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# Heritage/Cultural Associations in Ipoh: Thriving or Surviving?

By Chris Teh

Historically, Ipoh has been one of the cities in Malaysia where many associations were formed for the purpose of preserving one's heritage and to mingle with others who come from the same background.

Today, the common concern of these associations is that the younger generation has little interest in their heritage and are reluctant to participate in activities organized by such associations. To get a deeper understanding of this societal phenomenon, Ipoh Echo went in search. As there are many associations in Ipoh itself, we only covered a few which were open for interviews.

FULL STORY ON PAGES 2 & 4



## Kuala Kangsar – Laksa King



by Rosli Mansor Ahmad Razali



The royal town of Kuala Kangsar is renowned not only for its heritage, it is synonymous with well-loved *laksa* (rice noodles served in a hot soup).

Established since 1990, Lubuk Dapur Kayu Laksa located at Kampung Lubuk Kuala Kangsar is among the best and must-visit *laksa* stalls.

The dish is called *laksa pulas* as its noodles are handmade from wheat flour just like how it was done traditionally.

According to the stall owner, Norain Abu Hasan, more than 80kg of *laksa* are sold during the weekends.

"A total of three pots of gravy is produced especially during weekends and public holidays.

"Our *laksa* receives overwhelming response from international visitors hailing from Arab countries, Thailand and Singapore. They get to enjoy the *laksa* in a rural setting, away from the hustle and bustle of the city. That is what makes our *laksa* special," she said.

Equally must-try *laksa* stall is the Laksa Pokok Limau which serves *laksa telur bersarang* (laksa with nest-shaped omelette). It is run by Aziza Mat Idris since 2010.

The dish comes with a crispy omelette in a thick gravy made from a combination of sardine, tamban fish and mackerel.

Made of rice flour, the noodle is loved by foreign tourists from America, Japan and Brunei.

After a meal, drop by Arena Square and around Dataran Lembah next to the Perak River to shop for souvenirs. A plethora of fine crafts is available such as *tekat* (embroidery), *keris* (traditional dagger), *anyaman bakul* (woven basket) and *labu sayung* (gourd-shaped jar) among others.

Don't forget to visit the Bukit Chandan Royal Palace, Ubudiah Mosque, Istana Kuning and Sultan Azlan Shah Gallery for a nostalgic trip back to the glorious past.

**Laksa Lubuk Dapur Kayu** – KPW Kubang Panjang, Kampung Paya, Kuala Kangsar. FB: Nora Hasan. IG: norahasan91.

GPS: 40° 48' 20.3112"N 100° 54' 6.01776E

**Laksa Pokok Limau**

FB: Laksa Pokok Limau - Jalan Besar Utara Selatan, Kampung Bendang Susur, Kuala Kangsar. IG: @Laksapokoklimauft. GPS: 40° 48' 8.10576"N 100° 56' 55.55796E





## While Elders wish to keep traditions alive, the younger generation has other priorities



Loh Liong Fah (left), Loh Ngee Pin (centre) and Chong Boon Yoke (right)

The following are just examples of struggling heritage-based associations.

**Loh Ngee Pin**, 86, president of **Malaysia Huadu Association**, stated that although the association is still active, the lack of active younger members concerns him and the association about the future of Huadu heritage and culture.

"We organize activities every now and then, but the younger members attend only if they are requested or invited to. Otherwise, they would not have the initiative," Ngee Pin said.

He elaborated that the association also provides support to members and their children and activities organized out of Perak that concern the association.

Major traditional Chinese festivals such as Chinese New Year gatherings, Duanwu Jie (Dragon Boat Festival) and Dongzhi (winter solstice), not to mention annual dinners organized by the association every year end, are a few of the activities Malaysia Huadu Association is jointly involved with other Chinese associations in Ipoh.

**Chong Boon Yoke**, 58, secretary of Malaysia Huadu Association, voiced out her similar concern about the lack of active involvement from members of the younger generation.

"Most of the active members are ageing and without any potential successors from the upcoming generation, our cultures and traditions could easily vanish in the future," Chong elaborated.

She also added that young members constitute only an approximate 30 per cent to the total member size of Malaysia Huadu Association, which is quite alarming.

Established in 1955, the association was originally named "**Perak Fah Yuen Wui Koon**" (literally translated Perak Fah Yuen Association).

**Loh Liong Fah**, 71, assistant secretary of Malaysia Huadu Association, highlighted that in the event of China renaming Hua Xian (county) in 1993 to present day Huadu District which is part of the Canton Province's capital, Guangzhou, "Perak Fah Yuen Wui Koon" had officially changed their name to "Malaysia Huadu Association" in 2011.

Asked on the association's objective, he answered, "Malaysia Huadu Association was established to not only be a fraternity of social contacts for people with origins similar to us but also as a preserver of our heritage."

Liong Fah added, "The objectives of our association have not changed throughout its operation for 64 years, although we devise different methods to accomplish them to cope with timely and societal changes."

Liong Fah added that some members of the association occasionally travel back to Huadu District, China to obtain updates on any news of familial ancestors and descendants that are scattered around Malaysia or China itself.

"We recently received a request from a fellow member who lives in Kuala Lumpur who wants to locate his long lost ancestry. What we do is we assist in finding the exact location of his ancestors' hometown in Huadu, China," he explained.



Chong Kee Sang, longtime member

Another example of a surviving association is **Perak Phun Yue Association**, where we only managed to interview a longtime member of the association, **Chong Kee Sang**, 84, who said, "Younger members of our association do not genuinely know about their ancestry's root. We used to be very active before the millennium year but now we are only organizing annual dinners every Independence Day of Malaysia."

According to Chong, there were many unresolved misunderstandings within the Phun Yue Association, which led to why the association is now in the hands of the younger generation.

"I still remember an annual dinner back in the year 2000, where it was severely disrupted because some people were dissatisfied with our association, but it is water under the bridge now," he recalled.

"I would say that the younger members have strayed far from the association's objectives, but as long as they keep the association active and not tarnish the long-running reputation of Phun Yue, I am already content."

Phun Yue Association was established in 1934 with the objective of enabling immigrants from Phun Yue, China to search for jobs and as a social network platform of fellow Phun Yue tribes in pre-independence Malaya.

Ipoh Echo also contacted several other associations such as the **Perak Toi San Association**, Perak Qiong Hai Association and Perak Yungting Association but no responses were received.

### Dying association

Operating today as **Wushu Club of Luo Han Duan**, it was previously named **Perak Pyramid Weightlifting and Bodybuilding Association (P.P.W.L & B.B.A)**.

Established in 1926, the association was known for organizing bodybuilding competitions, notably **Mr Perak 1974**. At its peak during the 80s, there were over 1000 members and a lion dance troupe which is still active.

According to Wushu Club of Luo Han Duan secretary **Yap Chin Kooi**, the association no longer goes under the name P.P.W.L & B.B.A because the registrar of societies' states the association would have to be registered under a new name or else they would have to cease all lion dance activities.

The association had received many contributions from a few honourable individuals, such as the late Dato' Seri Lau Pak Khuan and late Tan Sri Dato' Seri Lee Loy Seng.

Today, the club is involved in lion dance activities and table tennis occasionally, although self-defence classes like taekwondo and karate from senior members were discontinued.

### Freemasons

"Freemasonry does not exactly appeal to the younger generation," said **Sreethararaj**, 57, a Freemasons member for almost 12 years.

"It is more of a fellowship, where ceremonies and rituals are part of the social gathering among the members. The society does not publicize their activities, although they are anonymously involved in charities and relief to victims of natural disasters, such as those from Aceh Province in Indonesia," he elaborated.

"Most members are in their 30s and 40s. Some are already very old," he stated.

Asked on the membership of the society, Sreethararaj answered, "Freemasons are indeed experiencing a decline in membership, especially from the younger generation, mainly due to them not knowing what actually goes on within the society given its reclusive nature, which is why the society is currently organizing mentoring and team building programmes to attract them to join."

He highlighted, "The suitability criteria for joining Freemasons used to be very strict, but today, as long as one is not criminally convicted and believes in the existence of a Supreme Being, individuals from all ethnicities are welcome to join."

A notable member of the Freemasons was the late Sultan Idris Shah II, the 33rd Sultan of Perak, reigning from 1963 to 1984.

The most prominent Masonic Lodge in Perak is perhaps the Tiger Lane 'Temple', as mentioned by Sreethararaj, beside the Royal Perak Golf Club, which is the main lodge in Ipoh, where annual meetings and gatherings are mostly held.



Tiger Lane Temple, sourced from <https://www.ipohworld.org/2010/10/13/the-masonic-lodge/>

### The Younger Generation

We also approached Ipohites of the younger generation on their willingness to join heritage-concerned associations.

**Muhamad Fahmi**, 28, an Ipohite working as a medical assistant, said that joining associations will be the very last thought that comes to his mind.

"I recently became a father to a newborn daughter, and I have many things to look out for," he stated. "It is not currently the most suitable time to join an association. I fear that I will not be able to fully commit to being a member."

Adding to his views, Fahmi said the desirability of joining an association depends on the ideals and objectives an association leans on, especially old ones. "I would like to see any relevance of joining an association given the rising costs of living and whether the association is able to inspire me to improve my way of life."

**Chris Chong**, 27, an avid reader of Ipoh Echo, said that he would consider joining an association if its ideals and goals match his interests.



Perak Weightlifting and Bodybuilding Association, sourced from <https://db.ipohworld.org/view.php?type=id&id=9711>



# GAME OF THRONES ALA MALAYSIA

*Politics is the main staple of the Malays. They eat, live and breathe politics.  
Politics is to the Malays what business is to the Chinese.*

Minister of Economic Affairs and possible Mahathir's heir apparent, Azmin Ali, could either be a bisexual or a homosexual. Whatever his sexual preference is, it is unacceptable in a conservative Muslim society like Malaysia. And should his widely-publicised sexual escapade in a Sandakan hotel be proven true, his political career and goody-goody image will definitely take a beating. And his PM-wannabe moniker will dissipate.

Following the circulation of a same-sex video clip, through WhatsApp, speculation has been rife about the motive and the individual(s) behind the admission by Muhammad Haziq Abdul Aziz that he was the other man in the gay sex romp with Minister Azmin Ali, the blue-eyed boy of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

It was rumoured that the video had the tacit approval of Parti Keadilan Rakyat's president. It is unwise to assume so due to his rivalry with Azmin, a keen supporter once. If indeed he is the culprit, he is in for trouble.

The only reason Anwar could possibly have wanted to erase his once favourite protégé Azmin's political career is the many excuses by Mahathir and his refusal to set a timetable to hand over the premiership, despite many closed-door discussions. Such an argument has been pooh-poohed by pundits.

Nonetheless, it is speculated that nobody would dare to pull such a stunt except for Mahathir himself. After all, this is the same man who created the homosexual phenomenon in 1998 when he got his then deputy – Anwar Ibrahim – indicted for sodomy. With Inspector-General of Police Abdul Hamid Bador now behind him, Mahathir has the clout to bring down Azmin should he decide to so.

Just because the PM had insisted the sex video was a fake does not mean that he is serious. Remember, this is the very guy who had backed his deputy 20 years ago only to make a U-turn at the eleventh hour and had him sacked soon after. But he decided to make amends with the same man when the odds were stacked against him. Their resolve to get rid of an irritating kleptocrat was what galvanised the two bitter enemies.

True, Mahathir appointed Azmin Ali as the powerful Economic Affairs Minister as part of his "divide and rule" strategy to keep Anwar in check. But that did not mean that he is treating Azmin differently.

