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**NO PLACE  
FOR CLOWNS**



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ISSUE **301**

# PETS, LOVE 'EM OR LEAVE 'EM

By Joelyn Jonathan

**D**ogs and cats are cute furry animals often given as gifts to loved ones. What most people don't realise is, that one impulsive act of falling in love with that adorable fur bundle is a commitment of 10-15 years of feeding, walking and caring. Not to mention visits to the vet to vaccinate, neuter and manage the odd little ailments that may occur. And while they are cuteness itself as kittens and puppies, it's quite another matter when they are fully grown. And how about when there is an accidental litter from the Lothario next door? Ipoh Echo went in search and this is what we gathered about the stray population in Ipoh.

FULL STORY ON PAGES 2 & 6



Marina Fenandaz from Spain, sponsored treatment and neutering for the strays here

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**SeeFoon  
Meets Some  
Interesting  
Folks**



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**Old-school  
Barbers in Ipoh**



## Technology

### Thinking Without The Box

By Mei Kuan

**A** public talk on intellectual property with a focus on patents was held by the Malaysian Invention and Design Society (MINDS) Perak Chapter in cooperation with Lions Club International on March 24 at the lecture hall of YMCA Ipoh.

The experience sharing session featured Redzuan Ali, senior director of patent engineering division of Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO), Robest Yong Han Aun, innopreneur and holder of multiple patents and Teng Yu-Mein, inventor of the Efinity EZ Water Filter System. Teng and Robest, the award-winning Malaysian duo, have been members of MINDS since the early 1990s.

When asked on the importance of social innovation, Robest explained, "There are many things that we can do to give back to society. As inventors, we too can play a part by using our creative gift to create something which will benefit the marginalised communities. Make them cheap and affordable so that the rural poor can receive them."

"Every, I really mean every, motivational guru in the world would have used this phrase 'Think outside the Box' when they talk about creativity but I beg to differ. The question I asked them was: why do we need a box? Are we not supposed to think without borders which limit our creativity? They should be 'Thinking without the Box' instead," he added.

Robest reminded the young innovators to be realistic in what they do, "Remember that the world does not owe you a living just because you have a patented invention. Evaluate your ideas yourself using my D.U.M.B.S Approach to Invention metaphor, which stands for 'Doable', 'Useable', 'Marketable', 'Bankable' and 'Sustainable'."

The Efinity EZ Water Filter System is Teng's first invention in 2016 when she was a housewife. While on a social reach-out program to an Orang Asli community in Negeri Sembilan, she took notice of the water condition from which the people were drinking

as their house taps were piped from the nearby streams.

Teng was shocked to see the dirty water and asked why the water was not filtered before consumption. Their reply was that the water from their taps did not have enough pressure and they did not have any electric supply for them to run a water pump.

Teng's method was to create enough pressure into a container with water by using an air pump and forcing the water through a ceramic filter. Coincidentally, there was a competition organised by the Malaysian Foundation for Innovation for grassroots innovations and her innovation was selected as one of the six winners who received RM30,000 to produce a working model.

Once production was completed, the products were delivered to Orang Asli, NGOs, flood victims, natural disaster areas, squatters, war zones, refugee camps and people in need locally and internationally.

It is able to produce three litres of clean water in a minute and cater a household's need of drinking water.

"It is my intention to help the people and I hope that this will change their lives because clean water is a need. Each family can maintain this system easily by simply taking out the ceramic filter to wash it. The filtered water can be used for sharing and cooking," the amiable Teng enthused.

The complete set, which comes with a ceramic filter, an air pump and the Efinity EZ cap, is offered at RM150 for personal use (hikers, etc.) and RM99 for NGOs and humanitarian efforts. For details, contact Teng at 013 3377477 or email her at yumein72@gmail.com. Readers also can visit the Facebook page: EFINITY Social Enterprise.





# Whom do we blame?

“Stray” by definition means someone or something that has been separated from where it should have been. Focusing on Ipoh city, this most popular tourist spot is now a home for strays. The stray population in Ipoh has increased remarkably over the years. The population of strays in Ipoh could easily breach the 5000 mark. They are mostly found in residential areas such as Taman Botani, Tambun, Buntong and Kg Simee. They are also found at market areas and factories. The dogs found here usually move in packs.



Ginla Chew

Stray dogs and cats are said to have a shorter lifespan compared to home pets. This is because they are susceptible to diseases, starvation, poisoning and napping by the unscrupulous. They are also being deliberately harmed by the inconsiderate who would throw stones, whack them and even run over them with their vehicles. A number of cats and dogs are also killed on the roads. Dogs, for obvious reasons, are more likely to succumb to these treacherous deeds than cats.

