

**ENROLMENT IN-PROGRESS**  
MAY INTAKE

EXTENDED COUNSELLING  
SATURDAYS throughout APRIL & MAY

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SPORT

Mid One, E-sports Icon



# Marble Business Still Thriving

By A. Jeyaraj

The view along the North-South Expressway changes after one passes the Simpang Pulai junction. You see limestone hills on both sides of the road. Sadly, many of these natural outcrops have been stripped bare as a result of quarrying works.

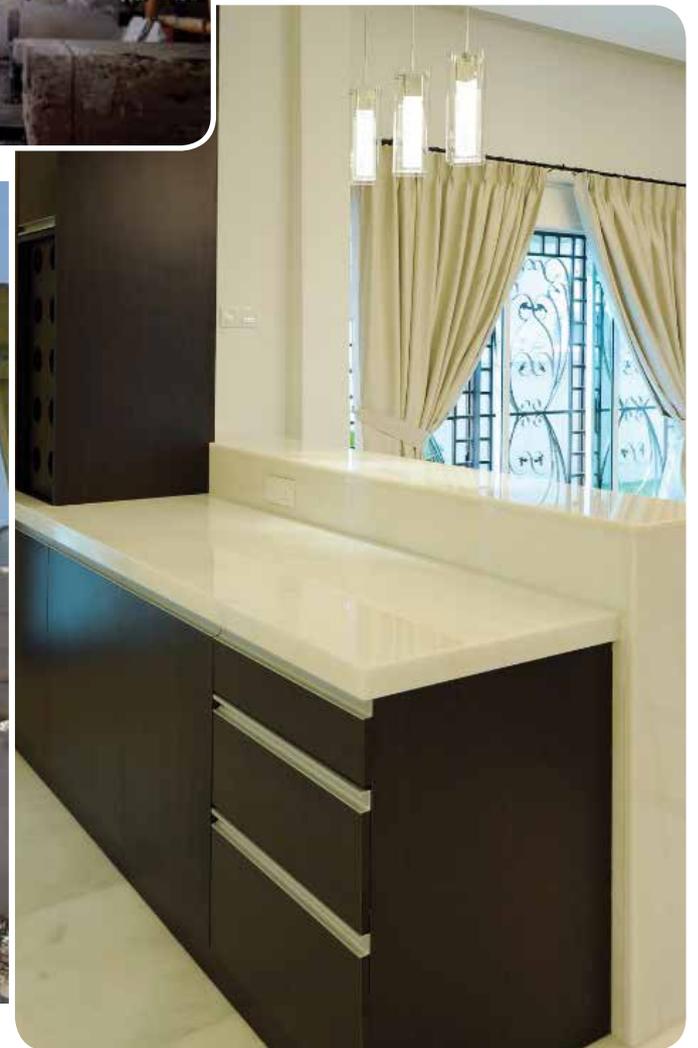
There are opposing views on this activity. Some feel that there are compelling reasons why the hills should be preserved while others feel otherwise.

The state government, however, considers the limestone hills as a major source of income, as they are a much-sought-after commodity.

This cover piece attempts to explain the commercial viability of Kinta Valley limestone. This scribe met with people involved in the industry and drew his very own conclusions.



FULL STORY ON PAGES 2 & 6



## Community

# Protect the Children

By Tan Mei Kuan

Yayasan Sultan Idris Shah (YSIS) hosted a talk on awareness and prevention of child sexual abuse by Sumathi Annamalai, a national trainer from *Protect and Save the Children*, an NGO founded in 2002 and based in Kuala Lumpur. The enlightening 5-hour session was held on Sunday, April 7.

Sumathi is also a university lecturer majoring in early childhood education and special needs, as well as a former ICU staff nurse in a hospital.

According to her, sexual abuse takes place when a person in power coerces, tricks and/or forces a child to take part in sexual activity, using the child for his or her own sexual gratification. Acts of child sexual abuse can be verbal (verbal sexual stimulation, obscene telephone calls), visual (exhibitionism, peeping, obscene messages, showing pornography to a child, photographing a child in sexual poses, etc.) and physical (rape, prostitution, forced masturbation, inserting objects into private body parts, etc.).

"It is very important to understand that child sexual abuse is not just rape but includes a range of different sexual acts. According to data from Reuters dated April 5, 2017, only 140 of the 12,987 cases of child sexual abuse reported to police between 2012 and July 2016 resulted in convictions," Sumathi emphasized.

"Grooming process is how a person in power gains the trust of a child in order to wear away personal boundaries and gain sexual access. First, the sex offender creates opportunities and targets a child. Then, the sex offender introduces physical touch and sexual touch. The next stage is keeping the secret as the hallmark of child sexual abuse is secrecy. Online grooming happens through sexting and sending nude photos," she explained.

*Protect and Save the Children* offers services in the form of prevention (training and workshop), intervention (supporting through the reporting process), advocacy (partnership building and policy change) and healing (therapeutic and counselling services). For more info, call 03 7957 4344 or 03 7956 4355. Readers can email to [protect@psthechildren.org.my](mailto:protect@psthechildren.org.my)



## Limestone quarries

Saw Lid Haw, Secretary of Quarry Association Perak admitted that quarrying is reputed to be a polluting industry but few know that limestone is an ingredient we use daily when we get up and when we retire to bed.

It is found in toothpaste, in cereals we have for breakfast, in cosmetics; while most of the plastic items we use daily contain calcium carbonate powder, a form of limestone. Farmers feed their livestock (chicken and ducks) with limestone powder for better digestion and to strengthen egg shells.

According to Saw, the industry experienced a downturn beginning in the year 2000. Presently, there are about 70 quarries operating around Simpang Pulai. Most of them process limestone and supply them to a number of factories within the state and abroad.

The local market, however, is small. They depend much on the export market, and India is the main export destination.

As for rehabilitation of quarries, Saw said that the government has introduced a scheme known as *Lesen Melombong Tuan Punya* (Owner-Mining Permit) whereby quarry operators pay a levy to the government and the money is then used for rehabilitation efforts. Saw added that since most of the quarries are still in operation, rehabilitation has yet to take place.

The industry survives largely because the quarries have been in operation for a long time. Equipment in use has been paid for. Capital expenditure is low while operating cost, due to prevailing circumstances, is going up.

Unlike the quarry operators, marble manufacturers do not have an association of their own.

Due to the downturn and stiff competition coming from Langkawi and abroad, only a few companies today produce marble furniture. Here are some of the more prominent ones:

### Mutual Way Development and Construction Sdn Bhd

Michael Wong, Senior Quarry Manager said that limestone (calcium carbonate powder) is used as white pigment or fillers in food, paint, paper, plastic and rubber. It has many uses, especially in the construction industry.

Items produced in his plant include calcium carbonate powder, asphaltic premix, quartz powder, feldspar and others. They also produce limestone aggregate for the building industry.

### Sri Martek Marble Industries

Sri Martek Marble Industries is one of the early start-up companies. They have been in business for over three decades. Manager Chee Chiau Yen said they have their own quarry and use local marble for their furniture. Theirs is the only company whose main product is marble furniture.



Calcium carbonate

The factory, located in Keramat Pulai, makes high-quality marble furniture, tiles and other limestone-based products. The furniture they make include dining and garden sets, imitation antique tables, TV cabinets, marble vases and others. They make block-matching slabs where four pieces of rectangular marble slabs are put together to form a unique design. These can be attached to the wall or placed on the floor with sizes varying between 4ft and 8ft. They are in the process of producing marble cabinets.

Sri Martek is pretty well known in the market. Walk-in customers come to buy their products daily. Their marketing company, SMT Stone Sdn Bhd, promotes and sells their finished products in shopping malls in Ipoh. They have showrooms in Klebang, Klang and Penang. Their export markets include Indonesia, India, Taiwan, Vietnam, the Middle East and Australia.

### SR Marble Sdn Bhd

SR Marble Sdn Bhd is another early start-up company. Its factory is located in Mukim Sungai Raja. Tan Chuen Lim, Production and Sales Manager, said that previously they only used local marble, but now have resorted to imports due to scarcity. He makes kitchen tops made to order besides others.

They make customised long baths. One of their hot-selling items is, interestingly enough, a marble chapati-making plate.

SR Marble has dealers in all the major towns in the country. Tan said that they do not export their products as local demand is more than sufficient.

### Karmarstone Sdn Bhd

According to Tan Sau Leng, the company's administrative executive. Karmarstone Sdn Bhd specialises in making tombstones. They also make unique garden sets, table tops, tiles and furniture.

They have a factory in China through which they export their products to various countries.

### SE Supreme Marble & Granite Sdn Bhd.

The company has been in operation for about 35 years. Director Fan Kwai Fong said they produce table tops, dining tables, snooker tables and vanity tops. He added that their products are comparatively more expensive due to their high quality.

### ES Marble Sdn Bhd

Peter S.K. Liang, Manager said that they specialise in marble flooring, bathroom walls and mosaic mural and many more. They have laid tiles in mosques, Chinese and Hindu temples and hotels.

### Antico Stone Sdn Bhd

Vivienne Loh Wei Ping, Executive Director, said her company has been in business for over 30 years. Stones are crafted at their factory from the initial stages of cutting and fabricating to polishing and packing.

They produce floor and wall tiles and kitchen tops and install them. Their main business is in project works. When this scribe visited them they were laying tiles on the floor as a trial before sending to Penang for installation.



Saw Lid Haw



# From The Editor's Desk

By Fathol Zaman Bukhari



# A HUMILIATING U-TURN

*It is one U-turn after another and peace-loving Malaysians are beginning to get tired of this charade*

Events unfolding the last weeks reached a climax when the Pakatan Harapan government, led by Dr Mahathir, reneged on its promise to ratify the much-anticipated UN-sponsored Rome Statute. In doing so we have joined the ranks of other non-signatory countries such as the People's Republic of China, India, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Indonesia, to name a few. Incidentally, United States of America and Russia were signatories once but have since withdrawn ratification for reasons best known to them.



The Rome Statute forms the basis for the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) at The Hague. It was adopted following a diplomatic conference in Rome on July 17, 1998, and was enforced worldwide on July 1, 2002. As of March 2019, 124 member countries of the United Nations are party to the statute. Unfortunately, Malaysia is one of the handfuls of countries who has yet to ratify.

The Rome Statute oversees four international crimes namely, genocide, crime against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression. The ICC can investigate and prosecute those committing the aforementioned crimes when states are unable or unwilling to do so themselves.

The court has jurisdiction over crimes committed in the territory of a state party or if they are being committed by a national of a state party. The court too has jurisdiction over crimes when authorised by the United Nations Security Council.

The arrest of Chile's dictator General Pinochet in London on October 10, 1998, for numerous human rights violations in Chile and his subsequent trial in Chile, is a case in point. Pinochet was also accused of amassing over USD28 million when he was the de facto leader of Chile from 1974 to 1998.

In short, the ICC is a court of last resort to prosecute those who committed atrocities in places where national authorities could or would not step in. Had America not decided to use Emperor Hirohito as "a tool to control Japan" he would have been tried along with his Prime Minister, General Hideki Tojo.

Hypothetically speaking, had Najib Razak refused to concede defeat in spite of his party's loss in the May 9, 2018, general elections and, aided by a corrupt Election Commission, no official results were forthcoming, Pakatan Rakyat would remain in political limbo for good. Scandal-plagued Najib, having gained the upper hand, would declare a state of emergency to reinforce his power. The police and the military would meekly follow whatever Najib told them to do. After all, cousin Hishammuddin Hussein was the Defence Minister and Javanese immigrant, Zahid Hamidi, was the Home Minister.

To flex his political muscle Najib would have decreed that all opposition leaders be incarcerated while his one-time mentor now nemesis, Dr Mahathir be abducted just like Pastor Koh and activist Amri Che Mat using the Police Special Branch to do the dirty work. And while his enemies languished behind bars Najib, his wife Rosmah and his corrupt ministers would continue to plunder the nation and live happily ever after.

If the above scenario happens what can we do? Frankly speaking, there is nothing we can do other than to knock ourselves silly for allowing the unthinkable to happen. However, had the country signed the Rome Statute, Najib could be investigated and prosecuted for committing one of the four fundamental crimes mentioned.

It is simply ridiculous that a likeable monarch like Sultan Ibrahim of Johor would object to the country ratifying the Rome Statute. There are absolutely no discernible reasons why the sultans should reject the international treaty unless they have plans to commit the four international crimes – genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crime of aggression.

And like the ICERD (International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination) Prime Minister Dr Mahathir on Friday, April 5 announced that Malaysian would make another U-turn by not endorsing the Rome Statute.