Azmin's performance as the economic affairs minister is nothing to shout about. He has done little to boost the country's economy so far.

Yes, both Anwar Ibrahim and Mahathir Mohamad have their own reasons to finish off Azmin Ali's political career. At best, Azmin's meteoric rise must be stopped, at least temporarily. Azmin, is an opportunist, to boot.

It doesn't matter whether the mastermind behind the disgusting gay sex video was Anwar Ibrahim, Mahathir Mohamad or someone from UMNO. The most important question is whether the video is real or fake. If the video is real, which seems the case so far, it won't matter even if Anwar is found to be indirectly involved in this so-called gutter politicking.

Mahathir would be seen as a hypocrite for protecting "Azmin the Gay" when the premier had proudly rejected gays and lesbians when he declared that Malaysia will not recognise LGBT culture or same-sex marriage in the country as it does not subscribe to "Western values". The elder statesman will also have difficulties explaining his support for Azmin now, but not Anwar in 1998.

Azmin Ali can put up a brave front but his reputation and integrity have taken a plunge. Azmin's case is different from Anwar's. Anwar's sodomy allegations, in 1998 and subsequently in 2008, were poorly scripted political assassinations due to lack of strong evidence. Azmin's gay sex allegation comes with the "unnatural sex" video clips as living proof.

Like it or not, Azmin Ali has lost the plot when he refused to sue his paramour, Haziq for not only exposing their sexual romp in a hotel room but accusing the minister as corrupt. Azmin has nobody but himself to blame.

Azmin had gotten incredibly arrogant upon being promoted as the economic affairs minister. He thought that with Mahathir's patronage, he was invincible hence burning his bridge with Anwar.

Malaysia's own Game of Thrones has just started. However, the script can be onerous and predicting the outcome of the show is definitely not for the impatient people like you and me.

## Gutter Politics

Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia's first prime minister was perhaps the only honest premier the country ever had. Tunku was a true leader of a multiracial and multi-religious country. Yet, he was brought down by gutter politics.

His deputy – Abdul Razak Hussein – orchestrated the May 13, 1969, racial riots with Selangor Menteri Besar, Harun Idris. The plan was to oust Tunku who was not keen on Razak and his Malay agenda. I had joined the army when May 13 erupted in Kuala Lumpur and had the misfortune of witnessing the carnage first-hand.

The dirty and gutter politics did not end after Razak "outmanoeuvred" Tunku following the 1969 riots. At its peak, Barisan Nasional consisted of 14 political parties. Yet, the so-called Malay unity did not last long. In 1977, PAS was kicked out from the BN fold following a tussle in Kelantan over the appointment of its Menteri Besar.

Ten years after PAS was booted out, UMNO was in trouble once again. Under Mahathir, a man whom Tunku Abdul Rahman labelled as one of those responsible for the 1969 riots, the party was split into Team-A and Team-B.

Anwar Ibrahim, co-founder of the Muslim Youth Movement (ABIM) was lured by Mahathir to join UMNO in 1982. Wealth and power were simply too tempting. Anwar's meteoric rise was rudely disrupted in 1998.

Already, the then deputy prime minister and finance minister, he challenged Mahathir over how to handle Malaysia's economy, which was under pressure following the 1997-



98 Asian Financial Crisis.

Mahathir sacked Anwar

over allegations that he

was involved in corruption and "unnatural sex" – sodomy. So, dirty

and gutter politics were all over the place again.

Najib Razak was appointed 6th Prime Minister of Malaysia after Mahathir pressured Badawi to resign in 2009. But Najib was worse than Badawi. He and his wife, Rosmah, are alleged to have skimmed billions from the national coffers.

Politics is the main staple of the Malays. They eat, live and breathe politics. Politics is to the Malays what business is to the Chinese. But unlike in the business world, where one can complement each other, the same cannot be said about Malay politics. PPBM, PKR, Amanah, UMNO, PAS and whatnot are fighting for the same

market share, spilling over into each other's turf.

Since the Malays are never into business, their ticket to instant wealth and power is via politics. If you think an innocuous "blow job" behind closed doors is dirty, wait till you hear how some supposedly holy men declare "lies" as "Shariah-compliant" so that they could continue hoodwinking their Muslim brethren. Try asking the non-sinner Hadi Awang where he got his RM90 million donation from? Obviously, it did not fall from the sky.

*C'est la vie.*



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**THE PERAK SOCIETY OF PERFORMING ARTS (PSPPA) SINGERS** will be presenting a **CHARITY CONCERT** entitled **THE 7th Night of July** featuring a collection of **classic favourites** from around the world **woven into a heart-warming love story**. Entry passes are given free but attendees are encouraged to make a freewill donation in cash or kind towards the **LIGHTHOUSE HOPE SOCIETY (LHS)**.

LHS is an NGO which has been providing **free meals, free medical care, haircuts, clothing, drug rehabilitation assistance**, legal assistance and **other humanitarian aid for the hungry, helpless and homeless** in the society **regardless of race or religion since year 2006**.

It also does **Orang Asli Economic Empowerment Projects** to assist the OA communities by providing rubber/durian seedlings along with chicken rearing projects. An expanding part of their charity involves installing free solar lighting for villages without electricity under the **LightUP Our Kampung Solar Project**. Do come and enjoy this PSPPA musical and lend your support towards the Lighthouse Hope Society!

## THE 7<sup>th</sup> Night OF July

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## Heritage/Cultural Associations in Ipoh: Thriving or Surviving? . . Continued from Page 2

"I will not join any associations just for the sake of saving it," he stated. "To be a member of any association, one has the obligation to contribute, not to just sit around."

In a more elaborative opinion, Chong said, "I am just feeding older members' ego if I join associations that do not have a commitment to a cause, which if they are, they would not be struggling with the lack of younger members today."

**Shivarhuban**, 23, an Ipohite currently furthering his studies at Universiti Utara Malaysia, voiced his interest in joining an association.

"The trend of ignoring their cultural origins is quite common among my friends, which is rather worrying. Being a member of these associations is a good opportunity to take part in learning more of one's heritage and preserving those values."

Asked on her views about heritage-based associations, Ipohite journalist, **Tan Mei Kuan**, 28, answered, "I am open to the idea of joining any association, provided they offer healthy and culturally stimulating activities."

Tan hopes that heritage-based associations are open to all and not be separatist groups.

"As an obligation and social responsibility of being Malaysian, I would love to learn more on the heritage of others, as well as my own," she highlighted.

**Sara Chu**, 26, fellow Ipohite working in Kuala Lumpur, said she would not join any associations due to career and time constraints.

"I am already very busy working in



Tan Mei Kuan

the customer service line, so I rarely have time for myself, let alone to join an association," Sara explained.

She added, "Rarely do I have the opportunity to get some free time off, and I would rather spend them by hanging out with my friends or doing things I like, not to join associations which I know little to nothing about."

Voicing out his similar opinion, **Devendran**, 33, an Ipohite working as a factory operator, stated that due to his busy work schedule, he does not take an interest in joining any associations.

"It is physically demanding to work in an industrial line," he said.

Adding to his opinion, he answered, "I prefer resting at home or catching up with my favourite entertainment during my off days."

**Ariveinthan**, 26, an Ipohite working in Kuala Lumpur as a doctor, is uncertain on joining any associations for the time being.

"Working in the medical field demands a lot from me, so the thought of joining an association never comes to mind," he explained. "If I have lesser commitments in the future, I might consider joining one, because it will be nice to know more about my origins."

"I am not even sure about my own heritage," said Ipohite **Afiqah Rafael**, 22. She explained, "My father is an Indian while my mother has Turkish and Pakistani origins, which is why I am unsure about my own roots."

So the question arises for a lot of these heritage/cultural associations: How can the elders make their associations more attractive and relevant to the younger generation to avoid falling into obsolescence as some of them already are?



Afiqah Rafael

## Upcoming Time to Show Your Talent

St Michael's Institution Ipoh will once again be putting on their Talentime 2019 on **July 13 and 14**. This continues the strong tradition of performing arts at St Michael's which began in 1954 with the inaugural stage production of "The Poet of Ispaha".

This annual showcase of performing arts continues faithfully year after year and a check at the record in their archive shows that St Michael's has produced more than 50 plays and talent shows – a truly remarkable achievement.

Their boys and girls who take part go through weeks of serious and stringent sessions to bring forth their musical skills and talents.

Michaelian Talentime has always been a Michaelian production. Those on stage, from the cast, crew, make-up artists to the musicians, are all the products of the school. As they get together, these volunteers and participants experience self-development, to learn the process of esteem-building, to express oneself and have respectful interaction.

Through this platform, students learn critical thinking skills that will stay with them all of their lives. They also bring home organisation and leadership skills, perseverance, self-motivation and self-discipline.

Funds raised from the sales of tickets and sponsorships are aimed to fund activities to foster curriculum development and enhancing facilities of the school.

Tickets are sold at RM20 and RM50 each. The dates for public performances are on the 13th and 14th July 2019, starting at 7.45pm, Venue: St Michael's School Hall.

For details, call **05 254 0418** during office hours.



## Sport

# VICTOR Malaysia International Series 2019 Champion

Malaysian badminton player Soong Joo Ven, 24, emerged as champion in the VICTOR Malaysia International Series 2019 men's singles badminton tournament after defeating fellow Malaysian player Cheam June Wei by straight sets 21-13, 22-20 in a 47-minute finals match.

When met, Soong said that this was his first time winning a tournament since its introduction in 2016. "There were lots of players with high calibre. It was not easy winning the title even though this is a minor tournament," he explained.

"I aim to compete in bigger tournaments and place myself in the international top 40 players ranking by this year," Soong added.

In the women's singles tournament, Malaysian player Eoon Qi Xuan lost to Indonesian player Sri Fatmawati by 19-21, 8-21 in a 34-minute match.

In men's doubles, Malaysian pair Low Hang Yee-Eng Cheong were defeated by Indonesians Leo Rolly Carnando-Daniel Marthin 21-17, 17-21, 11-21.

However, Malaysian pair Tan Pearly Koong Le-Muralitharan Thinaah won the women's doubles tournament by 21-16, 11-21, 21-18, defeating Indonesian pair Febriana Dwipuji Kusuma-Ribka Sugiarto in a rubber set.



Luqman Hakim



# SeeFoon goes Pubbing

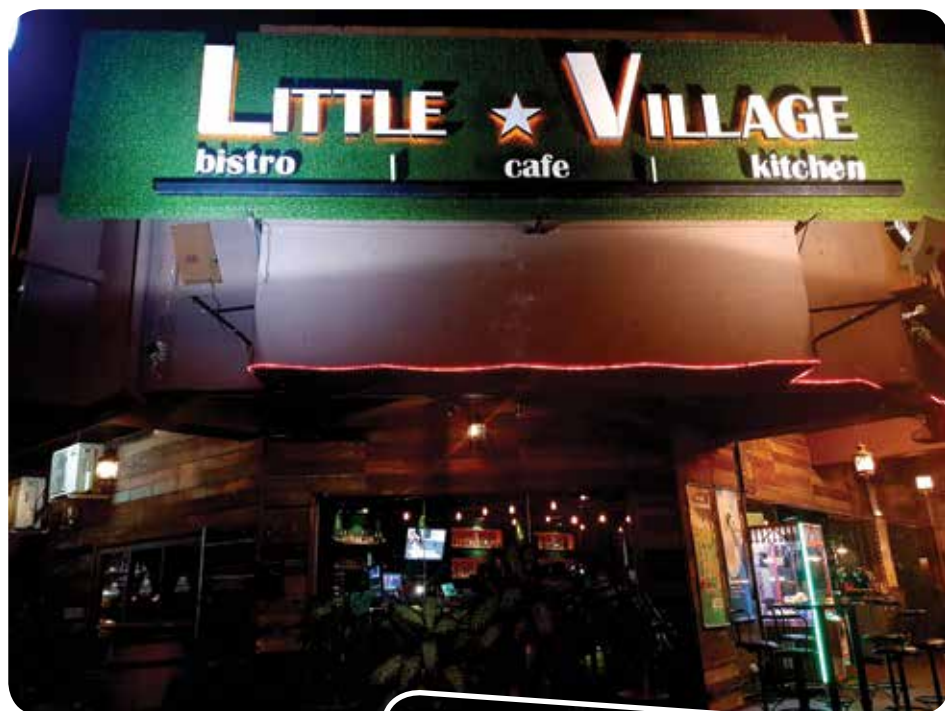


ON IPOH  
FOOD



By SeeFoon Chan-Koppen  
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Pics by Vivien Lian



Kee and mother



Pork Lardons Pizza

Pubs used to have the most boring food. Some peanuts, a bowl of potato chips or other nibbles and that's that. Today, with the competition becoming increasingly intense, pubs have become a lot more innovative, and serve interesting food to seduce their customer's palate. So instead of customers coming in for an evening cocktail or two, before heading somewhere for dinner, they can now come in for a cocktail or two or three and stay right there for dinner. Especially when the menu is temptation itself.

