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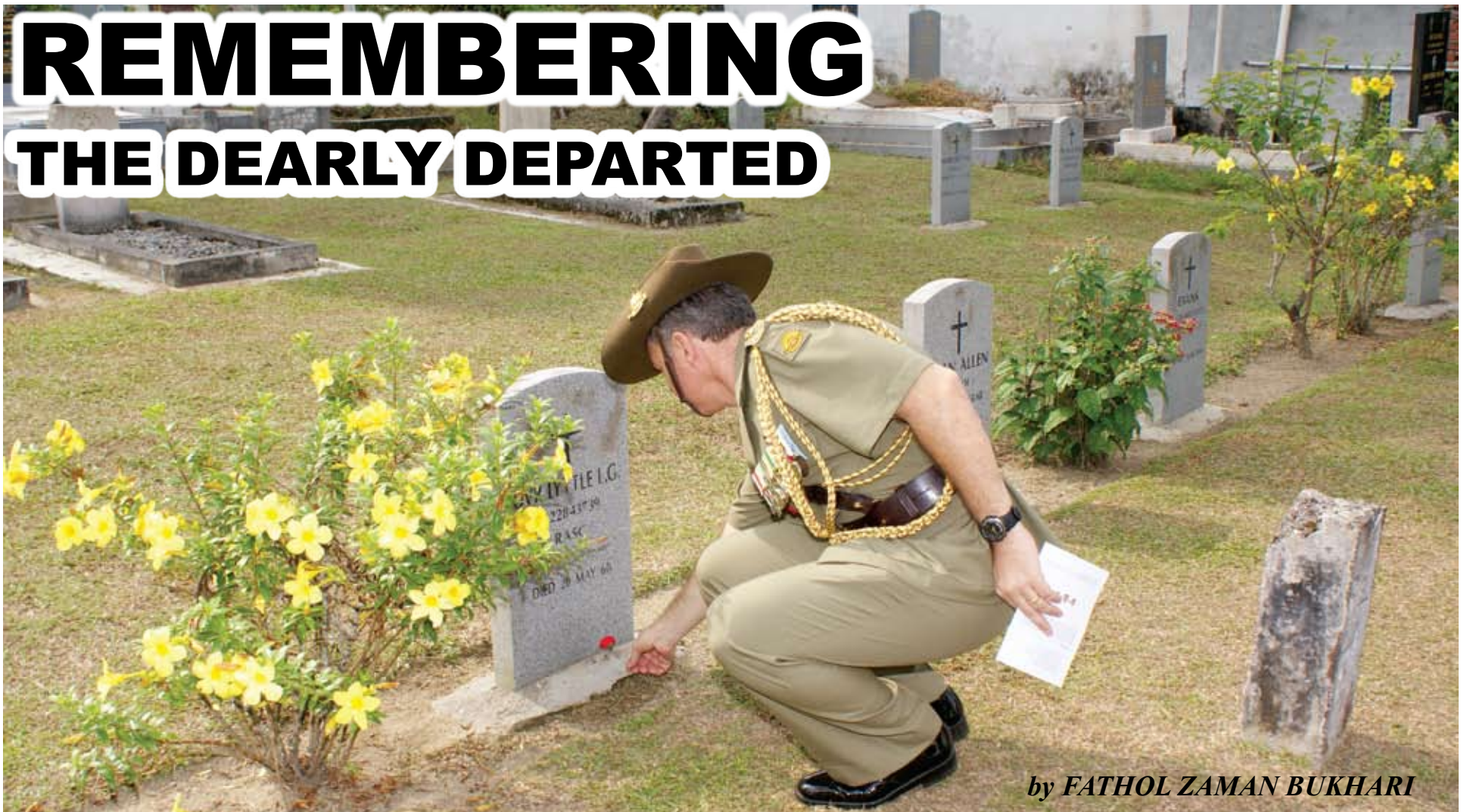


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REMEMBERING THE DEARLY DEPARTED



by FATHOL ZAMAN BUKHARI

The Kamunting Christian Cemetery holds a record of sorts. It has the largest number of Australian servicemen and family members buried in Malaysia. All in all 65 members of the Australian Defence Forces were buried in graves all over the country. Out of this, 40 were interred at the Kamunting burial site, which is located next to the Taiping Tesco Hypermarket. They were casualties of the Malayan Emergency (1948 to 1960) and Confrontation with Indonesia (1963 to 1966).

continued on page 2

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A fitting service for the Aussie soldiers who gave their lives for our country

For over two decades families and friends of the fallen heroes have been coming regularly to Ipoh and Taiping to honour their loved ones. Some come on their own while others make their journey in June to coincide with the annual memorial service at the God's Little Acre in Batu Gajah. The desire to have a dedicated service for the Australians buried at the Kamunting Christian Cemetery has been actively pursued by members of the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc (NMBVAA). Earlier attempts at making headway came to naught as those entrusted with the responsibilities gave up after encountering several obstacles. Moreover, they were not resolute enough. It requires more than just lip service. Association members visited the cemetery last year but no formal service was held other than some silent prayers for the dearly departed.

Dedicated Memorial Service

This year it was different. A dedicated memorial service, steeped in military tradition, was held on the morning of Thursday, June 11, at the Kamunting Christian Cemetery. Some 100 personnel, local and foreign, attended the service.

Stephen Stoon (Steve), the Association's newly elected National Liaison Officer for Malaysia, was the prime mover. Steve was a sergeant with the Royal Hampshire Regiment. He served in Hong Kong in the early 70s when a battalion from the regiment was stationed there.

Upon assuming the post of liaison officer late last year, Steve took it upon himself to get



A walkabout in the cemetery

things moving. This involved direct communications with the Australian Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, Defence Minister, Joel Fitzgibbon and High Commissioner to Malaysia, Ms Penny Williams. A local NMBVAA chapter was set up in Ipoh and is manned by friends of the Association. When many were sceptical of Steve's efforts, members rallied behind him to provide the moral support he badly needed.

Valuable Assistance

The assistance of the Australian rifle company in Butterworth proved valuable and through its Commanding Officer, Lt-Col Campbell Paine, works to clean the graves were done post-haste. Brig-Gen Dato' Zulkifli Mansor, Commander 2nd Infantry Brigade, was instrumental in getting the army to help. The 9th Battalion Royal Ranger Regiment, under Major Suleiman Ghazali,

the battalion's second-in-command, offered to make the service comfortable and meaningful. Marquees, chairs, public address system, a soft drink stand and a ready crowd were provided *pro bono*.

Colonel Campbell and

his men were there in full force during the ceremony. Attending on behalf of Ms Penny Williams was Senior Counsellor, Arthur Spyrou, Lt-Colonel Yusof from Taiping Staff Station represented the brigade commander while Lt-

Colonel Mick Birtles attended on behalf of the Australian Defence Advisor. Unfortunately, neither local dignitaries nor senior government officials from Taiping were present although invitations were sent to them individually.

Raising of the Flags

The memorial service started with the raising of both the Malaysian and Australian flags followed by speeches by Steve and Arthur Spyrou. The religious service that followed was conducted by Wing Comd (Rtd) Ben Usher, a retired RAAF Chaplain who had served in Malaya as a sapper with the Royal Engineers. John Plenty, the President of the South Australia Branch, NMBVAA, delivered the Australian Ode which was followed by the rouse by bugler, Warrant Officer 2 David Clarke of the Butterworth rifle company. Wreaths were then laid and poppies placed on the

headstones. Members, their families and guests then adjourned to the Taiping New Club for refreshments.

Busy Week for Veterans

The veterans made full use of their one-week stay in Ipoh by attending other memorial services on the card. They were present at the cenotaph remembrance in Ipoh on Friday, June 12, the God's Little Acre, Batu Gajah and the Gurkha Graves at Tambun Camp, Ipoh, on Saturday, June 13. Some attended the Sikh soldiers' pictorial exhibition held at the Tun Razak Library although it was not programmed. The launching of Ipoh World website at the Royal Ipoh Club on Saturday, June 13, was done in their presence too.