On the same day Umno kingpin Ismail Sabri, the former Minister of Rural and Regional Development, announced that Selangor Umno would protest to the Sultan of Selangor against Malaysia acceding to the Rome Statute as "it affects the sovereignty of



the Malay rulers" he claimed.

Well, it does not take a rocket scientist to conclude that after inciting the Johor Sultan, Umno is roping in the Selangor Sultan to go against the Mahathir government. And it is not difficult to put the sultans at loggerheads with Dr Mahathir, as the grudge between the two started decades ago in 1993 when Mahathir stripped the royalty of its legal immunity.

There were even rumours of a possible military coup should the inevitable happen. Being a former soldier I am somewhat amused by these revelations. Coup is a foreign word to our armed forces. The closest the country had come to one was

when General Mohamad Sany, the then Army Chief, threatened to let soldiers on the streets if their demand for a pay revision was not entertained by the government. This was in 1972. Fortunately, nothing untoward happened.

The general consensus is Mahathir is pussyfooting in sending all these Umno goons to prison for corruption, money laundering, grand larceny, tax evasion and what have you. Instead in an attempt to hasten the transformation his nascent political party PPBM (Bersatu) into an Umno lookalike he has been happily accepting corrupt lawmakers from Umno.

And worse, Mahathir's own party lacks talents so much so that even leaders with fake degrees are being treated like lords. Instead of leveraging on his earlier promise to promote meritocracy and communality, he chooses to play the overused 3R game – race, religion and royalty. This concoction is deemed unsavoury and counterproductive as well.

It is one U-turn after another and peace-loving Malaysians are beginning to get tired of this charade. The more they see *apa malu bossku* mucking around in his white round-collar T-shirt, the more pissed off they will be.

## EYE HEALTH - STROKES IN THE EYE

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



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

An interruption to the blood flow of the eye results in what is referred to as an eye stroke. Eye strokes are acute and vision-threatening. The eyesight effects range from mild blurring vision to severe irreversible blindness depending on the type and extent of stroke. Several underlying factors are frequently associated with strokes in the eye. One of the main culprits is hypertension, also called high blood pressure which afflicts almost 40% of people above the age of 25 years by the World Health Organisations (WHO) estimates.

Hypertension damages blood vessels in the eyes. Both, duration and also the severity of hypertension play a role in determining the extent of damage to blood vessels in the eyes. Other common illnesses that play a part in accelerating the damage are **diabetes mellitus**, **hypercholesterolemia** (increased cholesterol levels), **cardiovascular disease** and smoking.

### TYPES

*The effect on the eyes can be broadly divided into 3 types:*

- 1. Retinal Artery Occlusion** – blockage of the arteries to the eye (retina).
- 2. Retinal Vein Occlusion** – blockage of the veins draining the blood from the retina.
- 3. Ischaemic Optic Neuropathy** – poor blood flow to the eye causing optic nerve damage.

When the above occurs, it means that it has reached a complicated stage of hypertension.

### RETINAL ARTERY OCCLUSION

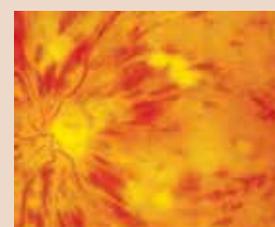


Serious because it results in sudden profound loss of vision in the affected eye. It is an eye emergency and any delay in treating this results in permanent loss of vision in the affected eye. Quick treatment improves the chances of recovery but even this is only by about 20 to 25%. Should this happen to an individual, a thorough cardiovascular assessment will need to be done as this condition is an ominous sign of potential vascular complications to the organs. If the artery involved is the main artery (**Central Retinal Artery Occlusion**), the vision loss is profound. If

it is the branch that is involved (**Branch Retinal Artery Occlusion as shown in the picture – lower half is pale**), the vision loss is less profound.

### RETINAL VEIN OCCLUSION

The occlusion may affect either the main retinal vein (**Central Retinal Vein Occlusion – adjacent pic**) or one of its branches (**Branch Retinal Vein Occlusion**). If it is the main vessel, the visual effects are more serious than if a branch is affected.



A vein occlusion is still the lesser of the two evils if it is compared to retinal artery occlusion described above.

More on Glaucoma in the next issue of the Ipoh Echo. For more information, call **05-5455582** at Hospital Fatimah or email [gillyeyecentre@dr.com](mailto:gillyeyecentre@dr.com)

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# The State Government Should Govern, and Not Run Businesses

The Movie Animations Park Studios (MAPS), is a bit like durian. You either love it, or you don't; but the fiscal issues linked to its running, are like a cold sore, which keeps returning, and gets more inflamed each time.

The MAPS theme park has been mired in controversy ever since it was built during the tenure of the former Perak MB, Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir.

It has cost a staggering RM520 million and as of last July, was only half finished. It is expensive to run, it is dogged by intellectual property claims, poor ticket sales and low attendance.

The Perak Corporation Berhad (PCB) owns 51 per cent of MAPS' shares. PCB is a subsidiary of the Perak State Development Corporation (PKNP). The other 49 per cent is owned by the co-developer RSG MAPS Sdn Bhd. However, in May 2018, the Malay Mail reported that 51% is owned by PCB and 34 per cent by the co-developer RSG MAPS Sdn Bhd, whilst an unnamed individual controls the remaining shares.

In the run-up to the nation's 14th General Election, Pakatan Harapan, then in Opposition, reportedly claimed that the park had lost over RM24 million in 2016, and was expected to lose the same amount in the future due to low visitor numbers.

The Barisan Nasional (BN) which was in government at the time, dismissed this claim and said that the 2016 losses were pre-operational ones. They also expressed confidence in recouping the losses, claiming visitor traffic was good.

The MAPS chief operating officer, Mohd Farid Abdul Aziz, claimed that the park had welcomed 222,750 visitors since opening in June 2017 and in March 2018, Farid said an average of 1077 people visited the park daily.

In view of the losses and poor ticket sales, the Perak Economic Advisory Council member, Nga Kor Ming, has urged MAPS to be audited, especially as its losses total RM474.4 million.

In February 2019, the chairman of the Perak Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Leong Cheok Keng, announced the appointment of an audit firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to conduct a forensic audit on the struggling MAPS. There had been too many irregularities in MAPS.

He said that the report was expected to be ready within two months of the firm's appointment. The findings would be presented to the state assembly Speaker, Ngeh Koo Ham, after which the PAC can commence its investigations.

Conversely, the Perak Menteri Besar, Ahmad Faizal Azumu, also announced that from March 1 onwards, a new business model would be adopted and visitors would not be charged an admission fee. He said that visitors would enjoy free entry into MAPS, and need only pay for the rides and attractions.

The move by the MB was opposed by Nga, who said that the state government should sell MAPS to avoid incurring further losses. He maintained that businesses should be managed by the private sector.

In March 2019, the PCB audit committee chairman, Chong Zheming, asked Zambry to explain the RM217 million increase for the construction and development of MAPS, which had been revealed in a special internal audit report.

As the former MB, Zambry had direct control of PCB, and he had also approved an increase in the cost of construction, from RM390 million to RM607 million.

Chong alleged that Zambry had approved an additional advance payment of RM250 million, by PCB, to the main contractor of the project, despite knowing that the contractor was in financial difficulties.

In addition, Chong said that Zambry had allowed the PCB to become the only company funding the project, despite only 51% share ownership.

For three days, Zambry did not respond to the allegations but left it to the state Opposition leader, Saarani Mohamad, to dismiss Zambry's involvement. Saarani claimed that Zambry need not answer Chong's questions and he also said that the PCB's board members and account committee should be responsible for the decision.

A furious Zambry finally responded to Chong's claims and said that he was being unfair because the official audit firm PwC had not completed its audit report. He also accused Chong of subjecting him to a 'trial by media' following his decision to issue a press statement every day until the start of the state assembly, on April 16.

Perhaps, Zambry should realise that many projects, which are worth several hundred million ringgits of taxpayers' money, have failed, because the former Umno-Baru politicians, and their cronies, did not practise meritocracy, transparency, accountability and integrity. Many of them also believed that they were above the law. Their cavalier attitude has squandered many millions of ringgits of the taxpayers' money.

It is also widely alleged that crooked politicians siphon off a substantial percentage of the rakyat's money via dodgy deals.

As in MAPS, the politicians and their cronies have dismissed the importance of pertinent details like intellectual property rights, public safety, workers' rights, attendance, publicity and regular maintenance.

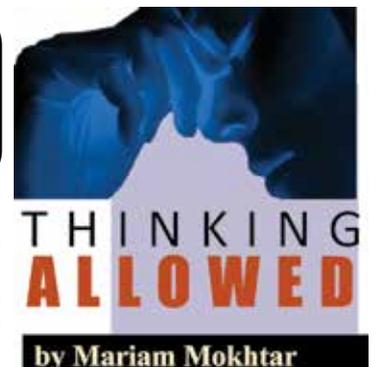
Many similar projects have ended-up as white elephants.

Perakians have a right to demand the reasons for the state's involvement in MAPS. They want to know how Zambry spent this money, and why he authorised the payment of millions of ringgits, despite being warned of the shortfalls.

Politicians, and in particular, the state government should not be running businesses. They should administer the affairs of the state and govern properly because they tend to make a mess of every business they touch.

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## ABOUT LASIK

**Dr Lee Mun Toong**  
Consultant Eye Specialist Surgeon KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital

### Topography-Guided Femto-LASIK

Topography-guided LASIK is the latest LASIK technology since 2016 and is the most advanced form of customized LASIK technology.

The U.S. F.D.A has approved this technology in 2013 and it became commercially available in November 2015. The technology has been available outside the United States like Malaysia for several years before 2015.

At our centre, we use Carl Zeiss Topography-guided laser to relieve near sightedness, astigmatism and presbyopia. Our topography-guided LASIK combines Visumax, Femto-laser to create an appropriate treatment plan for our patients.



#### The Topography-Guided LASIK Advantage

As compared to wavefront-LASIK technology, topography-guided LASIK has more-detailed measurements of the surface of the cornea (Topographic) to repair refractive error caused by corneal irregularities. Due to its precision and accuracy, patients who were treated for topography-guided LASIK receive vision correction that is much more precise, and mapped to each person's cornea surface.

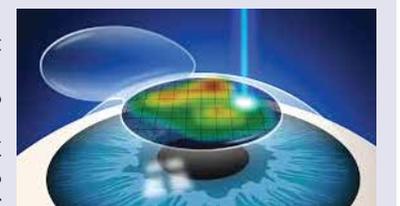
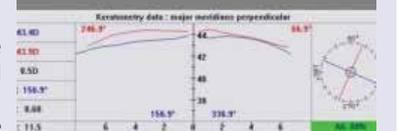
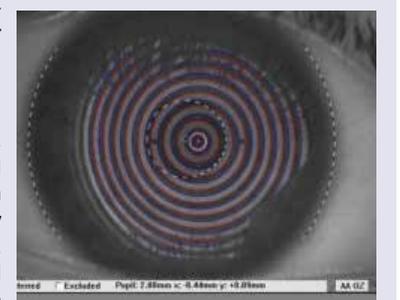
It also can use to repair/retreatment for some unforeseen outcome/Lasik surprise like decentered ablation.

A 12-month FDA (topography-guided refractive surgery) clinical trial revealed the following:

1. More than 98% of patients would recommend it to others.
2. It outperformed glasses and contacts in over 30% of eyes in the study.
3. 6% of eyes that received topography-guided LASIK treatment achieved 20/20 vision or better, 64.8% experienced 20/16 (better than 20/20) vision or better, and 34.4% could see 20/12.5 (better than 20/16) or a year after surgery.
4. It reduced the occurrence of common post-LASIK complications such as light sensitivity, glare, difficulty driving at night, and struggles with reading.

The FDA recommends topography-guided LASIK if:

- You have less than minus eight diopters of nearsightedness.
- You do not have severe astigmatism (minus three diopters or less).
- The amount of nearsightedness with or without astigmatism in your eye did not change by more than 0.5 diopters during the year before your preoperative examination.
- You are at least 18 years old
- You have a stable vision correction prescription
- You do not suffer from excessively dry eyes



For more information, readers can call Lee Eye Specialist 05 254 4388 or email at [ishkpj@gmail.com](mailto:ishkpj@gmail.com). Also visit their Facebook page: LASIK Services at KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital.  
Opening hours: 8.30am-5pm (Mondays to Fridays), 8.30am-1pm (Saturdays).