**Little Village** is just one of these pubs. Located on a corner lot in the busy Ipoh Garden East area on Jalan Medan Ipoh 5, this pub is not only tempting customers with its karaoke and drinks menu but is moving strongly into the restaurant business with its food offerings.

Their menu is an extensive one, complete with snacks, appetisers, mains both western and oriental and of course their very big drinks menu with many beer offerings at very competitive prices and my favourite, apple cider Somersby available in draught form, at RM15 for one pint and RM36 for 3 pints.

Some of my dear readers may not be much into drinking. In that case, worry not, as **Chong Teik Kee** or simply **Kee** as he is called, the young proprietor, has taken that into consideration and has provided for a large **covered** outdoor patio complete with ample fans for you to sit out and enjoy dinner before the loud music begins. So bring your kids and your grandparents too to enjoy the food. And who knows, maybe your 'grans' or parents may even enjoy the music and sing a song or two!

For starters, their **egg and bacon salad** is jolly good, with a very smooth, sesame flavoured dressing, generous on the bacon (real pork) and topped with toasted sesame seeds; **RM12**.

Or have it with **duck breast** (same preparation); **RM18**. Another "picky" as I like to call them, meaning finger food, is the **fried chicken wings**, crispy on the outside and juicy and succulent inside (eat your heart out KFC!), and served with a tangy chilli sauce; **RM14**.

We were a very large group that day so we had the opportunity to try many different dishes. Of these I would recommend the following:

Their **Iberico spare ribs** are second to none. Marinated very simply as explained to me by Kee's mother **Ngai Yee Kun**, who is the main chef in the kitchen, these ribs are fall-off-the-bone tender, juicy and utterly delectable. Eaten with fingers of course (!), gloves are provided so you won't have to end up with grease all over. **RM128** will serve 3-4 pax.

And using the same **Iberico pork** their **homemade Char Siew** is similarly yummilicious. Dripping with honey, fat marbling throughout the meat, the slices melting as they slide down your gullet; **RM48** for a serving for 2.

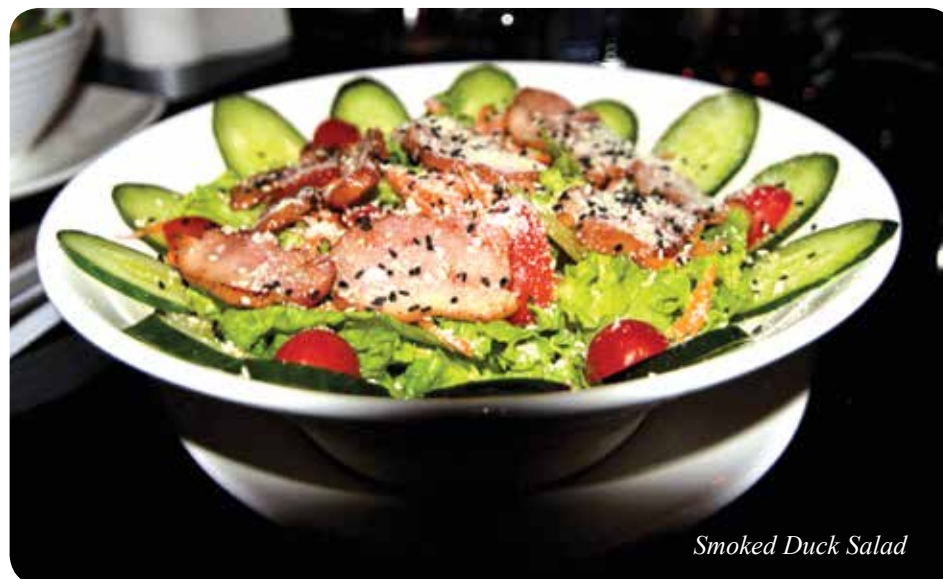
They also have a pizza menu at very reasonable prices from a Margarita to the Bacon and Boiled egg; **RM10-RM16**. But the piece de resistance came when my foodie kaki **Ginla Chew** challenged Kee to produce a "**Chu Yow Char**" (**pork lardons**) pizza. Kee rose to the challenge and sure enough, there it was, oozing with cheese and topped with these crunchy bits of rendered pork fat. Totally satisfying to those with pork-raised taste buds. In fact, it was voted unanimously by all at our table as a "must have" at Little Village. Must order in advance; **RM16**.

Now for some of the Asian offerings. Kee's mum is a formidable cook, dishing out home recipes with an inimitable flavour as in their "**Lo Kai**", a soya sauce braised chicken leg with flavour that permeates to the bone, the sauce a rich umami coating quite unlike the thin soup found in other places; **RM13**. We also checked out their **fried bihun**, rice vermicelli fried with the usual garnitures and served with their homemade sambal; very tasty and the sambal lent the perfect touch; **RM12**. The same sambal used to fry rice is also delectable. **RM12**.

Other mains worthy of mention include their **Chicken Chop**, the fried chicken still slightly crispy at the edges and a choice of sauces from Black Pepper to Mushroom. Also, their **Mongolian Chicken Chop**, spicy with sesame seeds and a tinge of sweetness is delicious. **All RM19 each**. While their **Pork Chop with onion sauce** at **RM22** is particularly good.

So bring the family, have an early dinner and leave when the music gets too loud. And for the clubbers and younger people, don't bother with dinner reservations elsewhere. Spend your evening at Little Village and eat, drink and be merry all evening.

Most family-run food and beverage outlets thrive because of the closeness and loyalty of the family unit. In Little Village's case, with mum in the kitchen, Kee out front and dad Chong Ah Kong keeping a keen eye on things, Little Village will be around for a long time. Keep up the good work Kee.



Smoked Duck Salad

## Little Village

Jalan Medan Ipoh 5, 31400 Ipoh.

Tel: Chris 018 288 2142 for reservations

Business hours: Sunday-Thursdays 4pm-1am; Friday/Saturday 4pm-2am

Open: 24/7



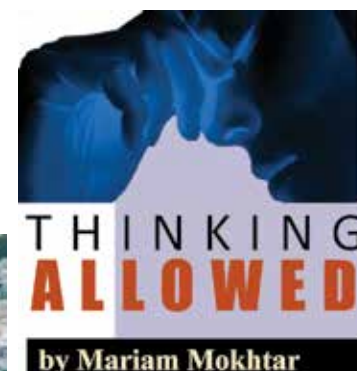
# Is Ipoh the world's dumping ground for plastic waste?



Photo 1: Hugh in BBC documentary going to Ipoh



Photo 2: Hugh slips in through gap in fence



True to form, the Director for the Department of Environment (DOE). Norazizi Adinan, denied that there were mountains of unmanaged plastic waste had been dumped in the jungle. He claimed that images of the waste, that had gone viral on social media, was managed waste awaiting processing into fuel and that four foreigners had

Why should Malaysia, and in particular Ipoh, be a dumping ground for the First World's waste for us to deal with?

On May 25, the state authorities were upset when a UK tabloid, The Daily Mail, wrote about an upcoming BBC TV programme, in which mountains of plastic garbage, had been found in the jungles around Ipoh.

How's that for irony? If only the authorities would react with urgency and punish the perpetrators who are responsible for the piles of rubbish, uncollected waste, and plastic trash that is dumped in residential areas, established fly-tipping points in and around Ipoh, outside homes, along country lanes, in monsoon drains, rivers and outside business premises.

Don't only express shock when a foreign publication highlights the waste being dumped in our own backyard. So, are we only going to get a reaction from the authorities, because they are embarrassed by a news report in a UK tabloid, which may or may not be true?



Photo 3: Hugh in gap in fence

Why can't we be moved into action, each time our workers and Excors are unable to perform their duties, because of a lack of resources, equipment or workers.

If money is the problem, Ipohites would be horrified to learn that money was sourced to buy a fleet of 16 new Toyota Camry for the Menteri Besar, Ahmad Faizal Azumu, and his Excors, but not enough can be made available for the collection of household rubbish or to pay workers a decent wage.

If workers are an issue, what is behind the allegation that a company which "won" the contract to collect rubbish was based in Johor. If allegations are to be believed, the company, Bujang Holdings Sdn Bhd, has no workers.

Why should Malaysians have any trust in the authorities? In the past, the authorities have either denied or lied about any wrongdoing.

Last May, the UK's Daily Mail wrote about the BBC trailer for a three-part documentary, about waste intended for recycling, which had been shipped to Malaysia. An unnamed source said, "I am not sure how the garbage can arrive here. It could possibly be through ports and containers.

"We will wait for the reports from the department and the city council."



Photo 4 showing Hugh dwarfed by mountains of plastic waste

trespassed onto the site and given an incorrect version of events.

Norazizi said that the company was operating legally in the IGB industrial area in Tasek, and it had not flouted any rules.

The DOE director may wish to watch the BBC programme and see piles of waste in Malaysia.

In 2018, the People's Republic of China banned imports of waste because of environmental concerns. Undeterred the UK managed to find around 20 countries, which would accept its waste and Malaysia was listed as the highest importer of UK waste; receiving 129,573 tonnes of plastic.

The maker of the documentary, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall travelled to Malaysia and was taken to a site in Jenjarom, near Port Klang, by an NGO. They saw several sites, some of which were illegal. The representative of the NGO said, "Some sort of processing is done onsite for the imported waste, but in most cases, the factory picks what they want to be processed and dumps what they do not want."

Operators of the site had no consideration for the environment. There were no dykes to contain the leached material. This oversight allowed plastic particulate matter to enter drains and rivers.

In the film, a Greenpeace activist informed Hugh that when many of the sites stopped their illegal operations in Selangor, the illegal waste operators, simply shifted their operations further north, to Ipoh. Hugh travelled to Ipoh (photo 1) and found a site with mountains of plastic waste.

The DOE was quick to dismiss the illegal dumping sites and was quick to come to the defence of Resourceco Asia (M) Sdn Bhd, which claimed that they had invited four foreigners to the office, but their offer was rejected and the foreigners proceeded to the disposal site to take pictures using drones.

The director of the DOE claimed that Hugh had been to a legal site, but the one he (Hugh) visited didn't look legal or manned. The premises seemed deserted, dilapidated and poorly maintained. He and his film crew slipped in through a gap between the gate and the makeshift fence, which appeared to be made from corrugated iron sheets. (Photos 2 & 3).