Tourism Potential

The remembrance ceremonies in Taiping, Batu Gajah and Ipoh can be a major tourist draw if they are being properly packaged and promoted. Efforts at making these events a permanent fixture on the tourism calendar should be considered. Tourism Perak and the state authorities should take the lead and make the necessary provisions for their inclusion. Presently, these events are being organised by some passionate Ipohites who have volunteered their service for altruistic reasons.

Ipoh City Council has committed itself to Perak's fallen heroes by providing the required assistance to the organisers of the cenotaph remembrance. The Mayor's gesture is commendable indeed. However, more needs to be done for those who had made the ultimate sacrifice for this country.



Arthur Spyrou in silent prayers



Steve Stoon (right) getting acquainted with guests



John Plenty placing a wreath on behalf of NMBVAA

IS IPOH READY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TOURIST?

After two years of negotiations, Firefly is finally touching down at Sultan Azlan Shah Airport Ipoh with its inaugural flight on July 12. Earlier Ipoh Echo reports have highlighted that the entire community have been waiting on tenterhooks for flights to begin. And with it, we're opening the doors of Ipoh to international visitors. Now that it is going to be a reality, the big question facing us is: Is Ipoh ready for them?

The flight to Ipoh seats 72 passengers and operates 4 times per week.

Theoretically, Ipoh can expect 280 foreign visitors each week. Can our present logistical services, specifically taxi and bus services handle this sudden influx of visitors who will inevitably demand transport? The taxi is the first service that greets a visitor but their fares have not yet been fixed while our buses are erratically timed. These two issues can leave a negative perception about Ipoh in general.

Team Effort

Ipoh Echo turned to Tuan Haji Rahmad, the

General Manager of the State Tourism Action Council to get his views. He fully concurs with the concerns regarding taxis and buses. However, the issue of coping with a foreign influx of visitors go beyond just ground transportation. Rahmad went on to elaborate, "Ipoh is a product by itself. It has its food, heritage buildings and cave temples. When tourists visit, they naturally expect to have comfortable taxis and buses to enable them to access their destinations. But they also expect to see tidy streets

and clean food outlets and toilets. Generally, MBI is responsible for this aspect of the city but the whole town must do their part to maintain the product".

Taxis

Ipoh Echo contacted Ms Monica Liew, MATTA Perak Chairman. "The concern here is the condition of the taxi and the fares they charge as our taxi drivers do not run their meters" Liew says, "Group tours are fine as they are catered for by the agents' vans. It is the independent visitors who could face the hassle".

Buses

Regarding the local bus service, Nicholas Chan, National Secretary of the Malaysia Association of Hoteliers pointed out "visitors just want easy access to the various tourist destinations. Like getting from Sam Poh Tong, then to Perak Tong and ending the day at the Lost World of Tambun. Ipoh needs 'Shuttle Buses' that traverses these specific destinations surrounding Ipoh and which allows for

tourists to hop on and off". The current issue for buses now is their routing whereby one has to change buses going from Sam Poh Tong to Perak Tong, which could be confusing to the visitor. Other issues involve the condition and punctuality of these buses and on the other extreme, the erratic no-show factor, leaving tourists stranded.

Local Authorities

Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon, the state executive councillor in charge of public transport responded that he would be calling for a meeting with the Taxi Owners Association on the above issues. He confirmed that the bus consortium that was formed late last year was still proceeding with their plans. Once their operations are in place they could "help alleviate the situation".

Mr Cheong Kong Fitt, the Managing Director of Combined Bus Services SB confirmed that the company had applied to LPKP for additional routes similar to the 'shuttle bus' routing as mentioned earlier and it is pending approval.

proval.

State Executive Councillor for Tourism Dato' Hamidah Osman held a meeting with the relevant departments and associations last week to discuss issues around taxi and bus services and general cleanliness of the town. She also stated that an information counter and a car rental service will be available at the airport.

So should Ipohites get overly excited about the arrival of more international visitors? A chat with Firefly's Marketing Head, Angelina Fernandez revealed that they plan to market Ipoh initially to the Singapore public, the expatriate community working there and subsequently getting long haul travellers to stop over in Ipoh as part of their itinerary.

If Firefly's plans work, Ipoh will have a regular flow of foreign visitors and for a change an additional source of revenue which if marketed efficiently could be the long awaited impetus to spur the growth of Ipoh's tourism industry for years to come.

JAMES GOUGH



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THINKING ALOUD**PUBLIC TRANSPORT FROM PENANG TO IPOH COULD IMPROVE**

Perak can source international tourists from Penang

Ipoh lacks direct access to international tourist traffic. For this reason I have maintained that the most effective way of increasing international tourist arrival to Perak is by sourcing them from the established tourist destinations in the country. Even if only a small percentage of the tourists who visit these destinations are persuaded to extend their travel to Perak, the state would experience marked growth in tourist influx. In this strategy, Penang would be an important resource point. It records substantial international tourist arrivals every year, most of whom are leisure travellers and Ipoh is less than two hours from Penang by rail or road. For close to four years I have been advocating for the set up of a one-stop Perak tourist information and promotion centre in Penang identifying Perak House in Batu Ferringhi for this purpose. Not surprisingly this call has been ignored by all the successive State governments that had been in power during this period. Public transport options

To find out for myself what effort would be needed for tourists from Penang to make their way to Ipoh I decided last week to use public transport to return to Ipoh from Penang. It was a revelation and I feel if measures are not made to improve the service I fear that we would lose out on the 'Free Independent Travellers' market.

I thought that the journey by rail would be an attractive mode providing visitors an introduction to the Perak experience. Unfortunately I was informed that there was only one service and it began its journey at 7 a.m. in the morning. Since most visitors are on the Island and it would take them a good one hour to reach Butterworth train station they had to be up by five – not quite ideal for a visitor on holiday.

I then decided to check out the taxi. I was however informed that I would have to go to Butterworth to take this mode of transport as the cost of taxis from the Island directly to Ipoh would be prohibitive. As I was travelling from the inner city, the quickest way to get to Butterworth was to use the ferry to cross the channel. At the ferry terminal there was not much traffic but there was a queue. But the queue failed to move and there was no indication that the situation was ever going to change. After waiting for around 20 minutes the driver of the vehicle I was travelling in lost patience and decided to use the bridge.

The Coach Alternative

On the way to the bridge he inquired whether I would like to try the coach as the station was not too far away from the bridge. I agreed. At the coach station, though proper sig-

nage was lacking, it was more than made up by several PR personnel working for the various bus companies. I was directed by one of the PRs to a ticket booth and was issued with a receipt which indicated the registration number of the bus that would be my ride and the bay where the bus would be. It was around 3.30 p.m. then and the bus was to depart at 4.00 p.m. The RM19 fare was to my mind a bargain considering that it cost me RM10 to travel about two kilometres in Ipoh by a local taxi from the place I alighted from the bus to my ultimate destination.

As soon as all the passengers were on board the bus, a member of the bus company came into the bus and began collecting the receipts and issuing tickets in exchange. Unfortunately for me she was unable to find my ticket and after communicating with someone through her walkie-talkie she made some gesture to me and before I could find out what the gesture meant she left and the doors closed. I was then left without a ticket and since I had surrendered my receipt to her no evidence I was a legal passenger in the bus.

The bus was not in too bad a condition save for the fact that the outlet of the air-condition duct directly above my seat was missing its control mechanism and I was under a relentless blast of cold air.



Others, apparently used to this, were resolving the problem by stuffing bits of their clothing into the opening.