By SeeFoon Chan-Koppen  
seefoon@ipohecho.com.my

## SeeFoon Finds New Life in Tambun

Tambun village has always been a sleepy place. Cars whizz by on their way to either Sunway, Lost World, Haven or Banjaran and no one pays any attention to the dilapidated houses on both sides of the road.

But someone did. The enterprising owner Rizal, of Pakeeza fame, has bought two of these shophouses and at great expense, transformed them into a casual eatery which is named Moss Eatery. Relying on his own creative ideas, Rizal faced the difficult task of restoration and manages to pull it off, with a decor that is both industrial and shabby chic in accent. Having spent more than a million ringgit in refurbishment, **Moss Eatery** opened for business very recently.

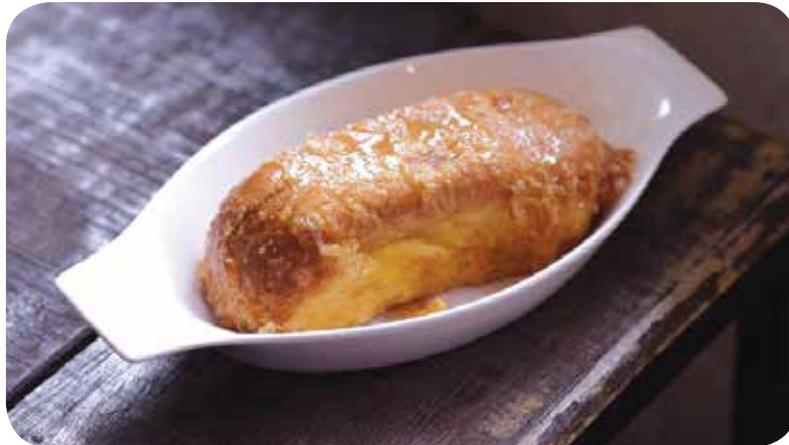
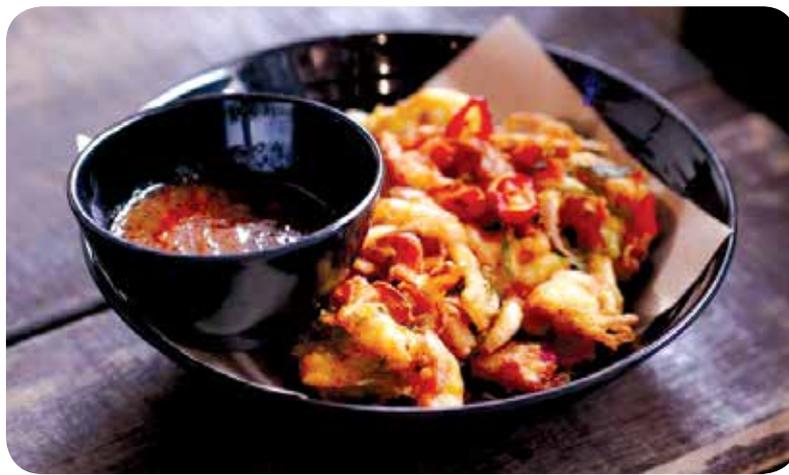
Moss Eatery, is now impossible to ignore especially at night when it is all lit up. The only attractive signage along that stretch of Tambun road, you'd have to drive like a demon to miss it. Ample parking is available in the back, the tables are well spaced out and there is a general feeling of spaciousness with high ceilings that have been left exposed and the original beams left intact, as are most of the walls.

The menu is small which in my opinion is a good way to begin a restaurant to allow the chefs to perfect their recipes, adding new items slowly as popularity grows.

For starters, we had **Cucur Udang Kuah Kacang**, the ubiquitous prawn fritters which are everybody's favourite snack. They were delicious, crispy on the outside and fluffy and soft on the inside, the prawns large enough to not require a magnifying glass to find them as is the case in other establishments. It came with a satay-like sauce but due to my preference for non-sweet things, I used the sambal belacan dip instead. I had great difficulty restraining myself from eating more as I knew there were loads of other dishes to come; **RM7**.

The main signature dishes here at Moss Eatery are their **Nasi Kukus**: rice perfectly steamed in their individual packets with accompanying *ikan bilis* and salted peanuts. This is offered with a choice of **Ayam Goreng Berempah** which is a big chunk of chicken, marinated in the 'berempah' style, redolent with lemongrass, galangal, cumin, coriander, garlic and ginger; **Beef Curry**, small pieces of beef in a light curry sauce with coconut milk; and the Fish Rebus, braised fish in a mild curry sauce. The same sauce is used for all three Nasi Kukus and extra sauce is available on the side. **Berempah: RM7.50; Beef and Fish RM8.50**.

Aside from the choice of Nasi Kukus, their **Mee Rebus Tulang** is excellent. Seldom have I eaten a *mee rebus* in Ipoh that is not overladen with sugar and not thickened with cornstarch. This **Mee Rebus** is the real thing, the thick gravy is made by reducing broth along with a mix of spices, aromatics and sweet potatoes. Using yellow egg noodles, slurping them wrapped in the gravy together with sliced tofu, bean sprouts, boiled egg and a dash of calamansi was a total delight. The departure here from the usual mee rebus served outside was the addition of a piece of meat on the bone. Tender and juicy, the meat lent an extra layer to the complex taste of the gravy;



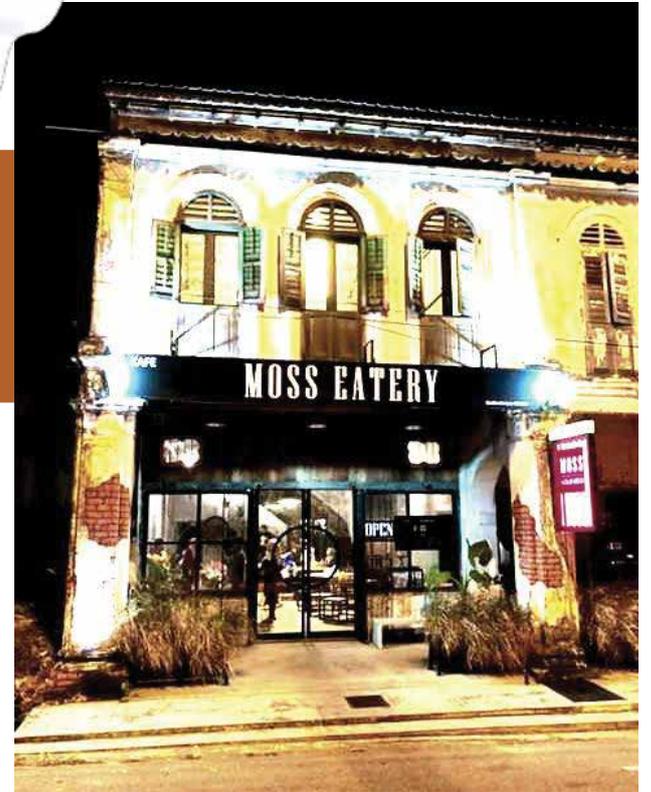
**RM10.**

Other dishes worth exploring are their **Tahu Goreng** or fried tofu with a sweet Thai sauce, the tofu crispy on the outside and still soft on the inside, **RM8.50**, and their **Rojak Buah** or Fruit Rojak, our inimitable Malaysian fruit salad, unlike anything the west has ever seen. Chunks of pineapple, cucumber, sang kuang (a local turnip) are slathered with a thick sauce made from chilli paste, chopped lemongrass, dark soya sauce and *belacan* powder. This is topped with chopped peanuts and the most yumilicious crackers which are homemade. This combination of taste and textures makes this a must-have dish; **RM9**.

For that final sweet touch do try their **Aiskrim Goreng** which is their fried ice cream: Vanilla ice cream wrapped in a batter and deep fried, with the ice cream still solid when you bite in. Apparently, this is one of their most popular dishes here; **RM7**.

I saw an item on the menu that looked awfully interesting and that was the **Spaghetti Sambal Udang**. To begin with, their *sambal belacan* was delicious so I reckon their Spaghetti Sambal Udang should be equally good. That is an item that is next on my tasting menu as there was no more room for anything else the night I was there.

Moss Eatery, a welcome addition to the Halal food scene.



**MOSS EATERY (Halal)**  
No 11 & 13, Jalan Besar Tambun,  
31400 Ipoh, Perak (4.87 mi)  
+6017 553 5074  
Business Hours: 11am-11pm every day.

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## Marble Business Still Thriving . . . Continued from Page 2

### Cleanliness of Marble Furniture Factories

Most of the quarries are not only dusty but noisy too. The authorities have come down hard on them and have imposed strict safety procedures for adherence.

The factories this writer visited had clean floors and the surroundings were relatively tidy. The raw materials and finished products were neatly stored and with proper access. There was virtually no dust. The floors were dry except the areas where the blocks were sliced. Most of the jobs were done by machines and only a few people were working.

The relevant authorities visit the factories regularly to check for safety and cleanliness.

### Manpower shortage

There is a shortage of manpower, especially skilled workers. They need skilled people to install finished products in houses, hotels, restaurants and other places. Skilled workers have gone overseas for better pay. The state should emphasise on skills training and train workers for the marble industry.

Foreign labour is not cheap. Workers who have been in this country for some time and are experienced demand higher pay and benefits.

### One stop shopping area

Simpang Pulai is well known for its marble business and people go there to buy marble products. Since the factories are along one road, it is convenient for customers to visit various showrooms and shop around for what they want.

Just like pomelos and kacang putih, the marble industry is also unique to Ipoh where the factories are located in one area. Tourism Perak should designate this site as a tourist destination. Promotion and publicity are wholly lacking.



## Books

# Malaysian Chinese Contributions

By Mei Kuan

The Malaysian Army Chinese Veterans' Association (MACVA) was formed some three years ago following allegations by certain quarters that the Chinese community did little to contribute to the defence of the nation. The responsibility, these miscreants insisted, was shouldered by one race only.

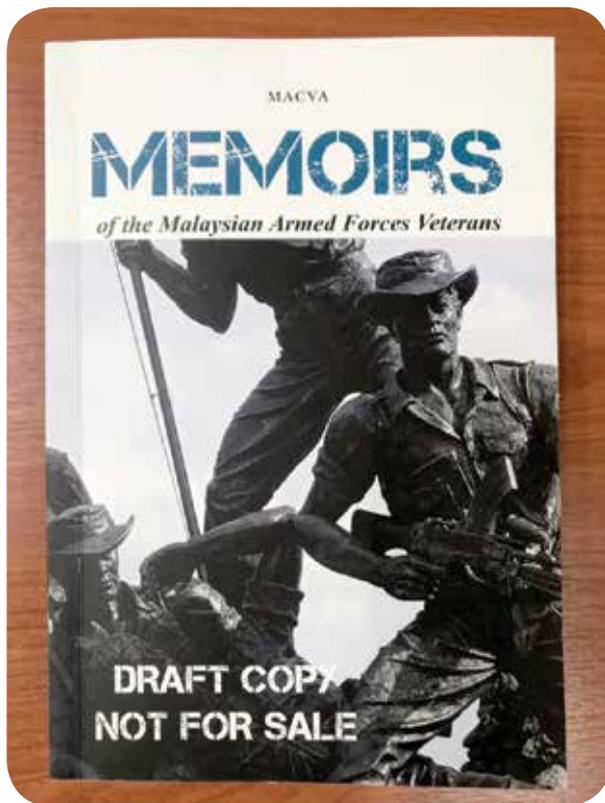
To prove that this was a fallacy, deliberately invented, to place the community in a poor light, association members, leaving no stone unturned, penned a book detailing the selfless sacrifices and contributions made by Malaysian Chinese.

The 600-page book titled "Memoirs" tells the many untold stories of officers and men from the Chinese community who donned army fatigues and bore arms to fight a common enemy during the First Malayan Emergency (1948-1960), the Indonesian Confrontation (1962-1965) and the Second Malayan Emergency (1968-1989).

In the intervening years, they too served the nation as United Nations peacekeepers in the Republic of Congo (1960-1964) and again in Somalia (1993-1995). A few were bestowed the country's second highest gallantry award, PGB (Panglima Gagah Berani) for their deeds while yet a few gave their lives.

The book will be on sale effective June this year. However, a pre-launch version is now available for early birds. It is priced at RM70 a piece.

Readers keen in getting one please call Major Godfrey Chang (Retired) at 012 622 7500 or Captain Ho Fooi (Retired) at 012 282 2081. Ipoh Echo will review the book once we receive a copy from the association.