The public's greatest concern, when it comes to strays, is the harm that they may cause. But whom do we blame? More than half of these strays are the result of irresponsible pet owners. Dogs, especially, are dumped once they outgrow their usefulness. Since most are not spayed they multiply fast.

When it comes to rescuing, people expect non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to take the lead. NGOs such as Ipoh Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPCA) and Noah's Ark have been doing their best by neutering the rescued dogs. Depending on NGOs will not solve the problem. Pet owners should also play their part by ensuring that their dogs and cats are vaccinated, dewormed and spayed.

## Pet dumping – why?

According to Malika Ramiah Oates of Noah's Ark the main reason for pet-dumping is irresponsible owners who do not neuter their pets. A handful of owners do not have the funds to neuter their pets while some give ridiculous reasons why they did not. Once a female dog delivers, the puppies are left to fend for themselves. Dogs mature when they are six months old and hence they are able to reproduce. The stray cycle continues from then on.

“Killing is not the answer,” said Malika. The authorities go around killing the strays by whatever means possible. For reasons of safety, shooting is no longer an option. They have opted to poison the strays instead. Sometimes healthy neutered dogs are caught, dumped and be put down as well. In spite of this, the stray population continues to explode. Strays are still seen roaming the city.

People want dogs to guard their properties but are not ready for the responsibility that follows. According to Malika, City Council should implement compulsory neutering and vaccination for rabies. Microchipping pets is another alternative to reduce the stray population. Microchipping is to deter dumping. Old dogs are viewed as burdens by some owners thus they are dumped.

Dumping is an act of cruelty and owners can be prosecuted under the Animal Welfare Act 2015.

## Ways to handle strays

According to Dr Ranjit K. Mendhir, a veterinarian from Ipoh and also the founder of Noah's Ark, strays are usually owner-owned dogs. The first step in handling strays is by neutering these dogs. “The neutering should be done either privately or at government clinics. Regardless, mongrels or pedigrees, they should be spayed,” said Ranjit.



Community feeder

The second step is by reducing the license fees for neutered pets so people would be encouraged to neuter their pets. As for non-neutered pets, the fee should be higher, as some owners are just too stubborn to do so.

Ipohites were urged to buy permits for their dogs from Ipoh City Council. The price was fixed at RM30. Despite the price, many owners are still reluctant to get one. Owners with four dogs may find it problematic. The permit price should be reduced further so owners can afford to get one.

Disposing food waste in a proper manner plays a part in managing strays. Dogs and cats are often seen loitering around eateries, food stalls, food courts and residential areas. Restaurant owners, as well as the community, should learn the proper way of managing leftovers. Strays are attracted to food sources. “A proper dumping site should be earmarked for the strays. By doing so, cats and dogs are able to forage for food at a designated area and not roam around residential and business areas,” added Ranjit.

The fourth step is to urge and educate

the public to adopt rather than to buy. The community should understand that by adopting, the stray population can be reduced and, eventually, there will be lesser strays on the streets.

“People tend to listen more when the directive comes from City Council. I think that the Council should work hand in hand with NGOs to overcome the stray problem,” explained the vet.

Banners should be hung around the city to create awareness regarding strays. They should carry messages encouraging the public to adopt and neuter their pets. Such banners should be placed at hospitals, bus and train terminals and at shopping malls. This should not be a one-off but rather a continuous effort.

Those who feed strays voluntarily should act responsibly. “We don't mind working with them to neuter the dogs, but the first step has to come from them,” said Ranjit. Besides that, construction workers should get a sum of money from the developer before beginning a project. When dogs are brought into the construction sites to guard the materials, the population of dogs in that area multiplies. Upon completion of the project, the dogs are left to fend for themselves. Ranjit suggests contractors adopt neutered dogs from a shelter for the task. They can then be converted into community dogs.

There are many ways to manage strays. Ranjit stresses the importance of neutering. She insisted that dumping dogs in Papan should not be the choice, as the problem is never resolved.

## Community Feeders

Ginla Chew, a community feeder at Kg. Simee, who does her feeding every evening with her assistant, Ah Fat, said that the younger generation should be taught how to manage strays. Strays do not normally bring harm to the community. They fight among themselves to ascertain their hierarchy. They also fight for affection. According to Ginla strays are the result of owners with an opposite mindset. They keep dogs for only one purpose - to guard their properties. Therefore, they do not see the need to spend money on vaccination/medication.

