but it’s about time we stopped and really understand what our society is all about rather than to implement a one fit MSC architecture resembling Malaysia all the way from Johor to Malacca to KL to Ipoh.

What reflects our society? Our youths seem to prefer ‘Chillout Comfort and Clean Scandinavian Interiors’ (as seen in shophouses); in retro looking spaces, such as: Jubilee Park (S.O.S nightclub), *Bricks and Barrels* on Jalan Lau Ek Ching, *Burps and Giggles* on Jalan Sultan Yussuf (Old Town)

and the inimitable *SeKeping Kong Heng*. Are we heading in that direction? Clearly our youths enjoy the old colonial buildings of the past with a clean interior. Preservation of architecture is key.

Where do we go from here?

“People can use *Speedychatz* to solve problems. One person’s problem may be another’s solution; everyone can help each other out. All they have to do is talk about it and immediately they can get connected to the right people. Ipoh is a ‘small town’ where everyone knows everybody who is a somebody. We’ll get there”, explained Joanna.

“By fostering a community, which caters to everybody, we all want to be heard but we often do not know how to go about doing this and in a way *Speedychatz* gives its members a sense of identity and more importantly, a voice,” concluded Joanna, an iconoclastic young person who has set her sights on shaking up Ipoh.

I celebrated the New Year in Ipoh this year. I mentioned earlier in this article what my perception of Ipoh is. A few words come to mind: laid-back, quiet, relaxing, food. However, this New Year’s Eve, we were caught in a traffic jam for about two hours; every now and then we would hop out and get rejected by the numerous bars in which we thought we could pass the night. I was taken aback; the whole town was flooded with people. What happened to my quiet little hometown? I thought nothing happened around here. Clearly, I thought wrong. This place is packed with youngsters, all ready to shine.



Ipoh’s famous bartender, Lips of Barbeza



Burps & Giggles

IPOH echo

From the Editor's Desk

• by **Fathol Zaman Bukhari**

My Wish for 2013

With the 13th General Election looming on the horizon, my one wish for 2013 is for the country to take the path of recovery. We have been the laughing stock of the world far too long...

It has been sometime since I last visited Singapore, the "tiny red dot" south of Johore and linked to the Malayan hinterland by an overused causeway – a subject of contention by our ruling elite. The other entry point into the island republic is the Malaysia-Singapore Second Link (Tuas Second Link to Singaporeans). This 1920 metre twin-deck bridge connects Kampung Ladang at Tanjung Kupang in Johore to Jalan Ahmad Ibrahim at Tuas in Singapore.

Opened on January 2, 1998, the bridge was built to reduce traffic congestion at the Causeway. But travellers still prefer the Causeway in spite of it being jam-packed almost every moment of the day. Distance and accessibility could be the reasons why the bridge is not too popular with motorists from both sides of the geographical divide.

So much has changed that it is no longer easy to identify places which I frequented in the late 70s and early 80s when attending courses at the Army Training Centre in Ulu Tiram. Back in the old days the ringgit was much stronger than the Singapore dollar. The exchange rate then was 70 Malaysian cents to one Singapore dollar. The disparity in rate today is not worth mentioning. We used to buy fruits, as the ringgit could be stretched and was considered legal tender in areas around Woodlands and Sembawang. One popular spot was Bugis Street. You got to see plenty of action here besides Pantai Lido and the old Istana grounds in Johore Bahru.

While Singapore, through good governance and a world-class education system, has progressed by leaps and bounds, Malaysia is still locked in a time warp with little chance of an escape. Today the island republic boasts a purchasing power parity which is third highest in the world. A nation with little natural resources to optimise, Singapore has become a First World entity with an economy second to none. Its northern neighbour, however, has yet to overcome its Third World mentality and insecurity, preferring to look beyond the republic for solace. It is therefore no surprise that when it comes to comparison the countries so often alluded to are Thailand and Indonesia not Singapore, Taiwan or South Korea. Soon it will be Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Ethiopia on the African continent.

It is not difficult to comprehend why Singapore is far ahead in almost every aspect. It has a world class public transport system, a corruption-free government and a judicial system considered the best in Asia. Little wonder it has been rated highly by the world business community; something which is alien in Malaysia. Unfortunately, learning from the Singaporeans is the last thing on our ruling elite's minds.

You need not go far to find why we have plenty of catching up to do. Just switch on the television. Singapore TV is filled with programmes that provide viewers with



information on the world and knowledge on anything one cares to know. They tell Singaporeans that life is to be lived and enjoyed and not to be suffered. You don't see politicians on the idiot box extolling the virtues of the ruling party, glorifying the rights of the "sons of the soil" and the ideals of a "transformed" Prime Minister.

The programmes, unlike ours, are designed not to insult viewers' intelligence but to complement. In spite of having been an independent nation for over 55 years we are still being treated like children.

My trip, on the eve of the New Year, came with a provision. I was told to take a break and enjoy a dip in the 150-metre infinity swimming pool on top of Marina Bay Sands, one of Singapore's two integrated resorts. I wish to thank my son for the opportunity. Located on the world's largest cantilevered platform almost 200 metres above street level, the pool is a total delight while the view of the city from the periphery is simply ravishing.

Plenty of thoughts and planning have gone into making Singapore what it is today. I am certain that among the planners are bona fide Malaysians who, for want of a better future, have parked themselves permanently in Singapore. We have lost many good talents to our southern neighbour. Need we lose more?

So, having "survived" the Mayan doomsday prediction of December 21, 2012, I have every reason to be optimistic. With the 13th General Election looming in the horizon, my one wish for 2013 is for the country to take the path of recovery. We have been the laughing stock of the world far too long. Enough is enough.

EYE HEALTH – Eye Myths or Facts (Part 2)

IpoH Echo's EYE HEALTH series continues with Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr S.S. GILL talking to us about EYE MYTHS AND FACTS.

The eyes are windows to the world around us. There are many myths that surround the eyes. You may not be blessed with perfect vision but you can take your blinkers off when it comes to eye-care. Here are some common myths about eye-care:



Dr. S.S. Gill
Resident Consultant
Ophthalmologist,
Hospital Fatimah

When you get something in your eye, it's alright to rub it out

This is the big mistake that many make. Never rub your eyes because it can damage or injure the eye. When you rub the eye with a foreign particle still in your eye, it would have a sandpaper effect on your eye, invariably resulting in injury to the eye. The commonest injury from rubbing the eye with a foreign body in it is a corneal abrasion. If this corneal abrasion gets infected, you end up with a corneal ulcer that can have serious implications including blindness.

The correct thing to do is to flush out the foreign particle from the eye with water or saline. If it still remains in the eye even after flushing the eye, do not attempt to use the edge of a tissue paper or a toothpick as these potential sources of infection. You are advised to see your medical practitioner without delay. Remember that serious eye injuries may seem minor at first.

Wearing prescription spectacles makes you dependent on them

Should you be required to wear a pair of corrective (powered) spectacles in order to improve your vision because it is blur, it will not result in dependence on them or further weakening of your eyes. Wearing these glasses only helps you to see better and therefore puts less strain on your eyes. In short, the prescription spectacles just allows you to enjoy good vision. It does not result in dependence.



The darker the sunglasses the more protection your eyes get from the sun

This is not true. The colour of the sunglasses you wear does not have anything to do with eye protection. Always look for sunglasses that will block off both harmful ultraviolet rays of both UVA and UVB rays. It is important to get a good pair because exposure to bright sunlight can increase your risk for cataracts and age-related vision loss. The ability to block off UV light does not depend on how expensive are the sunglasses, or how dark the sunglass lenses are. Brand also does not matter! Choose sunglasses that either has a CE mark, a label that says 100% UV protection from UVA and UVB rays, or has a UV400 tag.