## Entertainment

# Dance like No One's Watching

The Hunt for 2019's Best Street Dancers Begins



It's been six years since its founding and street dance competition **Shuddup N'Dance** has been steadily growing in size and following. What was once a burgeoning and incredibly niched dance competition limited to its base at Klang Parade has since grown to become an annual travelling attraction spanning three venues across Peninsular Malaysia, a pilgrimage for dancers across the region (especially the Philippines, where the competition has evolved to become a rite of passage for many street dancers), and as always, an opportunity for talent to shine.

"It's a little surreal to see how the competition has grown from a highly localised one into the regional competition it is today," remarked Alan Thoo, Group Marketing Head. "I think a great deal of its growth can be attributed to the amount of work we've put into the brand since day one and the valuable connections we've made with various dance crews along the way."

"Street dance looks and feels different in each country," commented returning judge **Danny Lee**, who is also the leader of the **Rejuvenate Dance Crew**. "For instance, participants from Indonesia adopt a very different and fierce persona than local participants when they battle, and our friends from the Philippines are famous for their acrobatics whenever they perform."

Alongside Danny at the judges' table this year are **Veroy Ng** from Malaysia, **BBoy Sherman** from Singapore, **Irina Margatskaia** from Russia, and **Jiggy Jaya** from Australia.

The competition kicked off in the north at **Ipoh Parade** on March 30 and 31 and the categories available are 2-on-2 Popping Battle, 1-on-1 BBoy Battle, 1-on-1 Open Style Battle, Junior Crew Showcase, and Street Dance Crew Showcase. The top three winners will proceed to compete at the International Grand Finals later this year. While Shuddup N'Dance is first and foremost a street dancing competition, participants are free to infuse and effuse a variety of dance techniques and genres in their repertoire.

"Having done this for several years, it's thrilling to see familiar faces grow in their craft," remarked Lim Huey Tyng, Assistant Manager for Advertising & Promotions at Ipoh Parade.

For more updates on the competition, visit <https://www.facebook.com/ipohparade/>.

## To Advertise /Collaborate



Vivien Lian

014 3323859

## Nostalgia

# Remember Kledang Hill?

By Ian Anderson



ACS go "Up the hill", one Saturday Morning in 1952

**K**ledang Hill has been in the news lately because of the dramatic clearing of its trees and this has caused much bad humour from all walks of life, as to the people of Perak, Kledang Hill is a treasure, despite its overuse as a hiking/trekking area every day. But very few years ago it was a wonderful place to get some fresh air and for those who enjoyed walking, to get the best aerial view of Ipoh from the peak.

Taking a step back to the 1950s, one would enter the foot of the hill via Pike Street, first passing by the old cemetery, the Sikh Dairy Farmers and their Bullock Carts and the glimmering mining pools. From there, one could walk up the metalled road to reach the telecommunication towers, some 808m above sea level. Once there, it was time to enjoy the view of the town shimmering in the haze of heat rising from the below. Then, for the foolhardy, one could race down the road and take a quick dip in the deep and cool mining pools with their dangerous steps and slippery sides. I am sure many ACS students will remember this Saturday morning outing, "Up the hill".

But step back even further when the towers were first built; the road was simply loose gravel and cut, 'zig-zag', into the hillside. Sharp and steep corners were common as you drove up the hill, passing two waterfalls on the way. At that time only Government, four-wheel drive vehicles, were allowed on the road, mainly Police and Military. There were guards at the bottom to prevent entry and the towers themselves were fenced and guarded by armed soldiers.

But what about the hill before all this activity of cutting roads and building fences? Let us step back to a few more years when the area was almost untouched, what was it like then? Obviously, it was nature at its best. The trees, the wildlife, the flora and fauna were free of disturbance by human hand (and feet). It was original Malaya at its best! But there was one man who discovered its natural beauty in the early 1900s; his name was Jack Jennings, editor of Ipoh's first newspaper, "The Times of Malaya".

JAS Jennings and his wife Freda built a cottage at the Kledang Hill Station and named it "Rosedale". This was their idyllic 'getaway' for weekends and holidays after they were married and before they built their "Rose Cottage" retreat in the Cameron

## Ipoh Brain Drain? Redland Design® has the answer

It was year 2007, when I founded Red Land Design®. I managed to persuade a young interior designer who planned to further her career in Singapore to join me. She was one of thousands in the brain drain scenario that has happened (and still happening) for decades in Ipoh.

As an entrepreneur and a proud Ipoh boy, I always wanted to contribute to Ipoh through working out creative ideas not only in our projects, but also to strive in keeping our local talents to grow the interior design industry. Applying the old basic salary system was definitely not the answer as local medium enterprises here cannot compete with the SGD conversion rate.

What our company is offering is turning designers into entrepreneurs. We select the professionals with the most potential in design and renovation; individuals with the right character and drive, sharpen their skill in technical knowledge and business expertise to build our brand through long term collaboration instead of employment relationship. Recognized by multiple international awards in recent years, our company professionalism has been proven.



Chris Lau, Founder of Red Land Design®



To know more about this interior design firm and how they could create for your property, visit [redlanddesign.com/project](http://redlanddesign.com/project) or make an appointment at 1700 818 099 (Toll Free)



Jennings at "Rosedale in 1911. The groom stands at the horses head

Highlands. From Rosedale, they would travel down to Menglembu in their two-wheeled horse cart, so much nicer than today's four-wheeled, air-conditioned automobiles!

Photographs courtesy [www.ipohworld.org](http://www.ipohworld.org)

## Wandering with Ipoh Echo

# Eco-tourism or Temple Tourism?

By Vivien Lian

**I**n the previous issue, I wrote about 'Stop Using Caves As Temples!' and this issue I'm continuing on a cave in Gunung Karang Besar which is in the process of housing a temple. The committee named it Siam Temple and it is yet to be registered, so I urge the state government to look into this matter before another beautiful cave is modified into a temple.

It is important to distinguish the need for development and its contribution to the state economy. Temples are available everywhere as long as there are worshippers but are limestone caves available in other states? Do temples attract the interest of general tourists or do our natural caves have more allure? Who brings in more income to the state? Tourists or worshippers?

I'm told that the budget of state tourism is currently insufficient to develop natural attractions into tourism attractions, plus I'm also aware of the safety risks for not adding infrastructure to the natural attractions. We can wait until the budget is available but meanwhile, can we have regulations imposed to protect the beautiful caves from individuals/companies who vandalise these caves out of self-interest?

The cave is also home to Monophyllaea whose the etymology comes from the Greek μονος, monos = single, and φυλλον, phyllon = leaf, referring to the single leaf of the plant. According to <http://www.genera-gesneriaceae.at/genera/monophyllaea.htm>, this plant grows mostly on limestone rocks, in shady forests, at cave entrances and below rocks. This plant glows whether in the light or in the dark. Not only that, the surrounding of Siam Temple looks like a film set of King Kong. Are we taking what Perak state is blessed for granted?



## Botulinum Toxin

**Dr. Leow Aik Ming**  
Consultant Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon  
Pantai Hospital Ipoh and Pantai Hospital Manjung

**B**otulinum toxin (commercially available as Botox or Dysport) is a simple, nonsurgical treatment, administered by injection to temporarily reduce or eliminate frown lines, forehead creases, crow's feet near the eyes and thick bands in the neck.



### What is botulinum toxin?

Botulinum toxin is a neurotoxin derived from the bacterium (*Clostridium botulinum*). It can be used as an effective and powerful medication for various medical conditions including cosmetic applications. In the 1950s, researchers have discovered that by injecting overactive muscles with minute quantities of botulinum toxin type-A would result in decreased muscle activity. This is due to the blockage of acetylcholine release from the neuron by preventing the vesicle where the acetylcholine is stored from binding to the membrane where the neurotransmitter can be released. This will effectively weaken the muscle for a period of three to four months.

In cosmetic applications, a Botox or Dysport injection, consisting of a small diluted dose of botulinum toxin, can be used to prevent development of wrinkles by paralyzing facial muscles. The wrinkle reducing effect of Botox lasts for approximately three to four months up to six months.

### Other uses of botulinum toxin:

- Facial slimming for masseter hypertrophy
- Blepharospasm
- Calf contouring
- Temporomandibular joint disorder/bruxism
- Hyperhidrosis (excessive sweating)

### Cosmetic applications of botulinum toxin:

Botulinum toxin is one of the most important substances used for facial rejuvenation. This substance is regarded as the most popular way to reduce facial wrinkles with minimal pain and down time. Botulinum toxin can be used as a wrinkle treatment to smooth:

- Frown lines
- Forehead furrows
- Crow's feet
- Skin bands on the neck

### Ideal candidates for botulinum toxin:

Botulinum toxins will not fix all types of skin problems. For example, while it can reduce wrinkles around the eye, it cannot repair the pigmentation caused by skin damage due to chronic sun exposure. The skin thickness, type, and the degree of wrinkling play a role in determining the effectiveness of botulinum toxin. Hence, it is always advisable to complement botulinum injection with other cosmetic procedures such as chemical peels, dermal fillers or microdermabrasion to achieve desirable results.

### Side effects and complications of botulinum toxin:

Although Botox or Dysport injection is generally safe, some of the side effects and complications include:

- Bruising and pain at the injection site
- Redness
- Headache
- Flu-like symptoms
- Nausea
- Temporary facial weakness or drooping
- Very rarely, the toxin can spread beyond the treatment area, which can cause botulism-like signs and symptoms such as breathing problems, trouble swallowing, muscle weakness and slurred speech.



For more information on the procedure mentioned in this article, please visit the following website ([www.elegantplasticsurgery.com](http://www.elegantplasticsurgery.com)).

Online consultation is also available if you have any enquiries, please email: [elegantplasticsurgery@gmail.com](mailto:elegantplasticsurgery@gmail.com).  
Elegant Plastic Surgical Centre, **Pantai Hospital Ipoh**,  
Tel: +605 5405457 (Receptionist) or +605 5405458 (Direct Line)  
WhatsApp : +0126235458  
Elegant Plastic Surgical Centre, **Pantai Hospital Manjung**,  
Tel: +605 6898624 (Receptionist) or +605 6898697 (Direct Line).

## Forgotten Buildings

By Vivien Lian

# Cinema in Ayer Tawar

**I**poh Echo scribes came across this beauty when they were exploring Ayer Tawar. The faded yellow paint together with the size of the building makes it highly visible to a person who loves urban exploration. The architecture looks very much like the cinemas in Ipoh, and despite the big Dunlop sign, raising the question whether this is an Iversen building, the iconic architect who designed most of the old cinemas in Ipoh.

There are two Chinese characters mounted on top of the building, either read as Lok Sun or Sun Lok because shops used to fit the signage which read backwards during the olden days. It was home to a mechanic shop, homeless, drinkers, vandals and squatters, judging by the rubbish they left behind. Now it is home to more rubbish and sick dogs.

Unlike Ipoh's cinemas, with most of them turned into furniture shops, night clubs and snooker centres, where the original furniture and fixtures have been removed, we were lucky to see the intact fittings of wooden cinema seats, elegant architectural decorations, vinyl records and filmstrips.

Who owns this building? Why was it abandoned? Why did the mechanic shop move?

If you know anything about this cinema, write to [vivienlian@ipöhecho.com.my](mailto:vivienlian@ipöhecho.com.my).



## Lifestyle

# Living the Yacht Life

By Mei Kuan



**S**ome of the 35 yachts on the Sail Malaysia Rally Passage To The East which started from Langkawi found anchorage at the 160-berth marina located on Marina Island in Lumut for its haul out, repair and storage facilities as well as basic provisioning.

Ipoh Echo caught up with the amiable, sun-dappled group of over 40 who dropped by Pangkor Island to visit its tourism hotspots.

"Everyone is independent and they join the rally for companionship. Some people who are not very experienced like to have other people with more experience around. Plus in northern Sabah, you have to travel in a group because of the escort provided by the Malaysian government at no cost to look after us," Patrick Southall who hails from England explained to Ipoh Echo. He has been sailing for 28 years with his partner, Elizabeth Fowler on Yacht Labarque.

"These boats are people's houses. People live on boats for years and years. A lot of people are retired and they are sailing for recreation. Some are New Zealanders, Americans, British, French, Germans and they are all here right now. They are lucky people who can afford to go sailing when they retire," 58-year-old Patrick pointed out.

"My longest trip took 34 days from Acapulco in Mexico to Canada, without any stops. A rally has multiple stops and there will be various things arranged in different places. There are three major types of yachts which are monohull, catamaran (with two hulls) and trimaran (with three hulls). Most are monohulls. It's a full-time occupation if you are living on a boat. The maintenance is a big thing," he shared.

