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Homegrown Yee Hup Poised on Brink of International Stardom

by See Foon Chan-Koppen



Michelle Yee looks like a teenager and speaks in soft dulcet tones, but this petite dynamo is taking Yee Hup, a family biscuit making business, to world markets that her parents who started the gruelling business in the '80s, never envisioned. From a small house in Gunung Rapat, Michelle's parents, Yee Ah Lek and his wife Wong Chin Haw, toiled at this small business, waking in the wee hours of the morning to prepare the dough, sesame seeds, fry the onions, stir the malt, mold the biscuits by hand and place them piece by laborious piece, in the custom-made clay oven, having been prepared earlier by burning coconut husks left simmering as charcoal. They would then wait till close to midday when the biscuits were ready and the task of hawking them would begin. Today this Perak home-grown brand is poised on the brink of international stardom.

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Automation is Bringing a Taste of Perak to the World

In 1999, Michelle Yee returned home from the UK armed with a degree in Bakery from Cambridge Regional College, determined to help take over the load of the operations of the business from her parents who were adamant in sticking to their old ways of production.

However, by this time, the demand for their "Hiong Piah" was putting a strain on manual production methods and Michelle could hardly wait to switch over to mechanization because she could not bear to see her aged father sweating profusely over the heated oven. The final straw came when an Italian salesman who came to sell her machinery, made the remark that her father looked 'as if he was working in hell' and this hurt her so much that she immediately switched to automation without hesitation.

Automated Production

This happened in stages, first with semi automation and her father, on seeing the volume of production that far exceeded manpower, finally relented, paving the way for the automation that exists today and the volume that is being produced annually which currently stands at a capacity of about 1.5 million pieces a month.

"Well, actually this is a matter of demand versus supply. Our existing production lines were not built in a day. We expand our capacity from time to time, especially when market demands more than what we can supply. Of course, these must work in parallel with proper marketing activities and strategy. Anyway, the growth of our overseas market is encouraging, therefore, we have to keep expanding to maintain or supply the growth markets" said Ron Tan, Michelle's husband who oversees international markets and together with Michelle, her brother Daniel, her sister-in-law and her sister Jessh, all work harmoniously together to run the entire operation. Her parents also continue to work in the business, preferring work activity to sitting idle.

Expanding Retail Network

In early years of 2000, with the move to mechanization proceeding smoothly, Michelle began to expand her retail network in Ipoh city. She bought two shophouses at Jalan Sri Ampang as their headquarters and subsequently set up a branch at Jalan Sultan Iskandar followed by another branch in Jalan Imbi in Kuala Lumpur. She also began distributing her products to souvenir shops and R&R areas along the North-South Expressway to facilitate purchases by consumers and develop awareness of the Yee Hup brand.

She began to diversify the product range; producing traditional Chinese wedding cakes, seasonal festival goodies such as Mooncakes, Christmas goodies, Chinese New Year cookies and hampers. Today they produce about 30 products and ongoing research and development (R&D) from a dedicated R&D department will see the numbers of products increasing significantly.

With her leadership and the support of the family behind her, business grew exponentially and a third branch was opened in Ipoh in front of the Sam Poh Tong cave temple at the southern exit of the city, sitting on land which she purchased and where she has now begun plans to build a modern 5-storey retail outlet (with a roof garden) featuring Perak's homegrown products.

New Factory Milestone

2007 marked a new milestone for Yee Hup when the production shifted into its new factory, a 31,500 square feet facility in the vicinity of the old house where Michelle's father used to sweat over the hot ovens. To preserve their heritage and to cater to customers who prefer to buy the original "Hiong Piah", production still continues at the old house using the traditional lard for the biscuits and coconut husks for charcoal. This manual



The traditional way



Jessh and Michelle



production with a maximum output of about 3000 pieces per day is now being outstripped by its sister factory whose capacity is about 28,000 pieces per 8-hour day.

ISO, HACCP, HALAL by JAKIM

2007 was significant too for Yee Hup when they were awarded the ISO22000 and HACCP (Hazard Analysis And Critical Control Point). Other recognition and certification which they have obtained are HALAL by JAKIM Malaysia; ISO 22000:2005 (Food Safety Management System) and ISO 9001:2008 (Quality Management System) by UKAS in UK (audited by BM Trada), further open doors to the international market. The recent recognition in 2011 of their HACCP by DAC (Dubai Accreditation Centre) in 2011 will see them opening the export markets to Middle East Countries like, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Qatar, Oman and Yemen.

Biggest Producer and Exporter

As of today they export to Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Brunei, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, Australia, New Zealand, UK, USA, Canada, Dubai, Qatar, France and Germany. With their production capacity for the factory being what it is now, Yee Hup can lay claim to being the biggest producer and exporter of biscuits from Malaysia to the world.

As an SME in Perak, Michelle and her team work closely with the Perak Government. In February 2012, with the Perak state government bearing 50% of the exhibition participation charges, Yee Hup represented Perak in the GULFOOD 2012 in Dubai.

When asked what makes her proud in all that she has accomplished, Michelle said, "What we really feel proud of is that we have managed to fully automate this homemade local product's process and did it so it conforms to the highest standard of ISO and being able to bring this local food to numbers of overseas countries. Furthermore, our efforts have been recognised and awarded with numbers of awards."

Awards Galore

Too numerous to list them all, Michelle herself has been recognised in 2008 with three prestigious awards, the 'Golden Bull Award'; the 'SME Recognition-Innovative Excellence Award'; the 'SME Recognition-Women Entrepreneur Award'. In 2009, she was awarded the 'MCA Perak Women Entrepreneur Award' and a further 'Excellence in Achievement of World Chinese Youth Entrepreneurs'.

Not one to rest on her laurels, this mother of three with a fourth soon on the way, Michelle has set her sights on further expansion and improved quality. Soon Gunung Rapat Hiong Piah is poised for international stardom, bringing a taste of Perak to the world, thanks to the entrepreneurship of one dynamic woman.

Today, automation leads the way



Ron Tan and Michelle in the factory



IPOH **echo**

From the Editor's Desk

● by Fathol Zaman Bukhari

Perak ARTS FESTIVAL

Odzman's "event to end all events" found solid footing when his proposal paper was accepted, with minimal changes, by Dato' Hamidah Osman, Executive Councillor for Tourism...

The desire to see a change in the public's perception of Visit Perak Year 2012 (VPY 2012) prompted a couple of concerned individuals in the tourism industry to do something drastic. They initiated plans to overhaul the ongoing programmes by putting in place an activity which will be regarded as the culmination of the year-long festivities.

Taking the lead in the initiative is Haji Odzman Abdul Kadir, President of Perak Tourism Association better known by its abbreviation PTA. The association, for some inexplicable reasons, has been constantly referred to as Parent-Teacher Association that dabbles in tourism. It may sound funny but that is the sad fact.

The Perak Tourism Association has been in existence for a very long time but its significance has been under-estimated by many in the tourism industry. The enormity of its responsibilities outstrips that of state-level affiliates such as the Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents (MATTA) and the Malaysian Association of Hoteliers (MAH).

Its primary role is to act as a conduit between the state government and tourism industry players. Frankly, PTA exists for a reason. It has positioned itself as a convenient facilitator to convert policies into actions and vice versa. Being a go-between, its role in the whole scheme of things is enormous. But due to an infantile tourism industry and an equally inept tourist department, PTA has not been able to exert itself.

This could be the reason why some take a dim view of the association, equating it to a parent-teacher body more prone to hiccups than astuteness. Those who consider the association as nothing more than a necessary irritant now do so at their own peril.

Odzman's "event to end all events" found solid footing when his proposal paper was accepted, with minimal changes, by Dato' Hamidah Osman, Executive Councillor for Tourism. His request for RM250,000, a very conservative estimate for the three-day festival, was duly approved by Hamidah. The money will come from the RM500,000



allocation by the Tourism Ministry to the state for VPY 2012.

"Making it an event to end all events is a tall order," said Odzman. Undeterred by negative comments, the former teacher is determined to prove his critics wrong. "I've the right people on my side," he enthused. Obviously, he was referring to Syahrudin Hamid, the Director of the Ministry of Tourism (Perak) and Mohd Taib, President of Perak Heritage Society. Newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of Tourism Perak Management Berhad, Haji Musa Dun has been won over. The quartet has identified their targets and, in the weeks ahead, will go about making their dreams a reality.