Your regular prescription glasses can double up as safety glasses

This again is not true. While your regular prescription spectacles may be able to prevent most of the hazards of working with flying splinters and some chemicals, it cannot protect our eyes from flying objects with high velocity. Always wear proper safety goggles over your spectacles whenever you are doing any work such as hammering nails, mowing the lawn or tinkering with sharp objects.

Using artificial sweeteners will make your eyes more sensitive to light

Some sugar substitutes like cyclamates may cause eyes to be more sensitive to light. Some medication such as oral contraceptives and diuretic medication may also cause the eyes to be more sensitive to light (photophobia). Should you have any undue sensitivity to light, do discuss this with your physician.

For more information, call Gill Eye Specialist Centre at Hospital Fatimah (05-545 5582) or email: gillyeyecentre@dr.com.

In The Name of My Father's Estate

Episode 13

• by **Peter Lee**

After both sides of the family (family from the 1st and 2nd wives of Lee Sr) had discussed with their respective lawyers on gathering and revealing Lee Sr's frozen estate for the purpose of the application for Letter of Administration (L.A.), the administrators, namely, John, Michele (children of Lee Sr) and Connie (2nd wife of Lee Sr) then met up in Dave's office. Dave said: "Before I begin taking down the list of Lee Sr's assets, I would like to ask all of you whether there are any changes to the appointment of three of you as joint administrators for the estate. If the status remains the same, then I will include your names in the affidavit and arrange for the rest of the family members who are beneficiaries to sign on a letter consenting to the appointment of three of you as Administrators and at the same time renouncing their rights to be the Administrators." Everyone in the room nodded giving the green light to Dave to proceed. Dave then said "Ok. I take it as confirmed and let's move on to the list of assets starting from the money in the bank accounts. With regard to this, I would like to have the name of the bank, branch and bank account number either in the name of Lee Sr solely or jointly with other family members.



John then replied: "According to our records on the sole-name bank accounts, father has two in Malaysia with a combined amount of RM5 million, one in Singapore having S\$2 million, one in Australia with a sum of A\$6 million and one in U.K. with a balance of £2 million." The name of the bank in Malaysia is Pan Bank, Jalan Tun , K.L. The bank in Singapore is called ZNA Bank, Alex Road, Singapore. As for the Australia Bank, it's called Aussie Bank, Fin Street, Adelaide. The bank account in U.K. is in RCC Bank, London Street, London. Dave then turned to Connie asking "Connie, could you give me your side of your records in relation to the sole-name bank accounts of Lee Sr?" Connie replied, "As far as I know, there are only two bank accounts in CDS Bank, Jalan Raya, K.L. under his sole name which cannot be withdrawn. One is a savings account with RM2 million and the other is a current account with an amount of RM100,000. He had mentioned to me that these savings are meant for my three children's education." In response Dave said, "Connie, this will be subject to the Distribution Act unless the rest of the beneficiaries renounced their rights to this entitlement." Her reaction to this response was an expression of discontent in her face. She then turned to John and Michele and asked, "What do you think about this?" Michele then responded, "Well! I can speak to my side of the family about the renunciation. Now, if they agree, can you then renounce your rights to your entitlement on my father's bank accounts either local or overseas which John just disclosed?" Connie was stunned for a moment and suddenly realised how stupid she was to ask this question when she had more to gain from the Distribution Act.

To be continued...

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 can be reached at: 012-5078825/ 05-2554853 or excelsecms@gmail.com. Website: <http://www.wills-trust.com.my>.

His Book "To Delay is Human but to Will is Divine" (96 pages, RM28) is available at his office: 108 (2nd Floor), Jalan Raja Ekram, 30450 Ipoh; Rashi Mini Market (019-510 6284), 37 Jalan Perajurit, Ipoh Garden East; Ipoh Echo and at all major bookstores in March 2013.

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Teaching – a Noble or Notorious Profession?

We have been negligent in addressing the issues faced by the Orang Asli of Malaysia. We rob them of their ancestral lands and encroach on their way of life.

Living in inaccessible and remote villages, dotted on the jungle fringes, Orang Asli children have physical barriers which impede their journey to school. Most of us take for granted our school buses and tarred roads; Orang Asli children have bridges, muddy paths and bloated rivers to navigate.

The lucky ones who attend boarding schools have an added threat; they face the possibility of physical and mental trauma from religiously dogmatic teachers, who aspire to rob these children of their chosen faith.

After their parents, teachers are perhaps the other most important people in a child's life. Most people would say that teaching is a noble profession but one teacher who was based at the SK Bihai, a school which caters to the Orang Asli and which is located close to the Kelantan-Perak border, has brought shame on the profession. This teacher allegedly slapped four Orang Asli children for failing to recite their doa (prayers) after lunch.

First. No teacher should use physical violence to discipline children. The actions of this teacher could be construed as assault, which is punishable under section 323 of the Penal Code.

Second. The children were non-Muslim. Section 17 of the Aboriginal Peoples Act 1954 states that no Orang Asli child should be obliged to receive religious teachings, without prior consent from the parents.

The slapping incident occurred on October 23 and three fathers from Pos Bihai made a three-hour journey to lodge a police report against the teacher who had allegedly slapped their four 12-year-old daughters.

Instead of ordering an investigation into the incident, the Rural and Regional Minister Shafie Apdal denied that the children had been slapped. What was the reaction of the Education Minister Muhyiddin Yassin?

Reporters investigating the incident have revealed further problems faced by Orang Asli children. Arom Asir, the unofficial spokesman complained about the standard and quality of teaching at the SK Bihai, which accommodates around 200 pupils.

He said, "The teachers only come in on Sunday and therefore cannot teach, so they teach from Monday to Wednesday, and by Thursday noon, they are already preparing to go back home. The students are asked to return to their hostels".

Arom, who is also the SK Bihai Parent-Teachers Association deputy chairman claimed that the 12 school teachers all returned to their hometowns in Kelantan during the weekend. He also complained about teachers who concentrated on teaching religion rather than focusing on more important subjects. He said that none of the children were Muslim.

Hassan Achoi, the father of a girl who had been slapped, said that his daughter had run out of the school after being slapped. "They cried all the way home, and when we found out that the teacher had slapped our children, the villagers went to the school. I was angry, and there was a lot of shouting," said Hassan.

One child's father Atar Pedik said that despite an apology from the teacher, the parents at the school were undecided about the follow-up action they should adopt to prevent a recurrence and for an appropriate punishment for the teacher.

Arom said, "We want such irresponsible teachers to be moved out. We only want true educators, so that our children can become smart and go to university. "But now, many of our Year Six pupils sent to the secondary school in town still cannot read and write. This causes the teachers there to say the Orang Asli are stupid, but the fact is that they are not properly taught here."

He listed other parental grouses such as teachers not attending classrooms and not preparing end of term reports, for the parents. Many parents believe that "problem teachers" have been sent to teach at schools



THINKING
ALLOWED

• by Mariam Mokhtar

in the interior, a charge denied by the Education Department.

The parents said: "We have complained about the teaching being provided for only three days a week on many occasions, but the answer from the school is always that it will be looked into. But nothing happens." Other parents said that they had contacted the *Jabatan Kemajuan Orang Asli* (Jako) to discuss various issues, but have yet to receive a reply.

The slapping incident is only the tip of the iceberg. Other problems, which the Education Ministry has yet to address, is schooling for six and seven year old children, who are too young to be housed in a hostel, on their own.