K. Muralindran, the operations director of Resourceco said that the rubbish at the site was estimated to be two tonnes, which has been collected since the beginning of this year. However, footage of the huge pile of rubbish, which Hugh climbed, was in excess of two tonnes and was piled as far as the eye could see. So, did Hugh visit a different site? (photo 4 & 5)

Are companies able to bring in plastic waste and then dump it, in illegal landfills or burn it instead of properly processing it? Instead of denying responsibility and playing the blame game, the DOE and the state, need to solve our growing problem of plastic waste and rubbish.

Sources:

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2019/05/27/perak-exco-tasks-environment-dept-to-look-into-uk-reports-of-mounds-of-plastic-waste-in-jungle/>

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2019/05/27/no-pile-of-plastic-waste-found-in-ipoh-jungles-says-doe/>

<https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2019/05/27/doe-denies-bbc-report-about-uk-plastic-waste-dump-in-perak/1756805>



Photo 5: Hugh climbing the mountain of plastic rubbish



## Education

# Celebrating Cambridge English Achievers

A cohort of 187 iLTI students of age seven to nineteen were presented with certificates from the Cambridge Assessment English at a prestigious ceremony at WEIL Hotel on Sunday, June 16.

The annual celebration recognised the passing of the Cambridge Assessment English exams, part of Cambridge University, across all certificate levels.

Students enjoyed their moment in the spotlight, as some gave speeches, some musical performances and all were presented with their certificates on stage.

Among the students who passed one of the highest levels, Cambridge Proficiency English (CPE / C2 Proficiency) examination, Lee Zhe Lin, 17, said: "I never thought I could achieve the highest of English language proficiency. Before iLTI, my English was mediocre at best, like many others of my age.

"Even though I was sceptical at first, it was worth the effort, for without iLTI's help I would not be able to realise my new love for English and appreciate all that it stands for," Lee concluded.

Standard 4 student, Jacklyn Ng, 10, has been studying English at iLTI since she was seven years old. She enthused, "I wish to thank my parents for choosing iLTI for me to learn because iLTI is truly the best place for any child who wants to improve their English to the highest level. A special thanks to all our hard-working teachers, especially Miss Jenny."

Guest of honour, Director of Institute Aminuddin Baki, Dr Mehander Singh A/L Nahar Singh spoke on the importance of education and the sacrifices made to invest in the future, "You will never know the sacrifices of your parents until you yourself become a parent someday."

Long-standing Principal of iLTI Thomas Kok expressed, "iLTI held its first English Language Cambridge certification exam ceremony in 2001, 18 years ago. We've been successfully running these internationally recognised Cambridge courses for over 20 years."

"Cambridge English exams are taken by five million students from 160 countries



Thomas Kok, Lee Zhe Lin and Dr Mehander Singh

as a ticket to a top-flight education that opens the doors to a world of study, work or travel opportunities. More than 20,000 organisations worldwide accept Cambridge exams," he added.

Established in 1986, iLTI is the longest established English language centre in Perak. To date, close to 40,000 students have studied English language at iLTI. And around 1500 children and adults attend classes every year at the popular English language centre along Jalan Raja DiHilir.

Supporting the Principal, Director of Educational Development Alister Bartholomew explained, "Globally universities are tightening language testing and a rapidly changing and increasingly globalised job market requires us to communicate effectively in English at a much higher level than before. We have to possess a deeper grasp of the language to make an impact on the local and foreign business communities. Many Malaysian students appear unprepared for this level of English mastery.

Through a tailored Masterclass series iLTI has introduced native speakers and practical guidance about personal statements, essays, resumes and public speaking. Apart from being a leading centre in Cambridge Assessment English, the institute covers all stages of English language learning from preschool to tertiary education. iLTI conducts more than 100 group and personal classes every week. In addition, it collaborates with businesses across the country to bring in-house training to professionals to allow businesses to upgrade their English to remain competitive.

For more information, visit [ilti.edu.my](http://ilti.edu.my), call the team at **05 255 3067** or drop by the centre at 6 Jalan Raja Dihilir, 30350 Ipoh, from Monday to Sunday, 8.30am to 5.30pm.

## All Cambridge Achievers:

### PRE A1 STARTERS

Leong Jing Cheong  
Wan Poh Yi  
Er Zi Xuan  
Muhammad Aedam Danish  
Bin Shaharuddin  
Wong Miu En  
Siew Jing Yang  
Tam Yuk Q  
M.Vel Dheemant Adityaa  
Mok Xiang Qing  
Lee Jo Han  
Phon Yew Yip  
Adam Chua Zi Yong  
Devyasri D/O Sasitharan  
Ahghilan S/O Ganeson  
Khuan Wei Ying  
Lee Tze Yik  
Woo Xiu Hong  
Shezhiya A/L Letchumanan

### A1 MOVERS

Yap Zhen Hao  
Madusrry D/O Kumara  
Guru  
Saddana D/O Kumara Guru  
Jaynus Low  
Poi Ji Ching  
Ngoi Yee Ze  
Choo Shan Lin  
Wong Kai Hong  
Janell Low Shin You  
Lam Yu Joon  
Chan Kar Hei  
Oee Euan  
Chai Juen Wei  
Chen Jiet Lim  
Chen Kang Tze  
Wong Hao Yi  
Lee Jing Er  
Lee Tze Geng  
Ryan Hooi Shen Kit  
Lim Jia Jun

### A2 FLYERS

Prishalliny A/P Subramaniam  
Wong Xin Ru  
Ashley Hooi Yen Lyn  
Ho Zhuo Heng  
Tracy Mak Jie Ying  
Kathryn Ng Pui Yan  
Muhammad Khayr Eddin  
Bin Md. Shah  
Chan Xi Min  
Goh Jia May  
Jacklyn Ng  
Ng Zhen Zhe  
Kenny Liew Zhi Feng  
Danesh A/L Thanasegar  
Ng Zhen Cheng  
Anson Liew Zi Hen  
Gokulnaath A/L Ravindran  
Sinmayasri A/P Ravindran  
Akhiilarsh A/L Shuresh  
Sor Jing Xuan  
Yau Jee Wei  
Arunothayan A/L Paul Sargunam  
Khor Wei Yang  
Soo Kean Hong  
Soo Xin Tong  
Chan Carolle  
Chin Yi Tung  
Ng Sheau Lih  
Poon Sum Yu  
Siew Kai Kei  
Teng Min Jun  
Wong Xuan Rou  
Tan Ding Quan  
Samuel Thoong Zhe Kai  
Emily Choo Wei Tien

### A2 KEY

Low Jia Jia  
Edward Chan Xiang Chee  
Niroshana  
Mok Xiang Yi  
Sharvin S/O Rameshkumar

Christina Cheang Seow Ching  
Boo Kai Teng  
Nathan Chong Jun Yue  
Tanisha A/P M. Kulasegaran  
Sean Yoong Lok Mun  
Wong Shu Jing  
Woo Siu Yaw  
Keerthesvary Kalaiselvan  
Tan Yan Chi  
Sean Hon Zheng Yang  
Lim Pei Yan  
Fong Wei Bin  
Lee Chai Min  
Yoong Hui Ying  
Teh Wei Lin  
Cassandra Aan D/O Francis  
Kong Kai Yi  
Phon Yew Foo  
Tam Wan Ning  
Mun Jun Xin  
Kylie Soh  
Woon Mei Yean  
Chin Kai Qing  
Tan Xiao Yang

### B1 PRELIMINARY

Yong Siew Fei  
Swetha A/P Sunthara Lingam  
Wong Ke Qin  
Tang Ming Yi  
Winston Chai  
Healesya A/P T Ellanggovan  
Justin Chai Shao Qin  
Chong Wan Ying  
Oee Eugene  
Jaedon Yip Mun Jun  
Ho Zhuo Feng  
Kok Li Tong  
Yong Joe Ling  
Kaielash Balanishanthan  
Tan Hoong Rui  
Thivyaa A/P Thanigasalam

Chin Jing Lie  
Nur Sufi Zihni Ilm Binti  
Shafei  
Au Yi Xuen  
Shamita D/O Ganeson  
Sharvin S/O Ganeson  
Alice Ng See Wei  
Ho Zi Ying  
Avinarsh A/L Shuresh  
Cheong Xin Chang  
Teoh Cheng  
Choo Wei Yan

### B2 FIRST

Chew Sze Chin  
Daniel Fadzlan Bin Abdullah  
Angel Ng Pei Yee  
Ng Yan Yi  
Adam Teng Dao Foong  
Tang Qiao En  
Khor Sze Eing  
Vissalan A/L Subramaniam  
Wong Chee Ching  
Thum Weng Yip  
Previshnaa A/P Mani Raja  
Kong Kai Yuan  
Lee Chai Jin  
Chin See Lim  
Liew Ren Jie  
Tan Kai Yee  
Tan Xiao Quan  
Ng Zhen Wen  
Teh Wei Yong  
Kuo Ai

### C1 ADVANCED

Khoo Kok Lam  
Pang Zi Hao  
Ng Ho Lam  
Lau Hao Wen  
Balamuregan A/L  
R.Manivannan

Sarwin Nathan  
A/L Sunthara Lingam  
Vesalleny A/P Subramaniam  
Tharinni Ravendaran  
Ng Sui Siang  
Foong Weng Yee  
Heng Zhi Hen  
Woo Wei Kin  
Jayshree A/P Jaya Selan  
Kapill Dev A/L Sugamaran  
Au Hin Zhi  
Sarveishini A/P Yogendran  
Wei Zheng Ye  
Cheong Jia En

### C2 PROFICIENCY

Lee Zhe Lin  
Mandy Yee Hui Teng  
Wong Cheng Jun  
Lau Yee Lyn  
Jonathan Lee Jian Meng  
Chin Jun Being  
Justin Teh Joo Kuan  
Cheah Kit Ying  
Puteri Madeeha Binti Azmi  
Koo Xuan Ze  
Lau Jia Ying  
Lau Jia Yu  
Tan Yee Wen  
Sean Lee Chun Nian  
Leong Yiu Hung  
Jasima Banu Binti Akbar Khan  
Liew Mei Xuan  
Leong Siow Ling  
Phang Xin Ee



## Beliefs, your unseen core

Cornelia Tan

**B**eliefs influence your attitudes and priorities. Attitudes and priorities influence your behaviour. Your behaviour influences your environment.

So what are beliefs? Let us take them as the things about yourself you completely trust in, know and experience as truth.

We each hold a core set of beliefs for every area of our life. For example:

In the family setting, if I believe that I am a father who provides, I will always look for opportunities to provide for my children. If I think I am strict and disciplinarian, I will deal with my children accordingly.

In the financial setting, we will see people saving and investing their money according to their belief in:

- fixed deposit accounts
- investment in land and properties
- trading stocks

At work, we see those who believe themselves to be capable to take on seemingly impossible challenges and excel. Others would like to do the same, but they do not believe in themselves. A big step to success lies in examining and changing your core beliefs.

Self-examination

Things in your life happen according to what you believe to be true about yourself and others.

Let us examine our beliefs in the workplace.

How would you describe your work?

+ Fun, engaging, interesting, challenging, exciting, etc.

- Boring, a chore, senseless, routine, etc.

### Example

What attitudes and priorities are you setting about your work that influence your answers above?

+ "I learn something new every day" / "I expect good things out of my work" / "I value-add to existing work" / "I go the extra mile" / "this is a job I enjoy" etc.

or

- "It's the same old thing every day" / "let me get this day over and done with as soon as possible" / "I want to get home to my kids" / "I just need the money from this job" / "I didn't want to be in this line" / "nobody will appreciate it if I go the extra mile" etc.