Perak Arts Festival is slated for September 14 till 16. It will coincide with Malaysia Day, which falls on September 16. The objective of the celebration is to showcase the rich heritage of the four races namely, Malay, Chinese, Indian and Orang Asli. "We've lost plenty due to progress. Reviving these dying arts will be central to the festival," said Syahrudin.

The event will be held at Dataran MBI (MBI Square) and will be in the form of an exhibition held within four tented pavilions. The pavilions will exhibit the art forms indigenous to the four races.

A variety of programmes are on the cards to keep visitors of all ages occupied. They include traditional games, extreme games and street games. Clinics to teach those keen on learning the dying arts will be held. "We've something for everyone," said Mohd Taib.

Publicity, long the bane of VPY 2012, will be adequately addressed. "We'll use all available avenues to promote the event nation-wide," said Odzman. "And that includes the huge LED screens in town."

Visit Perak Year 2012 looks set to finish on a cheery note, contrary to what many have predicted.

EYE HEALTH Keeping Safe from Harm at Home

Ipoh Echo's EYE HEALTH series continues with Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr S.S. GILL talking to us about PREVENTING EYE INJURIES.

Eye injuries that range from minor eye injuries to serious ones, are seen daily at Accident & Emergency centres of hospitals throughout the world. Most of these eye injuries are PREVENTABLE IF the proper SAFETY TECHNIQUES & PROTECTION are used. Be knowledgeable about things in your house that can potentially damage your eyes and take heed of warnings, says Dr Gill. It is not only chemicals (covered in the last issue of Ipoh Echo) that can cause eye injuries at home, but also non-chemical hazards like these.



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

Common Eye Injury Risks at Home:

- **HAMMERING or drilling screws or nails into walls or bricks**
 - May result in the screws or nails getting chipped-off and spinning in a projectile way into the eye. Even a simple chore like installing a lamp onto the ceiling can result in eye injuries should the loose ceiling debris get into your eyes.
- **KEEP YOUR D.I.Y. TOOLS IN GOOD CONDITION**
 - Because damaged tools can easily break or get chipped-off causing injury to the eyes, replace or repair all old power tools.
- **KEEP ALL TOOLS AWAY FROM CHILDREN**
 - Children have inadvertently injured their eyes when playing with such tools. I have seen a child injured in the eye by a wood-stapler that was accidentally shot into the eye causing serious eye injury.
- **GRASS CUTTING**
 - Keep everyone away from the vicinity of running grass-cutters or lawn mowers. Many people have been blinded by flying debris struck by spinning blades of the lawn mower.
 - Pick up all stones, toys and debris from the lawn to prevent injuries from flying objects before you mow the lawn.
- **PRUNING PLANTS & TREES**
 - Sharp twigs often go unnoticed and have pierced the eyes of those who have been doing pruning without goggles.
- **LOOSE CARPETS & SHARP FURNITURE EDGES**
 - Loose carpets could cause the elderly and the very young to slip and fall. Worse still is if they fall and strike their eyes on the edge of a piece of furniture lying in front of them. Be sure to cushion or pad all sharp corners and edges of furniture if you have children or the elderly in your house.
- **MPV (multipurpose vehicle) DOORS**
 - Be cautious when opening the door of an MPV as the door edge is quite often at the same level as the eye. There have been people who have had eye injuries as a result of the sharp door edge grazing their eye.
- **HIGH SHELVES AND CUPBOARDS**
 - Avoid jam-packing items onto a high shelf or cupboard. When taking things out of the cupboard, a heavy and sharp object can fall off only to cause serious eye injury.
- **SATAY STICKS AND CHILDREN**
 - Be cautious of seemingly harmless "satay sticks" as children have injured their eyes when the satay stick has ricocheted into the eye after the meat has been pulled off the stick.
- **CHILDREN & TOYS**
 - Be mindful of children when they play with darts, toy guns that shoot bullets and when they play with sparklers or fireworks. Also, remind children never to throw any objects around.
- **HIGH POWERED WATER JETS**
 - Do not allow children to play with high powered water jets used for cleaning and car-washing. These water jets can cause eye injuries.

For more information, contact Gill Eye Specialist Centre at **05-5455582**, email: gillyecentre@dr.com or visit www.fatimah.com.my.

IN THE NAME OF MY FATHER'S ESTATE

● by Peter Lee

Episode 7

With the consensus of all the beneficiaries on the appointment of Administrators and Guarantors, Dave said to every member of the Lee family in the meeting "Okay, the first thing we need to do is to gather the entire assets in the estate of Lee Sr. Since John, Michelle and Connie are appointed as Administrators of the estate, they have to help me list down all these assets in the estate for the application of Letter of Administration (L.A.)." Dave further explained "let's start off with the bank accounts. I presume some of the bank accounts either in sole or joint names like Fixed Deposits, Current and Savings accounts are frozen. Therefore, please list down the name of the bank, branch, bank account number and amount. Please also check whether there are any overseas bank accounts." Connie then asked Dave "How do you deal with those joint accounts that are frozen which I am entitled to half of the money?" Dave replied, "Once the Administrators receive all the money from this account, then they have to give half the money in this account to you but the other half that belongs to Lee Sr. will be distributed according to the Malaysian Distribution Act." Connie then said "I thought since I am the joint holder I will automatically receive all the money." "No, that's not the case," replied Dave and added, "By the way, I have to highlight to you all that the bank can freeze joint accounts even if there is a "joint survivorship clause". This is irrespective whether the signing of accounts is either one or both. So, please check again whether there are any of such accounts."



Then John said "Dave, what if all the money in all the joint accounts with the deceased is returned to the surviving joint account holder?" "Well, this can be arranged if all the beneficiaries consent to it in writing but this will not be in accordance with the Distribution Act and by doing so it's going to look like following the Distribution Act on a selective basis. But having said that, you would still have to give me details of all these joint accounts" replied Dave. Michelle then asked "How are we going to unlock the overseas bank accounts say maybe in Singapore, Australia and U.K.?" "I feel that in this case, when applying for L.A. in Malaysia, we would also have to apply for L.A. simultaneously in countries where the assets are affected and for this I would have to contact lawyers from these countries to deal with the application," replied Dave. "Now, I would like to move to the next item which is the investments in movable assets such as unit trusts or mutual funds and shares in local and foreign stock exchanges. I need to have the name of the unit trust or mutual fund companies and the amount that Lee Sr. had invested. This includes sole or joint names. I think all the required information can be ascertained from the statements received from these companies. When it comes to listed shares in our local stock market, all that is required will be the details of the CDS account. But as for shares held overseas, then it all depends on the L.A. application in that particular country. It is important to check whether there are any foreign shares held by Lee Sr. still in scrips. If there are, then these scrips must be handed back to the registrar of these companies so that they can be deposited into a trading account where the Administrator can claim from there later on."

To be continued...

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RAMESH KUMAR



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The House That Ken Built

An Ipohite, Kenneth Yeh, has done Malaysia proud. Last month, the husband and wife team of Kenneth and his Argentinian wife Carolina Marra, founders of their architectural firm 'Marra + Yeh', won an award from the Architectural Review (AR), a leading London publication and critic of global architecture.

Their winning entry was the 'Shelter @ Rainforest' project, a building deep in the forests of Sabah which provides accommodation for the manager of a forestry company, his family and their visitors.

Both Yeh and Marra, are based in Sydney but Yeh divides his time between Australia and Asia, including Malaysia, where he has various commissions. They travelled to London to receive the award, at a ceremony on June 26, which was attended by architects from all over the world.

Two-hundred entries for 2012 were judged by a distinguished international jury consisting of Brian Mackay-Lyons (Canada), Sofia Von Ellrichshausen (Chile) and Peter Salter (UK), and chaired by Catherine Slessor. Slessor who is also the editor of the AR said, "[Marra + Yeh]'s project clearly stood out and the jury found it both impressive and convincing."

Yeh told the Ipoh Echo that he never intended to be an architect. He had harboured designs to be a Naval Architect but his parents objected to that choice of study. "My parents said that there is 'no future in designing belly buttons'. Today, I take revenge on my parents by designing my buildings to look like boats or ships."