The Bus Ride

It was around 4.20 when the bus began its journey. By then traffic was building up and it was some time before we reached Penang Bridge. I think I must have dozed off. When I awoke I was surprised that we were still on the bridge. It took me several moments to realise that we were not on Penang Bridge but on a bridge that was remarkably similar to the Penang Bridge. The road signs I saw were not helpful and I began to seriously wonder if I was on the right bus or was I on my way to Alor Star.

The mystery was cleared soon when we arrived at Butterworth. Apparently the journey from Penang to Ipoh included a mandatory stop in Butterworth.

In Butterworth I was asked to change my seat. I obliged partly due to the fact that I was not in possession of a ticket. I subsequently learnt that the reason I was asked to change seats was that the person who sat next to me in my

new location was known to feel women seated next to him and as a matter of policy no woman was made to sit next to this character. I thought that it was quite good management.

By the time the bus left Butterworth one and a half hours had lapsed from the scheduled departure time from Penang.

Thankfully the journey back was without incident. The driver was quite skilful and demonstrated his prowess by driving often with only one hand on the steering wheel and sometimes with none. One hand was always busy with his mobile phone and when his conversations become animated his gesticulations with his other hand resulted in the bus finding its way without his interference.

The driver was also most obliging, allowing passengers to alight in several locations once even in the middle of the highway where there was an exit access road.

As a Malaysian, born and bred here, I found all these quite amusing and not entirely intolerable but I fear that foreign visitors may not be so understanding. That we need to improve is undeniable.

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**EXAM SUCCESS**

Mah Song Wei flanked by Principal Thomas Kok and Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon

Some 141 students of the Ipoh Learning and Training Institute (ILTI) received their University of Cambridge ESOL Examination certificates at a ceremony recently. The certificates were presented by Hj Zawi Yahya who represented the Director of Education Perak, Mohd Radzi Abdul Jabar. The director, in his speech read by Hj Zawi, congratulated the successful students. He thanked ILTI for its effort in teaching the English language to Ipohites. Top scorers were Prassanth 16, who got Grade A in Certificate of Advanced English and Mah Song Wei 12, who too obtained similar grade in First Certificate English.

MUSINGS ON FOOD

by See Foon Chan-Koppen

More pics at ipohecho on line seefoon@ipohecho.com.my



SeeFoon visits an old favourite.....

My girlfriend and fellow Ipohite, Ella Macdonald of Filipino decent, is not a foodie, nor does she speak Cantonese. To her lunch is a desultory picking of what's put in front of her, company and conversation taking precedence over food. Yet whenever she suggests lunch, the first place she opts for is Sin Hup Kee.

It certainly isn't a conducive environment for conversation but since they went up market and put in air-conditioning as well as acoustic mufflers on the ceiling, the noise level has diminished considerably. Company and conversation aside, the reason this is her favourite is that this is one restaurant that tickles her taste buds!

New Family Affair

Sin Hup Kee has been in operation for over 30 years. Formerly situated on Jalan Raja Musa Aziz (Anderson Road), it moved to its present premises on Leong Sin Nam Street 12 years ago. The name which means new collaboration or joint venture, was actually coined when they first started operating as a partnership under the name Hup Kee. When Chef **Lau Wah Hoy** his wife **Tan King Bee** decided to go on their own, they added the "Sin" which means "new" to the name.

Today the name is synonymous with home-



style cooking at reasonable prices. Judging by the popularity of the restaurant, tables are best reserved in advance. However, if you show up on a whim, they make a quick turnover as service is fast and people leave the moment their meal is over and the wait for a table is never more than a few minutes or so during which time, one can order one's food.

The menu is in handwritten Chinese, so for the non-Chinese speaker, ordering can be somewhat daunting but for readers out there, I've included all the Cantonese phonetics, so give it a go.



Kon Jeen Kai

Signature Dishes

The dish for which Sin Hup Kee is famous is their *Kon Jeen Kai* or Honey Chicken. RM7/12/18 for S/M/L. These are chunks of chicken cut Chinese style (on the bone), marinated and dry fried. Every delicious morsel of chicken is generously

coated in an almost-black honey-flavoured sauce which clings to the meat and not languishing on the plate as is often the case when this dish is not well executed. The chicken was tender and cooked to perfection.....not too dry and not soggy.

Next to arrive was their *Sam Wong Dan* literally translated to mean the 3-King Egg. RM5/7. This dish while simple in its method of preparation – the fresh eggs are beaten, mixed with water, salted egg yolk and chopped century black eggs, seasoned and steamed till just set – requires quite a bit of skill in getting the proportions and timing absolutely spot on. The dish arrived velvety smooth with a generous addition of both salted and century eggs.

Then came the *Ham Yu Fah Lam Po* a sizzling claypot of pork belly sliced paper thin, with onions, dry red chillies, and the



Assam Fish Head

piece de resistance salted fish, whose aroma came



Tow Kok, Ai Kwa, Ha Mai, Choi Po

wafting towards our table even before the dish arrived. RM12. I couldn't stop picking at this dish throughout the meal and even took an extra spoon of rice to soak up the delectable sauce at the bottom.

The other dishes then came in rapid succession. Their signature Assam Fish Head, cut pieces of fish head peeking out from a tangy, well-blended tamarind sauce that had bite but not spicy enough to intimidate those with timid palates. RM25. Next to arrive was another signature dish, their *Tow Kok, Ai Kwa, Ha Mai, Choi Po* special, a fried concoction of long beans, brinjals, dried prawns, preserved turnip and garlic. RM7/8/12. Eaten hot off the wok, this dish is one of the reasons Ella and I keep returning to Sin Hup Kee.

Winning Loyal Fans

Other dishes for which this restaurant has won its fans include their *Tong Po Yoke*, soya-braised belly pork, RM18/28. This was one of the tastiest braised pork belly I've had in a long while. Another equally popular dish is their Vietnamese Curry Chicken or mixed

seafood, a pungent dry curry fragrant with curry leaves. RM12/15/22 and their individual portions of *Kai Lap Fan* a rice dish topped with a sauce made with chicken cubes – RM4 – is certainly value for money.

Sin Hup Kee is open both for lunch and dinner and on weekends, to cater to more people they open up their second floor which in effect doubles the seating capacity. As for me, I prefer to avoid the crowds and if I'm hankering for good old-fashioned Cantonese fare, I'll just call, place my order and 'Tah Pau' or takeaway to enjoy in the comfort of my own home.

RESTORAN SIN HUP KEE

Address: 17 Jalan Leong Sin Nam, 30300 Ipoh
Tel.: 05-2423128
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Closed: Tuesdays

HAWKER FOOD

WONTON MEE

Wonton are little dumplings consisting of minced pork or prawns wrapped in thin dough. The *wonton* is cooked in boiling water and the 'skin' becomes very soft but still keeps the meat intact. The sign of a good *wonton* is when the 'skin' almost melts in the mouth before one savours the filling. The fresh uncooked egg noodles are neatly apportioned into little bundles and loosened just before cooking. The noodles can be served in soup or, as most prefer, served dry, tossed in dark and light soya sauce, sesame oil, with meat gravy; garnished with green leafy vegetable. The measure of good noodles are when they are served 'al dente' (the Italian description for pasta that are cooked to just the right consistency) meaning neither hard or soft but still springy.