“Irresponsible owners leave their pets on the streets as they grow older. This is cruelty, at best. From puppy till the dog is fully grown, the owner should be responsible,” said Ginla. A passionate dog lover, Ginla is up every morning at 4.00am to cook for the dogs. On average, she and her assistant feed around 60 dogs both morning and evening. And all this from her own pocket, not including the money she spends on neutering and vaccinating them.

“The public should not spend thousands buying dogs from pet shops. They should instead adopt and give those homeless puppies a proper home to live” she added. According to Ginla most of the sick dogs are infested with ticks or are wounded during fights.

Terrin, another community feeder from Bercham, felt that Ipoh has now become a city for strays. Terrin uses her own money to feed, neuter and vaccinate the dogs. Although she is more of a cat lover, she treats them equally. The government and the public play an equal role in handling the stray population. “I know of many owners who leave their newly-born puppies on the streets. They dump these puppies close to areas where there are feeders, making them our responsibility,” she lamented.

The government and well-meaning individuals should help these NGOs and community feeders overcome the stray population. When asked whether she would encourage to adopt or to buy, she simply said that a true dog lover would adopt a dog rather than buy one. “Give these homeless a shelter and give them love. Most strays are people-friendly. They've been traumatised by past events,” she said.

Well known among the rescuers community in Ipoh, Sifu, a Buddhist nun also owns a shelter off Jalan Gopeng. She has rescued about 100 dogs and she feeds all of them every day. Most of her dogs are rescued puppies that she picked up from the streets. Most have been ill-treated, emaciated and in poor health. Sifu has been saving strays for about 30 years. Her sister helps her with the daily feeding at the shelter. Obtaining food for her dogs has always been an uphill battle but Sifu continues undaunted. The food and medical expenses for her shelter usually cost RM8000 to RM10,000. All her fur babies are neutered and vaccinated to control the stray population. Due to the lack of space, her shelter no longer accepts stray dogs.

## Rabies

Rabies is a fatal disease. This viral disease is caused by wild animals such as monkeys, bats, racoons and dogs. In Malaysia, the disease is caused by



The puppies eating the food given by community feeders



Malika with a rescued kitten

Continued on page 6



## From The Editor's Desk



By Fathol Zaman Bukhari

## NO PLACE FOR CLOWNS

*The one-year period is fast approaching, Pakatan Harapan's performance will be subjected to greater scrutiny by the people, the media and investors.*

Pakatan Harapan ministers, of late, have been making and issuing all kinds of statements relating to their ministries and offices. Their off-the-cuff remarks caught Malaysians by surprise prompting many to ask whether these leaders are really up to the mark or are simply copies of the old regime. Their antics have caught the attention of the Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir who advised them to "think twice before opening their mouths and to look before leaping".

In his popular blog "Che Det" the prime minister queried what difference would it make if a school kid wore black or white shoes? Smoking caused cancer, he said but how would the smokers know whether they are three metres away from a restaurant unless they carry a measuring tape.

And in jest, Mahathir remarked, "Flying cars would not translate into votes".

Kadir Jasin veteran newsman and special media and communications adviser to the Prime Minister wrote that it was time to weed out "clowns and comic characters" from ruining the government as the ruling coalition party approached its first year of governance.

Mahathir agreed with Kadir that his cabinet is filled with many rookie ministers. Their naivety and amateurism become apparent when they speak to the press. Here are some anecdotal incidents that highlight their lack of wisdom or, perhaps, experience:

"Homosexuality? I don't think we have such a thing in our country," said Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Datuk Mohamaddin Ketapi when asked for his comments by a German newspaper during a tourism fair in Berlin recently. He was asked whether it was safe for homosexuals to travel to Malaysia.

His mind-boggling remark was picked by international media. CNN ran a story with this headline, "There are no gay people in Malaysia". And all this happened while the minister in charge of religious affairs, Datuk Dr Mujahid Yusof Rawa, was meeting transgender advocate Nisha Ayub. Netizens took to social media to highlight the Tourism Minister's lack of knowledge. I feel ignorance is a better word.

Mujahid upped the ante with his own "leap without looking" moment. After meeting controversial Muslim preacher Zakir Naik at the Federal Territories Islamic Department (Jawi) office in Kuala Lumpur on March 13 he was quoted as saying that the televangelist was "very inspirational".

Surely he must know that the guy is wanted in his home country, India, for money laundering and terrorism. The majority of Malaysians, less the holier-than-thou group, want Zakir deported post haste but he is being protected by the high and mighty here in Malaysia.

Primary Industries Minister, Teresa Kok, was soundly whacked for saying "Forget palm oil, plant bamboo, instead." She claimed her statement was taken "out of context". This is the standard excuse whenever ministers are caught with their sarong down.