When asked on the best part of recreational sailing, 65-year-old Brenda Fraser from Scotland enthused, "There is something new every day. You are meeting new people. We have travelled the world. This is our second trip to Malaysia. The last time we left Malaysia we circled around the world. The longest journey was from Fremantle in Australia to Phuket in 31 days."

She has been sailing for 18 years with her husband, 71-year-old Hugh Fraser on a 40-foot Scotia, which is the old name for Scotland. Brenda cited the weather as the biggest and constant challenge in their sailing adventure.

Here's her advice for those who are new to sailing: "Take your time. Enjoy and don't rush".

The rally would then head to Port Dickson, Puteri Harbour Marina, Kuala Terengganu, Kuching, Brunei and Indonesia among others.

Ipoh Echo would like to thank James Khoo, the operations director of Pangkor Marina Malaysia for giving us an exclusive peek at seafaring. Pangkor Marina Sdn Bhd is located at Jetty Complex 1, Marina Island, KM 1, Teluk Muroh, 32200 Lumut. Do swing by its Facebook page (**Pangkor Marina Malaysia**). For more info, call **05 680 5888** or email [pangkormarina@icloud.com](mailto:pangkormarina@icloud.com)



# Community

## Parking at Pantai Hospital

By Luqman Hakim



Readers were unhappy with new parking charges imposed by Pantai Hospital, Ipoh and had made their dissatisfaction known. Some called our office while some texted us raising their concerns. They felt that the private hospital was acting arbitrarily and unfairly.

We sent a reporter over to find the truth. And this was what he found. There are three parking zones within the hospital compound. Zone A, which is closest to the hospital building, the charges are RM2 for the first hour and RM1 for the next hour and thereafter. The same applies to Zones B and Zone C. A flat daily rate of RM5 is imposed on warded patients.

We enquired with Harith, the public relations officer and he confirmed the new rates. The primary reason for the “rate hike” said Harith was to discourage visitors from parking their vehicles indiscriminately and for a prolonged period of time. The strategy worked, he said.

## Connexion

By Joachim Ng

### Take Charge of Your Own Neighbourhood



Ipoh boy Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye, one of St Michael’s Institution’s most famous alumni from the 1960s, has spent decades preaching the gospel of maintenance. But resistance to his gospel has been stiff. With few exceptions we prefer to maintain the status quo which is: why bother with the litter and stones along the road to climate change?

So pervasive is the culture of non-maintenance that if you want the grass patches in your neighbourhood cleared of rubbish, you have to call the British or Japanese international school to organise a litter hunt. Don’t call your Member of Parliament, State Assemblyman, or City Councillor. The politicians and their appointees have figured out that maintenance does not count as an election issue. It sits at the bottom of the agenda.

No doubt, the city centres and “fly in” highways are kept in sprightly condition — that’s for tourist Facebook and Instagram postings. But the average neighbourhoods where simple folks live are rotting, while the shopping districts are nicely done up. Confucius has a saying that the man who moves a mountain begins by carrying away small stones. He also says that it is from small stones left uncleared that a rockfall may occur and bury you.

Litter by the roadside and in the drain forms a highway that leads chemical dump trucks to Sungei Kim Kim, the river in Pasir Gudang that has become a national symbol of the deadly consequences that Confucius warns about. If we don’t care to maintain our neighbourhoods, we will not care for the rivers nor the climate.

The place to rejuvenate society is your neighbourhood, through a statutorily established neighbourhood association or management corporation. Get your MP to propose a law assigning specific maintenance functions to the neighbourhood associations with a budget to pay contractors. Funds should come from the property assessment taxes, and each association shall elect non-defaulting ratepayers to fill voluntary positions in the neighbourhood governing committee.

This new law must stipulate that the committee is responsible for hiring contractors through pre-qualified open tender to perform such maintenance functions as: grass cutting, drain clearing, road repair, playground upkeep, litter removal. To avoid hanky-panky, the list of contractors for tender should come from the local authority that should also arrange payment.

The law must stipulate a thrice-weekly maintenance driveabout and walkabout, with seconded local authority personnel or property management professionals monitoring the services and making a report to the neighbourhood committee which can decide to penalise or fire under-performing contractors.

NEXT: Catching the litterbugs



**DEALING WITH EMOTIONS:  
THE KEY TO HAPPINESS (PART II)**

处理情绪: 我们快乐的关键 (第二节)

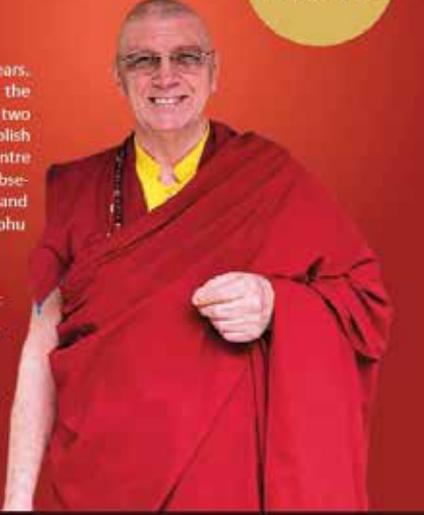
Talk by **Lama Sangyay Tendzin**  
由尊敬的喇嘛圣戒听哲上师 主讲

- 27 April 2019 (Saturday)
- Ipoh Dong Lian Buddhist Temple 怡保东莲小筑  
147, Lorong Abdul Jalil, 30350 Ipoh, Perak

**10 am – 12 pm:** Talk: Dealing with Emotions  
主题: 处理情绪

**3 pm – 5 pm:** Guided Meditation: Apprehending the Nature of Mind.  
Reality versus Emotional Projections  
禅坐指导: 理解心灵的本质 - 现实与情绪的投影

Talk in English with Chinese translation  
英文演说 华语翻译



**Lama Sangyay Tendzin**

has been studying and practicing Buddhism for the past 40 years. He received several transmissions of the great masters of the Kagyud lineage in the Himalayas where he lived for almost two decades. In 1997, he came back to Europe to establish THEG-CHOG NORBU LING, a Karma Kamtshang Dharma Centre hosting a mixed community of ordained and lay people. Subsequently Lama established Dharma Centres in Ipoh, Arizona and Switzerland. All of these centres are affiliated to the Tsurphu Labrang.

喇嘛圣戒听哲在过去40年来一直在钻研和修行佛法。喇嘛上师曾在喜马拉雅山区居住了将近二十年，并接受了数位噶举派传承大师的传法。在1997年，喇嘛上师回去欧洲创办了THEG-CHOG NORBU LING，一个同时容纳受戒僧众及在家居士的噶玛举派传统教中心。随后喇嘛上师分别在马来西亚怡保、美国亚利桑那州和瑞士成立分会。这些分会均隶属于大宝法王的楚布喇嘛。

怡保噶玛举中心法宝苑  
TNG-DZONG IPOH BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION  
No.18 Jalan Kelantan, Canning Garden, 31400 Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia

Contact: Pu Yoke Loong 012-503 2408  
Eva 016 5670 982

## Lifestyle

### A Taste of Ventisquero

By Mei Kuan

Shayo De Vin Wine Bar at Greentown Ipoh hosted an invitation-only barbecue paired with a Ventisquero tasting event on Monday, April 1 together with Michael Milton, Sales Manager Asia & Middle East for Ventisquero.



“Today we are launching our veranda

area set up for al fresco drinking and eating besides having a Chilean wine tasting session with a brief introduction on their products that we are selling. The Chilean wine is classified as New World wine so they tend to produce single variety wine,” explained Alex Ng who runs the wine bar as a family business together with his wife, Mei Ching for about 20 years.

According to Alex, the outdoor seating area sits 40 comfortably and will be serving local and western dishes for lunch starting May.

“For the choices of raw material, I tend to use those we rear from our own farm in Gopeng. At the moment our kitchen is not an active kitchen as I only cook to order but come May, we will make it into a commercial kitchen to cater for lunch,” Alex added.

Ventisquero has been making modern, avant-garde, high-quality wines since 1998 from its 100% family-owned, estate vineyards with a sustainable management plan in Chile’s principal wine producing areas: Atacama, Casablanca, Leyda, Maipo and Apalta. The famed Australian John Duval, three times Winemaker of the Year, has been Ventisquero’s consultant since 2003.

“We are presenting our finest wines crafted in very limited quantities and exported to the world. One wine, in particular, Pangea, is one of our top wines from Apalta, a very premium area in Chile where you have just a few wineries there. It’s a sunny area going up to 35 degrees in summer time and for this wine, we use grapes which are located at the top of the hill. You will find freshness and finesse,” Michael shared with Ipoh Echo.

Based in Shanghai and speaks fluent Mandarin, it was his first trip to Ipoh.

## Where are They Now

### Trying to Find My Family

I wonder if you can help me trace my family that have links back to Ipoh.

I wish to find the family of Agnes & Thomas. I am the grandson of Nancy Gething, who before she was married was called Tan Siew Lean. I think that Nancy was Agnes's auntie. I believe that Agnes & Thomas and their two children lived at 19 Ipoh Drive, Ipoh Gardens in 1971. I have attached pictures too. If anyone can help me I would really appreciate it, as I am travelling to Malaysia in May and would like to retrace my family.

My mother was called Jennie Gething and she had a younger brother called Michael Gething, and they left Malaysia in June 1960. My grandfather was called Thomas Gething and he used to run/own the Oriental-Thai Trading Corporation.

Any help would be extremely grateful.

**David Sawford**

Leicestershire, England.

+44 (0) 7447 006699. Email: david@sawford.co.uk



## Help Needed

I moved from Australia to live in Kuala Lumpur as an expat 30 years ago and had an Amah named Amoi, whose real name I remember as Yun Sum Moi. She lived working with us in Kuala Lumpur for 10 years, although she originally came from Ipoh and often visited her son George and daughter-in-law Kat there. George and Kat opened a laundromat shop in Setapak just before I left KL. Amoi would be around 94 years old now, so I'm not even sure if she would be alive. I have tried many ways to get in touch with her, and searched records but haven't been able to find her and was wondering if you were able to help me or had any suggestions to finding her.

I am returning to Malaysia in April and would very much like to reunite with her and/or her son. Any help would be appreciated.

**Tanya Whykes**

+61 0407497304

ptwhykes@bigpond.com



## Looking for Long-lost Friend

Last month, we from Ipoh World received an email from Mohamed Rafique Sher Mohamed who lived at Golf Club Road in the 50s to the early 60s. His sisters, Hasnah, in particular, had a Eurasian friend, Ruth, who used to live there and attend their home birthday parties. If anyone knows Ruth or has her contact details, Rafique can be reached at rafique\_sher\_mohamed@yahoo.com.



## Tourism

# Initiatives to Promote Tourism

By Rosli Mansor

Newly-introduced, 101 Experience of Perak (Place Making) and the revamped Perak Tourism website [tourisperakmalaysia.com](http://tourisperakmalaysia.com) are two of the latest initiatives undertaken by the state government to promote tourism in the state.

Tan Kar Hing, Executive Councillor for Tourism, Arts and Culture stated that the initiatives were launched at the recent International Tourism Bourse 2019 in Berlin.

The measures, said Kar Hin, were in line with changing trends in the tourism industry.

"Place Making is a strategy to attract tourists to products produced by the community. By doing so, intrinsic values attached to a location, its history, culture and environment will increase.

"The revamped website provides tourists with information such as tourism calendar, mascots, hop-on-hop-off bus and many more," he told reporters during a media conference on Thursday, March 28 at the State Secretariat Building, Ipoh.

Present were the Director of Tourism Perak, Zuraida Md Talib and Manager of P.O.R.T, Nur Hanim Mohamed Khairuddin.

Kar Hing added that Tourism Perak had prepared a table containing QR codes of the tourism website and the hop-on-hop-off bus. He said that Phase 1 of the project, an effort to attract tourists, had been successfully implemented.

"We're into Phase 2 now creating our official Weibo and WeChat accounts to promote tourism to visitors from China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. However, this is open to all skilled feature-content writers with followers of over 50,000 on social media," he remarked.

Kar Hing added that Ipohites will soon have the opportunity to visit new places within the city like the "Pop Bazaar" beginning in April.

The bazaar, to be held every first and third week of the month, will showcase local arts and handicrafts.



## Arts and Culture

### Who's the Boss

By Ginny Soong

March 30 marked a remarkably fun afternoon with a vibrant cast of comedians in a joint effort by Sharpened Word and Parti Komedi Rakyat. Rina, Monti, Shaq, James, Julian, Asta, Juliana and Abbey performed in a live stand-up comedy show, in their explosive debut in Ipoh. With the title of 'Who's the Boss?', they managed to draw in a full house at 22 Hale Street with patrons crammed in the usual venue.