NAME	WHERE	COMMENTS	PRICE (RM)	
CHEONG KEE 7.30pm-midnight	542 Jln Sekolah, Buntong, 30100	Noodles are homemade & al dente. Best meat wonton. Sauce has stewed pork.	Wonton mee: 2.90 Prawn wonton mee: 3.40	★ ★ ★ ★
KEDAI KOPI KHENG HAI 8am-1.30pm Thurs & Fri closed	47 Jln Yau Tet Sin, New Town	Pork wonton slightly bland but noodles are al dente. Wonderful 'Sui Kow' and chicken feet.	Wonton mee: 2.40 Char siu mee: 2.40 Prawn wonton mee: 2.60	★ ★ ★ ★
STALL #36 (day) 7am-5pm Tuesdays closed	STADIUM PERAK	Prawn wonton is very fresh & crunchy to the bite. Pork wonton is flavourful.	Wonton mee: 2.80 Prawn wonton mee: 2.80 Char siu mee: 2.80	★ ★ ★ ★
STALL #22 (night) 7.30pm onwards	STADIUM PERAK	Noodles are 'al dente'. Prawn wonton is good and pork wonton tasty.	Wonton mee: 2.70 Prawn wonton mee: 2.70 Char siu mee: 3.30	★ ★ ★ ★

Our next food review will be **Hakka Mee**
Email your favourite recommendations to: food@ipohecho.com.my

Recipe

by CAROL CHENG

Side dishes to complement a Chinese meal can be simply cooked to maximise on nutritional value and minimise on cost. Vegetables cooked the Indian way are very tasty but we all know that greens lose their vitamins if they are subjected to prolonged heat. The Westerners eat salad to retain the full nutrients. This type of mustard greens accepts this mode of stir-frying, and has its own natural taste.

300 g Mustard Greens, fine cut (like for Indian cooking)
2 shallots, sliced
2 pips garlic, sliced
Salt to taste

China Mustard Greens (Sawi)

Indian-cut but Cantonese-fried style



A few drops of seasoning or ½ tsp of ikan bilis granules (optional)

Method:

Sauté the sliced shallots and garlic in 1 tablespoon oil when wok is hot. Add in the greens and 1 teaspoon salt, fry till the sawi turns translucent or wilted and a little juice comes out. Shake in a few drops Maggi seasoning. This dish takes barely a minute to stir-fry. It gives

out an aroma of its distinctive flavour once it's cooked – very healthy, according to a nutritionist consultant. The nutrients are preserved in this quick cooking and it is a favourite among us, young and old.

Note: Instead of mustard greens (*sawi* in Malay or *choi sum* in Cantonese). Other leafy greens, like spinach (*bayam* in Malay) can also be substituted.



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ADVERTORIAL

The Royal Perak Golf Club (RPGC), which has been undergoing a complete makeover since March 2008, will have its official opening ceremony on August 8, 2009 by its Patron, DYMM Sultan Azlan Shah.

Events for the auspicious day include a tree planting ceremony followed by a golf tournament. This year being the silver jubilee year of Sultan Azlan Shah's ascension to the Perak throne, the tournament has been appropriately named "DYMM Sultan Perak Silver Jubilee Golf Tournament."



The participants for the game will be luminaries and guests from reciprocal and affiliated clubs overseas. Clubs from Hong Kong, Philippines, Australia and New Zealand have confirmed their attendance.

A grand gala dinner will be held that evening when His Royal Highness will unveil and sign the plaque and formally open the club. It promises to be the grandest club event of

the year in the silver state.

In fact with RPGC's complete restructuring Ipohites will have a new place to socialise. A large and impressive mural depicting the club's activities and tourist attractions in the state will be on display at the front of the club building. It will be RPGC's most enduring signature.

Some RM20 million has been invested in upgrading the golf club. It intends to attract new

members promising a host of facilities and amenities for both golfers and non-golfers.

RPGC is located just minutes away from the heart of the city. Its par-72 championship 18-hole golf course lies in the shadows the panoramic limestone hills of Kinta Valley. The course is relatively flat but with many matured trees dotting the fairways. Its unpredictable greens will prove challenging to the


most discerning of golfers. But golf is just one of the many attractions on the card.

Other facilities include a banquet hall, café and lounge, Japanese restaurant, swimming pool and a gymnasium. The banquet hall can accommodate 700 diners and will be available to the public.

The promotional catch phrase, "Outdoors Within The City" epitomises the prestige and ambiance




that a membership of this exalted club entails. The current membership fee of RM27.5k is valid till July 30 after which the rate is RM30k. However, an easy payment scheme is available for those interested.



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LETTER FROM ULU KINTA

CONFINE CHILDREN'S BRAWLS TO THE PLAYGROUND

Friendships form part of our natural support system. Some people place a higher value on blood ties than the bond between friends. Others disagree. You can choose your friends, but not your relatives. Like a plant, a friendship has to be nurtured. If not, it will wither. Possibly die. So it is with a strong supportive friendship. Given time, it will grow, mature and develop. Hence the break-up of a long-standing friendship is soul-destroying. The void created is devastating. The friendship that terminates because of the simplest of reasons is more tragic. And so it was when two close friends broke up recently. They'd attended the same school, cycled home together, shared similar interests, married within a few months of each other and later shared the same maternity ward at the Fatimah Hospital.

Unnecessary Interference

But one day, one of them foolishly decided

to interfere in her child's playground brawl. Rather than allowing the children to resolve their own conflicts, this mother managed to alienate not just herself but also her child. Both their friendships were jeopardized.

I can barely remember the details of the squabble. I think my friend's daughter was upset by her best friend sharing sweets with another girl. Mistakenly assuming her friendship had ended, she confided in her mother, whereupon her mother promptly phoned the best friend and then her mother, to lecture them. Instead of calmly reassuring her own daughter or complimenting her best friend on her kindness and generosity, my friend portrayed her as selfish and inconsiderate, and completely overlooked her own daughter's self-importance.

I was reluctantly dragged into this melee. The more my friend tried to justify her actions, the more I resisted. The other mother let the cold remarks pass, told her that 'children will just be chil-



dren' and thought nothing more of it.

Law of the playground

But the law of the playground exists. Other children teased the girl for 'carrying tales' and so refused to play with her. Had this misunderstanding been allowed to die a natural death, all the children would be happy. And still be friends. Children will always kiss and make-up, with or without an adult's prompting.

I soon discovered that my friendship was at risk as I refused to agree with my friend, or take sides. She saw this as a violation of trust. A betrayal.

There must be many parents who have gone, or will go, through this ordeal but I have found the following a useful guide.

DO NOT over-react. We must learn to resist the urge to solve our children's arguments because by doing so, we deny them the opportunity to act and succeed by their own efforts.

DO NOT interfere in your children's quarrels. Our actions may worsen the situation. Listen to them, answer their questions and deal with their anger. Interfering causes more harm because other children will perceive the child to be 'soft' or weak, needing the parents to deal

with their every problem. The child risks more taunts and rejections.

DO shift the focus around and help build their confidence by widening their circle of interests and friends. Children have to learn how to deal with problems on their own, on or off the playground.

DO intervene only when the safety of any of

the children or their property is threatened.

If we act as over-responsible parents, we will only produce irresponsible children. An overprotected child is one who is denied the ability to learn and develop. A dependent child will develop into a demanding adult.

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Hot and Cold

ECHO WISHES TEAMS TITAN AND EMBER GOOD LUCK



Go Titans! Love Titans!

SMJK Ave Maria Convent Ipoh has entered 2 teams for this year's cheer-leading competition called Cheer 2009. The finals will be held at Bukit Jalil Stadium KL on July 4 and 5.

The first team, TITANS, is led by Fong Yoke Wah, 18. The team made its debut in 2001 and was a champion in Cheer 2006. It finished 4th in 2008. Its cheer shout out is "Go Titans! Love Titans!"

The second team is EMBER led by Cheah Hong Sin, 14. It won the Best Newcomer award at Cheer 2005 but did not participate in Cheer 2008. Its cheer shout out is "Take it to the top, Ember never stops".

MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA



Balaguru, Chairperson of the organising committee.

With more than 85 percent of the students involved in the show, every child was given the opportunity to show their talents. The unique blend of music from classical Broadway shows such as 'Grease' and 'The Sound of Music', traditional numbers, newer pieces from 'High School Musical' and a rendition of songs sung by the choir ensured that the 'Musical Extravaganza' had something for everyone.