We see this happening often during the past regime. Whenever Najib's ministers said something odd opposition politicians would whack them good and proper. Take

clownish Ahmad Maslan, the former Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry. He got smacked for suggesting that Malaysians facing financial problems due to rising costs should take a second job.

Now compare him to the "clowns and jesters" in Pakatan Harapan, Ahmad Maslan is definitely much smarter.

The one-year period is fast approaching, Pakatan Harapan's performance will be subjected to greater scrutiny by the people, the media and investors.

And topping all this is the issue of fake degrees or non-degrees. Even Perak MB Ahmad Faizal is complicit. He claimed to have graduated from an Australian university. But a check with the university's registry drew a blank. Fake degrees, fake titles and bogus ranks are common these days. This goes to show how hard-up Malaysians are when it comes to titles, degrees and ranks to prop up their deflated egos.

Kadir suggested that Pakatan consider "rearranging or even firing some of its cast members. The cast must be respected by the people. There is no place for clowns," he insisted.

Ministers, menteri besars and chief ministers, said Kadir, need to indulge in self-examination and self-criticism. "Don't blame the media and the people if the flying car flew past their heads and the government is seen as inept, arrogant and aloof," he retorted.

And while we are at this, Malaysia has plunged 45 notches in the World Happiness Index rating from 35th in 2018 to 80th in 2019. In South East Asia we are ranked fourth after Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines. The Index is a survey of the state of global happiness of 156 countries worldwide.

The transition from BN to PH following General Election 14 on May 9, 2018, could be the underlying reason for the downward trend.



## EYE HEALTH

## Dengue

*In our continuing series on Eye Health, Fatimah Hospital's Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr S.S. GILL talks to us about DENGUE and how it can affect the eyes.*

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the cumulative number of reported cases of Dengue in Malaysia as of 2 March 2019 was 26,545 cases, which is 157% higher compared to 10,343 cases reported during the same period in 2018. (Ref: WHO Dengue Situation Update Number 564, dated 14 March 2019).

Dengue has been on the rise in Perak with a total of 633 dengue cases recorded compared to 521 cases for the same period last year. (Read: Dengue On The Rise, Ipoh Echo, Sat 15 March 2019).

It is common knowledge that the infection is spread by the mosquito and to be more precise the *Aedes aegypti* one. The illness starts acutely with general symptoms of fever, headache, pain behind the eyeballs especially when the eyeballs move, severe muscle and joint ache along with exhaustion. Hence, it is often called "breakbone fever" because of the severity of muscle and joint ache.

**Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever** is the more severe variety that results in internal bleeding that occurs everywhere from the skin (forming a characteristic rash of bleeding under the skin called petechiae), bleeding into the brain, gut, nose and gums of the teeth.

The most severe form is called **Dengue Shock Syndrome**. This is the most life-threatening. There are currently four different serotypes of dengue, which means there are four different "cousins" amongst the virus. An attack of dengue from one virus serotype gives you a lifetime immunity to that one serotype only. There is a broad spectrum of eye features that may occur as a result of dengue fever. Among them are:

1. **VASCULITIS:** Inflammation of the small vessels at the back of the eye (retina). The vision is most affected if the vasculitis is adjacent to the macular area.
2. **ANTERIOR UVEITIS:** This is inflammation in the pigmented part of the eye resulting in features of photophobia (inability to tolerate light) and also blurring vision.
3. **MACULAR OEDEMA:** A swelling at the central portion of the retina (nerve centre). The person may see a dark patch in the centre of their vision (central scotoma).
4. **MACULAR HAEMORRHAGE:** Is bleeding that occurs in the same area of the retina. This too may result in a similar symptom as Macular Oedema, albeit more severe.
5. **EXUDATIVE RETINAL DETACHMENT:** Thankfully, this is not that common as the first three. Should this occur, treatment is not the same as retinal detachment due to a retinal tear.



The spectrum of eye involvement may also include **subconjunctival haemorrhage** (bleeding into the white of the eye as in the photo), **optic neuritis** (swelling of the optic nerve) and **posterior uveitis**. If you ever contract dengue fever and have blurring vision, do inform your treating physician about it.

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

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# How Safe and Clean are Perak's Rivers?



Pic source: Kosmo Online

After the environmental disaster in Johor, when irresponsible people dumped at least one truckload of chemicals into Sungai Kim Kim, we should ask, "How safe are rivers in Perak?"

Thinking about our rivers alone is not enough. How safe is the air? What about contaminants on the land?

The devastation caused by the effluents dumped in Sungai Kim Kim was not noticed until children from schools along the river fell ill from the noxious fumes. The problem with many of us is that we strongly believe, that what we cannot see will not harm us. The ordinary person is probably not aware that many gases which can kill us are both odourless and colourless.