Perhaps, the worst nightmare for the Orang Asli is the study done by the NGO, Child Rights Coalition Malaysia, which found that around 45,000 children, most of them from the Orang Asli community, do not go to school. These children were not receiving any education because their citizenship was not recognised.

Entertainment

Tribute to a Rock Legend

A concert roadshow to pay tribute to renowned rock legend, Scorpions, is planned for this year. The internationally acclaimed German rock band has been on a farewell tour, prior to retirement, mostly in America and Europe in the past year or so.

The Scorpions have thrilled fans all over the world with hits like "Rock You Like A Hurricane" and "Winds of Change". The group's fans are dispersed worldwide and Malaysia boasts a sizeable number of them. Therefore, it is appropriate that Malaysia kick-starts this global tribute to the Scorpions. It is our way of saying, "Thanks for the Memories."

If application for the roadshow comes through, Perak will be the first state in Malaysia, and probably the world, to host this memorable event. The plan is for the first such concert to be held in Taiping on Saturday, February 9. Details of the concert will be announced in the media.

The highlight will be a "Sound-A-Like Scorpions Band Challenge" where participating bands will compete with each other in the first round of this 'Challenge'. Each band will have to play two (2) Scorpions' songs (a rock number and a ballad) and one local song of their choice, hopefully their own composition in Bahasa Malaysia. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three bands. The winner in the first and subsequent rounds (to be held in other parts of the state) will qualify for the semi-final round to be held in Ipoh.

From Taiping, the road show will travel to other parts of the state such as Gerik, Sungkai, Sitiawan, and even Ipoh, before returning to Ipoh for the semi-final. The winner at the semi-final round will qualify for the National Finals to be held in the Klang Valley towards the end of the year. The plan is to hold similar competitions in other countries around the world. Singapore and Nepal have indicated their interest.

Apart from the "Sound-A-Like Scorpions Challenge", bands will also have a chance to win the "Look-A-Like Scorpions Band Challenge". The winners will have the opportunity of appearing in a planned movie documentary. Fans may have the chance to audition for the "Rock Idol Lead Singer Challenge". There is something for everybody.

VIBRA, a well-known musical band of Perak origin will be the opening act for the series of concerts in Perak. There is no entry fee for bands wishing to take part in the Challenge. Those interested can contact Zalman (VIBRA's lead singer) at 016-531-9055 on or before January 25 for details and registration.

Enquiries pertaining to sponsorship, partnership, advertisements, tickets and others should be directed to Don Patrick at 016-286-2959.

Although the Scorpions will not be performing, their spirit will surely be present to inspire us, as they have over the decades, with their kind of music.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements must be sent by fax: 05-2552181; or email: announcements@ipohecho.com.my, by the 9th or 23rd 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.

Public Forum on "Updates in the Management of Osteoporosis" by Dr Loo Kok Lim (Consultant Physician & Rheumatologist), Saturday **January 19**, 2pm-4.30pm at Dahlia Utama, Level 4, Pantai Hospital Ipoh. Admission is free. Enquiries: Ms Renuka/Ms Gloria at 05-540 5712/5725.

"Snoring – Dangers and Myths" (a Leong Sin Nam Memorial Lecture), Saturday, **January 19**, 2.30pm to 4.30pm at Perak Kaying Association Building, 114 (3rd Floor), Jalan Sultan Yussuf, Ipoh. Seats are limited. Call 05-255 6302 for reservation.

Outdoor Painting Demonstration organised by Gallery Old Town, **January 27** from 10am till 3pm at *SeKeping Kong Heng*, Jalan Bandar Timah (Old Town). Top artists from Penang and Kuala Lumpur will be present onsite for the demonstration. All are welcome.

First Aid Training Programme, Monday **January 28** from 8am to 5pm at Red Crescent Hall, Ipoh. Perak Women for Women Society in collaboration with the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (Perak), is organising a basic first aid training programme for the general public. For details and registration call Ms Sybil Chelliah at 05-546 9715.

MUSINGS ON FOOD



By See Foon Chan-Koppen

Photos by Ginla Foo

seefoon@ipohecho.com.my

SeeFoon dines in Moghul Magnificence

It's been a long time since Ipoh diners have had the pleasure of dining in a 'posh' ambiance. Outside of **Indulgence** on Jalan Raja DiHilir which has garnered for itself a reputation for fine dining in a setting resplendent with the colonial heritage of the long ago, Ipoh restaurants in general tend to be long on good food but sorely short on decor, ambiance and cleanliness.

Once in a blue moon, a restaurant comes along that puts many other restaurants to shame, a shining bastion of grandeur and warm friendly service. And the food is second to none.

I am referring to the **Tandoor Grill**, which beckons in its Moghul magnificence on Jalan Chin Choon Sam, opposite Movenpeak in Greentown.

I have often passed it during its construction phase and wondered what kind of place it would be, with its pointed horseshoe arches and generous parking spaces all around. I missed the grand opening party to which I was invited but subsequently managed to sample both the lunch buffet as well as the à la carte menu in one of their sumptuous private rooms.

The buffet lunch at RM23.90 is incredible value with 10 main courses, soup, salad, dessert, an unlimited topping up of butter Naan served fresh from the oven at your table, followed by dessert and coffee.

Unlike many a tired buffet I have had the misfortune to experience, the lunch buffet at the Tandoor Grill tastes fresh from the kitchen with a change in main courses everyday. The service was most attentive, with each request for Naan promptly executed and the service staff courteous and willing to please.

The physical premises of the Tandoor Grill is impressive. While

the exterior of the building is decidedly Moghul in style, the interior is more eclectic and modern. Upstairs, the **Cinnamon Ballroom**, with a seating capacity of 800, is spectacular while downstairs, aside from the main dining hall which can accommodate 88 people at one sitting, there are 10 private rooms which can seat between 10 to 20 people at a time with charges varying from RM100 for an 8-10 seater room to RM300 the latter being the **Royal Cinnamon Room**. Pricy as the room charges may appear, they may be applied towards food and drink, so if a group of 10 opts for the most expensive room, it works out to only RM30 per head, which is easily covered by the price of food and drinks per person.

A subsequent visit saw a group of us sitting in the Royal Cinnamon Room enjoying an à la carte meal. It began with the **Royal Murgh Soup**, a thick creamy chicken soup that is a meal in itself if one were to really eat every spoonful; flavourful with hints of herbs and spices and yet not spicy enough to offend even the most delicate of taste buds – RM10.50.

Next came a starter of **Chicken Samosas**, crispy on the outside and stuffed with a generous portion of chicken, served with a tangy mint and coriander chutney – RM10.90. This was followed by the **Tandoor Ki Nazakat**, a mixed grill (RM49.90) of **Tandoori Chicken** – RM12 for quarter, RM22 for half and RM42 for whole; **Chicken and Fish Tikka** – RM18.90 each; **Chicken Reshmi Kebab** – RM17.90; and **Mutton Seekh Kebab** – RM19.90. These were served with a bread basket of garlic, butter and **cheese Naan** fresh from the oven.

Then the rice, a **Masala Biryani** (RM7.90) and the delectable **Hyderabadi Gosht Biryani** (RM20.90), basmati rice cooked with tender mutton cubes flavoured with aromatic spices, came with a dazzling assortment of 'wet' dishes, almost too numerous to list here in this short article. I particularly liked the **Kadhahi Mutton**, tender pieces of mutton cooked Lahori style on a slow fire with tomatoes, onions, capsicums and aromatic spices – RM28.90; the **Methi Fish**, boneless pieces of fish



Buffet lunch



cooked in a fenugreek gravy – RM23.90; the **Malabar Prawn**, cooked in a delicately spiced coconut and mustard based curry, RM30.90.