He studied at the University of Texas at Austin, and trained under the Architect, Peter Bohlin, but is disappointed that the School of Architecture which he attended is not recognised in Malaysia, despite being ranked #2 in the US.

His first job was the design of a Palm Oil refinery, for a company in Ipoh. Now, from his Australian base, he travels extensively around Asia. Every 2-3 months, finds himself in Ipoh, to visit his mother and for work: "I have a couple of houses in Meru Valley Golf Course."

The talented designer lives in an old converted biscuit factory, with a courtyard garden containing mature trees of avocado, magnolia and Australian hardwood. He described his home, as "a nice juxtaposition of old and new."

News about the award had taken both Yeh and Marra by surprise. "The house (for the project) we designed is a very humble dwelling. Of course there's also a satisfaction in being acknowledged for such work and for all the effort in the three years that it took to make it happen," said Yeh.

A delighted Marra said, "The AR has held architects to a pretty high standard for a long time, they had top notch judges and the competition is tough, so to be given an award is quite an honour."

When asked about the working relationship of a husband and wife team, Yeh said, "Two heads are better than one!" but declared, "Sometimes all we talk about is architecture. That can be both good and bad."

The hands-on approach during construction is part of Yeh's work philosophy. He also does research to understand what is unique about the place and the people involved in a particular project. "We then design a building that responds to the situation, it is not preconceived," he said.

For their Sabah project, they used a four-wheel drive to visit small villages in Sabah to learn and understand the traditional buildings of the Rungus and the Muruts, and see how they had evolved over time and how they are used within the traditions of the local communities.

The *Shelter @ Rainforest* project is made from timber to create a low-cost house which uses solar electricity, biogas and rainwater. A feature of the design is that indoor temperatures may peak at twenty-six degrees celsius at noon, which is around eight to ten degrees lower than the outdoor temperature.

Although he was nostalgic about Ipoh as a place, he confessed, "I am worried about it as an Architect". He was full of praise for another of Ipoh's famous architects: "B.M. Iversen is the only famous Architect from Ipoh. I admire his work as it has an evolution about it. It evolved over time to accommodate the extreme tropical climate and the growth the buildings had to accommodate."

"His buildings gave Ipoh a distinctive character, different from Penang and Malacca. There was a Tropical Modernism coupled with sophistication. He was ahead of his time and still is. His buildings are destroyed because the developers and owners of these buildings often do not know how to appreciate them. This is a tragedy."

Yeh said that Ipoh had an ownership problem created initially, by the excesses of the '80s and the '90s which helped create many uncompleted housing estates, especially in the outer suburbs.

"Secondly, rent seeking coupled with the unjustified conservative banking culture produced a small class of landlords and a rapidly growing class of renters. This does not

bode well for Ipoh as the bulk of the citizenry are not invested in Ipoh through property and are in fact getting forced out of the property ladder," he said.

"This is a recipe for inequality and at some point this inequality will produce social explosions. We are already seeing this in the very high density, low cost and not well thought of developments in KL."

He stressed the importance of preserving Ipoh's old heritage buildings and laments the loss of much of our roots and history through indiscriminate demolition. "The quick answer is good regulation, enforced properly. The long-term answer is reviving the economic health of Ipoh and educating the public on what good architecture is. If people are proud of their town or city they will not stand idly by and watch it being destroyed."

His advice for anyone pursuing a career in architecture was sobering: "It is not a career but a way of being. If you are not passionate about it, do not enter it as a default choice of hedging one's bet between the arts and the sciences."

Yeh said, "I would like to thank the staff and writers of Ipoh Echo for their work in fostering community through this paper. It is important work that rarely gets acknowledged."

Ipoh Echo would like to congratulate Kenneth and Carolina, and thank them for sharing their views on architecture.



Heritage UM-NUS Joint Architecture Study

The University of Malaya and National University of Singapore recently held a joint architecture study of Ipoh for 20 students, 10 from each university, who stayed in Ipoh for two weeks. Named the 'UM-NUS Joint Studio Programme 2012', this programme has been ongoing for several years with an earlier programme covering Taiping in 2010.

According to Mr Roland Sharpe Flores, Visiting Senior Fellow, School of Design Environment, NUS Department of Architecture, the programme allows students to be exposed to the methodologies of historical documentation and analyses of places and buildings. Additionally, it enables its students to engage with the town's residents as part of its cultural study segment.

Flores explained that Ipoh was selected as "it had

a significant stock of shop houses with its historic core fairly intact", and its development was historically significant referring to the Great Fire that destroyed many parts of old town.

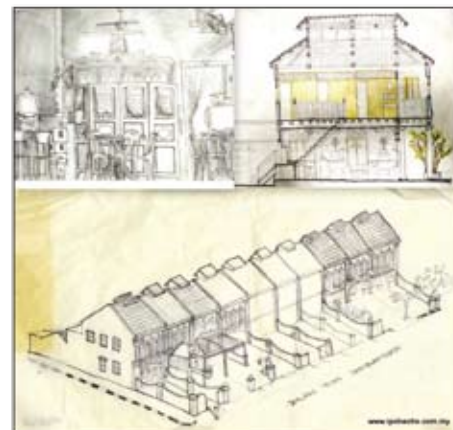
Unlike Old Town which was developed organically with some blocks having different sized shop lots, New Town that emerged after the fire, was a planned modern development that featured wider roads and alleyways to provide for fire breaks and services.

For the students, their two week stint here was an eye opener where they noted a variety of architectural styles. All of the students interviewed described their two week stint as "an enriching study experience".

A point noted by all the participants was that preserving one's heritage is always a good practice especially for the next generation. Flores gave advice saying that "whenever a new preservation was happening, to publicise it so that more restoration can occur".

The students, who were also taken on a tour of Kuala Kangsar (KK) by Perak Heritage Society VP Law Siak Hong, also found KK very interesting saying "there is so much to see".

Is there a 'niche market' for architectural tours here?



MUSINGS ON FOOD



By See Foon Chan-Koppen

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SeeFoon goes on the BREAKFAST TRAIL



I am not an avid breakfast person. Oh the idea of a hearty breakfast is very appealing indeed but to go traipsing around to far away places for a meal in the morning just takes up too much time. So when my friend Surine Ho who has recently joined the ranks of 'ladies-of-leisure' now that her son is taking care of the family piano business, called to say that I absolutely had to try these fabulous **fishballs in Falim**, I was hesitant... Falim?...for breakfast...there goes my whole morning...I thought to myself. But dangle a carrot (in this case fish balls) in front of me and I can never say no. So we compromised on brunch which still gave me a good two hours to get some work done. And off we went.

If you take Jalan Lahat and follow that road until you come to a fork in the road with traffic lights, with one leading off to Jalan Kledang Utara which leads to the Lumut highway, veer left staying on Jalan Lahat and you will come to an industrial area looking quite dilapidated. Look out for the signboard for Kia Motors followed by Malaysian Oxygen and turn right into Jalan Foo Wah Cheng. There on the left is a shack with fish balls worth travelling all the way for.

Tiniest Fish Balls

We were three of us and when Surine ordered 60 fish balls I was taken aback. She smiled as did the proprietor of the stall and reassured me that 20 fish balls per person was but a mouthful. When the steaming bowl arrived, I understood. The fish balls were the tiniest I have ever seen. All homemade from *Ikan Tenggiri* (Spanish Mackerel) they were springy without being too resistant and I could taste the freshness of the fish in every bite. RM1 for 6 pieces.

Other 'Yeong Liu' available here include stuffed white tofu, 'Tau Pok', and whatever else is on offer for the day, 'Fei Yuen' (made from pork, dried squid and fish) and **fried wonton** (RM0.50 per piece) and their fried options typical of 'Yeong Liu' (RM1 for 3 pieces). But it is the fishballs that are the star of the show. There is a choice of clear soup or the curried version which comes with a choice of noodles. RM1.50.

A delectable 'must have' is their **curried pig skin**, RM1.50 and up depending on portion. Worth of

mention is their homemade dipping chilli sauce, thick, with hints of curry powder, quite unlike the usual run-of-the-mill chilli sauce

served at other 'Yeong Liu' stalls. And not sweet which to my palate is a huge plus point.