MINDY OON

Ipoh International School held its annual stage production on 13th June 2009, enchanting its audience with its variety of offerings. "The focus of this

year's 'Musical Extravaganza' was to nurture independent, innovative and creative expression in students through music, song and dance", says Agalya

AYAM BRAND'S NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN

Approximately 1,600 children, disabled and old folks from 30 charity homes are assured of nutritious meals for two months through Ayam Brand 2009 Community Care Charity Campaign.

Benefiting charity organisations across 9 regions, the campaign was launched in Perak, with Pusat Jagaan Anak-Anak Yatim Nurul Iman in Kg. Manjoi being chosen to kick-start the programme.

Representatives from Pusat Jagaan Anak-Anak Yatim Nurul Iman, Rumah Anak-Anak Yatim/Warga Miskin Budi Mulia Nurul Huda Chemor and Perak Salvation Army Children's Home were on hand to symbolically accept the products comprising of Ayam Brand tuna, sardines, baked beans and the high vitamin C fruit juice cordial "Frooots" – sufficient for nutritious daily meals for the homes over

YOUNG PERAK
by PETER KHIEW
Teachers and students from schools are invited to write about their respective institutions of learning.
E-mail articles to:
ipohecho.pk@gmail.com



(Fr right-left) Khairul Anuar Mohamad Razi of Pusat Jagaan Anak-Anak Yatim Burul Iman, Khoo Wooi Ling of Ayam Brand, Sulosana of The Salvation Army Children's Home and Shahrudin Bin Razali of Asrama Anak-Anak Yatim/Warga Miskin Budi Mulia Burul Huda

2 months.

Ayam Brand's Ms Khoo Wooi said the aim of the "Ayam Brand's 116,000 Healthy Breakfasts for Charity Nationwide Campaign" is to support the underprivileged in a

tangible and meaningful way. "By providing nutritious meals for the homes, we hope to inculcate nutritious and balanced eating habits among the young inmates in the long run", said Khoo. **PK**

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IPOH IN BRIEF

More pics at ipohecho on line

MCC BADMINTON TOURNAMENT



The Lim Garden and Kinta Valley branches of the Malaysian Ceylonese Congress (MCC) organised a badminton tournament for their members at the Rayan Cultural Hall, Ipoh on Sunday, June 21. Judging by the response, it was evident that much effort was put into the tournament both by the organisers and the players. The Men's Singles title was won by S.A. Raja while Mrs. Gokula Jothi took the Ladies's Single title. The Men's Doubles was won by Sudhan/Parween. Kohsalan and Gokula Jothi wrested the mixed doubles title. Chairman of the Lim Garden MCC branch thanked the organising committee and gave away the prizes. After the prize-giving ceremony a cake, dedicated to all the fathers present, was cut in conjunction with Father's Day. Everyone had a good time.

WORK CAMP



Over 200 members of the St. John Ambulance Malaysia, Manjung Division took part in a 3-day work camp at Ayer Tawar recently. Present at the closing ceremony were Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon, Perak State Executive Councillor, Perak State Commander, Dato' Hj Mohd Zainal Abidin bin Abdul Kadir and other regional and local commanders. Mah in his closing remarks said that the Manjung Division should endeavour to get more youths to join the organisation. One possible way, he said, was to have more activities which could attract a larger participation. St John Ambulance Malaysia has been helping the authorities in providing medical assistance during civil disasters and during festivities. Mah urged members to put to practice the skills that they had acquired as this would help in nation building. Members were tested on their ability in administering first aid, especially CPR and treating the injured before sending them to the hospital. They were also tested on foot drill and on crisis management. Ngu Pei Ling of SMK Ayer Tawar took top honours and was adjudged the best performer.

RIGHT TO INFORMATION FORUM



A Right to Information forum organised by Amnesty International Ipoh was held to generate public support for the 'Right to Information Law'. Two speakers, Yogenra Nadarajan from Amnesty International Malaysia and Steven Doraisamy, Programme Director, Centre for Independent Journalism, spoke on the public's right to request and receive information from the government as the most effective tool in the fight against corruption.

The current legislation which includes the Official Secrets Act, Internal Security Act, Printing and Publications Act, Penal Code and Multi Media Act, prevent the public from getting information. It is the responsibility of the public to get together and request the government to repeal the suppressive laws.

Right to information is a long established principle and a cornerstone of international law which has been endorsed by the United Nations.

MERDEKA POETRY DECLAMATION



The Department of Arts and Culture Perak in collaboration with Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Northern Region successfully organised Sayembara Deklamasi Puisi Merdeka (Merdeka Poetry Declamation Contest) on Saturday, June 20 at Taman Budaya Ipoh. Contestants were divided into three categories. The school category was won by Goh Seow Yun with Lai Foong Yean was the runner-up. In the open category the winner was Azmi Ismail while the runners-up were Mohd Suhaimi Zubir and Puspita Mohd Ridzuan. The winner of the Syair category went to Haizul Yit with Shahnoor Zahurin and Nurfarahin Mahadi taking second and third spot respectively. The head of Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Northern Region, Incik Abdul Nasir Razali and Puan Mazidah Abdul Rahman, deputy director Department of Arts and Culture Perak, gave away the prizes.

CHARITY HAIR CUT



The Salvation Army of Ipoh was blessed with a visit from 12 Japanese nationals who came and spent time with the children. In addition to giving the children a fun time and presents, Mr and Mrs Kawajiri who own a hair salon in Japan, also gave the children free haircuts. It is their second time in Malaysia, and together with the others who have come here, they want to contribute to this country in whatever way that will bring growth to this nation. "We appreciate Malaysia and while enjoying ourselves here, we want to share what we have with people who really need it", said Mr Sugata, who started this charity movement three years ago. To find out more on the Salvation Army, visit their website at www.salvationarmy.org/malaysia.

PERAK THEATRE FESTIVAL



The Perak Theatre Festival organised by the Perak Department of Arts and Culture and the Ministry of Information, Communications and Culture was held at Taman Budaya, Ipoh between June 1 to 8. The primary objective of the week-long festival was to provide amateur theatre groups in Perak with a platform to showcase their talents. It was also aimed at choosing Perak's representatives to the upcoming Malaysia Theatre Festival. Both English and Malay plays were staged. It was divided into three categories - open, children and monologue. Pertubuhan Bangsawan Warisan Moraza's "Imbas" won the Open Category. Runners-up were the groups from Sultan Idris University and Petronas University of Technology. The monologue title went to Persatuan Keryawan Perak's "Nur Isandra".

CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION



Yayasan Sultan Idris Shah (YSIS) held a certificate presentation ceremony for 90 trainees who had successfully completed a 4-week training course in community-based rehabilitation skills. The month-long course conducted at the centre is tailor-made for caregivers from all over the country. YSIS has been conducting such a course for sometime and presently over 700 have received their basic training from the centre.

The certificate presentation ceremony on Friday, June 19, was officiated by Tan Sri Jeyaratnam, the Chairman of YSIS. Also present were Puan Jayalatchumy Cumaraswamy, the Director of the Department of OKU (Orang Kurang Upaya) Development, Ms Chong Phaik Kee, Director of the Perak Social Welfare Department and Dato' Dr Yahaya Ismail, Deputy Chairman of YSIS.

The ceremony coincided with the opening of the international workshop for caregivers, service providers and parents which was officially opened by Jayalatchumy. Jaya, in her opening address, alluded to the Disability Act 2008 passed by an act of Parliament on January 24, 2008, which gives equal rights to the disabled in society.

Jeyaratnam, Jayalatchumy and Chong Phiak Kee later took turns to present certificates to the beaming trainees.