The two vegetarian dishes **Bhendi Masala**, okra tossed with onions, tomatoes and spices (RM11.90) and **Palak Paneer**, fresh spinach cooked with homemade cottage cheese and cream, were noteworthy, in particular the Palak Paneer which was velvety smooth, the cottage cheese lending substance to the creamy consistency – RM16.90.

Then came dessert, by which time, all of us were totally sated. However, the temptation was too great and I had to dip my spoon into the **Ghajar Halwa**, pudding made with carrots and milk – RM6.90; **Rasmalai**, homemade cottage cheese balls in sweetened milk flavoured with nuts – RM7.90 and the **Badami Kulfi**, the traditional Indian ice-cream, flavoured with almonds

(RM8.90) all of which were delicious but far too sweet for my taste.

All in all, the service was impeccable, with Gurmit the manager and the waiters able to explain the dishes in good English. A family owned affair, The Tandoor Grill's patriarch, **Jagjit Singh**, together with son **Malvinderjit Singh** and daughter **Jasvinderjit Kaur**, run the show after a tedious setting up process which involved going to India and personally interviewing and hiring all the chefs and service staff. Well it looks like their hard work has paid off. I only hope that as time goes on, the service remains at the same levels and the toilets, which were spotless, will remain in the same condition.



The Tandoor Grill

9 Jalan Chin Choon Sam, Greentown

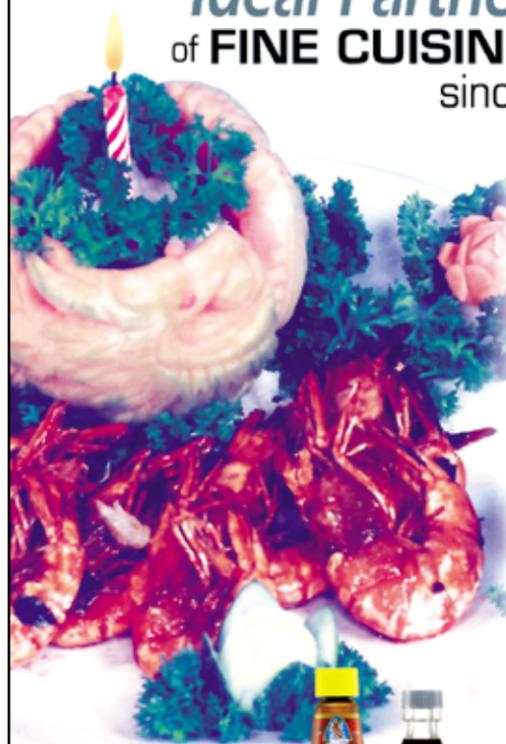
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RECIPE



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FRAGRANT PRAWNS FOR FESTIVE OCCASIONS

by Pauline Chang

Ingredients:

- Big Prawns 1kg (with shells and tails on)
- Garlic 8 pips, sliced
- Ginger Shreds 1 tablespoon
- Spring Onions 2, sectioned
- Angel Oyster Sauce 1 tablespoon
- Angel Garlic Chili Sauce 1 tablespoon
- Angel Light Soy Sauce 1/2 tablespoon
- Tomato Sauce 1 tablespoon
- Sugar, Pepper, to taste
- Cooking Wine 2 tablespoons
- Corn flour for coating and thickening
- Cooking Oil for frying

Method:

1. Coat prawns with corn flour and deep fry till they change color.
2. Leave 2 tablespoons oil to fry garlic and ginger shreds till fragrant. Add in pepper.
3. Add in prawns and tomato sauce, Angel Oyster Sauce and Angel Garlic Chili Sauce.
4. Add in cooking wine, spring onions.
5. Add in 1/2 tablespoon Angel Light Soy Sauce and corn flour for thickening.
6. Serve hot with rice.



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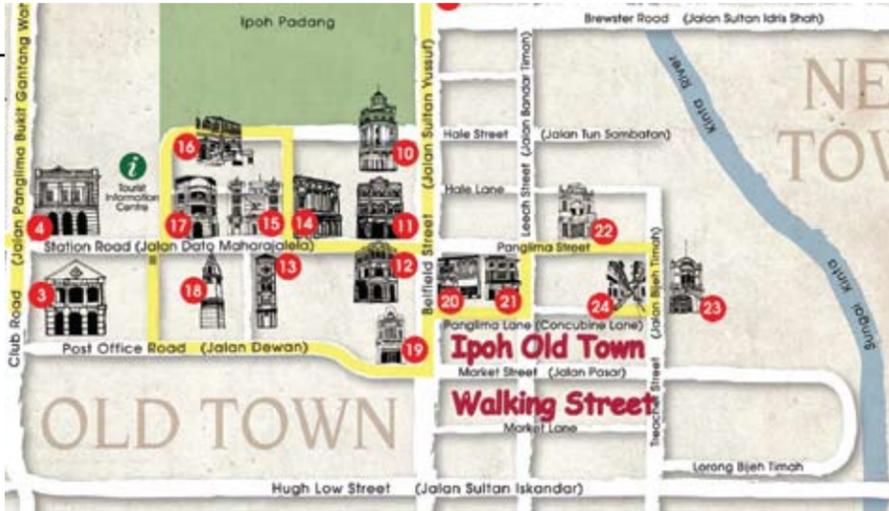
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News Roundup

Ipoh Old Town Walking Street



Ipoh's Mayor Dato' Roshidi Hashim in his continuing effort to liven up Ipoh City and possibly to remove the "ghost city" tag that was once associated with Ipoh, has come up with a walking street at Old Town.

To be known as 'Ipoh Old Town Walking Street' or IOTWS, Roshidi in announcing the launch, said it would follow a similar concept as 'Ipoh Uptown' and will include stalls offering halal food and beverages as well as a variety of sales and promotional items with the aim of bringing back economic activities, livening up the area and to promote tourism activity at night in Old Town.

Ipoh Old Town Walking Street will be located along Market Street, specifically on the first two blocks adjacent to Jalan Sultan Yussuf (Belfield Street).

MBI has outsourced the operation and management of OTWS to SNM Concept Sdn and some of Roshidi's requirements are that the area must be kept clean at all times and traffic flow controlled.

IOTWS will start operating daily effective February 1 from 6pm till 2am. SNM Concept CEO, Ms Seindy Lam announced that in conjunction with the start-up date, a 2013 CNY Countdown Carnival will be held for nine days (February 1-9) and will feature singing performances, magic shows, lion dances and product promotions.

JAG

Annual Dinner of Perak Indian Newspaper Distributors Association

Perak Indian Newspaper Distributors Association (PINDA) held its 47th Anniversary Annual Dinner in Chin Woo Hall recently. In his opening address, T. Karthigesu, President of the Association said that the main objective of PINDA is to uphold the interest of the vendors to ensure that they earn enough money to lead a comfortable life. He added that the print media is facing stiff competition from the internet and smartphone (apps) and print publishers must be innovative and competitive to be successful in their business.



Representatives from the print media and committee members from distributors associations from KL, Selangor and Penang, who were present to show their support, learnt that PINDA is in the process of forming a Co-operative Society to provide medical aid and other welfare assistance to members.

Children of members who did well in the UPSR/PMR exams were presented cash vouchers and certificates. Two of the longest serving members in the committee, V. Rajadurai and S. Perumal, were honoured in the traditional way by garlanding, a ritual known as Ponnaadai or Golden Shawl. Entertainment was provided by Ipoh Futurist Dance Group and their Indian style of Gangnam fascinated the guests.