From Falim to Ipoh Garden East

As is usual when a group of us gather to eat, the conversation inevitably drifts to the topic of food and where else is there good breakfast to be had. And we promptly made a date for the next morning to savour another stall in Ipoh Garden East.

It turns out that the stall is run by an old acquaintance of mine who used to own a boutique where I would shop and with the intense competition in ladies wear sprouting up around Ipoh, decided to

turn her culinary skills into a business. So it was a reunion of sorts when Surine and I together with Datin Stella Lim sat down in **Sun & Sun** (a corner coffee shop diagonally opposite Citrus restaurant and Tammy's Kitchen) and ordered some of Michelle's specials.

We began with the **mixed pig's offal congee**, a heaping bowl of creamy gruel, the rice grains almost disappearing into the broth and chock full with liver, intestines, minced pork chunks, kidney and topped with the usual green garniture. RM5.00.

I asked my usual question about MSG in the stock

and Michelle reassured me that she only uses a hint of it, to lift up the soup stock which she personally prepares with 7 ingredients. This proved to be true as an hour later, I was not having my usual reactions to this neurotoxin! And so I proceeded to tuck in with gusto, slurping up the various soups with impunity.

Michelle proceeded to explain that the basic soup stock is the same for all the noodles and congee but the different ingredients lend their unique flavours to each bowl. The **fried fish head soup** with thick rice noodles, tomatoes, *Ham Choi* or preserved Chinese cabbage and a hint of pickled limes. You can choose not to have the preserved cabbage if you wish. RM6.50

The **seafood soup** has prawns, fish paste, baby octopus, bitter melon slices, tofu and tomato. Absolutely scrumptious at RM5.50. Then came the 'piece de resistance' which is usually not one of my favourites: **pig's kidney** which in the wrong hands can smell and taste like a urinal. But under Michelle's culinary wizardry, the steaming bowl of soup that arrived was redolent of rice wine, and chock full of liver, intestines and very clean tasting kidney pieces cooked to perfection. RM5.00.

There are other combinations and it just takes a minute to discuss with Michelle what you'd like for the day. For some of her regulars who come daily, the options provide enough variety for it not to be boring.

Falim Fish Balls

Jalan Foo Wah Cheng
Open: 7.45am-2.00pm
All year round except for occasional long breaks.
Tel: 05 2821437 Mrs Leong.

Sun & Sun

3A Persiaran Bandar Bahrin
Tambun 16
Desa Tambun Indah
Michelle: 016 5013639
Open 7.00am-1.00pm
Closed Sundays.



HAWKER FOOD

By Wern Sze Gill

Fried Sambal Lou Shee Fun

Lou Shee Fun, literally translated from Chinese to mean rat noodle, is a short, tapered and translucent noodle that resembles a rat's tail, hence its name. Fried *lou shee fun* is particularly fun for kids with little or no chopsticks skills, as it is easily scooped up with a broad spoon.

Any hawker stall offering fried noodles in Malaysia would serve this variant of noodle, and it is usually fried with pork or chicken meat, prawn, and *choy sum* (Chinese vegetable) with the regular combination of soya, oyster and dark sauce. Some places fry it the 'char kway teow' way, using a mix of meat, fish cakes, egg, chives and beansprouts. The sambal variant involves adding a spoonful of homemade *sambal belacan* to the dish and tossing the noodles to coat them evenly before serving. You can also opt to have the sambal on the side to control the spiciness.

Places to try in Ipoh:

Kafe Sentosa Ria

Lebuh Taman Ipoh, Ipoh Garden South
Sufficient 'wok hei' and very flavourful.
Generous serving of *sambal belacan* on the side as well.
RM3.70; opens daily 7am - 2.30pm.

Fatt Kee Restaurant

Tingkat Taman Ipoh 6, Ipoh Garden South (behind Scotch Pub)
Tasty and generous serving of meat and ingredients with sufficient 'wok hei'.
RM4.30; opens daily 9am - 8pm.

Restoran Yee Lock

40 Jln Raja Musa Aziz (New Town)
Generous serving and tasty with enough 'wok hei'.
RM6.00; opens daily 4pm till late.



Restoran Impressive

Jalan Ali Pichay (New Town)
Very tasty. Fried with meat, egg, bean sprouts and chives.
RM4.30; opens daily 7am - 3.30pm

Restoran Sin Hoong Fatt

1 Lrg Cecil Rae, Canning Garden
Pork-free. Fried with chicken meat, egg, bean sprouts and chives.
RM4.60; 4-10pm daily, Monday closed.

Ramadan Buffet at Clearwater Sanctuary Golf Resort

Clearwater Sanctuary Golf Resort will be featuring authentic local food ... 'SELERA 1 MALAYSIA' at the Lake Side Terrace Coffee House this Ramadan. Their chefs, headed by Chef Raizal will be giving their best specialty *halal* food such as **Nasi Tomato**, **Nasi Minyak** and **Nasi Lemuni** amongst others, prepared from quality ingredients and ground spices from Perak.

There will also be a big selection of local *Ulam-ulaman* and *Kerabu* and a variety of *ikan masin* (salted fish). For the main course, guests may indulge in kampong food such as **Ayam Percik Batu Gajah**, **Rendang Tok**, **Ayam Masak Merah**, **Kurma Kambing**, **Ikan Masak Lemak Nenas** and others.

The buffet items are rotated daily from three different menus specially prepared for the month of Ramadan and is open from 7.00 to 10.00pm daily.

Prices for this Ramadan buffer dinner are **RM35⁺⁺ per adult** and **RM25⁺⁺ per child** below 12 years of age. **For every nine paying guests, the tenth eats for free.** Those who book early, between 9.00am - 1.00pm daily, will receive an **early bird discount of 5%**. Additionally, guests from the **government sector enjoy 10% off published rates.**

Besides dining on such sumptuous food at the resort's Lake Side Terrace Coffee House with an amazing lake view, guests are allowed for that evening, to make use of all sports and recreational facilities at no charge.

Clearwater is also offering a best price of only RM80 per person for 18 holes golf game on weekdays.

For Reservations: Call **05-3667433** or go online to: <http://www.cwsgolf.com.my/>



News Roundup



Milo Morning

The children at Taman Chepor Damai, Chemor Perak had the carnival of their life when the Milo Camp, Play More Carnival event came directly into their neighbourhood playground. The games provided included the team games of futsal, netball and sepak takraw as well as telematch where all the residents and whole families could participate.

There was no cost involved to play the games. Participants were required to register for the event and

were given a games recording slip that would be stamped every time the game was played. When done the player returned the slip to the organizer and exchanged it for a gift.

The event that morning was officiated by Manjoi State Assemblyman YB Dato' Hj Nadzri bin Hj Samat. According to Deputy Chairman of Rukun Tetangga Taman Chepor Damai Mohd Nasri Bostamai, there are 300 houses in the housing estate. On that morning, over 320 children had registered for the events.

The MILO PLAY MORE, LEARN MORE campaign is a Nestle MILO sponsored event aimed at engaging its outreach to students and families nationwide and developing strong partnerships with local communities.

Nestle Products Event Manager Hj Mohd Hanif Haron explained that the campaign was focused mainly towards the rural areas and the location must have a minimum of 20 teams or 300 participants for the games provided.

For young futsal players, Mior Asyraf, 12, and Mohd Faris Azlan, 11, they gave the event a '2 thumbs up' and wished that "the event could be held every weekend". From the looks of glee on the faces of all who participated, the event was a joyous success.

JAG

Ave Maria Teachers Feted



Teachers of SMJK and SMJKC Ave Maria Convent were treated to dinner at the New She Lai Ton Restaurant, Ipoh recently. The night-out at the city's well known Chinese restaurant was hosted by the school's Parent-Teacher Association in recognition for their exemplary services.

Certificates of merit and gifts were presented to teachers who have served in Ave Maria Convent for over 10 years. One teacher has been with the school for over 25 years.

Plaques were given to Lee Yam Sei and Irene Chan for their contributions to society. Earlier in the year, the pair received the Mutiara Perak Award 2012 for "Women of Inspiration for Education and Child Development" and "Women of Inspiration for Development Industry", respectively.