Your answers to the above questions will reveal your work related core beliefs. What are they?

Let us do an exercise together.

If you have never experienced this, and I gave you a normal plastic straw and told you, "you have to pierce through this potato with this straw, and both ends of the straw must show through the potato", what would your response to me be?

You would probably tell me that it's impossible, it can't be done, just like what we told our team building leader. Because we had never experienced a straw piercing right through a potato, we were in a state of unbelief. However, he demonstrated the possibility to us by piercing the potato with the straw at great speed. After we saw this, we believed it was possible, and were able to do it ourselves. In fact, we pierced our potatoes with multiple straws as we grew in confidence and belief in our newfound ability.

Just like the exercise of passing a flimsy straw right through a thick potato, the barriers to our success in all areas of life are in our minds. But the moment we have a tiny bit of belief in ourselves, these barriers in our minds are moved, removed, and we are able to do exceedingly, abundantly more than we ever thought ourselves capable of doing.

This week, let us identify and work on our core beliefs and pierce through some barriers. Remember: If you are able to believe, everything is possible to the one who believes.



## Personality

# Ipoh Lass Making a Splash

**I**n 2012, Bobo Foo took a leap of faith by leaving her corporate job to become the founder of the kids' active swimwear brand, Cheekaaboo and the branding company, Passiontree Marketing Sdn Bhd.

"I really like branding and have always been passionate about building a brand that one day would go international. I am inspired by brands like Starbucks, for instance, that have gone global. It just excites me," the 34-year-old enthused.

When asked on the inspiration behind her start-up, Cheekaaboo, she explained, "I wanted to create a range of products of my own for kids, specifically for active kids. I was inspired by the outdoor lifestyle and during a family trip to Penang, the fun time in the water with my nephews and nieces was cut short as their parents thought the water was getting too cold and worried about them catching a cold. That got me inspired to start off something that can protect the kids and promote parent-kid bonding."

Thus, Cheekaaboo's signature function-meet-fashion thermal swimsuits using neoprene technology were launched. It is designed by Bobo to keep the young ones warm featuring qualities like UPF 50+ protection, chlorine resistant and buoyant.

The products were awarded the prestigious BabyTalk Readers' Choice Awards 2018 for baby swimwear category and recently the Motherhood Choice Award for swimwear category. Plus, it has been tested and passed SGS mandatory test to ensure there are no nasty chemicals such as lead and phthalates. The customer-centric brand constantly welcomes feedback and engagement with clients.

Headquartered in Ipoh, her collections which are tailored for young ones from 6 months to 8 years of age are carried by major department stores, Robinsons @ The Gardens and Isetan @ KLCC and premium baby shop, Bebehaus @ Bangsar Village since the brand's inception. It is also growing internationally via Amazon US platform.

On the potential of Ipoh for start-ups, the amiable entrepreneur cum mother of one shared, "There are a lot of talented people in Ipoh. It would be good if there is a community for entrepreneurs so that they won't be all alone. The support system is really important besides having a network to share problems and mingle with other like-minded people."

Here's her advice for aspiring entrepreneurs, "Follow your heart or keep exploring. Surely there will be a lot of challenges daily. Keep pushing and stay motivated. Manage your risks."

For more updates, check out its Facebook page (**Cheekaaboo**). Ipohites can get ahold of Cheekaaboo products online via its website: [www.cheekaaboo.com](http://www.cheekaaboo.com). Interested readers can call **05 254 0848** or email to [hello@cheekaaboo.com](mailto:hello@cheekaaboo.com).

Mei Kuan

## Education

# Best School Canteen

**T**he 3K (Kebersihan, Kesihatan and Keselamatan) programme was launched by Deputy Education Minister II, P. Kamalanathan on May 22, 2015, with the aim of increasing awareness among school students with regards to issues related to school safety, health and cleanliness. The 3K programme is not only aimed to succeed in enhancing the beauty of the school but also to foster closer relationships between the school, the Parents and Teacher Association as well as the local community. In conjunction with the programme, SMK Raja Perempuan (RPS) has taken all the positive measures to adhere to the programme.

RPS, the sole representative from Perak, walked away as champion of the national-level programme "Amalan Perkhidmatan Kantin Terbaik 2019".

A lot of changes had been done to upgrade the school canteen to portray that RPS is unique. Even the name "Kantin RPS" has been rebranded as "Anjung Selera Puteri RPS." They hope that their school canteen is set as a benchmark for school canteens.

The canteen was transformed into a nature-oriented landscape filled with flora and fauna. This conducive canteen environment has also made room for plenty of activities. One such activity is the Speakers' Corner. This is a medium for students to have a sharing session while enjoying their meals. At times, Anjung Selera Puteri RPS is also used as an outdoor classroom.

Conservation of water and electricity is at the top of their priority list. In conjunction with the Go Green concept, RPS has totally stopped using plastics and polystyrene since 2015 and they have cut out the usage of straws in 2019.

The school administration has a very good bilateral relationship with the canteen traders and staff to ensure that the canteen plays a vital role in the healthy growth of the students and staff. They can now boast that the RPS community is fit physically, mentally and emotionally. As a result, Majlis Bandaraya Ipoh has awarded Anjung Selera Puteri RPS a grade "A" for the management and cleanliness of the canteen in 2019.

Access their website [tiny.cc/anjungselerarps](http://tiny.cc/anjungselerarps) to follow the progress and achievement of the school canteen. Suggestions and ideas or contributions by the public towards the betterment of Anjung Selera Puteri RPS is always appreciated.

RPS had also come out champions in the Toyota Eco Youth Challenge in 2017 and the state-level 3K competition in 2018. In January, RPS was also awarded a 5-star rating for the "Public Toilet Star Rating" in the Upper Secondary School category in the national-level "Pertandingan Tandas Terbersih 2018".

*Congratulations RPS, on all your achievements!*





## Community

## MB Urged to Solve Land Issue

Buntong squatters called on the government to help sort out their land issues.

Thevasigamoney, 63, spokesman of the squatters, said that they were initially promised a relocation and a plot of land in Bemban, Batu Gajah by the previous government.

"Former Prime Minister Najib Razak allocated RM5mil to develop the new settlement project RPT Bemban," he said after handing a memorandum regarding the issue to Perak Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu's special officer, Khairul Shahril at the state secretariat office.

Thevasigamoney stated that A. Sivasnesan, state executive council member promised that the plot of land would still be given to the villagers as a Deepavali gift, despite Pakatan Harapan winning the 14th general election last year.

"Buntong assemblyman, A. Sivasubramaniam announced, however, that the project has been cancelled, citing unavoidable reasons and we were told that the state was instead planning for a high-rise accommodation in Buntong," he explained.

Khairul stated that the Menteri Besar is aware of the matter and the memorandum by Thevasigamoney will be handed over as soon as possible.

"The Menteri Besar has previously requested research and suggestions to solve the issue," Khairul said.

In the meantime, Sivasubramaniam has been contacted for responses but none were adequately given.

Luqman Hakim



## Connexion

By Joachim Ng

## Find a spot for high scorers

Orang Cina Kaya! You will hear shop assistants mouthing this quite often, perhaps half jokingly. The impression that all Chinese are rich comes from the annual Forbes Malaysia Rich List which unfailingly places Chinese names high up. The casualties of such myth-making include hundreds of Perak students such as Chew Man Fei of Teluk Intan, whose mother is just a clerk.

He scored 8As in last year's SPM exam and had hoped to enter a public university through the matriculation programme. But the Forbes label attached to his name ensured his rejection — three times.

Lawyer activist Siti Kasim exposed this myth of the Orang Cina Kaya when she publicized official statistics that showed the Chinese having only 37 percent of the Top Income Earners cake. The biggest share of the cake is taken by bumiputras at 53.8 percent. These figures are no surprise to anyone familiar with the urban scene. Visit 100 public-listed and government-linked companies where there are Chinese employees. The vast majority are holding non-managerial positions as executives and non-executives. Most are also non-degree holders.

If the ordinary Chinese are in business, these are usually one-man or small-scale operations. Merdeka folks will remember that back in the late 1950s, many Chinese students could not pay their school fees as family sizes were larger and household incomes were stretched thin. Fortunately, the Education Ministry was persuaded to abolish school fees.

The most worrying consequence of this Orang Cina Kaya myth is its negative impact on the family institution, especially as successive governments believe this myth that all Chinese parents can afford private university education for their children. The ground reality is that most parents — whether Malay, Indian or Chinese — want their children to do better than the previous generation, and this goal has become the focus of family achievement. When their child gets into university — whether govt-funded or private institution — it means that the family has pulled through well.

But when the varsity application results are known, and it soon becomes clear that success in life does not depend on your family integrity but on your racial identity, the family institution takes a hit. Each succeeding generation of Malaysians is getting the idea that life is all about race and not integrity.

Ironically, high scorers can play a significant role in national poverty reduction, as witnessed by student outreach service programmes successfully run in many countries that inspire highly motivated undergrads to think of careers that help the poor. Let's put academic talent to use, not push it away.



## 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@ipohecho.com.my](mailto:announcements@ipohecho.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 &amp; CULTURE

**PSPA SINGERS: THE 7TH NIGHT OF JULY. JULY 7 (Sunday), 8pm-10pm at SMK Methodist (A.C.S) Auditorium Hall, Ipoh.** Free entry. Entry pass holders are encouraged to donate, as printed on the recommended donation list by the organiser and bring to the school hall during the concert day. All donations in kind received from the public will be distributed to Lighthouse Hope Society for charity purposes. Limited seats. Pre-book your entry passes now from <https://www.pspaipoh.org/events-booking> or call PSPA Office at **05 545 0350**. Visit our website [www.pspaipoh.org](http://www.pspaipoh.org) for more details.

## COMMUNITY

**ALPHA @ CGMC (For Non-Muslims only). JULY 7 TO SEP 22 (every Sunday), 1pm-3pm at Canning Garden Methodist Church, 23 Jalan Keliling, Canning Garden, 31400 Ipoh.** An opportunity to explore the meaning of life and faith through a series of talks in an open and friendly setting. Starts with lunch. For further information, call **05 546 2023** or email: [cgmcpoh@gmail.com](mailto:cgmcpoh@gmail.com).

**ST MICHAEL'S INSTITUTION, IPOH PRESENTS 'MICHAELIAN TALENTIME' JULY 13 to 14 (Saturday and Sunday), 7.45pm at SMI Main Hall.** Programmes of the event include: singing, dancing, music instrumental and magic show. Fundraising for the school. Tickets: RM20 and RM50. For details, call **05 254 0418** (office hours only).

**BRAHMA KUMARIS PUBLIC TALK 'MAKE YOUR MIND YOUR BEST FRIEND'. JULY 13 (Saturday), 4.30pm at Inner Space Ipoh, 3A Jalan Wira Jaya, Taman Ipoh Jaya Timur 1, 31350 Ipoh.** Free admission. Limited seats. Enquiries: **012 539 3178**.

**PUBLIC TALK: 'HEALTHY AGING WITH NUTRITION'. JULY 14 (Sunday), 10.15am to 12.30pm at GreenAcres Retirement Village, GreenAcres Clubhouse, Jalan Meru**

**Emas 2, Bandar Meru Raya, 30020 Ipoh.** Sponsored and supported by GreenAcres Retirement Village in collaboration with Inner Space Ipoh. Guest speaker: Dr Ng Li Fen, a general practitioner with a special interest in 'Functional and Preventive Medicine'. Open to the public and free admission. Bookings: **012 521 8319** (call/WhatsApp) or **016 374 3606** (WhatsApp only).