AJ

'Michaelian Minister' Presents Cheque



St Michael's Institution recently welcomed back another one of its illustrious 'old boys'. This time it was Malaysia's Finance Minister II, Dato' Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadziah, who left St Michael's in 1971.

The visit by Husni, subsequently dubbed the Michaelian Minister, was themed "Homecoming" where he returned this time to present a cheque of RM200K which would go towards the construction of the school's future development projects.

Husni's return was welcomed with much fanfare. He was met on arrival by Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian, Chairman of SMI's Board of Governors, Mr Michael Lee the PIBG Chairman, as well as its Principal Madam Loh Wei Seng, to the sound of the school's vibrant Lion Dance Troupe and Military Band.

Looking pleased to walk through his alma mater again, Husni paused intermittently to chat with the students lined up to greet him which elicited his comment that he "was taken aback and touched by the elaborate greeting he received".

In his speech he said that he "always described himself as a Michaelian...that his four sons too attended school here...was surprised the school has a lady principal and would always remember Master Almeida for his great lessons".

PIBG Chairman Mr Michael Lee, in his address, thanked Husni for the financial assistance and elaborated on the development the school has made over the years. This included the construction of a primary school building to allow for single school sessions.

Currently, the primary classes are held in the morning and afternoon. Although the new Primary building was completed in 2008 and application was made to the relevant authorities for a single session, yet approval is still forthcoming till today, much to the lament of the PIBG board.

The Homecoming event ultimately came to a close but not before Husni sang the School Rally once again.

JAG

Delegation to China

Nine delegates from Ipoh led by Adun of Pokok Assam, Yee Seu Kai went on a trade mission to Henan in Nanzhou, Foshan and Guangzhou recently. Dato' Loke Chee Yan (Adun Kepayang) was amongst the group which also consisted of two delegates from Penang and one from Johor.



A trade dialogue was held where the Nanzhou Mayor introduced their industries that invites foreign investments, investment policies and incentives, and in return the Malaysian delegation highlighted the investment opportunities and the favourable infrastructure in Perak especially Ipoh.

After the trip to Henan four delegates went on to Foshan where they were hosted by the Nanhai Bureau of Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs during which discussions centred on development of bilateral business relationships through the Nanhai Association of Perak and Nanhai Foshan with emphasis on ASEAN trade.

From here, the delegation went to Guangzhou, where they paid a courtesy call to Mr Suresh Kumar - Trade Consul/Trade Commissioner of Consulate General of Malaysia Trade Section (MATRADE) Guangzhou, Guangdong, China.

The entire trip was deemed a success as the group learnt about Henan Nanzhou's investment opportunities which coincides with Ipoh's natural resources which will be of interest to the Quarry Association of Ipoh, while the visit to the Consul and Trade Commissioner of Matrade was fruitful as it took Ipoh right into the trading hub of Guangdong which is Guangzhou, a fact which Dato' Hanfi, Chairman of Perak Invest, was appraised of by Yee on his return.

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News Roundup

The Best Assembly Sitting Ever

Sex scandal...MB makes a MACC report against former MB...Tajol Rosli retires from politics...a soap opera ?

The recent sitting of the twelfth Perak State Assembly, the fifth term and the third meeting of the fifth conference, was the "best held in the three years since 2009" said Dato' Hamidah Osman, State Exco for Industry and Tourism.

Similar sentiments were echoed by Dato' S. Veerasamy, the Special Adviser to MB Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir, who explained that everybody had an opportunity to have their say. "Most of the YB's spoke politely in subdued tones and the assembly was most pleasant". Simpang Pulai Assemblyman Chan Ming Kai also expressed similar sentiments though he hoped that the questions not mentioned would be responded to with written answers.

The assembly lasted five days and on the last day it commenced an hour earlier at 9am and only ended at 7pm. This was also the last assembly sitting by the current batch of elected representatives, as the 13th General Election is around the corner with political pundits predicting it will be held by March 2013.

Not knowing the outcome of the next election, most opposition assemblymen wished Zambry "selamat tinggal" presumably anticipating their party would win the next election. There was a lot of cheerful handshakes, though belied by some quite different body language. Speaker Dato' Ganesan too said his farewell just before closing



the assembly. Unlike his earlier assemblies, Ganesan, this time around, was confident and handled the heated exchanges with confidence and firmness.

Despite the good code of conduct, overall there were still the heated discussions on specific topics, notably former MB, Dato' Seri Nizar Jamaluddin, goading Zambry to explain his approval of three parcels of land to three companies but shared the same address.

Nizar did not get an answer but instead was accused of "wrongdoing" by Zambry, such as offering land without following proper procedures and bypassing the approval committee. A heated exchange ensued and when Nizar demanded for details, Zambry responded that he would lodge a report with MACC. He then told Nizar to get the details from MACC instead.

The most startling revelation though, was Speaker Ganesan denying he was involved in a sex scandal. This came about when PR assemblymen, V. Sivakumar and A. Sivasubramaniam, received an envelope outside the assembly that "contained an online report and a CD with a lewd picture of Ganesan and a woman on the cover". The PR Assemblymen handed the envelope to the Police for investigation.

This assembly was also the last for former MB, Dato' Seri Tajol Rosli who announced he would not be contesting in the coming general election. This prompted accolades from all assemblymen present.

However, the most friendly banter I witnessed was when DAP State Chairman, Dato' Ngeh Koo Ham firmly and fondly shook Tajol's hand saying he "would miss debating with a professional gentleman politician". His body language was unmistakably relaxed. Tajol's reply was similarly courteous but was focused on the day's proceedings.

This was a budget sitting. Three years ago in 2009 when Zambry tabled his first budget, the sitting was over on the first day after lunch. Undoubtedly, our elected representatives have learned to respect the august house. Their conduct during the 5-day session was impeccable. It was definitely a plus point for democracy.

JAG

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Property

The Haven – Pool Party for Handicapped Children

The Haven Lakeside Residences has redefined condominium living at its best. Situated at the fringe of a virgin forest and a natural lake, The Haven has been complemented with a vast array of facilities. All other amenities offered by a city are also easily within reach as it is located just 15 minutes from the city centre. Waking up to crisp mountain air, sharing space with limestone karsts dating back 280 million years and taking in the serene, breathtaking views of lush forest greenery have now become reality at The Haven.

A Special Commissioning

On completion of the 60-metre swimming pool, commissioned on December 22 last year, The Haven invited special needs children in Perak to be the first to enjoy it. These children and their guardians enjoyed spending a few hours at The Haven's Poolside Swim Party recently. Amongst others, children from the Yayasan Sultan Idris Shah Centre in Ipoh and the Association of the Network for the Needs of Children with Disabilities Centre, Perak were feted. Lunch was provided by the poolside with clown entertainment, colouring-in and gifts and treats given to every child. It was a great fun-filled day for all the children who attended.

Dato' Chang Ko Youn, advisor to the Menteri Besar of Perak and Tan Sri Dato' Seri V. Jeyaratnam, Chairman of Perak Turf Club, were in attendance for this auspicious event.

The Haven is the first condo development in the state of Perak, and probably in all of Malaysia, to specially trademark its own 60-metre seahorse-shaped swimming pool design. The newly completed 5-level infinity swimming pool includes – Jacuzzi, Lap pool, Leisure pool, Children's pool and Wading Pool as well as a 4-inch transparent infinity edge at the belly and beak of the sea-horse design. The children were the first to enjoy and experience swimming in this specially designed pool.

Along with the development of the swimming pool, the project has reached new levels of completion. Already over 80% sold, completion is ahead of schedule, with the handing over of the first tower expected in the first quarter of this year and the two remaining towers in August.