The afternoon started off well with the comedians performing their routines at a simple elevated stage after opening remarks by Aida Nor of Sharpened Word. Monti had the engaging role as emcee which he took on with enthusiasm and was well-received by the audience.

The opening act was Rina, who was then followed by James and Juliana entertaining the audience with their personal brands of humour. At the midpoint, there was a change in pace and format in the form of a fun sketch with Monti and Abbey depicting a Chinaman describing his business endeavours with his google translator in human form. The audience laughed at the idiosyncrasies of translating English to Malay, and by the robotic translator taking the figurative words literally. Up next was Asta,



Abbey, Julian and the afternoon closed with Shaq. With jokes rolling glibly off their tongues, they kept the audience in stitches. Their jokes ranged from the political to honest remarks about everyday life to a mix of dirty jokes and truly Malaysian quips.

Each comedian had their own comedic styles and their refreshing humour derived from their personal experiences, ranging from a Grab driver's experiences to working in insurance and growing up in Chinatown. The two and a half hour session ended on a high note, with audiences still chuckling at memorably witty punchlines. Many thanks to Parti Komedi Rakyat for collaborating with Sharpened Word culminating in a fun afternoon, sharing laughter with an Ipoh audience.

## Entertainment

### Down Memory Lane

By Rosli Mansor

Three singing legends, Dato' Jamal Abdillah, Zamani (Slam) and Ameng (Spring) serenaded to over 5000 fans at the Tiga Suara Concert held on Saturday, April 6 at Indera Mulia Stadium, Ipoh.

Jamal Abdillah told reporters after the concert that he was not expecting such a large crowd in Ipoh. Their warm response ignited his passion to spice up the evening.

"I'm a Perakian and this concert is a gift from us to our adoring fans who still support us. I started singing 40 years ago. The three of us were applauded after every song we sang. We wish to express our sincere gratitude to them all," he remarked.

Throughout the two-hour-plus show, the trio sang seven solo numbers, a few duets and a few as a threesome. The highlight of the evening was the appearance of Jamal's eldest son, Osama Yamani and the Radiowave group, as guest singers.

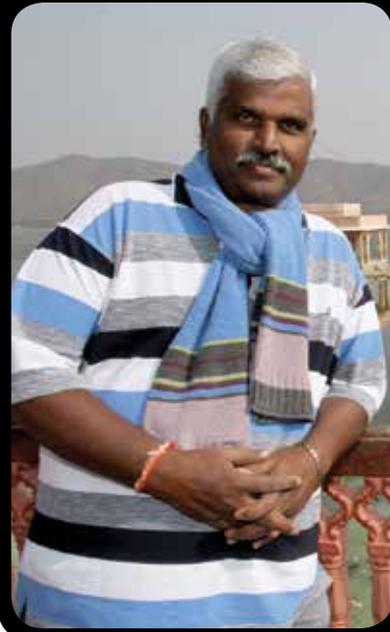
The fans were visibly thrilled by their singing idols.



## Obituary

### Adieu My Friend

By Rosli Mansor



The demise of Malaysian Nanban reporter, P. Chandra Segar, 62, on Tuesday, March 26 came as a great shock, especially to his media colleagues.

Chandra Segar, affectionately named Segar among his friends, passed away peacefully at his Lim Garden residence around 1.30pm on the said date.

The father of three had been living alone ever since his wife passed away six years ago. He had two daughters and a son who currently lives in Kuala Lumpur.

Throughout his 30-year stint as a media practitioner, Segar was known for his easy-going ways and quiet mannerism. Although he was a man of few words, he always had a smile on his face and would lend a helping hand willingly.

Rest in peace my friend, you ran a good race. May your soul rest in eternal peace.

## Arts and Culture

### Free Workshops and Training

By Mei Kuan

Perak Department for Arts and Culture (JKKN) unveiled its major activity calendar 2019 brimming with free-of-charge workshops and training on Saturday, April 6 at Impiana Hotel. The launch also saw the introduction of the department's new director, Abd Rashid Abdullah.

Those new to the arts scene can try out workshops for traditional music, make-up, sound system and lighting system to pick up the useful basics.

Members of the public also can opt for the *Jom Belajar* (Let's Learn) Programme which teaches *ketupat* (Malay delicacy) weaving, ribbon embroidery, *kolam* (Indian rice art form) making, classical Indian make-up, Adobe Illustrator, bead embroidery and *babur lambuk* (spiced porridge) cooking among others.

The line-up of classes is aimed to promote almost forgotten skills and arts besides making the JKKN Complex into a hub for all arts and culture enthusiasts.

Do take note that dance and theatre classes are available for children, teens and adults during the weekends.

Besides that, come hang out with JKKN at the 'Colours of Malaysia Programme', a nationwide recurring arts showcase held every Friday at three hotspots (Sultan Azlan Shah Roundabout, airport and Silveritage) featuring traditional music and dances in order to introduce Perak arts and culture to outside visitors. There are also quizzes and learning activities. It is held either in the morning (10am) or evening (8.30pm).

For more info, call Nor Fairus Alias at **013 993 9091** or **05 253 7001**.

Those who would like to participate in the Perak Theatre Festival 2019 to be held on July 26 can now get the registration form at JKKN Perak counter or send a text via Whatsapp to Rafi at **013 280 2884** by July 5.

Interested readers also can visit the department's Facebook page (**JkknPk infobudaya**) or Instagram (**jkknperak**). JKKN Perak is located along Jalan Caldwell off Jalan Raja Dihilir.



**Accounts Clerk**  
Based in: Head Office, Ipoh

#### Responsibilities

- To do general clerical and accounting duties
- Able to do basic accounting, bookkeeping and data entry

#### Requirements

- Possess at least Diploma or LCCI with at least one year working experience in related field
- Computer literate and proficiency in both English and Bahasa Malaysia

Apply online at [www.klk.com.my](http://www.klk.com.my) or write-in with a resume stating qualification, working experience, current and expected salary, a passport-sized photograph and copies of relevant certificates to:

Head of Human Resource (Plantation)  
Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad

Bangunan Mayban Trust Ipoh, Level 9, No. 28, Jalan Tun Sambanthan, 30000 Ipoh, Perak.

*(Only shortlisted candidates will be notified)*

## LETTERS

We reprint some of our reader's comments from our online paper. Go to <http://www.ipophecho.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.

### Members Reject Proposal

On Sunday, March 31 about 60 members of the Taiping Bukit Jana Golf Resort held a peaceful demonstration within the resort premises.

The reason behind their dissatisfaction was the proposal by the resort owner, Prominent Valley Berhad, to "wind up the membership scheme of the Taiping Golf & Country Club".

The 18-hole golf club, also known as Bukit Jana Golf Club, was established some 20 years ago following the closure of the golf course at the Taiping New Club. Since its opening, ownership and management of the facility had changed hands a few times.

Since the club was located on state land, ownership and management were by the state government through its nominated agencies. Status quo remained as such till it was sold to MK Land. It was then resold to KL Land Development.

Members are now in limbo, as they are unsure what is in store for them following the changeover. During an extraordinary general meeting held recently, members rejected the proposed winding-up of the membership scheme.

The golf club was established to replace the Taiping New Club golf course. The onus is on the present state government to resolve the problem for the benefit of all and sundry.

**Clongviews**



### Bad Bus Schedule from Teluk Intan to Ipoh

Ever since StarMart Express took over the Ipoh-Teluk Intan Express permit, apart from cancelling the special rates for seniors, a lot of inconvenience has been created for the public. Those using the bus service for medical check-ups and job interviews will be a thing of the past. The first trip starts at 9am, upon reaching Medan Kidd station at 11am and an hour spent taking the MyBas, one cannot seek any medical treatment in a private specialist hospital in Ipoh, by the time reaching the hospitals, doctors are already on ward rounds.

It is very disappointing to observe such a schedule now. We just cannot understand why so many trips to Ipoh (including Perak Transit) begin after 9am. Most of the trips are mostly empty buses with five to 10 passengers.

It is hoped that the authorities will look into this problem and do something; at least the first trip should start at 7am or latest 8am, and last trip at 5pm.

Another alternative, Hup Soon Omnibus can have the first trip at 7am to Kampar, instead of 8.30am.

**Chris Ng**

### Plight of the Elderly Poor

Recently, I had an opportunity to meet a postdoctoral student working to complete her dissertation on old folks homes. Her passion for old folks homes mooted me to visit an old folks home in Ipoh.

Under the pretext of delivering some foodstuff to this old folks home, I innocently engaged in conversation with an old man who usually sits in front of the home. He was coughing and gazing afar, often thinking of his younger days. He was then a labourer. His life was one of much suffering. His wife had passed on after a prolonged sickness. Like other poor old men who live with him, he now depends on the old folks home for survival. Though he has a son and a daughter-in-law in Shah Alam, they feel rather ashamed to associate with a destitute old man. They have never asked him to live with them. At first, the son did send some money to the father but it was so little and so seldom that he decided to move into the old folks home.

I am certain that, it's just one of the many cases of the forgotten and neglected old people throughout the country. Behind those wrinkles and gazes, they each have a life story – a story of poverty and struggle, of hope and despair. They all have a common theme; they have been poor but worked hard, many have no one to support, some neglected, they have no economic security and now that they are old, they have to live on charity.

No wonder in the economically poorer homes, some old people go out to beg. When we see a beggar begging, who is to be blamed? The beggar, the previous

Barisan National government, or the present Pakatan Harapan government, or the social system?

They work hard all their life, certainly not less than civil servants, businessmen or ministers, yet they remain poor. Is this fair? Is this equality? Or is it an example of our cruelty to the poor and the weak? I walked out with tears, hoping that the new government would provide them with some permanent solutions.

**S. Sundralingam**

Community

# Going Dark for Earth Hour

**M**eru Valley Resort turned its lights off and plunged its greens into darkness to mark Earth Hour on Saturday, March 30 at 8.30pm.

Members, residents and guests of the resort gathered at the clubhouse from morning to night to take part in the diverse activities organised to encourage action on climate change locally.

A morning community run and walk kicked off the day, followed by planting timber trees with Perak Forestry Department.

To celebrate 60 minutes of solidarity with the message of Earth Hour, the number 60+ was set ablaze, watched by diners enjoying a magical three-course candlelight dinner and acoustic music at the Dome Restaurant.

A resident of EcoVillage, Asogan said, "It's a good experience for my kids, as they get their hands dirty for the first time. The best part of it is the trees are tagged with their names so they can see the tree grow."

The day continued with kid's art and craft, health screening by Meru Eco Clinic; blood donation drive by Hospital Permaisuri Bainun Ipoh; physiotherapy and occupational therapy by KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital with participation by members, residents and staff of associate companies.

"Every year we join the Earth Hour activities by the resort and at home, we plant a tree," Khaliq, member of Meru Valley Resort for five years shared.

Spotted at the blood donation drive was Nik Othman, who was visiting the resort with his family of eight from Kuala Lumpur. He stated, "At home, I encourage my kids to observe the Earth Hour. We reduce electricity usage by switching off unnecessary lighting and air-conditioners".

"I always take reusable shopping bags, reusable water bottles and say no to plastic. I did the run this morning. It's my husband's birthday today too so we are celebrating at home with our daughter," Kerry, a resident of the resort hailing from



South Africa, enthused.

Meanwhile, the children were taught to upcycle old T-shirts into tote bags. Luv Le' Sajwina, 6, said, "I like art. I love my new bag. When I'm home, I will look for my mum's old T-shirt to make new bags".

One of the guests that night, Burns expressed, "This would be the third time my family and I attend the Earth Hour event by Meru. It's an excellent environment to be in whereby my family enjoyed the candlelight dinner. I would like to congratulate Meru for this amazing initiative, respecting and protecting Mother nature for future generations".

General Manager of the resort, Florence Foo said, "This hour is an opportunity to unplug and talk to our loved ones about the things that matter the most. And the planet, nature and wildlife are at the top of that list. At the moment, we are committed to eradicating the use of plastic in the resort which will begin in April".

The resort will continue to support this cause and educate the community, the guests and the staff on the indispensable value of protecting the environment.

## Awesome Since 1939

By Mei Kuan

**C**ommander (Rtd) Ian Anderson, founder and Managing Director of ipohWorld turned 80 in a themed birthday bash held on Saturday, April 6 at the Dome Restaurant of Meru Valley Resort.