**CHARITY FOOD FAIR BY THREE NGOS, AUGUST 18 (Sunday), 8am-2pm at Tow Boh Keong Temple hall.** By Kiwanis Club of Bandaraya Ipoh, Persatuan Kebajikan Dialysis Neesum Ipoh and Kiko Food Bank. Bring your own recyclable bag as it is a polystyrene-free event. Calling for more stall operators. Sponsorship and donation are also welcome. Fair coupons are on sale at RM10 per booklet. For details contact **05 546 8386**.

**GAIN CRITICAL INSIGHT THAT KEEPS YOUR BUSINESS MOVING FORWARD. ACCOUNTING, AUDITING & INCOME TAX RETURNS are available for small and big companies.** For those who need these services, contact: Ms Sushilla **018 571 5545** (call/Whatsapp), for more information. Email: [banu\\_klg@yahoo.com.my](mailto:banu_klg@yahoo.com.my).

**HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMME ON MENTAL HEALTH will be conducted at the Ipoh Adventist Community Services Center.** This programme has helped many to optimize their brains and has equipped others to help loved ones recover from mental health illness, with proven results. **It runs for 2 hours, every Saturday afternoon for 8 weeks, from July through August.** For further details, WhatsApp us at **016 400 0271**.

**NEDLEY DEPRESSION & ANXIETY RECOVERY PROGRAM™** will be run by the Ipoh Adventist Community Services to equip those who are struggling with anxiety disorder or depression, or those desiring to assist loved ones with mental health disorders. This programme can help improve EQ and help students achieve peak mental performance. For further info, WhatsApp **016 595 0829** or **016 400 0271**.

**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.

**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).



## Tourism

# HoHo Bus Attracts Tourists



By Rosli Mansor

**H**op-On Hop-Off (HOHO) bus service which brings tourists around the city will be upgraded when two more new buses start operating.

Several new interesting routes were also introduced such as Tambun, Gopeng, and Batu Gajah.

State Tourism and Culture Committee chairman, Tan Kar Hing said the addition of

the tourist buses was an effort to increase tourist arrivals into the city.

According to him, since it was introduced, HoHo bus service has attracted approximately 1000 passengers including local tourists. “Recently, we have collaborated with five strategic partners, BlueBlue Playground, BookXcess Kong Heng Ipoh, Chang Jiang White Coffee, Cycledios and Wow Shop.

“With this collaboration, Hoho bus passengers can get a discount of up to 20 per cent when visiting all five of the premises which are the tourist attractions here,” he said.

Earlier, Kar Hing joined about 25 travel agency representatives from Hong Kong, sightseeing around the city boarding the Hoho bus as one of the initiatives to promote state tourism products.

One representative from Hong Kong, Kwok Chung Alan, 38, said the HoHo bus service is essential to facilitate tourists visiting all the tourism products.

“I am very excited to sightsee the city of Ipoh by HoHo bus. Ipoh City is like Hong Kong in the 60s-70s. I saw a few similarities in the buildings and people’s cultures.

“We were briefed by the tour guide and were brought to visit and shop around Ipoh. It was very interesting, although the weather here is rather hot but very exciting,” he said.

Hoho bus still offers ticket promotions until the end of December, which is RM12 for local tourists and RM35 for foreigners.

The Hoho bus service started its operation on March 23 at the initial stage involving three buses.

It involves one half-roof bus and two full-roof buses that operate on Saturdays and Sundays only from 8.30am to 9pm.

The bus will go through 13 stops starting from Meru Raya Terminal to the tourist attractions in Ipoh’s old town.

## Nostalgia

## Clubs and Clubbing – The Early Days

By Ian Anderson

**A**s the saying goes, “Wherever there are British, there’s a club”. Sure enough, when the Brits came to Perak, there were clubs. The first of these was at Changkat Batu Gajah the home of the British Administration. It was formed in 1890 as the Kinta Gymkhana Club. F.D. Osborne was the first honorary secretary and the first race days took place on February 17 and 18, 1893. There were seven races each day.

But 1893 was also a good clubbing year for Ipoh. The Ipoh Club was officially formed that year as was the Hakka Miners’ Club. Both had exclusive memberships. But one could argue that the Ipoh Club (White Men and their Memsahibs only) was actually formed in 1892 when a group of Europeans got into the habit of dropping into Oldfield’s Chemist for a lunchtime ‘Stengah’, the whisky secreted at the back of the medicine cabinet. Oldfield was Ipoh’s first European chemist and provided the soda water. This small group built their first premises on land now occupied by the State Mosque. The Hakka Miners’ Club had a different beginning as membership was by invitation of Towkay Leong Fee and you had to be a rich, really rich, Hakka Miner to even be considered. No wives were admitted!

In those far off days, sport played a major part of clubbing and it was not long before two more ‘Whites Only’ clubs arrived, namely, the Ipoh Golf Club and The Ipoh Gymkhana Club (both founded in 1903), with the golf course in the middle of the race track.

The first multiracial sports club was the Birch Club, opened in 1907 by the Resident, E.W. Birch. He was the son of the ill-fated JWW who was murdered by the Malays, at Pasir Salak, in 1875. The Birch Club was sited on Connolly Road, adjacent to the first railway station and the Government Rest House. It was only for civil servants, one of the earliest civil service clubs.

The Kinta Malay Club was another early entry to the Ipoh sporting scene. It was from this early beginning that a gifted sportsman emerged. Dato’ Muda Che Wan, who



Dato’ Muda Che Wan



The Birch Club, Connolly Road

later became the Dato’ Panglima Kinta. He was a brilliant football and hockey player, representing the state in both sports, who was also talented at billiards.

The Chinese were also literally, in the game. They formed the very exclusive Lok Lum Club, which operated something like a Chinese version of the Ipoh Club, with very selective rules about membership. The Perak Chinese Recreation Club (PCRC), supported by some very rich Chinese also came into being in 1912. In the early days, the club was particularly strong on the cricket field.

During the Japanese Occupation, most club premises were taken over and used for the entertainment of the Japanese. Sadly, many of the old clubs did not survive that unwanted intrusion. Those that do are still with us today, although there have been many changes in membership and premises.

## Government

## Urgent Need for a Mayor

**A**t an Open House on June 19, former Ipoh mayor Dato’ Roshidi Hashim expressed hope that the currently empty position of Ipoh mayor will be filled as soon as possible.

“As a figure to realise the government’s goals, the mayor sparks a city’s development, which is why in Ipoh’s context, the post cannot be left empty for long because the mayor connects the government and Ipohites,” he said in an open house on Wednesday, June 19.

Ipoh mayor from 2007 to 2014, Roshidi said that the unattended mayor post has not happened before.

“It could be due to the government wanting to ensure that the next Ipoh mayor is able to realise the developments around Ipoh,” he explained.

“I am sure the government has done their best by assigning powers temporarily to the secretary of Ipoh City Council (MBI) until a new mayor is elected,” Roshidi added.

He hopes the new mayor will be able to report for duty in July as promised by the government.

Rosli Mansor





## Nosh News with SeeFoon

Pics by Vivien Lian



## Reach for the Skies



Climb the last of the 65 steps and an astounding view takes your breath away. A panorama of limestone hills, geothermal hot springs lake and azure blue skies to eternity greeted me as the waiter brought me this fluffy concoction of a cocktail with the name of “**Under the Roof**” a **Cointreau, Hendricks gin and cranberry juice** topped with a ‘roof’ of candy floss, where a machine to make this awaits.

As does a popcorn machine, popping out caramelised popcorn in individual cups still warm to the touch. And served on a toy circus carousel. Such delightful novelty.

When “Roof” cocktail has been downed to the last drop and the candy floss devoured in a snap and a bite, check out the **Dr. Fish cocktail of DonJulio Tequila, Havana Club 7yrs. Rum and blue Curaçao**. A cute reminder of the garufa fish in one of the ponds where they reside, ready to nibble off all the dead skin from your feet and body. (An aside: apparently in places like Turkey, there are pools where people with skin problems like eczema and psoriasis go to be “Nibbled” and are cured).

But I was not there to spa but to indulge. And indulge I did.

With **GM Alex Castaldi**, raconteur par excellence, as host, I could only have a wonderful time as we sat and chatted over nibbles with the sky palette gradually morphing from azure to orange to violet and finally into the indigo blue-black of night, nibbling at delicate morsels of canapes, exquisitely presented.

**Prawn Lollipop** (love all the childhood evocative items and names), beer battered Tiger prawns on sticks, with dipping sauce of Harissa mayo, were crisp on the outside and fresh and firm on the inside; **RM125**.

This was followed by the assorted **sea salt Macaroons**, four luscious bonbon(s) each with its own filling from foie gras mousse with porto confit onions puree; apricot jam; caramelized kaya and truffle honey; **RM180**.

The pièce de résistance appeared as the **Japanese A5 Wagyu Beef Kushi-yaki**. Glazed with unagi sauce and grilled on charcoal, it was served on its own Hibachi or Japanese charcoal grill. At **RM350** for 4 sticks it is a bit on the pricey side but worth



every bite. Well marbled, juicy and tender, infused with the fragrance of leeks grilled alongside the beef chunks. Rapture on a stick.

For those who wish to blow the budget, there is always their **Kaviari French Caviar** with the Oscietre Prestige at 30g RM800; Sevruga 30g RM1000; Kristal 30g RM1200 and Beluga Imperial 30g RM1600.

I certainly felt like I had my dinner after all those snacks and as I bade farewell to Alex, I noticed the special Whisky bar on the way down where many a vintage malt was beckoning. Another time Alex . . .





## Arts and Culture

## An Authentic Voice

By Chris Teh

The Sharpened Word session in June hosted an afternoon with Chuah Guat Eng, a Malaysian novelist and professional writer. It was held on Saturday, June 22 at 22 Hale Street.

Contrary to previous sessions of Sharpened Word, this instalment saw attendees being more interactive by exchanging five basic elements of writing a story, which are character, place, time, emotion and action.

From Chuah's experience, writers have a tendency to write things unrelated to being Malaysian.

"The television world depicted through books and other media trouble the whole reading. Writers are supposed to convince their readers that what was written has really happened," she said.

"Plausible writing is about using the best words to communicate," Chuah added.

Born in Rembau, Negeri Sembilan in 1943, she received her early education at Methodist Girls' School, Klang and Victoria Institution, Kuala Lumpur. She later read English literature at the University of Malaya and German literature at Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich, obtaining her PhD from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia in 2008.

Being the first Malaysian woman to publish an English language novel, 'Echoes of Silence' in 1994 remains Chuah's top accomplishment. The story revolves around a Chinese Malaysian woman trying to find clues of a murder mystery and as the plot thickens, discovers more about herself.

According to Chuah, authenticity in writing comes from describing events that had happened from the first-person narrative of the character itself.

"To be truly creative, you need to lose your ego. You are it. Engross yourself in the authentic voice of the character as you have no control over them because they are themselves. That will determine how far you can go in pushing the story along and dealing with the unexpected changes in story elements," she explained.

Asked about the current work on her third novel, she answered, "Everything I write is an experiment. I cannot give a definite overview on it because ideas flow in as I write."

"Challenges are bound to be present in my whole process of writing."



Chuah advised up and coming writers, "Write and just write. Don't talk about it, don't boast about it, don't write about writing, but just write. Use simple words and verbs to describe the character instead of adjectives."

She self-publishes her books and thus, they are unavailable at any bookstores. For more information, log on to [www.facebook.com/sharpenedword.kinta](https://www.facebook.com/sharpenedword.kinta).