Owners can experience the complete lifestyle of luxury and convenience that The Haven offers, with fully-equipped gym, jogging track, picnic grounds, tennis, badminton and squash courts, business and conference facilities, amphitheatre and shuttle bus service – all year round. With the convenience of all the necessities of life at your doorstep, The Haven is truly a luxury-meets-convenience destination.

The Haven looks forward to contributing to the development of Ipoh, in both material, social and cultural needs. This special event is testimony to this. With the provision of its own amphitheatre for musical and cultural performances, The Haven will soon be organising events to boost musical and cultural capabilities of the city. This and many other social activities offered, together with the luxury lifestyle provided, will bring a higher profile for Ipoh.

This multi-award winning development which recently won the 'Best Condo Malaysia' award, has put Ipoh on the map and will continue to serve the community and boost the city of Ipoh to greater heights.



Business

Supply Chain Development In Perak

In their continuous effort in providing opportunities for Malaysian businesses to grow together with their investment in Malaysia, Vale organised a supply chain workshop in Lumut recently.

Around 400 small and medium enterprises (SMEs), suppliers and contractors from Manjung, Lumut and other parts of Perak, took part in the workshop for better understanding of Vale's standards in bidding processes and opportunities for contractors, during construction and operational phases. Suppliers from all industries, including those in construction such as building and civil, electrical and mechanical as well as suppliers of general services and materials such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) suppliers and landscapers, were invited to attend the workshop.

Vale is currently setting up a distribution hub project in Teluk Rubiah with a total investment of USD1.37 billion for the first phase itself. In light of this sizeable project, Vale relies on many Malaysian businesses for the goods and services that they need for construction and operations. They believe that their investment in Malaysia will provide a lasting boost to Malaysia's already growing economy and with this injection of capital it will help existing businesses grow and create opportunities for new businesses to bloom.

Marcelo Figueiredo, Vale Project Portfolio Director (pic), shared during his presentation in the workshop, "Up to date, the total amount of contracts awarded by Vale totals USD1.07 billion, whereof approximately 72 per cent (USD 774 million) of these contracts has been awarded to local suppliers.

"Vale's search for local contractors and suppliers is an on-going initiative. All procurement processes are conducted in an ethical and respectable manner, abiding by global standards and practices. The wellbeing of our employees, contractors, and local communities is our first priority. Vale upholds the value of "Life Matters Most" very dearly, and will continue to work towards achieving this in all aspects of the project," he added.

Being asked regarding the progress of the project, Marcelo also shared that Vale's construction work is already at 49% toward its completion. Pile driving for the material handling quay was successfully completed in December last year by SYS, a local contractor. Meanwhile, WCT which is the local contractor handling earthworks has completed the top soil removal works. They are now focussing on ground improvement and general civil works, and looking forward for the operational phase to take place in July 2014.



Tourism

Perak Tourism Award 1012

The Perak Tourism Award 2012 dinner, held at the Kinta Riverfront Hotel and Suites recently, was organised to recognise those who contributed to the success of tourism in the state. A total of 24 awards were presented, three more than 2011.

Executive Councillor for Tourism, Dato' Hamidah Osman, officiated at the launch which was preceded with an opening number, "Jom Terokai Perak", performed by Kumpulan Selendang Perak.

Dato' Hamidah thanked industry players for their co-operation and participation in promoting Perak as a tourist destination. The state's target of five million tourist arrivals for Visit Perak Year 2012 was exceeded by almost a million. By far the biggest achievement for 2012 was UNESCO's pronouncement of Lenggong Valley as a World Heritage site in June 2012.

The glitzy event, lasting over three hours and filled with music and songs, was well-attended by state dignitaries and the Who's Who in the state's tourism industry. The highlights of the evening were rendition of popular Malay songs by local singing duo, Zainal Abidin and Ziana Zain.

Emily



Community

Diamond Jubilee Celebration



Home for the Aged (CWS) Simee recently held their Diamond Jubilee Celebration and the attendance was an encouraging sight to behold. Two Bishops from the Penang Diocese, Bishop Sebastian Francis and retired Bishop Emeritus Antony Selvanayagam attended together with priests and parishioners from the three parishes in Ipoh.

Dato' See Thean Seng represented Dato' Chang Ko Yoon who is the patron of the home. According to the home's manager, Mr Vincent Lee Weng Wah, Home for the Aged (CWS) Simee had its beginnings in 1952 when the late Rev Fr Anthony Khaw founded Catholic Welfare Services.

The mission of the home is to provide the elderly with shelter, care and meals for free. The home operates entirely on public donations and grants from the Catholic Church. Nevertheless, from its humble beginnings of a single-storey wooden building it has grown to two units of 3-storey buildings connected by an overhead bridge.

Bishop Sebastian Francis in his message thanked all those who had made the home what it is today, from Father Khaw to its former Matron and now resident of the home, Mary Chai, and its current manager Vincent Lee (who serves on a voluntary basis), saying that compassion is the link that joins the past to the present and the future.

In conjunction with the celebration, the home published a complimentary book called "A Legacy of Love".

JAG

Free Eye Check



There's good news for Perakeans, especially those with eye ailments, for they will be eligible for free eye checks whenever Yayasan Bina Upaya Darul Ridzuan (YBU) volunteers come a-calling. This was announced to the media by the Manager of the foundation's International Relationship and Volunteers Unit, Jodh Singh, during a walkabout programme in Kampar recently.

The offer, according to Jodh Singh, was made by Dato' Dr Jasvinder Singh, an eye specialist attached to Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun, Ipoh. "And since the offer was given to the foundation as an aid programme for the rakyat, I've proposed that it be made an integral part of YBU's service to the community," said Jodh Singh to Ipoh Echo. The eye team from the hospital will subsequently come along with the volunteers on their routine visit to designated parts of the state.

"It'll definitely benefit the rakyat, since not many can afford an expensive eye test at a private clinic. Moreover, coverage is considerably wider, as volunteers have to go to many parts of the state to do their humanitarian works," Jodh insisted.

On the issue of volunteers, presently there are over 4000 registered with the foundation. Efforts are underway to increase the number to 10,000 as envisaged by the Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir.

"It's undoubtedly a lofty target but not something impossible. The free eye check is value added and will provide us the impetus to serve the people better," said Jodh. He reckons YBU's team of volunteers, aptly named IBU (Ikon Bina Upaya), is a good selling point to attract more to join the team. "We'd be able to achieve this target in due time, given the mood on the ground."

Present at the Kampar walkabout were the Adun for Malim Nawar, Keshvinder Singh and YBU's Chief Financial Officer, Hairul Anuar Mohamad Noor.

RM



SIS Gopeng Celebrated 50th Anniversary



SMK Idris Shah (SIS) Gopeng celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a reunion dinner. Headmistress, Hjh Robiah Bt Ahamad started off with a speech to welcome Dato' Seri Dr N.S. Selvamany, who was Headmaster of SIS Gopeng from 1972-1980, and some 300 former teachers and students. Also present were former Heads from various years. Mdm Katherine Wulff represented her late husband Mr Hor Kam Yoke who was the school's first Headmaster from 1966-1971.

The dinner was organised by ALSIS (alumni of SIS), PIBG and the school committee. Former student and event organiser, Keith Yoong Lai Hoong, brought in a lion dance troupe, Indian traditional music and a backing kompong group to liven the celebration. The emotional evening ended with everyone singing Auld Lang Syne.

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Community

New Houses for Flood Victims



Three houses in Kuala Dipang, which were completely destroyed during last year's flood, will be rebuilt immediately. The good news was conveyed to Ipoh Echo by the Chief Financial Officer of Yayasan Bina Upaya Darul Ridzuan (YBU), Hairul Anuar Mohamad Noor during a voluntary service programme in Kampar recently.