The space was transformed into the Wild West when over 100 guests turned up in either cowboy checks or convict stripes to celebrate the heritage icon with a matching birthday cake, good eats and free-flowing bubbles. They were Ian's family and friends hailed from as far as America, France and Scotland.

The theme specific accents that pulled it all together included the tablescape which paired blue gingham and red napkins for a bright colour scheme while cacti and chocolate gold coins were made into centrepieces. Equally eye-catching was the wall of milestone photos.

"We went to visit the Han Chin Pet Soo museum and the wonderful tea museum the other day. It was really fantastic to see the incredible work he has put in. I could not be more proud of my father than I am now. We love you very much and we look forward to your 90th birthday," Fiona Haynes, Ian's daughter shared.

"I've known Ian for about twelve years. Ian was my father's friend and they started with a couple of friends a venture to preserve the heritage and legacy of Ipoh. Over the years, they have collected over 10,000 items. Whatever we have in the collection, he has made every effort to share with the community in Ipoh. He has got a keen eye and very exacting standards for the staff. Through all of this, he has earned the respect of many of us in Ipoh," Dato' Lim Si Boon, Director of Meru Valley Resort expressed.

Present were Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian, Chief Executive Officer of Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad, David Ho Sue San, Managing Director of Hovid, notable emcee, KT Pillai and Datin Caroline Wong.

With the accompaniment of Himz Entertainment, a live band from Penang, everyone got out of their seats and onto the dance floor for a mass line dance.



## Karnival Ria in Ipoh

**N**ESTLÉ Nutrition has brought its inaugural NESTLÉ LACTOGROW® Grow Happy Carnival Ria to AEON Kinta City Mall to enable more parents and their children to experience happy moments together. AEON Kinta City Mall was transformed into a happy wonderland complete with ball pits and slides, interactive LED screens for digital colouring, dance activities and 3D photo booths as part of the event.

The week-long carnival held from April 2-7, culminated with a special Meet & Greet session, where Malaysian actress, Shera Aiyob and Social Media Influencer Atita Haris together with their children, created their 'Grow Happy' moments with their adoring fans. They participated in a fun, interactive dance-off and played with their little ones at the various activity booths at the carnival.

Mr Kenny Wong, Business Executive Officer, NESTLÉ Nutrition Malaysia, remarked, "Our aim is to support parents to create an environment for their children to grow and develop in a healthy and happy way through good nutrition, physical activity, learning through play, and by forming long-lasting relationships".

The LACTOGROW® Grow Happy Carnival Ria event will also take place in TESCO Tebrau City on July 24-28. The final one will be in IOI Mall Putrajaya on July 31 to August 4 where parents will have the opportunity to join in on the fun and learn how their children can grow happy with NESTLÉ LACTOGROW®.

## Community

# Autism Awareness Month 2019

By Joelyn Jonathan

In conjunction with the World Autism Awareness Month, Ipoh Fine Arts Society, Perak National Union of Teaching Profession and Fatimah Hospital organised an event named, “Redha: Acceptance and Beyond” as an initiative in creating awareness.

The function, held at the Brother Liborius Auditorium, Hospital Fatimah on Saturday, April 6, was attended by the Minister of Human Resource, M. Kulasegaran; President of Ipoh Fine Arts Society, Shanti Kumar; Founder of Ipoh Fine Arts Society, Dato’ Karunanethi and movie director, Tunku Mona Riza.

The film titled, “Redha” was screened for the first time in Ipoh. The award-winning movie was about Daniel, a 6-year-old boy with autism and the challenges his parents had to face. The father was constantly in denial while the job of caring for the kid fell squarely on the mother’s shoulders. It is a sad reflection of the real world we all live in today.

The awareness month was launched by M. Kulasegaran. In his opening remarks, he said, “The government realised the necessity to assist autistic people.

“Autism doesn’t affect children alone but parents as well. In Malaysia, one out of 68 children suffers from autism. About 20,000 are presently registered with the Health Ministry. An awareness campaign is crucial for the public to better understand the condition and what actions to take. This is especially so with those from rural areas.

“The government has issued SOPs (standard operating procedures) to the Police on



ways to handle those with autism. There had been cases in the past where autistic people were manhandled by the Police due to sheer ignorance.

“The major problem faced by autistic people is the lack of job opportunities. The government should work closely with the Ipoh Fine Arts Society to remedy the situation,” he remarked.

# Helping The Needy

By Joelyn Jonathan



To help someone without expecting anything in return is difficult. However, for Zechariah @ Zech Prince, 35, helping the needy is part of his responsibility.

Zech, a preacher from Revival Mission Ministries, Menglembu, said that his past experience was what prompted him to help others. Growing up not having enough food and proper clothes made him realised the hardship others go through.

“I see myself in them. My life was difficult during my younger days but the Almighty changed my life. Hunger is the worst feeling because I know how it feels like to have nothing to eat. I’ve always wanted to change the lives of others that are going through what I’d undergone.

“My team of seven people, ranging in age from 30 to 60 years old, shares the same past as I did. We have the same mindset, therefore, it’s easier for us to work together,” he said.

When asked about his modus operandi, Zech replied, he and his team provide provisions to poor families whom they identified. They do not offer money fearing it might be misused.

Besides that, his wife, Mary Anne Lalitha, 32, provides free tuition to less fortunate kids. Mary believes the kids should be educated and not left to languish in poverty.

“Our biggest challenge is the lack of funds. Most of the provisions are sourced by our team members. People come to us for money. We don’t mind feeding them but they’ve to make an effort, as well. Some tend to depend on us for everything and that’s where the problem starts,” said Mary Anne.

Currently, Zech and his team are helping a family from Taman Wang, Ipoh.

Sari, a mother of three, is the sole breadwinner. Her husband abandoned them a few years ago. She worked at a nearby restaurant as a cleaner but was forced to quit after suffering severe numbness in her legs due to hours of standing. In spite of her condition, she continues working at a nearby eatery on weekends. Her 13-year-old daughter works alongside her. Sari needs money to pay for her daughters’ education.

Zech assists the family by providing canned and packet food, as his benefactor does not own a fridge.

“We could only help this much, as we lack funds. I pray for salvation from God to guide this unfortunate family,” said Zech to Ipoh Echo.

Contributions in any form are welcome. Please call Zechariah @ Zech Prince at 011 3622 1481 or Mary Anne at 016 517 5140 for details.



# Every Ringgit Counts

By Luqman Hakim

Sultan Nazrin Shah and Raja Permaisuri Perak, Tuanku Zara Salim graced the fundraising dinner organised by the Perak Association for Intellectually Disabled (PAFID) at Syeun Hotel on Friday, April 7.

Present was Executive Councillor for Islamic Affairs, Islamic Education, Industry, Rural and Entrepreneur Development, Asmuni Awi who represented Menteri Besar Dato’ Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu.

President of PAFID, Dato’ Dr Yeoh Beng San in his opening remarks said, “Managing a huge association does require a large budget, thus we’ve to raise funds regularly. We wish to assure donors that every ringgit received is spent on the special children under our care.

“I wish to reiterate that we do not compete with the government in doing this work, rather we complement the efforts of the education department to educate these special children,” he said.

“The Perak royal family has been associated with us for a long time. In 1989, the late Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah became our royal patron. His visits to our school in Kampong Tawas along with Raja Permaisuri Tuanku Bainun, and his concern for the association had won the admiration of Perakeans. The memories are still fresh in our minds,” he stated.

The association started in Kg Tawas in 1980. It caters to the educational needs of children with learning disabilities. Since then it has grown in size and stature. Today there are schools and workshops in Taiping, Sitiawan, Kuala Kangsar and Batu Gajah. The Ipoh chapter has a kindergarten and a factory, the first of its kind in the state.

Presently, some 400 of these special people are under the association’s care. Many have been gainfully employed in the job market.

One praiseworthy achievement to date is in the field of sports. Their star athlete, Nurasmah, represented Malaysia in the recently-concluded Special Olympics World Games in Dubai. She won Malaysia’s first gold in the Bocce (petanque) event.



# HAPPENINGS

Ipoh Echo IS the **ONE** and **ONLY** medium to reach Ipohites and Perakeans for your Announcements or your Ads.

Only pay RM30 for chargeable events/seminars announcements. You get 3 media avenues for the price of one: • Print (circulation 100,000) • Website (over 1 million hits per month – verifiable) • Facebook (Free public events are published FREE)

Announcements must be sent by fax: 05 543 9411; or email: [announcements@ipophecho.com.my](mailto:announcements@ipophecho.com.my), by the 9<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> of every month in order to meet deadlines. Announcements by phone will not be entertained. Ipoh Echo reserves the right to verify any announcement before it is published.

## ARTS & CULTURE

**EUPHRASIA – THE MUSICAL. MAY 3 & 4, 8pm at Auditorium RTM Perak, Jalan Raja Musa Mahadi, 31400 Ipoh.** An audacious woman beyond her time . . . foundress of the Good Shepherd Sisters. Age limit: 7 and above. Price: RM80, RM150 & RM200. For ticketing enquiries, contact Witz Leong at **012 508 8818**. Email: [EuphrasiaTheMusical@gmail.com](mailto:EuphrasiaTheMusical@gmail.com). Facebook: [ephraasiathemusical](https://www.facebook.com/ephraasiathemusical).

**SHARPENED WORD** is proud to present Jennifer Tan, a self-taught international artist painter and Tan Sri Dr Fong Chan Onn, former cabinet minister turned award-winning photographer in our April edition themed 'EXPRESSION OF A MISSION'. Join us on **APRIL 27, 2pm-5pm at 22 Hale Street**. Exhibition opens from **April 27-28, 11am to 5pm** at the same venue.

## COMMUNITY

**DIABETES MALAYSIA PERAK STATE BRANCH AGM. APRIL 20 (Saturday), 9.30am-12pm at Conference Hall, Diabetes Malaysia Perak Building, 46A Jalan Hussein Nordin, Taman Kin Mee, 31400 Ipoh.** The Community Service Centre is open for service on Tuesdays and Fridays only, from 10am to 12pm. For further details, contact: **05 547 8300, 012 469 2765**. Email: [chandran\\_kanniah@yahoo.com](mailto:chandran_kanniah@yahoo.com).

**EASTER EXTRAVAGANZA – 'THORNS & ROSES' (An Easter Eve Service). APRIL 20 (Saturday), 5pm-6.15pm at St John's Anglican Church, Jalan St John, 30200 Ipoh** (opposite Lembaga Air Perak & adjacent to Tun Razak Library). By the Cantus Musicus' Choir, KL. Featuring choral and audio-visual presentations. Admission is free. Refreshments will be served.

**"WELLNESS & VITALITY" PROGRAMME. APRIL 21 (Sunday), 10am-2pm at AEON Ipoh Falim.** Organised by Urbax Fitness in conjunction with the opening of Urbax Fitness Midtown outlet. There will be a 24-drum performance by Sam Tet School; lion dance; blood donation drive; health screenings; lucky draw; many different fitness classes for the community to experience; free samples & gifts. Also presenting "The Trip" at MBO Falim Cinema, a state-of-the-art "Immersive Fitness" experience. Tickets are free but limited; so come early. It is going to be a lot of fun for all! Follow 'Urbax Fitness' on Facebook for updates.

**DEALING WITH EMOTIONS: THE KEY TO HAPPINESS (PART II). APRIL 27 (Saturday), 10am-5pm at Ipoh Dong Lian Buddhist Temple, 147 Lorong Abdul Jalil, 30350 Ipoh.** Talk in English with Chinese translation. Contact: Pu Yoke Loong **012 503 2408** or Eva **016 567 0982**.

**PHI FREE PREGNANCY SEMINAR. APRIL 27 (Saturday), from 2pm -6pm at Tulip Hall, MH Hotel, Sg Siput.** First time in Sg Siput, with lots of exciting and interactive pre-seminar sessions – portrait art, yoga (bring along your exercise mat) and infant massage. Lucky draws to be won. Limited seats available. For further info or registration, call Ms Stella or Ms Betty **05 540 5725, 05-540 5723**; or click [https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=2633937893290255&id=190337930983609](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2633937893290255&id=190337930983609).

**CHARITY FUN WALK & FUN RUN. APRIL 28 (Sunday), 7am at Car Park opposite Heritage Hotel, Jalan Raja DiHilir, 31400 Ipoh.** Organised by Rotary Club of Kinta to raise awareness (and funds) of poliomyelitis (polio), stroke and healthy living. Registered and paid participants are given a T-shirt, goodie bag and a certificate. Whatsapp **016 637 2495** for the registration link.