Eva Tan, Ceylyn Teh and Chanelle Woo, a family of three generations who studied at the convent, belted out a song for the appreciative audience. Teachers, parents and students paired up to put on an eco-friendly fashion show designed by Sonny Foo. Their outfits were made out of recycled materials such as garbage bags, paper and so on. Dancers from MY Studio performed some captivating ballroom numbers to enthrall the 500-odd crowd. Gigs by impersonators were a big hit with the audience.

Chairman of Ave Maria Convent's Board of Governors, Teoh Beng Suang expressed his sincere thanks for the dedication shown by the long-serving teachers of Ave Maria Convent.

Tiffany

lambuk, sup gear box, rendang tok, gulai tempoyak and asam pedas ikan pari and more.

Desserts are aplenty – *cendol, pengat pisang, bubur kacang merah, bubur gandum*, French pastries, *kuih Melayu*, to name a few. Ice cream is on the menu too.

Priced at **RM53 nett (adult)** and **RM35 nett (children)** on the 1st Floor and RM63 nett and RM40 nett at the coffee house and poolside, available from July 21 to August 18 between 7 pm to 10.30 pm daily.

For reservations, call **05-255 5555 Ext 8009/8024**. Email: fbdihi@impiana.com.

RM

Impiana's Not-to-be-missed Buka Puasa Buffet

Impiana Hotel, Ipoh is geared to usher in the month of Ramadan by offering a mouth-watering buka puasa buffet for its guests – Muslims and non-Muslims alike. Its extensive spread of authentic Malay cuisine, prepared by Chef Azman, who has 12 years of cooking experience behind him, will provide the perfect mood for the breaking of fast when the big day arrives.



The sumptuous spread will include the ubiquitous ulam such as *petai, kacang botol* and *kacang panjang* complemented by *sambal belacan, cincaluk, budu* and *tempoyak*. Appetisers include *acar buah, jelatah, keropok* and *jeruk* (pickles).

If you are into grills, head for the garden terrace where chicken, fish and sausages are up for grabs. Roasted lamb is available at the carving station. Stalls serving food such as *mee kari, mee bandung, asam laksa* and *koey teow goreng*. Take your pick.

Kawah-style food, prepared the way Azman knows best, is also available. The fares include *bubur*

Community

Plight of a Distraught Mother

Tan Say Moy, 62, is in dire straits. With a bedridden husband and a mentally-handicapped daughter to care for, she is practically immobilised. Her dreams of making good her hawking business are shattered now that she has to attend to her family's needs.

Husband, Lim Tee Keah, 68, suffers from gout. The pains in the joints prevent him from moving about freely. Thus his erstwhile fried noodle business has come to a standstill. Their Down-Syndrome daughter requires constant attention, something which the couple could ill afford, considering their predicament.

"Ever since my husband became bedridden, we've not been able to operate our stall, as I've to stay at home and take care of him," she said in between tears. Their 28-year old son in Cameron Highlands is in no better shape. A nasty car accident many years ago has made him incapable of doing strenuous jobs. "He earns just enough to keep him alive."

Tan's family is forced to live on one meal a day. She has to scrimp to save enough for her husband's medical bills.

"Although we're one of the first households in Bercham to receive the *Bantuan Rakyat Malaysia* RM500 aid in February, the money has since been used up to buy household necessities," she lamented.

Bercham Barisan Nasional coordinator, Lim Huey Shan and Kinta Welfare Department assistant officer,



Choy Yoke Chun visited Tan at her house recently. After listening to her plight, they handed over groceries donated by Yayasan Bina Upaya Perak.

Choy will help Tan apply for an Orang Kurang Upaya card from the welfare department for her daughter. "The card will entitle her to a monthly stipend of RM150 for the daughter. And since she's caring for her bedridden husband, she's entitled for an additional cash aid of RM300," said Choy.

Readers interested in helping the family in their moment of need, can do so by depositing money into Tan's Bank Simpanan Nasional saving account. The number is **08243-41-000031548**.

RM

OMPH Annual Feast Day

The Feast day of Our Mother of Perpetual Help was held on June 23 this year.

The theme of this year's celebration was: "Mary, Model for Evangelization", in line with the theme for the year set by the Penang Diocese, that is, "Evangelization".

Before the actual feast day celebration, nine days of preached Novenas were held and conducted in the four major languages.

This year's celebration attracted over 3,000 devotees from three parishes in Ipoh and outstation from as far as Singapore.

The highlight of the celebration was the crowning of the portrait of Our Mother of Perpetual Help after which a procession was held around the neighbourhood surrounding the church.

JAG





**Pride of Ipoh
Envy of the Nation**

The ideal vacation
and retirement home

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Many thought it could not be done. Creating an architectural masterpiece on the edge of a prehistoric forest yet leaving nature untouched. On 21 July 2012, Ipoh will be celebrating a milestone with the honourable Menteri Besar officiating at the topping-out event on the 26th floor for all three towers simultaneously. Critics will be converted. Almost 400 nature-lovers already made a resolution to make wellness a part of their lives – making The Haven Lakeside Residences their future homes. Waking up to crisp mountain air. Sharing space with limestone karsts dating back 280 million years.

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(Validity: 21/12/11-20/12/12) • Approval Ref.: Bil (33)d/m.MBI (OSC(057-A) L/B2/23/236/08) • Land Tenure: Expiring 19 Aug. 2108 • Completion Date: Nov. 2013

News Roundup

Investing in Gold



Triplenine Goldworld Gallery Sdn Bhd held a ceremony at its office in Greentown Business Centre, Ipoh recently. The purpose was threefold, to celebrate the company's first anniversary, to launch the sale of one-gram gold bars and to initiate a campaign to educate Perakeans on ways to invest in gold.

According to the Perak Branch Managing Director, Mohd Fakhzan Akhmar bin Omar, gold price was at its peak in September 2011. It was priced at RM216 a gram but has since dropped to RM190. "Investing in gold is a long-term commitment. You need to keep it for at least a year to realise its profit."

Gold is among the few commodities that are not affected by inflation or recession. It is a low-risk investment with very generous dividends.

In conjunction with the occasion, the company gave away gifts and aid to five needy households and an orphanage from Kampung Sungai Itik, Gopeng. A lucky draw with a top prize of a one-gram gold bar was held. Mohd. Fakhzan announced the day's gold sale at a discount of RM5 per gram.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Triplenine Goldworld Sdn Bhd and Koperasi Pegawai-Pegawai Kerajaan Taiping Bhd for the betterment of its members. A number of Triplenine agents received certificates of appointment from the Chief Executive Officer, Rozaini Rosdin.

Triplenine Goldworld Gallery Sdn Bhd is a trading company supplying, buying and selling gold, in all forms, at a slightly lower-than-market rate. It has eight branches nationwide. Since its incorporation a year ago, it has achieved sales in excess of 3600kg of gold.

Emily

Low-deck Bridge in Kampung Manjoi to be Replaced

Low-deck bridges were identified as one of the causes of the massive flooding of Kampung Manjoi, Lim Garden and nearby areas on February 20 of this year.

Mayor Dato' Haji Roshidi said that water from the stream overflowed the low-deck bridge along Jalan Menteri in Kampung Manjoi and flooded the surrounding areas.

The bridge is being replaced with a new one costing RM3.8 million and is expected to be completed by May 2013.

The breaking of concrete ceremony was officiated by Second Finance Minister Dato' Seri Haji Ahmad Husni who is the MP for Tambun and was witnessed by Dato' Haji Nadzri, state Assemblyman for Manjoi.



The main cause of the flood is Sungai Pari which has many low-deck bridges across it. It is hoped that these bridges will be upgraded first and the flow normalised before water from the tributaries can drain into Sungai Pari. Otherwise there will be backflow from the river.

AJ

Funds for Touristic Activities



Executive Councillor for Tourism, Dato' Hamidah Osman hoped that money given to organisations tasked to conduct touristic activities will be well spent. She expressed both optimism and pessimism when speaking to the media following a series of mock cheque presentation ceremonies held at the State Secretariat Building recently. Over a week in June a total

of RM180,000 was given away. The money was part of the allocation for tourism approved in the 2012 state budget.

Universiti Teknologi Mara, Seri Iskandar received RM80,000 to organise the Gua Tempurung Eco Challenge 2012. The event, slated for August 31 till September 2, is for students of institutions of higher learning in the country. It will be held at Gua Tempurung and Gopeng. Participants have to run, cycle, kayak and explore, not necessarily in that order. These physically demanding events require a strong pair of arms and legs.