WINNING FORMULA



Politeknik Ungku Omar, Ipoh was the toast of Perakians when it came top in the Perodua MyVi Eco-Challenge Race 2009 held at the Plus Speedway Circuit, USJ Rest Area, Subang Jaya on Saturday, June 20. The inaugural race, co-sponsored by Perodua and Petronas, was aimed at finding a team who could take a non-registered Perodua MyVi car the longest distance on just a litre of petrol. Participating teams were only allowed to do limited modifications to the car's engine and its fuel system and were given RM10,000 each as incentive. Twelve teams from local universities and one from a polytechnic college took part. The PUO driver drove his Perodua MyVi a distance of 28.8 km on the circuit beating his nearest rival by over 7 km. The college celebrated the occasion by throwing a dinner party on Tuesday, June 23. Mohd Zahir Abdul Khalid, the executive councillor for higher education, science and technology handed over the prizes, a trophy and a cheque for RM20,000, to the winning team.

RMIP SPORTS CLUB



Ryoden Malaysia Ipoh Sports Club (RMIPSC) organised a charity event at Rumah Anak Yatim dan Misikin Darul Hikmah, Sg. Itek, Gopeng, Perak.

Chan Wing Tai, on behalf of Ryoden (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd, presented a mock cheque valued at RM500.00. Chong Tai Cheen, on behalf of RMIPSC, contributed RM700.00 and together with individual contributions a total value of RM1,000.00 worth of provisions were donated to the children's home.

COMMUNITY NEWS

IPOH WORLD LAUNCHES PERAK HISTORY ARCHIVE IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

Ipohworld, an education-based organisation now integrated into the facilities of Tenby Schools Ipoh, today launched an internet-based history archive in conjunction with this year's Remembrance Day ceremony held to honour the thousands of servicemen and civilians killed during the Malaysian Emergency (1948-1960).

This occasion was chosen as several of the veterans from the days of the Emergency had donated photographs unavailable elsewhere, to the history archive.

To mark the occasion, Ipohworld also mounted a photographic exhibition at the Royal Ipoh Club, simply called "Snapshots of the Emergency" and featuring a number of original photographs donated by the veterans who regularly attend the annual ceremony.

Orang Kaya-Kaya Panglima Kinta Seri Amar di Raja Dato' Seri Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan, who is also the Chairman of Ipohworld, was present to launch the exhibition.

Ipohworld was established in 2004 to promote awareness and appreciation of Perak, the Silver State of Malaysia and its unique, diverse and rich heritage, with particular focus on Ipoh and the Kinta Valley. In 2006 it ran the extraordinarily successful exhibition "The Story of Ipoh: From Feet to Flight", in cooperation with Darul

Ridzuan Museum. Since then, Ipohworld has been trying to get both the Public and Private sectors to support its objective to provide Ipoh with a permanent, lively and interesting heritage gallery with the aim to enhance education and tourism.

Consequently, underterred by the lack of financial support for a gallery, the project has continued to gather a broad variety of local items and information from worldwide sources. As the collection grew, disciplined recording, preservation and control became essential. Thus, an information archive in the form of a unique digital image database, supported by original research, and available information from acknowledged and credible sources, was born.

To date Ipohworld has documented well over 3000 items in the archive covering a wide range of subjects across the broad spectrum of heritage and social history, based on photographs, documents, interviews, artefacts, books and videos. More items will be added regularly. Through this database it is hoped to assist individuals and groups, particularly students, with their research, while at the same time promoting the Kinta Valley, once vaunted the richest tin mining area in the world.

In line with present communication trends, Ipohworld, under the



(L-R) Colonel Jacques Lemay, British Defence Adviser, Commander RN(Rtd) Ian Anderson, Dato' Seri Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan and Colonel Stephen Tulley, Australian Defence Adviser.

guidance of its Project Manager, Commander RN(Rtd) Ian Anderson, has created a weblog to publish stories, personal experiences and to highlight heritage issues as they occur around our valley. Through the weblog, they hope to facilitate discussion between their readers and encourage those with an interest in Perak to share their stories and pictures with others. They also welcome visitors to post original contributions on any aspect of heritage or social history relevant to our area to enrich the content of the blog.

In 2006, the Ipohworld project was integrated into the facilities of Tenby Schools Ipoh, which aligned neatly with the schools' ongoing commitment to encourage interest in heritage and social history among their students while maintaining the project's objective to promote Kinta Valley's

heritage. Since then, all the items displayed in its maiden exhibition "From Feet to Flight" as well as new additions, have found their "home" at Tenby Schools Ipoh, whilst continuing to wait for a permanent home.

Over the last 5 years Ipohworld has been well supported with donated material from home and overseas, but if they are to build a truly comprehensive archive they need more help. If anyone has any old photographs, documents, artefacts or stories from Ipoh or the Kinta Valley area they would be delighted to hear from them.

Contact may be made via info@ipohworld.org in the first instance so that

appropriate arrangements may be made. Anything borrowed will be returned promptly as existing contributors will confirm. Ipohworld's impressive history archives, including

the most recent collection of photo exhibition "Snapshots of the Emergency", are available for public viewing via <http://www.ipohworld.org>.

WR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Understanding Holistic Healing for Cancer. A free talk by Dr Chris K.H. Teo, on Saturday, July 4 commencing at 2.30 p.m. at Our Mother of Perpetual Help Church hall Ipoh Garden. All are welcome, especially cancer patients and caregivers. Enquiries: Julie Papu (019-5769166) or Adele Poi (05-5478801).

Book sale@library by Perpustakaan Awam Perak every first Saturday of the month. The aim to encourage reading habit among Perakians. Launching: Saturday, July 4 at Perpustakaan Awam Perak, Jalan Raja DiHilir, Ipoh beginning 9 a.m. Admission: Free.

Update: ACS Old Boys Class of '79 reunion dinner Saturday July 4 2009. The venue has been changed to Holiday Villa, Subang, Selangor. Contact Moses (0125018126) for details.

Perak Society of Performing Arts (PSPA) will showcase a series of short plays by young Ipoh talents on July 4 and 5 at City Ballet Blackbox, 40B, Persiaran Greentown 1, Greentown. Showtime is 8pm. Limited seats. Entry by donation. Contact PSPA (Sara) at 05-548 7814 for details.

Lions Clubs of Ipoh and Kinta Valley will be holding their joint installation ceremony on 5 July 2009 at 730pm - 10pm at the Grand Ballroom, Syuen Hotel. Guest of Honor: HRH Raja Jaafar, Raja DiHilir Perak Darul Ridzuan. Attire: Strictly formal. Contact Anthony Ng (0125073366) for details.

2 day Laughter Yoga Camp. Date 11/12 July at Nomad's Earth Camp, Kampong Chulek, Gopeng. Become certified laughter Yoga leaders. For details contact Nisha at tel: 0379585152 or nisha@nomadadventure.com

7th Chinese Chess Tournament by Ipoh YMCA at the YMCA main hall on Sunday, July 12. Entry fee: Non-member: RM10, Member: RM8. Trophies for winners in Under-12, Under-15, Under-18 and Veteran categories. Certificates for all participants. For details call 05-2540809/2539464 or Joshua Tan at 016-5127635.

"Tenby Kindergarten Open Day 18 July, 9am to 2pm at 47 Jln Tun Dr. Ismail, Ipoh. Come along with your pre-school children for fun, games and activities including pony rides. Tel: 05 253 8530 for enquiries"

MEANDERING WITH MINDY

HIDDEN GEMS OF IPOH GARDEN SOUTH



'All 25' Shop

The 'All 25' Shop

The 'All 25' Shop at: 50 Tingkat Taman Ipoh 12, is a clothing shop that prices everything for RM25 and below. Just opened a month ago, this shop is the first in Ipoh to have such a concept, and this new addition to Ipoh Garden South has apparel for men, women, teens and children. With friendly staff and fashionable bags, blouses, dresses, shirts, shoes and caps, the 'All 25' is the place to go if you're looking for something 'in' and affordable. New stock arrives at the end of every month.