**EASTER MUSICAL CELEBRATION – 'SOUNDS OF SENSATION'. APRIL 28 (Sunday), 6pm-7.30pm at St John's Anglican Church, Jalan St John, 30200 Ipoh** (opposite Lembaga Air Perak & adjacent to Tun Razak Library). Admission is free. Refreshments will be served.

**PALLIATIVE CARE AWARENESS MONTH – 'CELEBRATING LIFE'. APRIL 28 (Sunday), 9.30am-3pm at Perak Palliative Care Society, 54 Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah, 31400 Ipoh.** Homemade cookies & jams; nasi lemak; coffee & tea; and more. Blood pressure checks; head, neck & shoulder massages; foot massages; organic herbal soaps; etc. Come say 'Hi' to Cik Kuning, a 5.5ft elephant, by elephant man of art, Yusof Gajah!

**KPJ IPOH SPECIALIST HOSPITAL ANTENATAL CLASSES 2019. MAY 18 (in Mandarin), JULY 20, SEPTEMBER 21, NOVEMBER 16 (in Mandarin) (Saturdays) at 1pm to 5pm at 5th Floor, Dewan Anugerah, KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital, Ipoh.** Free admission. Refreshments provided. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Goodies for participants. Contact Customer Service at **05 240 8777 ext. 8111** for enquiries.

**MALAYSIAN NATURE SOCIETY SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP. MAY 25 & 26 at Taman Herba, Papan.** Jungle trekking, bird watching, water ecology, learning about nature and recycling activities. Students between 10 and 12 years old are invited to participate. Closing date for registration: **April 30, 2019**.

Contact: Lee Yuat Wah **017 577 5641** for further details. Email: [leeyuatwah@gmail.com](mailto:leeyuatwah@gmail.com).

Perbadanan Perpustakaan Awam Negeri Perak  
PESTA BUKU PERAK 2019  
19-23 APRIL, 2019  
Mydin Meru Raya Ipoh

**Kechara Earth Project. LET'S RECYCLE FOR GREENER EARTH. EVERY 4TH SUNDAY of the month, 9.30am-11.30am in front of Ipoh Garden Post Office, Jalan Dato Lau Pak Khuan, Ipoh Garden, 31400 Ipoh.** Carton boxes, paper, metal/aluminium, electronic equipment, plastics, light bulbs, batteries and used clothes. Funds are channeled towards Kechara Food Bank that serves the urban poor and underprivileged community in Ipoh. For more details, contact: **016 532 8309** (Mr So) or **012 522 3200** (Ms Yee Mun).

**FREE REALITY-BASED STREET DEFENSE WORKSHOP. Organised by Urban Street Defense's Centre for all NGOs and Women's Groups in Ipoh.** Workshop covers what to do when you are attacked, defend against various real life attack scenarios and more. Call **016 538 4562** to book a FREE session. Booking confirmation on a first come, first served basis.

**REPORT BULLYING.** All schools in Malaysia have an Anti-bullying Guideline. Anti-bullying hotline: Talian Aduan Disiplin **1800-88-4774** or email [adudisiplin@moe.gov.my](mailto:adudisiplin@moe.gov.my). You can also call **15999 Childline** to report bullying.



## iSpeak

# Save Kledang Hill Campaign

By A. Jeyaraj

Members of civil societies have come together to form a coalition to press our MB not to destroy the forests in the name of development. The members are concerned about the destruction of 10 hectares of hill slope along Kledang Range. During a site visit of the area on March 7, the representative from MBInc said rehabilitation work is being carried out and the area will be reforested, but no time frame was given.



Before



After

Residents living nearby say that hardly any work is being done. The coalition is sending a memo to the MB requesting him to allow representatives of residents living in the area to visit the place whenever they want to see the progress. Members of NGOs and media should be taken to the place once a month to assess the situation.

Parti Sosialis Malaysia (PSM) made a police report on February 9 asking the police to find the people who had destroyed the forest. About seven weeks later police replied informing PSM to follow-up on the case with the Forestry Department. Why must it take seven weeks for police to determine that this is the job of the Forestry Department? The incident took place in early January using heavy machinery and all the people saw it and yet the police are unable to find who did it. There are instances when a police report is made in the morning, the culprit is caught in the afternoon. Why are the enforcement officers reluctant to reveal who the perpetrators are? Why are we going round in circles?

S. Jayagopi, spokesman for River Rangers said the water in Buntong River is muddy now. He has written to the State Irrigation and Drainage Department on the situation. I visited the river in 2016 when the River Rangers were cleaning it; the water was clear then.

Residents living near the cleared area say that water in the streams are muddy and fear that there is a possibility of mudslides. They were reminded of the massive mudslide that occurred in Taman Kledang Permai in 2013 due to development taking place at the foothills and on slopes of the Kledang Range.

The coalition wants experts from the Forestry Department to visit the 400 hectares of forest near

Pusing which was reclassified as Tanah Miskin or degraded forest. The place is primary forest. Officers should visit the area with members of NGOs to prove their claim. We can use drones to view the forest.

The state government should not convert about 260 hectares of forest near Simpang Pulai where Orang Asli are staying, into Timber Latex Clone. This would affect the lifestyle and livelihood of Orang Asli and degrade them.

The Sultan of Perak Sultan Nazrin Shah announced that Kinta Valley is a National Geopark on October 25, 2018. The Kinta Valley Geopark covers an area of 1952 hectares comprising the Kinta and Kampar districts. It is now under the management and monitoring of the Perak State Park Corporation and has been gazetted as a National Geopark. There should be no clearing of forest in Kinta Valley.

An online signature campaign is currently active and members would turun padang and get signatures from the public. A public forum was organised in Menglembu to create awareness.

More NGOs and concerned citizens should join the coalition to stop greedy politicians and businessmen from exploiting our natural resources and assets.

## Sport

# Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2019

By Luqman Hakim

After a week of intense tussle, the 28th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup Hockey Tournament came to a close on Saturday, March 30. South Korea took top spot defeating pre-tournament favourite India 4-2 on penalties, following a 1-1 draw on Saturday, March 30 at the Sultan Azlan Shah Stadium.

The six-team tournament began on Saturday, March 23. The opening match was between India and Japan.

In the final match, South Korea captain Lee Namyang was the toast of his team scoring the winning goal after defeating India's goalkeeper, Krishna Pathak.

Our much-hyped home team, under the guidance of Roelant Oltmans, could only manage third spot outplaying Canada 4-2 on Friday, March 29.

Nonetheless it was an improvement for the national team gaining a notch up the ladder. They were fourth best last year losing 2-3 to Argentina in the semifinals.

The home team got off to a convincing start by trouncing Poland 5-1 on Saturday, March 23. Unfortunately, the players failed to maintain the momentum.

Coach Roelant said it was part of the preparation for World Hockey Cup 2022 preliminary rounds beginning next month. Winning teams will also qualify for the Tokyo Olympics 2020.

After scoring only one out of 11 hits, it proves that the team needs more training before the preliminaries at Bukit Jalil next month.

"We'd definitely want to qualify for the finals. The team needs to double-up their practice for a quality performance next month and start scoring goals. I'm not sad or disappointed with my team's performance during the tournament but I'd be disappointed if they fail in the World Hockey Finals," he added.

For the record, Malaysia has yet to be champion since the tournament's inception in 1983. However, they were runner-ups in 1985, 2007, 2009, 2013 and 2014.

### Men's Hockey World Cup 2022

President of Malaysian Hockey Confederation (MHC), Datuk Seri Subahan Kamal



said that the country's chances of winning the World Cup is bright after the International Hockey Federation (FIH) supported Malaysia's bid to host the event.

"We've already submitted the relevant documents after being shortlisted. We're ready to host the event. I've high hopes now that FIH has given its blessing for Malaysia to host the event. We've the means such as transportation services, hotels and sponsorships," he remarked.

### Tournament results:

Champion: South Korea

1st Runner-up: India

2nd Runner-up: Malaysia

### Roll of honour:

Top Scorer: Jang Jong-hyun (South Korea)-7 and Mandeep Singh (India)-7

Best player: Surender Kumar (India)

Best goalkeeper: Kim Jae-hyeon (South Korea)

Fair play: Japan

## Mid One, E-sports Icon

By Luqman Hakim

Executive Councillor for Youth, Sports and Human Development, Howard Lee, recently announced that Yek Nai Zheng, 23, also known as "MidOne", is Perak's E-sport icon Year 2019.

The Bagan Serai lad, an active member of Team Secret, is a professional Dota 2 player. He has won several championships around the world and at the age of 23 is a multi-millionaire.

Yek Nai's affinity for video games began when he was a child. He started playing at the age of three. His first video game was Tetris on a Gameboy. He then moved to console gaming, playing the Final Fantasy series on PlayStation 1. At the age of seven, he played his first computer game, Sonic and Rayman before venturing into Dota. He became hooked when he saw his brother playing the game.

From Dota he advanced to Dota 2 playing in semi-professional and professional teams. While becoming the first player from South East Asia to reach 8000 MMR (Matchmaking Rating), he is an upcoming Dota 2 player in Malaysia and South East Asia. Yek Nai studies mechanical engineering at Multimedia University, Melaka.

Picking up Dota from his brother, he kept on playing against him and his cousins in one-to-one matches. Despite losing, he had a competitive mindset. He wanted to improve and beat professional players such as kYxY.

When he was 13 he joined the SMM tournament qualifier and came in second. A few years later he partook in minor tournaments around Malaysia in to hone his skills as a Dota 2 player while, at the same time, playing on solo matches to improve his MMR rating.



While playing Dota as a competitive amateur his parents would tell him to stop playing; ironically his friends would tell him to stop studying and take a break. When he became a professional player his parents and friends decided to give him the support he needed.

However, a string of losses made the youngster re-evaluate his Dota career. He was on the brink of quitting the game when a tournament tempted him to give his all. He rallied his friends and formed Team DOT. After a successful preliminary round in Penang, his team qualified for the main event. In the finals, they defeated Team GIZMO 3-0 earning a cash prize of RM60,000.

He later received an offer from Fnatic's manager, Eric. After some negotiations, he joined Fnatic.

On April 29, 2016, he became the first player to hit 8000 MMR on the South East Asia servers. After coming in third in the StarLadder StarSeries S2 and fourth place at The International 2016, his nine-month stint at Fnatic came to an end when he joined Team Secret on August 27, 2016.

According to a report from E-sports Earning, Yek Nai is at the top spot with a gross winning income of USD1.18 million (RM4.84 million) in winnings in the past four years.

His recent victory is The Chongqing Major held at Shanghai, China on January 27. He brought back a total of USD350,000 (RM1.42 million). Besides that, during the ESL One Katowice 2019 on February 24, the kid won a total of USD125,000 (RM508,750).

"My next target is to win the MDL Disneyland Paris Major championship to be held in Europe. And ultimately to secure The International Dota 2 title," he said.

MidOne also expresses his gratitude to the Perak Government for recognising e-sports and the players. As an e-sport icon, MidOne is responsible to uphold the state's good name in the international arena.

## History

# Battle of Kampar

By Dato' R. Thambipillay

It is almost 74 years since World War 2 ended in 1945. Statistics show that civilian casualty was double that of the security forces. We have enjoyed peace and tranquillity for nearly 60 years now. Those still alive would be in the late eighties or early nineties – a life of uncertainty. When they are gone, only history will remain for the present and future generations to read about in books and journals.

War historians have described the Battle of Kampar (December 30, 1941, to January 2, 1942) as one of the fiercest battles during the Malayan campaign. Both opposing sides suffered heavy losses.

On June 12, 2005, the Warriors Association of Malaysia organised a commemorative event, with over 200 participants in attendance, at the Khalsa Diwan Malaysia hall in Ipoh. The gathering was headed by Santokh Singh, President of Khalsa Diwan Malaysia. This continued at the same venue until 2010.

Meanwhile, efforts to recover the missing World War 1 plaque on the Ipoh Cenotaph were successful. The plaque was then placed at its original spot on the cenotaph. The annual remembrance ceremony has been held there ever since.

The ceremony attracted high commissioners, ambassadors, defence attaches, members of the Ipoh, the Kampar Sikh community, Nepalese residing in Kuala Lumpur and members of the Warriors' Association of Malaysia.

The service, conducted by six multi-faith clergies namely, Muslim, Sikh, Christian



and Hindu, was dedicated to the fallen heroes who were from a diverse religious background.

An Australian veteran once asked what had come of the many Japanese casualties following the battle. Those he spoke to were unable to give an answer, as they were clueless. However, many were of the opinion that the remains could have been buried in mass graves. No one knows where they are.

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