The remaining RM100,000 was given to two private entities. SNR Adventures received RM50,000 to organise the 7th Perak Iron Bound Challenge in Lumut while Persatuan Belia Kubu Gajah received RM50,000 to manage the Road to Kubu Gajah 4x4 Challenge. Both activities had taken place from July 6 to 8.

"The purpose of the ceremonies is to record the transactions so we'll not be accused of being extravagant," said Hamidah.

Kani

Educating Voters



In the run-up to the coming general elections, Perak Women for Women Society hosted a talk by Tindak Malaysia on voters' rights. Tindak Malaysia is a Kuala Lumpur-based non-governmental organisation dedicated to educating Malaysians on their rights as voters. This self-funded NGO has been actively pursuing its objective in tandem with Ambiga's Bersih rallies.

The talk, conducted by Tindak Malaysia's Christopher Wong, touched mainly on electoral reforms and ways to detect frauds, especially at polling stations. Attendees, made up of members of NGOs in Ipoh, participated actively in the question and answer session at the end of the talk.

Although the audience was relatively small it did not, deter Tindak Malaysia from doing what it knows best. "We're determined to spread the gospel, come what may," said Christopher to Ipoh Echo.

Kani

Zambry's Kamunting Walkabout

The Perak Police Contingent led by its chief, DCP Dato' Pahlawan Zakaria Dahlan, organised a crime awareness programme in Kamunting recently. Its primary objective was to educate residents as to the roles of the police in crime prevention and the kind of assistance the people could provide.

The site picked was Kamunting's wet market, which is the nerve centre of this prominent Taiping suburb. Getting the public involved in crime prevention is seldom successful due to several negating factors, apathy being a major consideration. People's fear of "getting involved" has dogged the Police force since time immemorial.

The awareness programme got the blessing of the state government. Chief Minister, Dato' Seri DiRaja Zambry Abd Kadir gave his tacit approval by making his



presence felt. Zambry, along with the Chief Police Officer and senior police and government officials, took to the streets in a walkabout within the market square. They stopped by to chat with shoppers and traders. This informal and impromptu approach was well received by the morning crowd. Dispensing with formality seemed second-nature to the Chief Minister.

Booths set up by the police to showcase their roles and responsibilities were well patronised by the public. Most were attracted to the booth on career prospects in the police force. In spite of their onerous message, skits depicting cyber crimes got the most publicity. The one on careless online chat was a clear winner.

To assuage public's fear, Zambry reaffirmed that crime rates in Perak had dropped by 15 percentage points compared to last year. The rates, he reiterated, could be further reduced if the public play their part in crime prevention. He asked that they cooperate fully with the men in blue.

Tiffany

A Double Joy

The Xim Phou Moon Welfare Society Malaysia (XPM), a non-profit, non-religious and non-governmental organisation based in Selangor, brought cheer to Pusat Pemulihan Sultan Azlan Shah (PPSAS) in Bercham, recently. The organisation, for the first time, celebrated family day at the rehab centre.

Some three hundred people consisting of staff and patients of PPSAS and those from the Selangor society were present. President of XPM, Dato' Tan Leong Hoo and PPSAS Chairman, Tan Sri V. Jeyaratnam joined in the fun. The crowd was entertained to music and songs by patients of the rehab centre. Their ability to perform was an indication of the improvements they had achieved since undergoing treatments.

A cheque for RM30,000 and another for RM2,000 were presented by XPM and its affiliate, Persatuan Agama Tao Jung Moon, to PPSAS at the end of the get-together. The donations were a form of recognition for the services rendered by the centre to the community.



Emily

LETTERS

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

"Appalling Lack of Management at RPGC"

We refer to "Appalling Lack of Management at RPGC", a letter from Priya Vivek which you published in your Issue 146.

We regret the trauma that Priya Vivek and family had to endure when the lift at the Royal Perak Golf Club malfunctioned and their inability to secure any form of assistance from the management of the Club. We can empathise with her; thus, we understand her anger.

We wish to make clear to your readers that we at Barossa Fine Dining Restaurant had rendered all assistance that we could. We are merely tenants of the Club and we too face similar problems when club facilities malfunction for we are also unable to seek emergency assistance. We did not run down or run anywhere else because we know that the receptionist will also be trying to reach the management which we had alerted through the proper channel. We were never invited to participate in any safety courses conducted by the management of the building so being ignorant of the Club's safety procedures we felt that it was best that we

left it to the Club's management. Rather than being heard running around not knowing what to do but merely appearing to be doing something, is wrong. In emergencies, people who are not experts should best not stand too near, offering unsound advice and uttering polite nothingness. Being tenants we feel that we had done all we could. Unlike members of the club we would not dare to force open the lift doors for fear of being held responsible for damages or maybe even escalating the problem. We are not trained lift technicians.

Being trained restaurateurs we appreciated that after their rescue, Priya Vivek and her family patronised our establishment, and we did what we are trained to do. We served them well and to calm their frayed nerves we offered them free flow of our house red. We hope that Priya Vivek and her family will not let the incident affect them too badly and that they will recover from their traumatic experience.

We look forward to seeing the RPGC put into place a working structure to deal with emergencies.

Barossa Fine Dining Restaurant

Tun Razak Library must be opened on Sundays

Tun Razak Library is closed on Sundays and Mondays. I visit the library regularly. On weekdays most of the visitors are senior citizens reading newspapers and magazines. A number of working people have complained about the library being closed on Sundays; the day they are off work. Working parents can only bring their children to the library on Sundays. The library can attract more visitors if it is open on Sundays.

Recently a children's playground with equipment has been constructed in the compound. This may induce parents to bring their children to read as well as play. If the library is opened on Sundays more parents would bring their children.

Library facility is one of the social services provided by MBI and it should be opened for at least six days per week and not run like a government department. If the library opens at 9am instead of 10am, maybe, students from the afternoon session can visit the library before going to school.

MBI should look into the operating hours of the library. It is meant for the public and must serve their needs. A survey can be done on those who visit the library to get their views.

Library User

Sport

AFC Cup Dreams Up In Smoke

Perak's dreams of qualifying for next year's AFC Cup were shattered after a string of defeats forced them to settle for fourth place in the league table. With Singapore LionsXII – who will not take up a Malaysian slot – securing second spot, the third-placed team was guaranteed of a place in next year's edition of the continental tournament. Perak failed to make full use of the opportunity, as they performed miserably under pressure.

After a one-month hiatus, the Seladangs were raring to go. The league title was out of their grasp but qualification for the AFC Cup was a good alternative. Feeling motivated, Norizan Bakar's men responded in style.

Two consecutive home wins over Felda United and Johor FC in June provided them the tonic to advance further. They took on Sarawak FA in Kuching and secured a 2-1 victory with goals from Michal Kubala and Albert Bodjongo.

Next on the card was a tricky home tie against T-Team FC, and they negotiated past it successfully. The visitors took a shocking lead before Perak gained parity through Nazri Kamal. Two more goals from Failee and Bodjongo increased their lead before T-Team ensured a nervy ending for the home side by pulling back a late goal through Faiz Subri. Norizan Bakar's men stood firm and gained three vital points.

At this stage, AFC Cup seemed plausible. The boys knew that only victories in their

remaining matches would put them in the driver's seat. This was when the troubles started.

PKNS visited the Perak Stadium and were largely outplayed by the home side. Akmal Rizal gave Seladangs the lead and a victory seemed likely by the first half. PKNS, however, kept the pressure on and notched two come-from-behind goals to deny victory for the home side.

The defeat was a bitter pill for Perak to swallow. The boys carried the disappointment to Kota Bahru, where they took on the mighty Kelantanese. Norizan Bakar's men were given an absolute soccer lesson by the technically astute Red Warriors. The Seladangs were trounced 6 nil. The score line was abysmal and Perak's fate hung on a balance.

The players knew that a victory against Kedah would put them in good stead, heading into the final round of matches. But that was not to be, a below par performance saw them losing 2-1 to Kedah, who were down to 10 men for most of the second half.