The Craft Workshop

Situated facing the main road, the Craft Workshop is a beautiful little shop that not only stocks all the materials needed for craft, it is a place where people can learn crafting. The Craft Workshop offers classes on eraser making, candle making, fabric painting, quilting, and even wine glass etching. Workshops are small, designed for both children and adults, and definitely something to go for if you have time on your hands. For more information on the workshops offered call 05-5484686 or visit their website at www.thecraftworkshop.com.my, or simply walk in and have a look at their creations at: 35 Jln Sultan Azlan Shah Utara, Ipoh Garden South.

workshop.com.my, or simply walk in and have a look at their creations at: 35 Jln Sultan Azlan Shah Utara, Ipoh Garden South.

D'Vine Café

This is THE place to go if you want really good oven baked pizzas. With a peaceful ambience, and at a reasonable price, the D'Vine Café offers a variety of yummy 10-inch pizzas such as the Mexicano Pizza, the Margheritta Pizza and their very own D'Vine Pizza. For those who are not really into pizza, there is pasta and a selection of Western dishes in addition to their daily set lunches and set dinners. To reserve a table, call **05-5488446**.

The café is at: 3 Tingkat Taman Ipoh 7, Ipoh Garden South.

Online – Simply Blatant

And finally, for those of you who really like to shop but just do not have the time to go around town, check out www.simplyblatant.com. Set up by Ipoh boy Colin Pal, Simply Blatant is a site where you can get meaningful statement t-shirts. Blatant creations are original, funny, creative, and well, as the name says it, blatant. Simply Blatant also offers customised t-shirt design and printing, and print media design and printing. Visit the site, get a t-shirt and make a blatant statement.



Craft Workshop

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP



Yayasan Sultan Idris Shah (YSIS), the state's premier foundation for the care of people with physical disabilities, is conducting an international workshop for caregivers, service providers and parents. The 9-day workshop, beginning on June 19 till July 4, is jointly organised by the foundation and the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities. The subjects cover varied topics pertaining to physical disabilities and are deliberated by internationally renowned lecturers from Canada and England who specialise in disability management. It is still not too late to participate in the workshop. Here is the programme for July 1 to 4:

- a. July 1 - 9 am to 5 pm – Supporting Families.
- b. July 2 - 9 am to 5 pm – Summary and Building

on Staff's Capabilities and Skills.

c. July 3 - 8.30 am to 5 pm – Disabling Factors Before Birth and Development During the First Year of Life.

d. July 4 - 8.30 am to 5 pm – The Central Nervous System, Abnormalities, Injury and Epilepsy.

The workshop is ideally suited for managers of disability service centres, caregivers, parents and those who deal with the disabled. As there is a tendency for disabled Malaysians to be marginalised and stigmatised in our society, there is a need to address this anomaly. The workshop is a right step forward.

Please call Yayasan Sultan Idris Shah at **05-5481905, 05-5486750** and 05-5484115 for details. Or make your way to the centre which is located at Lot 158413, Lorong Bercham 11, Bercham, 31400 IPOH.

FZB

BOOK REVIEW

DRAWINGS

BY KHOR SEOW HOOI

No hint of sultriness in the book, but the drawing of Concubine Lane, Old Town, Ipoh (2007), makes front cover of this hardcover edition, Drawings by Khor Seow Hooi. The edition is an impressive collection of watercolour prints that art lovers and novices alike will appreciate. The drawings are mostly of places and buildings that the artist has visited and been inspired by, during his extensive travels locally and abroad. According to Khor, familiar places always surprise him and he just has to paint them.

Artist's Background

The book by Media Masters Publishing Sdn Bhd, Ipoh, is sponsored by Kinta Properties, a major property developer in Perak. The painter, Khor Seow Hooi, was born in Penang. He later studied in Singapore at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. He furthered his study in arts at the Oriental Institute of Technology, Taiwan for textile printing, and then trained at the Bayer Lab in Hong Kong and Germany. He has held several solo exhibitions notably in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore and

has participated in many more exhibitions since. His works are well received by both the corporate sectors and private collectors at large, both in Malaysia and abroad. In Ipoh, you will find his works at the Standard Chartered Bank.

Fans and Collectors

The book begins with messages from a number of movers and shakers of the art industry.

The artist's patron, Dato' Lim Keng Kay, Director of Kinta Properties Holdings Sdn Bhd, viewed Khor as a chronicler, in his ability to record places of interest that are slowly vanishing from Perak state. Khor's simplicity in choosing everyday scenes from ordinary life has made Dato' KK a fan and collector of Khor's paintings.

Another citation worthy of mention is by Mr Ong Kim Seng, the Editor of SE Asia International Artist Magazine and President of Singapore Watercolour Society. He said that a photograph may convey a thousand words, but an original painting conveys much more. A painting is the distinctive expression of an artist – a

window into his inner self.

Unique Style

The overall comments garnered are that Khor is an artist capable of creating his own niche in the watercolour genre. He is commended for his unique style and originality. As a matter of fact, the prints do illuminate the natural ambience of the places or buildings painted, effortlessly. His paintings are intricate yet simple to comprehend. So much detail is presented in each of his paintings, and one can appreciate the dedication and passion that went into each.

The artist's artwork dates back to 1966, as a student at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Art, Singapore. The charcoal drawings shown are his formative expression of his fruitful art career that lay ahead. He mentioned that for two years, he worked daily on these early expressions, an effort he considers a very important part of an artist's basic training.

Reflects Chinese Heritage

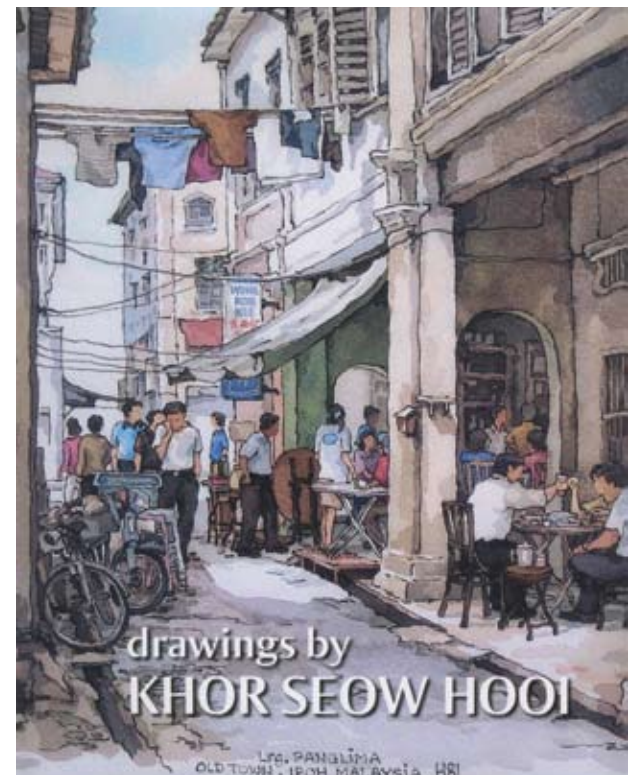
Readers are generously presented with a selection of Khor's art.

They include paintings of Penang in (1982), Chinatown Singapore (1987), St Michael's Institution, Ipoh (2006), Concubine Lane, Ipoh, A' Famosa, Melaka (2006), Boat House, Amsterdam (2004), Temple of Heaven, Beijing, China (2005), Piccadilly Circus, London (2004), Cathedrale Notre Dame de Paris (2004) and a number of ink and pencil sketches done during his travels in Europe and China. The back cover is the print of a Char Kway Teow Stall in Lorong Selamat, Penang (2006).

Many of his paintings have a strong oriental touch that is a reflection of his Chinese heritage. Readers will note that many of his paintings depict the Chinatowns, and Chinese Temples in the Asian and Western region. All the prints in the book come with a brief commentary of the painting which provides the reader with a better description of the visuals.