## New Curator Space

By Mei Kuan

Unveiled in May, Tin Alley is a new curator space located at No. 1 & 3, Lorong Bijeh Timah (Tin Alley), 30000 Ipoh with a series of exciting activities lined up, especially for the weekends.

Aimed to spice up the Ipoh tourism industry, it serves as an ideal platform for talks, music and exhibition.

Ipoh-born Tan Kai Lek, the founder of Tin Alley, explained to Ipoh Echo, "The previous owner was 85-year-old Chew Hock Kuan who did traditional Chinese handcrafted wooden signboards with calligraphy after inheriting the skills from his father. Unfortunately, Chew had a stroke. Thus the ground floor houses a permanent display of his works and tools in order to preserve his art. His siblings and he were all born in that shophouse."

The two connected, double-storey shophouses are century-old with a size of 20x100 feet each.

"Meanwhile, upstairs is used as a platform for talks and workshops by invited professionals in specialised fields such as arts, among others. For issues which benefit the society such as recycling, the fee is waived. If you are an artist, for instance, looking for a space to sell your pieces, there will be a fee," he added.

The display downstairs is open from Tuesday till Sunday from 10am till 6pm (closed on Monday). A guided tour is available upon request.

Lot number 3 also offers wood art workshops downstairs which are family-oriented.

Walk in anytime with your family or friends. Fees apply.

According to Tan, there will be a massive art event named Art Ipoh 2019 spanning Tin Alley and Market Lane on Saturday, August 17 featuring Phillip Wong from the National Art Gallery and various artists with indoor and outdoor art installations galore. There will be a launch at 8pm.

For more updates, check out Tin Alley's Instagram and Facebook page.



Tan Kai Lek (second from left)



## Creating a Safe City

By Chris Teh

The declaration of Ipoh as a safe city has certainly boosted the city as an artistically and historically rich capital of Perak.

The 'Light and Sound' project in Padang Ipoh proposed by the state government will be the first joint effort between the Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA) and the Ipoh City Council (MBI).

"We hope that this project will be completed by the end of this year. Discussions on the project are now in the final stage. It'll be fully managed by NCIA without any interference from other parties," said Tan Kar Hing, Executive Councillor for Tourism, Arts and Culture after launching the Safe City Programme and International Design Fest 2019 on Sunday, June 16 at Ipoh Padang.

Present were Ungku Omar Polytechnic (PUO) director Haji Zairon Mustapha, MBI Secretary Mohd Zakuan and over 300 attendees including students from PUO and Prince of Songkla University, Thailand.



## Rhythmic Fusion Dance

By Chris Teh

Bringing a fresh perspective with traditional dance and a blend of soulful and upbeat songs is an eye-opening experience indeed.

Fusion Rhythms organised by the Ipoh Fine Arts Society took place at the Ceylon Association in Jalan Tun Perak on Sunday, June 23, which featured performances by dancers from Nritya Kalanjali School of Dance, Ipoh and five-member Malay Ensemble Musicians from Mahakarya Studios, Kuala Lumpur.

The first half of the show consisted of five songs and ten dance sequences, while the second half highlighted the prowess of Mahakarya Studios musicians covering contemporary songs using traditional Malay instruments, such as the theme from the renowned television show 'Game of Thrones', which garnered the group of musicians thousands of views on YouTube.

The society wanted to introduce fresh ideas to the Ipoh community and to appreciate different cultures they can offer.

"We took fusion music and adapted classical Bharatanatyam dance to it, so the performance is a blend of modern and traditional styles," said Ipoh Fine Arts Society president, Shanti Lingam.

"The beauty of our society is that we come from different backgrounds and cultures, but at the same time, we are all Malaysians and we hope that the community will continue supporting our efforts in making Ipoh an inclusive society," she remarked.





**LETTERS**

# Kinta Valley has Similarities to Darwin's Findings and Must be Protected

We are writing to add a few comments to the excellent article by Vivien Lian with images by Maggie Chan in Wanderings: Have You Been to Gua Air in Simpang Pulai?, Ipoh Echo, June 16, 2019, Issue 306.

In October 2018 the Kinta Valley became Malaysia's second Geopark in recognition of the geological, scenic and touristic values of the iconic karst limestone hills. Far less obviously the insular characteristics of the karst biodiversity in the Kinta Valley have similarities to Darwin's findings in the Galapagos Islands that led, together with Alfred Russel Wallace's observations from Malaysia and Indonesia, to Darwin and Wallace jointly proposing their Theory of Evolution by Natural Selection.

What are these characteristics? First, the karst flora is highly endemic with some species known from only a few hills or even a single hill (Kiew et al., 2014). There is also a highly endemic fauna: for example, the Critically Endangered trapdoor spider *Liphistius kanthan* is known only from a single cave (Whitten et al., 2013). Likewise, a recent study of twelve karst hills (Foon et al., 2017) found 122 species of snails of which 30 are potentially new to science and 34 that are unique to single hills. Small populations of endemic species with distributions restricted to a single hill or cave are easily lost and then gone forever. Similarly, complex cave ecosystems can be destroyed by activities that result in disturbance and then loss of the cave-dwelling bats that bring the sun's energy and nourishment into a cave in the form of guano.

Looking to the recent geological past we know from fossils found in cave deposits in Selangor that Orangutan were present in Peninsular Malaysia in the Late Pleistocene 33,000 to 57,000 years ago (Yasamin Kh. Ibrahim et al., 2013), but we do not yet know when or why they disappeared. Also from cave deposits, we know that around 25,000 years ago, during the Last Glacial Maxima, savanna grassland forests were present in Peninsular Malaysia (Wurster et al., 2010). Can the evolution of the karst landscape of the Kinta Valley, the evolution and endemism of the karst flora and fauna, and the disappearance of the Orangutan all be related to the profound and rapid oscillations in climate that occurred globally over the last two million years? In this context, the caves of the Kinta Valley can be considered nature's time capsules. Investigation of the cave deposits could provide answers to the above questions and also tell us about conditions when modern humans first arrived here perhaps 70,000 years ago. Such investigations are only possible if the cave deposits remain undisturbed.

Taken alone the endemic fauna and flora of karst hills or the knowledge that cave deposits could provide answers to many questions on the recent past and on human arrival in Malaysia would justify careful stewardship of the hills and caves. Taken together they provide a compelling rationale for the first priority of the Kinta Geopark to be to protect the hills and caves from developments that could disturb the endemic flora and fauna, disrupt sensitive cave ecosystems, or destroy the geochronological record preserved in cave deposits. Accomplishing this will require input on a case-by-case basis from a broad spectrum of researchers before developments on even the most modest scale are permitted. The motto should be "let's find out what we have before it's lost".

The existing hill quarries of the Kinta Valley conflict with the desire to conserve the many aforementioned values. However, cement is a basic ingredient of large scale infrastructure development so banishing quarries from Kinta would simply shift the destruction to hill quarries elsewhere with similar losses of flora, fauna and other scientific and cultural values. It might also result in the loss of an industry that generates employment for a skilled workforce and provides significant economic returns to Perak. Fortunately, as noted in the article by Vivien Lian there is a vast limestone resource buried beneath the disturbed flatlands of the Kinta Valley that could be quarried for cement production. It would be prudent at this time to better define the hidden limestone resource and to establish limestone mining reserves for future use.

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**K. Fletcher & Donna Baylis**



*File photo*

# The Milo Man

With reference to the article "Here comes the Milo Man" (Ipoh Echo issue 305, Jun 1-15, 2019), I hereby would like to share some information about the Milo Man. There were two brothers who worked for the Milo company by the name of Visvasam and Yesudian. The older brother was Visvasam and the younger was Yesudian. Both brothers worked for the Milo company back in the 1950s and 1960s.

They came from India (Tirunelveli district) and they were working for the Milo company in the late 50s. Yesudian who took over his elder brother's position from the Milo company was looking for a place to stay.

My grandfather who was a close friend of Visvasam offered Yesudian a room for rental at his house. They used to wear fully white uniforms and green caps. Plus, they sold Milo in small paper cups in New Town. In the 1970s they left to return to their motherland India and passed away in the 1980s.

**Harrish Aswin Kumar**



*ipohWorld's Milo Tricycle*

## More Nostalgia of New Pasir Puteh

Childhood memories of New Pasir Puteh are many and unforgettable. Mostly, they are happy ones with friends, catching fish in a stream behind our homes. There was plenty of ikan haruan. Crossing the wooden bridge cycling to Jalan Bendahara to Kg Paloh mosque where Mior Ahmad lived, we cycled to Ipoh Library to borrow books, which had to be returned in two weeks.

Across the Kinta River was a small 'medan selera'. Every Saturday night we would be there watching musical bands but only for a few songs. Had to be back before 10pm or get scolded.

I started cycling to Anderson School after LCE (Lower Certificate of Education), Form 4. Before that, it was a taxi ride in a crowded black Austin. There were two Convent girls and three boys, me, Lai Chin Fah and Chee Seng. I wonder where they are now? Cycling to school was fun, along Pasir Puteh Road, Yang Kalsom towards Anderson School. Homebound I'd use another route, towards Rex Cinema and on to Pasir Puteh Road.

Every Wednesday afternoon it's a cross-country run from D.R. Seenivasagam park across Kinta River into the limestone hills and back to the school field across the bridge near St John's Ambulance Hall.

**Hashim (No.391 New Pasir Puteh)**

## Child Safety

In the recent 15th "Op Selamat" which was held during Hari Raya Aidilfitri, recorded 229 deaths in the two-week operational period. Perak alone had recorded 24 deaths during this festive season.

Among the fatalities were young babies and children. Hence, I strongly subscribe that under no condition should a child ever be left unsecured in a moving vehicle. Never hold a child on your lap when sitting in front, or worse, driving. Your arms alone won't be able to restrain a child in a collision, and one would also be subjecting them to the force of the deploying airbags. This could potentially cause the child a broken neck, a fractured skull and other severe injuries. Ideally, children under 36kg should be secured with seat belts, together with either booster seat or booster cushion.

A child travelling in a secure environment is very important. However, there are many children completely exposed to great risks in case of road accidents. That is why the importance of using child car seat must be made compulsory for all private cars. While laws of gravity are universal, unfortunately, child car seat safety laws are yet to be implemented in our country.

Therefore I would like to call upon the Transport Ministry to immediately enforce the mandatory use of child car seats for all private cars in this country.

**S. Sundralingam**



## Heritage

## Historic Taiping Aerodrome Sold

On Friday June 14, members of Taiping-based non-governmental organisations (NGO) organised a rally to protest against the sale of part of Taiping Aerodrome, the first airport in the Federated Malay States.

The state government, through MB Incorporated, had sold some 40 acres of the property to a developer disregarding the importance of its heritage and historical value as contributing factors for Taiping to be recognised as a heritage city.

The NGOs, consisting of Kelab Cintai Taiping, Taiping Heritage Society, Taiping Tourism Association, Warisan Anak-Anak Kg Pinang, Persatuan Penduduk Taman Saujana Jaya and Pertubuhan Pelindung Khazanah Alam Perak, hoped to see this piece of real estate be returned to its original status.

The Taiping Aerodrome was the first aerodrome built in Malaya in early 1929 during the era of the British Administration and it was used to shuttle British VIPs around the country.

American woman pilot Amelia Mary Earhart, made a refuelling stop at Taiping Aerodrome on June 7, 1937 before continuing her journey to Singapore and then to New Guinea in her attempt to circumnavigate the globe. She was last seen alive on July 2, 1937 in New Guinea. She and her plane were never discovered till this day.