The defeat allowed Selangor to edge Perak for the third spot in the league standing. Although the team faltered, a fourth place finish means that the Seladangs can still hold their heads high heading into the Malaysia Cup, which is scheduled to begin in September. Norizan Bakar, meanwhile, has gone on leave; may be for good this time around.

Keesh

Ipoh International Run 2012

The 17th edition of Ipoh International Run received a record entry of 17,605 participants from 20 countries. Thailand was the largest with 79. HRH Raja DiHilir Perak, Raja Jaafar bin Raja Muda Musa flagged off the runners.

Besides the usual 21-km, 10-km, 7-km and 5-km divisions, a new category was introduced named, "Fun Run Category". This was specifically meant for those who wanted to have a good time.

Mayor Dato' Roshidi Hashim was very happy with the encouraging response. He thanked the organising committee for their commitment and sponsors for their generosity in making the run a success.

Consul General Malaysia based in Songkhla, Mohd Aini Atan, congratulated the mayor for his hard work, particularly in promoting the event overseas. He believed that Thais would give established runners a run for their money. It would also help strengthen bilateral ties between Ipoh and Thailand.

Hat Yai's acting mayor, Wasan Musem, thanked Roshidi for the hospitality of Ipohites. He was overwhelmed by the number of runners.

Cash prizes worth RM100,000 were given to winners of all the categories. Participants also had the chance to win lucky draw prizes, which included television sets, motorcycles and electrical goods, among others.

The Men's Open 21-km Category saw a clean sweep by Kenyan runners. Lilan Kennedy Kiproo won in 1 hr 16 secs. The Women's Open 21-km Category was won by Kenyan lass, Eunice Nyawira in 1 hr 8 mins and 32 secs. Frenchman Lautredouz Jean Pierre took the Men's Veteran 21-km title in 1hr 8 mins and 41 secs.

Emily



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Perak Community Specialist Hospital
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No. 277, Jalan Raja Permaisuri Bainun, 30250 Ipoh, Perak Darul Ridzuan.

K.K.L.I.U 0903/2012/ACFS

Young Perak

Tenby Schools' Productions

Three hundred pupils from Tenby Schools Ipoh were involved in two productions entitled, *A Journey Through An Enchanted Forest* and *The Mouse and The Gruffalo*. The performances were held at Dewan Jubli Perak, Politeknik Ungku Omar, Ipoh recently.

The children, ranging from 3 to 7 years old, not only showcased their talents but the values and skills learnt at school, especially the physical, social, health and emotional developments. They practised for two months before the big day.

The first production, *A Journey Through An Enchanted Forest*, written by the principal, Mrs Puvanes Mahendran, was about a school trip to the forest. The pupils lost their way because they did not heed the advice of their teachers to move as a group and not to stray away. They faced lots of challenges in finding their way out, until they met with a flock of birds. The moral of the story is to always listen to instructions.

The second production, *The Mouse and the Gruffalo*,



was an interpretation of Julia Donaldson's *The Gruffalo*. It is a story about a mouse that was in danger of being eaten by larger animals in the forest. The mouse had to outwit them in order to survive. The intended message is that size is not a factor in life.

Besides the children, credit also goes to the teachers for their commitment in making the productions worthy.

Emily

English Week at SMJK Yuk Choy Ipoh



SMJK Yuk Choy, Ipoh organised an annual English Language Week with the theme "English is Everywhere" from July 2 to 9. According to Mr Chan Hen Huan, the principal of SMJK Yuk Choy, the English Language is an important language and it is a tool of knowledge for us today. He urged the students to read, write and speak English as much as possible. Various activities were organised by the school's English Language Panel, such as: Spelling Bees, Crossword puzzles, Newspaper-in-Education, Sing-along, choral speaking and an English Language Corner.

SMI's Drama of The Century

SMK St Michael Institution's (SMI), annual drama for their centennial year entitled *Jean-Baptiste: The Lost Chronicles* about the founder of the La Salle Brotherhood was billed as the 'Drama of The Century' and it certainly lived up to its name. The play was directed by Timothy Chee while his son Ian wrote the script which depicted the life and time of Jean-Baptiste and how the La Salle brotherhood was founded.

Jean-Baptiste de LaSalle, born into nobility in the 18th century during the time of the Sun King, Louis the 14th of France, was the founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools commonly referred to as the de La Salle Brothers, the first Roman Catholic congregation of male non-clerics devoted solely to schools, learning and teaching.

This was a time of decadence and opulent grandeur intertwined with corruption, vices and political machinations. During this time the common man born outside nobility was neglected and his children deprived of education which then was reserved for the rich and powerful.

Into the realm comes nobleman Jean-Baptiste de La Salle who became a priest at a young age. Aware of the deplorable plight surrounding him, he starts a school for underprivileged children which earns him the scorn of the powerful nobles who plot to destroy him and his school.

The play, although based on fact, was intertwined with fictional characters such as



Talented family. Timothy Chee (Director) with wife and son Ian (Scriptwriter)

Franz who plays the part of the underprivileged young boy whom Jean-Baptiste nurtures and becomes a Brother. Franz also plays the part of the narrator who leads the audience through the storyline before and after the play.

The play was a most entertaining effort. The players' costumes were colourful and relevant to that period, had interesting props and combined with the popular choice of music such as Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance" and Bruno Marz's "I Wanna Be a Millionaire", kept the audience captivated throughout.

According to Timothy, the script was sent to Dato' Brother Vincent Corkery for vetting but he did not change a single word. Brother Vincent in his address after the first night's performance, praised everyone for putting together this "wonderful extravaganza" and contributing towards the overall centennial year celebrations.

Besides being entertaining, this 'humble school play' has delved into the historical background of the life of Jean-Baptiste and provides a quick insight of his legacy of education. SMI is one of many La Salle Schools in Malaysia, the others being St John's, KL; St George's, Taiping; and St Xavier's, Penang, to name a few.

JAG

Miss KEBAYA PERAK 2012

The Miss Kebaya Perak 2012 competition held recently was a wonderful evening of lovely ladies gracing the catwalk adorned in evening gowns and the ever elegant *kebaya*.

The pageant winner was 22-year-old Olivia Teng, an Ipoh girl who attended school at Yuk Choy. Her alluring looks, not surprisingly, made her a favourite with the audience. Displaying her 34-26-36 statistics and standing tall at 179cm she was a delight to watch as she perfectly displayed the elegance and sensuality that is exuded being dressed in a *kebaya*.



Teng who was crowned Miss Perak Model last year is currently working in KL grooming pets but also takes on modeling jobs part time. She owns two dogs, a Rottweiler and a Shih tzu. First runner up was 20-year-old accounting student Carey Tan while second runner up was 27-year-old beauty consultant Steffieliz Wong who described the *kebaya* as "a very elegant evening dress".

Richard Leong Soon Fatt, who is part of the Ad Mission team, the organizer of the event, acknowledged that the three finalists would be part of a team to promote the *kebaya* to China later this year. He also confirmed that the three winners would be competing in the Miss Kebaya Malaysia 2012 scheduled to be held in KL in August.

JAG

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.

Jungle trekking from Lata Kinjang, Chenderiang to Lata Iskandar waterfall (along the Tapah - Cameron Highlands road), Sunday **July 29**, starts at 7.00am. Experienced hikers are invited to participate. Venue: Kem Sentosa (the same camp for National Service trainees located near Chenderiang). Transport will be arranged to ferry participants back to Tapah. For more information, contact: Mr Choong Swee Fai **018-5729836**; email: bestdeal_in_town@hotmail.com.

Perak Society for the Promotion of Mental Health will organise a charity musical concert on Thursday, **August 23** at Kinta Riverfront Hotel, Ipoh commencing at 7.30 pm. The society needs funds to maintain its halfway house at Batu 8, Tambun, which currently accommodates a hundred psycho socially disabled women. Funds are also required to establish a multi-purpose hall which can be a viable source of income. Self-sufficiency is the society's ultimate goal. Donations from well-wishers are welcome. For details call K. Letchimanan **012-538 1939** or Molly **012-563 7112**.

Free Computer and Robotic Workshop for children between 7-17 years by IT King and MITLA. Venue: 35A, Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah Utara, Taman Ipoh Selatan. Workshop conducted 4 days a week. Call IT King office: **05-5487601** or its staff: Shana: **012-5436992** / Steven Goh: **016-5384318** / Nicholas Goh: **016-5011956** for details or to register.