The programme was conducted by some 200 volunteers from the foundation's IBU (Ikon Bina Upaya) team. They, along with members of the public, did a "gotong royong" to clean up the town beginning from their assembly point at the Methodist (ACS) School, Kampar and ending at the Kuala Dipang bridge. The bridge was given a fresh coat of paint by the volunteers. "Besides sprucing up the area we've also erected a notice board warning visitors the susceptibility of Kuala Dipang to floods," said Hairul.

The area cleaning and posting of signage were part of a directive from the Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambray Abd Kadir to the foundation. "It's the government's social responsibility to the people and we're here to implement it," Hairul remarked. He later distributed food parcels to 150 villagers of Kuala Dipang who had gathered to assist in the "gotong royong". Hairul was pleased with the villagers' keen participation. "It's not only encouraging but inspiring too."

RM



YBU volunteers painting the bridge at Kampung Baru Kuala Dipang

Young Perak TedxIpoh – Ideas Worth Spreading

'Ideas worth spreading' is a topic of conversation that can lead the mind to greater heights. That very line was pushed forward for the city of Ipoh as *TEDxIpoh* was held in December 2012 on the top floor of Sekeping Kong Heng, the perfect venue as the current epitome of innovative heritage conservation for Ipoh. Three speakers, Amir Baharudin, Roslan Abdullah and Howard Lee gathered to inspire the minds of the Ipoh community and to boost the city to reclaim its former glory.

Amir Baharudin led us through the history of Beskal the bicycle bag, its uses and advantages and how it contributes to society. He introduced us to Malaysia's main public transport systems, which consists of the KTM, monorail and trains. These are all efficient methods of commuting, however, nobody ever took into account what happens to cyclists. Can their bicycles be brought onto public transport systems? In the previous issue of Ipoh Echo (157), readers learnt how the idea for a bicycle bag came about. By putting his BMX bicycle into a bag, he was no longer stopped or asked to fork out money. (RM15 was a big sum for a teenager.)

Director of Institut Darul Ridzuan, Roslan Abdullah was born in Penang, grew up in Malacca and moved to Ipoh three years ago. As the second speaker of the night, he explained the importance of branding with his talk, 'I Am A Brand'. He gave the audience something to think about, 'the brand and the city'. A place has its own brand



and so do people.

"Malaysians are a bit rude...but we're better than Singapore! Johor Bahru is energetic but somewhat dangerous. These are all examples of how a place and its people are a brand. So...what is Ipoh? What is our brand?" asked Roslan.

A brand is not a name, logo, website or anything of that category. These are just tools that are used to build a brand. It is all about building relationships and selling emotions. A good example would be Nokia, they are not only selling phones but relationships as well.

When you think of Ipoh, what comes to mind? There are a couple of things that may sound familiar like, "all the pretty girls come from Ipoh...Ipoh people are friendly, the place is peaceful...and...go to Ipoh for *hor fun*". We hear these sayings about our town because this is the way we are perceived, whatever we do creates an impact. Why are girls known for being pretty? Why do people say we are friendly? It is because of the way girls present themselves and it is the way we behave and talk that gives people this impression. We are what creates Ipoh.

"We are all sub brands of Ipoh. If you want Ipoh to be perceived as what we want it to be, we have to make the change," concluded Roslan.

The third speaker, Howard Lee, the founder of 'Prospect' is very passionate about 'choice'. He shared his choices that he made in the past with the audience, such as decisions he made about education and work. There are different kinds of choices and decisions that we make; they can be rational or intuitive ones.

Howard spoke in a loud and clear voice, drawing the audience to him. He explained that everyone has a choice; they are part of our everyday lives. Whether they are big or small ones they are still decisions. Howard engaged with the audience by making us a part of it. He asked questions and had activities prepared for us. However, due to lack of time his talk had to be cut short. "When the world tells you there are no other choices, create your own choices," said Howard.

The story of *TEDxIpoh* began with Ina Tajudin two years ago but it was only this year that *TEDxIpoh* really took off to greater heights due to the supportive ecosystem within Ipoh.

'Ideas Worth Sharing' is definitely a theme that Ipohites hardly ever rely on. Most of the time people rely heavily on the government and whine about the problems around, compared to more innovative cities. I find that Ipohites hardly talk about and share ideas. They should though, it is more progressive than harping on the problems. Plus it feels good when the ideas are accomplished.

For the year 2013, Joanna Gough and a core team of five from *TEDxIpoh 2012* are going to build the year 2013 on: 'Enabling Disabilities', 'Better Education for Children', 'Architecture & Design: Transforming Spaces and Adaptive Reuse of Buildings', 'Medicine' and 'Idea Development & Innovation'. The year will then be divided into two sections: *TEDxIpoh* for the first half of the year and then *TEDxTeens* for the second half.

For more information, contact: Roslan Abdullah: roslan.abdullah@idrperak.com, Howard Lee: howard.lee@prospect.org.my, BESKAL: amir.baharudin@gmail.com, Joanna Gough: joannagough@gmail.com.

Vivian Tan



Community

Soroptimist Ipoh – EDUFUN Centre

Soroptimist International Ipoh (SI Ipoh) has again launched another worthy project and service to the under-privileged community of Ipoh. Towards the end of 2012, SI Ipoh had the opening of its EDUFUN Learning Centre at the Bekor Flats in Taman Pertama, Buntong, Ipoh. There was an enthusiastic attendance of about 25 underprivileged children aged between 6 and 15.

The children, with their mothers, were warmly welcomed by the SI members of Ipoh with a sumptuous “high tea” and the children had a lot of fun joining in the games and singing and dancing sessions. The centre has since been open every day from Monday to Friday 2pm to 6pm. Most of these children are either non-school going, owing to various social and family problems, or are slow learners who certainly need help and guidance.

Despite the handicaps of coming from problematic families and low-income groups, these children show a keen interest in wanting to learn and better themselves. They are also

very well behaved, polite, happy kids who love coming to the centre. One particular 10-year-old girl told Ipoh Echo that she quickly finishes all her housework in the morning so that she can spend the whole afternoon at the centre doing her homework, playing educational games with other children, having singing and dancing sessions and afternoon tea of Milo and biscuits, which is a treat to them! This centre is also a healthy, happy, educational and fun outlet for them away from their problems at home.

The centre has currently employed a teacher to help out in the running of this programme. Every day, during the holidays the attendance was very encouraging with a minimum of 15 children or more who come to learn and play educational games. Now that school has started, the numbers have maintained, with more requests for acceptance of preschool kids. A slight improvement is already seen in some of these children in the short time of nurturing since its inception.

Volunteers who wish to help make a difference in the lives of these children and the community may contact: Kuan 012-501 9250, Lanka 012-519 0189 or Jean 012-588 2313.



Ignatius Chew's Family Tree Project

Every family has a family tree and there are some families whose family tree is more extensive than others. Such is the family tree of Ignatius Chew Eng Lin, Sales Manager of Ban Hoe Seng and Honda's dealer in Perak for many decades.

Chew is the grandson of Chew Boon Juan, a rich tin miner from the early 1900s who later founded Ban Hoe Seng in 1908, then trading in rice and rubber, and later motorcycles and cars.

Chew is related to Ipoh's prominent families of Yeohs (Dato' Yeoh Kian Teik and his daughter Dato' Michelle Yeoh), and Lims (the late Dato' KK Lim and Tun Dr Lim Keng Yaik) and together these three families, 'Yeoh-Lim-Chew' have been labeled as Ipoh's most famous of families which in Hokkien sounds like “The Yeohs (love to) drink wine” which could also denote being ‘brilliant, sociable and successful’.