President Soekarno of Indonesia and his deputy, Mohammad Hatta, landed at the aerodrome on August 12, 1945 to meet Dr Burhanuddin Helmi and Ibrahim Yaacob who were leaders of Kesatuan Rakyat Indonesia Semenanjung. They discussed the

possibility of uniting Malaya and Indonesia before they continued their journey to Tokyo.

Malayan Airways and Berjaya Airways had at one time used the facility for its commercial flights.

When the British Administration ended, the significance of Taiping Aerodrome diminished. Bigger and more sophisticated airports were built in Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Johor Bahru and in other States. Nevertheless, Taiping Aerodrome was and is still relevant to the local residents. The army, police and firefighters still use it for their trainings – parachuting, logistics dispatch and related aspects.

Events such as hot-air balloon, flying club training, paragliding and remote control planes have been held there in the past. Recreational activities such as kite flying, jogging, aerobic exercises, community games and archery are being organized at the site. The land provides space for large-scale events, either at state, national or even International level.

More recently, one of the victims of the ill-fated MH17 flight which was shot down over Ukraine was flown to his hometown Taiping via the aerodrome.

It is, therefore, important to retain the Taiping Aerodrome as it can be used as a staging point in times of disaster or an emergency.

Residents of Taiping hope the state government will consider the following options:

- The land (40 acres) already sold be returned to its original status.
- An alternative site be given to the developer as a replacement.
- The aerodrome be registered as a heritage site.

Hj Robert Rizal Abdullah



## An Ipoh Centenarian Still Going Strong

By Ian Anderson

The idea of a Chinese recreation club began when Dr K.T. Khong came down to Ipoh from Penang, in 1912, and set up his medical clinic, 'The Kinta Dispensary', in Tatlock Street. In Penang, he had been a leading member and one of the best cricketers of the Penang Recreation Club. His idea that Ipoh should have a similar club idea fell on fertile ground and at a meeting, attended by some of Ipoh's top Chinese, it was agreed that a club, The Chinese Recreation Club, should be formed with Eu Tong Sen as President.

Initial committee members were Dr Khong, Chung Thye Phin and Foo Choo Choon. The meeting was reported by Jack Jennings in the Times of Malaya on December 10, 1912. Jack, as editor of the Times of Malaya and a patron of the new recreation club, being keen on sports and sportsmanship, encouraged the club members to hold a soccer tournament – offering the 'Times of Malaya Cup' to the league champions.

The club was formally instituted in 1913, under the guidance of the committee, with Eu Tong Sen as Patron, Chung Thye Phin as President and Dr Khong as Honorary Secretary.

In the early days, the club was particularly strong on the cricket field with Dr Khong and Chung Ah Ming (grandson of Kapitan Chung Keng Kwee) who also played for Perak state. Dr Khong and Chung Ah Ming also formed a formidable doubles tennis pair with the latter also holding his own as the club's singles tennis champion. Their prowess was reported in the Times of Malaya on December 28, 1914, as:

"The Perak Chinese Recreation Club sent its first pair, consisting of Dr Khong Kam Tak and Mr Chung Ah Ming, to Singapore to play tennis against Mr Tan Ni Yan and Mr Tan Chong Kei of the Straits Chinese Recreation Club, Singapore on the latter's ground last Saturday. The best of five sets wins. A large crowd was at the Railway Station to see the pair off, and many accompanied them to Singapore."

Ten years later the doubles pair became Perak Tennis Doubles Champions in the inaugural competition first held in 1924 and held their position as champions for many years.

Dr Khong went on to play tennis for the Federated Malay States and continued to win prizes even as a veteran. Incidentally, he was also one of the best Asian golfers in Malaya at the time.

The first clubhouse was on Brewster Road, close to the Jubilee Park site as we know it today. It was a simple affair as were most of the early clubhouses, but despite having wealthy sponsors, the club had no grounds of its own. Members were forced to use the public recreation grounds on Brewster Road. Eventually, in the 1930s the club was forced to make way for the Jubilee Park premises and moved to their present site at Lorong Chung Thye Phin. They have been there for more than 80 years.



PCRC Soccer Team c1951



PCRC Ladies Hockey Team c1951



## Wanderings

By Vivien Lian

# Secret Forest in Gunung Rapat

Gunung Rapat is a familiar place to most locals, where people get their Heong Peng cravings fixed, refill supplies from the wet market and get their repairs done in the shops. It is a one-stop place offering the most solutions to everyday needs.

However, the 'Gunung' part which stands for 'mountain' has been neglected and this is the most fascinating part as within this hill is a secret.



Silk thread hanging from the cave ceiling is spun by the larva of fungus gnat, similar looking to mosquito but bigger. It feeds on fungi growing on soil, helping in the decomposition of organic matter.



### A Secret Forest

It is the Gunung Rapat Secret Forest, home to unusual plants. The one my friend was holding is called Trevesia Palmata, also commonly known as Snowflake Tree. It is commonly found in southern China, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam but so far after thorough research on Google, there is no information about Snowflake tree being found in Malaysia although it is reasonable to find one in Malaysia given the tropical climate. This tree grows in forests on mountain slopes. According to the Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge, the young flowering buds are eaten raw once daily by the Dimasa tribe in North Cachar Hills of Assam, a northeastern state of India. The tribe collects wild edible flowers which are regularly eaten with rice. Also, the root of the plant is made into a paste to apply on bruises. According to a study by the University of Development Alternative in Bangladesh, the leaves are beneficial in lowering blood sugar and alleviating pain.

More studies from different parts of the world say that the snowflake tree is used as a postpartum herbal bath recipe by the Mien (Yao) community of Thailand; in Arunachal Pradesh of India, the leaves are eaten as a vegetable; the Kry ethnic group in Laos use decoction of roasted stems and roots for postpartum recovery, peritoneal healing, retraction of the uterus, abdominal pain; the Adi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh, India use fruits of the plant as fish poison to stupefy the fish resulting in an easy catch.



*Monophyllaea horsfieldii* R.Br., from Greek, mono=one, phyllon=leaf, meaning one leaf, grows predominantly on limestone rocks, in shady forests, at cave entrances and below rocks in tropical and subtropical rainforests of Southeast Asia (e.g., Indonesia, Malaysia, Sumatra, Borneo). In Indonesia, juice from the leaves and stem is splashed on babies to promote health and fitness.



*Amblypygi* (means blunt tail), also known as whip spider is a common habitant in caves. It possesses no silk glands or venomous fangs. It does not build webs and rarely bites if threatened, but can grab fingers with its pedipalps, resulting in thorn-like puncture injuries. It preys on crickets, cockroaches, grasshoppers, small lizards and hummingbirds but is preyed on by bats and large lizards



A passage in the tunnel filled with ankle-length water where you can see catfish swimming around.

The shell of Garlic Snail is pale yellow-brown and glossy whereas the snail itself is dark blue-grey. When disturbed, it produces a secretion that smells strongly of garlic.



Sadly part of Gunung Rapat was blasted for limestone exploitation, which is unnecessary as mentioned in my previous write up "Have You Been To Gua Air In Simpang Pulai?", issue 306, June 16-30.





## Veterans' Memorial Service 2019

By Mei Kuan

## Reverence and Commitment



Cenotaph in front of the Ipoh railway station

Every memorial service is a first-hand experience of standing in reverence to those who have contributed to the war effort. The presence of elderly veterans who came from afar, on their own accord, is a sight unto itself.

Amidst the pervasive sombre mood, recognition and awareness among locals, are fast fading like rays from the evening sun. And this is being exacerbated by the loss of commemorative plaques put in place to honour the dearly departed.

Despite these shortcomings, the show has to go on, regardless.

The annual June Remembrance Week began with the service at the Kamunting Road Christian Cemetery in Taiping on Thursday, June 13. It was organised by the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association of Australia (NMBVAA).

In 1950, Australia, being part of the British Commonwealth, reinforced its commitment to then Malaya by committing its troops in the Malayan Emergency. The insurgency warfare lasted for twelve long years (1948 to 1960). When it was over, approximately 7000 Australian personnel had seen service in Malaya. Thirty-nine lost their lives. A total of 28 Australian service personnel are interred in the Kamunting cemetery, along with 10 dependants.

"I'd like to reflect upon the story of some of the men laid to rest in this cemetery. Corporal John Norman Allan, Private Geoffrey Clyde Fritz and Pte Cedric Charles Ingra, all from Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, the Royal Australia Regiment were killed in action on 22 June 1956 in what became known as the Sungai Siput Pipeline Ambush," said Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Sanderson, Commanding Officer of the 2nd/30th Training Group, an Australian Army Unit attached to Royal Malaysian Air Force Base, Butterworth.

"This contact became the most costly single engagement of our involvement in the Emergency, with three men killed and a further three wounded," Paul remarked.

"Two commemorative plaques were found stolen before the service last year. The police found one at someone's place and the other got broken somewhere and could not be traced. I don't know why they took them, as they're not made of valuable material. It's really senseless, whoever did it. Two new ones, fully paid for by the Australian government, were made and replaced a month ago. They're here today," Ian Holthouse, Liaison Officer of NMBVAA told Ipoh Echo.

To add colour and pomp to the service, NMBVAA invited the Royal Australian Navy Veterans Band over to perform for the second time following their first ever appearance in Malaysia in 2016.

The retinue of 60 Australian veterans (inclusive of band members) visited the Malayan Emergency Monument and Gallery at Sungai Siput Estate built by the Malaysian Palm Oil



Royal Australian Navy Veterans Band



Byran Self



Brian Hickson

Association (MPOA). Accessing the facility required a rather steep climb on foot.

Spotted were 83-year-old Private Byran Self and 79-year-old Private Brian Hickson who participated in the commemorative service here for the first time.

"I was enlisted in the Australian army at the age of 20 in 1960. I was stationed down the road about half a mile from the gallery in Sungai Siput Estate for six months in 1961. When the camp closed we moved to Terendak Camp, Malacca and stayed there for three years before returning home," said Brian, who came from a family of servicemen and servicewomen serving in all three services. Living in Sydney and hailing from Queensland, he plans to return next year with his wife.

"I joined the army at the age of 17 and was 19 when we came here in November 1955. I was stationed in Ipoh. I served in Malaya for two years and 24 days, we were here for Merdeka," the amiable Byran from Queensland added.

The morning of Friday, June 14 witnessed the Ipoh Annual Remembrance Day at the cenotaph in front of the Ipoh railway station.

"It's hoped via media coverage, the Warriors' Association Malaysia will be known and supported by more people. This is a non-profit NGO established in 2004 with over 30 members to date. Hopefully, the state government will assist us next year to organise a livelier affair. Once the event is included in the tourism calendar next year, it'll create a better response. Even though the venue is open to the public, only the invited guests are present. We always expect the younger generation to come to learn about their history and veterans," Ravinder Kumar Sharma, President of Warriors' Association Malaysia highlighted.

Meanwhile, the MPOA held a similar service at the God's Little Acre in Batu Gajah on Saturday, June 15, followed by another at the Gurkha cemetery in Syed Putra Camp by the Warriors' Association Malaysia.

This was followed by the unveiling of the Malaya War Memorial Plaque at the Royal Ipoh Club by the guest of honour, Group Captain Gretchen Fryar, Defence Advisor, Australian High Commissioner. Names of all Australian servicemen who were killed in Malaya were listed in the plaque. It is a replica of the original, done years ago and is now at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Only two copies were made. The other is in the foyer of Australian High Commission, Kuala Lumpur which was unveiled last September.

"The Australian veterans have contributed plenty to the Royal Ipoh Club. The club has always hosted and welcomed us," Ian elaborated on the choice of venue for the ceremony.



Unveiling of the Malaya War Memorial Plaque



Bracing the steep climb on foot at Sungai Siput Estate