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iSpeak

A. Jeyaraj

Kayveas: Improve local government efficiency to benefit the people

During a recent interview with Bernama, Datuk M. Kayveas, President, People's Progressive Party and former Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister said that the inefficiency of local government and abuses by employees has given the Barisan Nasional government a bad name. The government should focus on improving the efficiency of local government to ensure it fulfils the aspirations of the people. He claimed that offenders were not sacked but transferred to other departments within the same local government authority. He added the time has come for the government to amend the Local Government Act 1976 to benefit the people.

Some years ago MBI invited a number of NGOs and explained the concept of Local Agenda 21 (LA21) and how we could work together to improve the quality of life in Ipoh. With the change of mayors, the concept was forgotten. LA21 is a programme to forge partnerships



between local authorities and the communities they serve and to work together to plan and care for their surroundings towards sustainable development. LA21 adopts a "bottom up" approach. The local communities themselves are involved from the very initial planning stage.

From the number of complaints people have shared with me, what Kayveas said is true for MBI. I am highlighting just a few of the outstanding complaints for which no action has been taken.

Residents living in Persiaran Tiger Lane, off Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah, are having sleepless nights. Cobras, iguanas and monitor lizards are frequently seen in their compounds and enter their houses. The place is also infested with mosquitoes. One of the residents has a file going back to the eighties with letters published in the papers and complaints lodged with MBI. The residents are afraid to reveal their names. They informed that they were

confronted by a few people when they had complained earlier and were advised not to complain.

One of the causes of the problem is the cemetery managed by Perak Hock Kean Association which is only used occasionally and is adjacent to the house of one of the complainants. It is overgrown with trees and shrubs and from outside does not look like a cemetery. A spokesman for the Association, who identified himself as Teoh, said that there is a caretaker for the cemetery and was not willing to say more. When it is windy, leaves from the trees fall into the compound of the houses. There are also two houses which have been vacant for more than ten years. The compounds are overgrown with trees and weeds and are breeding grounds for reptiles and mosquitoes.

R. Suppiah, a resident living in Jalan Lange, Ipoh Garden said big trees are growing along the slopes of the drain behind the houses. The drain is about ten feet deep with steep smooth cemented sides. Initially when it was a gravel drain it was regularly maintained by MBI, however, after concreting no maintenance is done.

A. Basnayake, who lives in Jalan Carlos, behind Fatimah Hospital, said that cars are parked haphazardly in front of the houses and road junctions. The residents have complained to MBI and only once the enforcement officers came and summoned a few cars. The situation is now back to its old chaos and getting worse.

Another resident Baljit Singh from Taman Silibin wants the Mayor to Turun Padang to his place and see the situation for himself. He's had no help to get things done.

MBI must take prompt action on complaints. The councillors must engage with the residents of their zones and solve their problems.



Tourism

Orang Asli Carnival



A carnival to showcase Orang Asli's cultural heritage and delights was held at the TNB Padang in Kuala Woh, Tapah recently. The event's significance became more meaningful as it was held in conjunction with Visit Perak Year 2012. The Perak State Government, through Tourism Perak, approved a sum of RM150,000, which was given to the Batang Padang District Office, the organiser of the carnival.

Dubbed "Karnival Kebudayaan Orang Asli 2012" (Orang Asli Cultural Carnival 2012), the one-day festival began in earnest and ended well past midnight the same day. Some of the highlights were a blow-pipe competition, handicrafts and photo exhibitions, sales of jungle products and a futsal tournament. At night entertainment programmes were held to keep the 3,000-odd visitors occupied.

The main attraction of the carnival, however, was the two-waterfall expedition which saw some 200 participants trekking from a start point near Lata Kinjang to Lata Iskandar. They traversed a thickly wooded jungle track leading to the asli settlement at Sungai Lerek, where they spent a night before proceeding to Lata Iskandar, along the Tapah-Cameron Highlands road, the following morning.

Dato' Hamidah flagged off the trekkers prior to making an appearance at Kuala Woh. It was a groundbreaking moment, as a carnival of such magnitude has yet to be held in Tapah.

Kani

MPO Outreach Programme 2012

The Kinta Valley Symphonic Society (KVSS) is hosting a Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) Outreach Programme 2012 in Ipoh. The MPO will be sending five musicians majoring in violin, viola, cello, oboe and harp to conduct some workshops and also to hold a chamber concert at Meru Valley Golf and Country Club.

Tuesday JULY 17
8.00pm - 10pm

Workshops at Creative Music Academy
72A Lebuhr Medan Ipoh, Bandar Baru Medan.

Wednesday JULY 18
7.30pm - 9pm

Chamber Concert by MPO musicians at The Dome
Meru Valley Golf and Country Club.



Cycling a NEW VOGUE

Cycling will be the in thing for in-bound tourists to Ipoh if plans by Tourism Malaysia (Perak) materialise. In making this new form of touring a reality, a concerted effort by Tourism Malaysia was initiated recently with the concurrence of those in the tourism industry.

Over 200 participants, consisting of travel agents, officials and staff of the local tourism department and media representatives, assembled at the start point at Taman D.R. Seenivasagam on the morning of Saturday, July 6. Mayor, Dato' Roshidi Hashim flagged them off. The 9-km ride took the riders along the venerated Ipoh heritage trail with stops at the railway station, Little India and the Perak Tourist Information Centre before ending at Taman D.R. Seenivasagam.

"Cycling is a new form of activity for nature-loving tourists. We see this happening in the developed countries. It's a matter of time before it hits our shore," said Datuk Azizan Noordin, the Deputy Director-General of Tourism Malaysia who was present along with Puan Norshamshida, Director of Tourism Malaysia (Perak). "Ipoh has plenty of historical buildings to show. Therefore, those in the tourism industry must prepare themselves for such an eventuality," he remarked.

Perak Bike Ride, a tourist booklet produced by KRI Cycling Team, identifies some worthy cycling routes in the state. The booklet was launched by Dato' Abdul Rahim Mat Ariff, Secretary of the Ipoh City Council at the end of the event. "Some 10,000 copies have been printed. The booklets will be distributed to all 22 tourism information centres in the country, including our office in Singapore," Norshamshida told reporters.

Haziman Baharuddin, 25, a bona fide Ipohite was thrilled by the exposure. "It's different seeing Ipoh on a two-wheeler. The experience is exhilarating," he exclaimed. This may well be the beginning of a new vogue in tourism.

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Thumbs Down Greentown Grief



Finding a parking space at Greentown Business Centre is always a chore. The ordeal is made more frustrating whenever you spot an empty lot only to discover some selfish and inconsiderate motorist's parking had overlapped onto the next parking space depriving you the use of the space.

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JAG

Community

100 Donors Have Registered



Yayasan Bina Upaya Darul Ridzuan (YBU) has extended a helping hand to the on-going organ donation campaign. The campaign, initiated by volunteer Dr Ghantan Palanisamy, is aimed at creating awareness among Malaysians on the benefits of organ donation.

The country-wide campaign is in full swing and with the involvement of YBU, the possibility of it making an impact in Perak is great. Ghantan's target is a thousand donors. "Over a hundred have registered so far," he said. "The target is achievable provided the message is far-reaching."

The foundation has obtained the participation of Ipoh General Hospital, Universiti Sains Malaysia and

A Student -organised ournament



Kolej Teknologi Cosmopoint, Ipoh, organised a badminton tournament for students of Ipoh-based institutes of higher learning recently. The organisational responsibility, however, fell on the shoulders of the students, as they were tasked to make all necessary arrangements for the tournament.

There were some anxious moments as things did not go as planned. The poor start was attributed to the students' lack of experience in running an event of such stature. Early jitters were soon over once the game got going.

Top honours went to Institut Teknologi Perak who won three titles – the men's single, men's double and the mixed double. Cosmopoint took second spot wrestling two titles – women's single and women's double.

Adam Harris of Kolej Teknologi Cosmopoint gave away the prizes. In spite of the shaky start, the objective of the game was met, said Adam in his closing remarks.

RM

volunteers of YBU. "Hopefully, more will join in," said Ghantan to Ipoh Echo.

Readers keen on knowing more about organ donation can call **05-208 5161** or visit this website for details: www.agiftoflife.gov.my.

RM