Conclusion

Reviewing this book has been a privilege. It has dawned on me that Ipohites may be coming of age. Judging by the com-



ments by a number of private collectors of Khor's works, it shows that he is an established and recognised figure in the art world, especially by the well-heeled. In most cases, these paintings would have remained displayed 'quietly' in private dwellings but what impresses me is the idea of putting Khor's paintings into a book form, making it accessible to the ordinary people and so-

ciety at large. The effort encourages people from all walks of life to have a chance at appreciating fine works of art. This solo art exhibition condensed in a book form and titled, "Drawings" makes me feel like I am in an art gallery. It is certainly worth a read.

This 60-page hardcover book is priced at RM88.00 and is available at all major bookstores.

CHELVI MURUGIAH

COMMUNITY NEWS

IPOH POLICE CHIEF ASSURES RESIDENTS

Residents' representatives from Buntong and Lim Garden held a discussion with OCPD Ipoh, ACP Azisman Alias, on June 16. The meeting, organised by Buntong state assemblyman, Sivasubramaniam, was to highlight residents' concerns over the increasing number of criminal activities in their neighbourhoods.

According to Siva vandalism at the Sg. Pari flats in Buntong and houses in Taman Harmoni involved the cutting of lift

cables and fence grills, damaging of corridor lights and graffiti on walls. S. Namasu of Lim Garden told the city police chief that recent incidents of house break-ins and snatch thefts during office hours in Lim Garden had impacted many housewives. They feared for their own safety.

Criminal activities said Azisman occurred everyday and were mostly committed by drug addicts. He assured those present that the situation was under control. Namasu



responded by saying that the residents' perception of crime control by the Police was poor. The presence of police personnel in the neighbourhood, he said, would have a deterrent effect on criminals and suggested that members of the General Operation Force be roped in to make up the number.

Azisman, however, suggested that the residents activate the now dormant neighbourhood watch, Rukun Tetangga, in their housing estates. They could also enlist themselves as members of Rakan Cop. He encouraged them to call the Police hotline 05-2542222. "A police patrol car would in their area

within 10 minutes," he remarked..

The police chief requested Siva to reactivate Rukun Tetangga within his constituency. Ipoh Criminal Investigation Department Chief, DSP Glenn Anthony, concurred with his superior's exhortation that community policing, involving both the police

and the residents, was the way forward.

Others at the meeting were Narcotics Chief, DSP Teoh Chin Peh, OCS Buntong Police Station, Sub-Inspector Zulkifli, Bercham state assemblyman, Sum Cheok Leng and Menglembu state assemblyman, Lim Pek Har. JAG



A SOCIETY TO EMPOWER MALAYS

by FATHOL ZAMAN BUKHARI

Since the setbacks suffered by Barisan Nasional, in particular Umno, at the March 8, 2008, General Elections, there is a growing concern among Malay communities nationwide that their once dominant influence as a race is becoming eroded. In the wake of the unexpected reversals suffered by the political party, the immediate fear is that Malay rights and privileges are being infringed as the country's political frameworks adapt to changing circumstances and pressures.

Against this backdrop, a group of concerned Malay stalwarts headed by Dato Sri Dr Hj Mohd Hilmi Hj Ismail, organised a forum at Universiti Petronas, Tronoh on August 9, 2008, to find ways to address

the problem. Although only about 200 out of an anticipated 1000 turned up, Hilmi and his committee were not discouraged. They proceeded to act on the major resolution adopted at the gathering – the formation of a non-political society to regroup the "fractious" Malay community, especially in Perak, under a single banner. Thus Gagasan Melayu Perak was formed. After many anxious moments leading to its formation, the Registrar of Society's seal of approval was finally obtained on March 17, 2009.

Hilmi helmed the society's inaugural general meeting on Saturday, June 20 at the Heritage Hotel, Ipoh. Attendance was overwhelming. Over a



thousand participants filled the hotel's ballroom where the meeting was held. Former Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir, was the guest of honour. Although Mahathir did not appear till almost noon, he was the *raison d'être* for the huge turnout, a far cry from the tiny Tronoh crowd of 2008. The organisers had

picked the right person to create an impact.

Gagasan Melayu Perak is open to all Malays, especially those domiciled in Perak, regardless of their ideological and political leanings so long as they remain true to the society's cause – the preservation of Malay rights and privileges.

In his keynote address to members of the newly formed society, Mahathir alluded to history to trace the steady erosion of Malay rights and privileges. The feudalistic Malays, he theorised, had always trusted their rulers to do the right thing and that included selling off their lands and dignity to the British. A case in point was the ceding of Penang Island to the British East India Company by the Sultan of Kedah in exchange for protection against the marauding Siamese. Others gave away their rights for an annual allowance and a false sense of security afforded by the British colonial masters whose only interest was focused on the riches of the land rather than the

well-being of the people. "It's simply allowing others to man our business. Had the Malayan Union of 1948 gotten through that would have been the end of Malay sovereignty", he remarked.

However, forming societies to address ethnic problems with membership confined to only one single race warned Mahathir would be counter-productive. "In a modern multi-racial society like Malaysia, such an association is an anathema. The Chinese and Indians may form their own societies too", he said.

Now that they have been entrusted to lead the way, Hilmi and his unanimously elected committee should take heed of this advice coming from a former Umno President and Prime Minister.

HARRY AND THE BOYS TAKE IT EASY IN IPOH



Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew was in Ipoh on Friday 12 June as part of his week long visit to Malaysia. His day began with a morning meeting of over an hour with Sultan Azlan Shah at Istana Kinta. The Singapore delegation then adjourned for lunch but separately.

Menteri Besar Zambri took Singapore High Commissioner T Jasudasan, Parliamentary Secretary for Education Masagos

Zulkifli and two other ministers for a 'nasi kandar diplomacy' lunch at popular Yong Suan / Vangey coffee shop in town.

For MM Lee, his was a private lunch at the multiple hospitality award outlet, 'Ipoh's very own' Indulgence Restaurant. It was reported that Lee did indulge in the signature desert Tiramisu.

After lunch Lee and his delegation met with Zambri and his state ex-

ecutive council. The topics discussed ranged from Singapore's interest in our agriculture products of ducks and vegetables to seeking Singapore's assistance in the preservation of heritage buildings. However, Zambri highlighted that the connectivity between the two destinations needs to be improved initially.

The delegation left for Penang the same evening. Compared to the hectic schedule of his first four days in Malaysia, the visit to Ipoh could be termed as a breeze. His subsequent comment revealed by Chief Minister of Penang Lim Guan Eng and as reported in the Star newspaper that MM Lee feels that Penang's infrastructure is inferior compared to Ipoh and Seremban is a compliment Ipohites can be proud of. JAG

A SOCIETY FOR RETIREES



Having retired from active service does not mean that a person is no longer useful to society. Because of their vast experiences retirees and pensioners can still provide meaningful service to the country.

With this in mind, Incik Razdzi Tarmizi bin Azmin 60, a pensioner and a former hospital assistant, formed the Pertubuhan Rakan Bersara Ipoh, Perak. The formation of the society was approved by the Registrar of Society on

March 24, 2009. The society held its inaugural general meeting on Sunday, June 21 at its office in Rapat Setia, Ipoh.

The primary objective of Rakan Bersara Ipoh is to instill in members a feeling of usefulness after retirement. "Many shun away from mainstream activities preferring to remain aloof for reasons best known to themselves. We need to change this mindset," said Razdzi to Ipoh Echo.

So far over 50 have registered as members. More are expected to join in

the months ahead. Razdzi is elected chairman and will oversee a number of sub-committees which include sports, welfare, arts, commerce, religion etc.

The inaugural meeting was officiated by Incik Khairuddin Abdullah 80, a former teacher, who is also the society's advisor.

Those interested in joining can contact Razdzi at 016-5659661 or drop by the society's office at No 17A, Jalan Raja Musa Mahadi, Rapat Setia.

ROSALI MANSOR