Chew's interest in starting the family tree project goes back to 1984 when noting down stories told to him by his uncle, Chew Choon Siew. Combined with an earlier autobiography by his grand uncle Chew Boon Hong, a China born graduate, whose dates, facts and figures matched his uncle's, he was able to start the project.



To kick off the project Chew turned the upstairs floor of a bungalow located behind the Ban Hoe Seng office into a gallery where the other families could display their family photos and gradually build their family tree.

The gathering of families recently was a joyous affair where three generations of families brought along their old family photos and retraced how they were related and recalled the good times they had together. Needless to say there was an endless call for group photographs.

On the morning of the reunion as Chew explained his family tree, I realised that the size and extent of the family went beyond Ipoh and was related to more prominent personalities in other parts of the world. The family tree also indicated that the family was related to the Khoo Kongsi Clan of Penang and famous Hong Kong actress, Nancy Kwan, was also a relation.

For Ignatius Chew the day was just the beginning of a long project towards a bigger family tree. From the exhibits displayed, this is a family tree which would be very interesting to see when completed.

The Chinese have a saying “hao men dui hao men”, literally translated “from riches to riches”. However, for this family their history includes brilliance, social acumen and success, and has all the ingredients for a successful movie.

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All items mentioned in the above specifications shall follow strictly according to the approved plans and are subject to variations and alterations and substitutions as recommended by the Developer's/Architect as Engineer or relevant approving authorities.



Sport

Hockey: 22nd Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2013



The 22nd Sultan Azlan Shah Cup (SAS), Men's International Hockey Tournament 2013 will be held from March 7 to 17 instead of the middle of the year as is usual. The reason for the early tournament

is because Ipoh will also be the venue for the Hockey Asia Cup Tournament which is scheduled to take place in August. Both international tournaments will be held at

the Sultan Azlan Shah Stadium.

The announcement of the dates for the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup Tournament was made by Perak Hockey Association President Dato' Abdul Rahim Mohd Ariff. Also present at the announcement was Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) Secretary General Tan Sri P. Alagendra. According to Rahim, seven teams will be participating, of which five countries, Australia, India, New Zealand, Pakistan and Malaysia have confirmed their participation while Korea and Spain are pending confirmation.

During this time too, the hockey coaching and umpiring courses at the Raja Ashman Shah Hockey Academy, next to the Stadium, will be held.

Rahim also added that the JKR will be covering all the stands at the stadium in time for next years' Tournament. Presently the public area is only partially covered.

JAG

Perak Team 2013 Unveiled

Perak FA announced its squad for the 2013 Malaysian Super League season during a specially organised event at the Mydin Mall in Meru Raya recently. Team manager Khairul Azwan and head coach, Azraai Khor Abdullah were present along with almost 800 fans jam-packed in the mall. Foreign signings, Rafael Novais and Karim Rouani, were also there. The occasion provided an opportunity for diehard fans to get a glimpse of their idols. All players were present except for S. Chanturu, who was nursing a knee injury and Farizal Marlias, who was given an extended break after his national team duty in the AFF Suzuki Cup 2012.

Having drafted several big names, the Seladangs is geared to make a strong impression in 2013, something that PAFA President, Dato' Zainol Fadzi, felt was possible with a solid home support. The fans' presence, said Zainol, would inspire the players.

The following day the squad of 22 players departed for a series of friendly matches in the Northern region of Malaysia. They trashed Perlis FA 4-0 at the Kangar Stadium. However, head coach Azraai Khor Abdullah wasn't impressed. "The players need time to gel, especially with the two foreign players, Rafael and Karim. It's too early to judge anyone. So far, I am happy with what I see," said Azraai to reporters.

There is bad news in store for Perak fans ahead of the start of the new Malaysian Super League season. Football Association of Malaysia requires stadiums to be fitted with 1000 lux floodlights for night play. The Ipoh stadium is fitted with 800 lux floodlights.

Perak FA has brokered a deal to upgrade the facility which will begin in January. This means the Seladangs are likely to play their night home matches at the Lumut Naval Base Stadium until March.



The full Perak squad for 2013 Malaysian Super League season:

Farizal Marlias (GK), Khairul Amri (GK), Mohd Jibrail (GK), V. Thirumurugan, Syazwan Roslan, Hisyamuddin, Rafael Novais, Shahrom Kalam, Khairi Kiman, Noor Hazrul, S. Chanturu, M. Sivakumar, Shahrulnizam Mustapha (C), Mohd Nasir, Rafiuddin Roddin, M. Yoganathan, Yong Kuong Yong, Mohd Failee, Azlan Ismail, Hadi Yahya, Karim Rouani.

The Seladangs' initiation to this year's Super League began with a last minute win over Kuala Terengganu's T-Team at the Lumut Naval Base Stadium on Tuesday, January 8. It was a scrappy 90-minute affair with both teams playing a cautious game. A header by Rafael Novais was deflected by a T-Team player and the ball went straight into the opponent's net.

Keesh

News Roundup

Ipoh's Best Kept Restaurants

Ipoh Mayor, Dato' Roshidi Hashim congratulated the winners of Ipoh's Cleanest Restaurants for various categories.

Cleanest Toilet Nationwide: Popular dim sum restaurant, Restoran Foh San Sdn Bhd won the title for the cleanest toilet in the country. The 1Malaysia Clean Toilet National Level competition was organised by the Ministry for Housing and Local Government.

According to Tham Bak Yeen, Foh San's owner, the toilets are kept clean as his "restaurant has many customers with many being foreign tourists. The Japanese especially are very particular about clean toilets," he added.

State Level Best Restaurant Premises: Restoran Dim Sum Café Sdn Bhd of Greentown Business Centre won in the Best Kept Restaurant Premises category. The competition was organised by the State Health Office. Judy Chin (pic), Dim Sum Café's manager thanked her staff for their team effort which enabled the outlet to win the award.

Roshidi later paid a visit to the Ray of Hope Café at Bercham which had earlier won MBI's Innovation Day Competition 2012 during which he made a donation of RM1000 to the café. The café is run by a charity organisation whose staff include people with learning disabilities. Café Chairman Datin Mary Yeoh said that she was 'on cloud nine' saying that Roshidi's visit showed that he "was sympathetic towards the care of the underprivileged".

As of December 2012 there are a total of 4181 food and drink premises of which 405 are food processing factories while 1757 or 42% are restaurant and café outlets.

JAG



Kinta EcoCity – 10th Anniversary

Kinta EcoCity, the pioneer developer in Ipoh, marked its 10th Anniversary in 2012 by organising an open concert as an act of reciprocation for constant support from buyers and cultivating future prospects.

Kinta EcoCity's success on trusted customer service and reliability with its promise of "Building Homes, Developing Communities" will be further enhanced in 2013 with more emphasis not only on building homes but also be the agent in developing communities despite different cultures and values in Malaysia.

An estimated 2000 people turned up for the concert event. The drum troupe, from Menglembu High School Ipoh, started off the event, followed by a Chinese classical singer, YouDi. Both performances gave a warm opening that kept audience attention engaged.

Later, the popular Astro pair singers, Geraldine Gan and Chou Jie Ying, intensified the crowd enthusiasm even more. Some took the opportunity to hand them flowers as tokens of appreciation. The event reached its climax when Amy, the legendary rock singer from the band Search, performed. His performance was coupled with light humour keeping the audience responsive throughout. The crowd sang along especially during his songs 'Tiada Lagi' and 'Isabella'.