So, why do we wait until disaster strikes before we learn to take note of our surroundings, and start to care for the environment and other living things? Why wait till tragedy strikes? Why wait till hundreds of children, and the vulnerable like the elderly and babies, are struck down?

Have we considered the livestock, and the fish in the rivers, and seas? What about the milk from cows, or the meat from animals, which have consumed contaminated feed or water?

What about the plants that are grown in soil which has been contaminated by certain chemicals? Older readers may recall the Japanese, Mitsubishi Asian Rare Earths (ARE) plant near Lahat, which attracted controversy in the 1980s. There was no proper disposal of radioactive waste. The residue was allowed to be taken home by some workers, to be used as fertiliser for their cottage gardens. Children suffered birth defects and some had childhood leukaemia.

A few years ago, I went on a river tour in the Kuala Sepetang area and the villagers who transported me in their boat complained that a factory upriver, had discharged some chemicals into the water. They alleged that they had contacted officials in the Forestry Department who then alerted the relevant departments, so they could take action and punish the factory owners. They wanted to stop them from breaking the law and dumping effluent into the river.

The villagers then alleged that the company owners contacted their political friends, to stop the investigation.

This abuse of power, should not have happened, but is more common, than we think.

The villagers said that the foamy effluent had killed off the udang galah spawn, and as they could not supply the restaurants with freshwater prawn, their secondary source of income was drastically reduced.

The flora and fauna, in and along the riverbank, depend on river water which is in pristine condition. As the effluent had killed off certain species, some of the plant and insect life could not thrive. The ecosystem of the river was adversely affected.

Another problem which affected the insects was light pollution. Some parts of the river are illuminated by the powerful lamps at the interchange of one stretch of the North-South highway.

As the insects migrate to areas where there is less intrusion of these bright lights, the fireflies, which my group had gone to see, were less accessible. With a scarcity of insects,



THINKING  
ALLOWED

by Mariam Mokhtar

because of light pollution and river pollution, tourism, which is the other major source of income for the villagers, (besides the freshwater prawn), was severely affected.

Many people think that the prawn farms built in the estuaries are good for the economy. The farms like any other business, need proper control and enforcement. Malaysians may not realise, that when prawn farms expand their business, they destroy large areas of mangrove swamps. The shrimps are dosed with chemicals and antibiotics to keep them alive in their confined

and artificial spaces. The discharge of effluents to treat these shrimps disturbs the ecosystem of the river, the mangrove forests, and threatens many other species.

The state administration must realise that when an issue is brought to their attention, they cannot view things in isolation. They must see things as a whole, and interact with other government agencies, to resolve the problem.

By and large, the preservation of the environment boils down to attitude. Our attitude must change, from the bottom up, and then top down. The irresponsible people who dumped the chemicals could not care less, that downriver, the effects would be devastating.

People chase money and want to do things on the cheap, because doing things the proper way, is costly.

A chemical treatment plant may be expensive, but it is cheaper in the long run. Just think of the extra expense, the bad publicity, and the time consumed by the authorities to clean up a river, and pay for medical treatment for the communities which have been affected, and pay compensation for any deaths or serious illnesses caused by the chemicals. This is in addition to finding the person, or people, responsible for polluting the air, water or soil, and punishing him and his company.

A chemical stack is expensive, but it is needed to treat noxious, gaseous chemicals before they are discharged into the atmosphere.

The BBC reported that Malaysia has become the dumping ground for plastic waste from the world. Our landfill sites are overflowing. Inconsiderate people burn imported waste and pollute our air, threatening the lives of the people and livestock. As is common in Malaysia, enforcement is poor and if you have a corrupt official, who will protect his crony friend, family or business partners, nothing will be done.

So, next time, you see a lorry discharging its load into a river, will you report it to the authorities or will you think, "I don't want to get into trouble when they start asking questions."

Or will you think, "I can't report them because my wife works in that factory and she will be out of a job if they find out I had reported the pollution."

Or will you say, "He is my business partner and if he is shut down, I will also lose my income."

Or will you tell yourself, "I will report the perpetrator, and send pictures of the act to the authorities, because I want my children and grandchildren to inherit a safe, clean and unpolluted countryside."

## VACANCY

Principal required for Early Intervention Centre in Ipoh due to open in the second half of 2019.

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# SeeFoon Meets Some Interesting Folks

Pics by Vivien Lian

When the proprietor **Bryan Tai** of this new restaurant wrote to us to invite us to come and taste his food, I was sure he had

made a spelling mistake in the choice of a name. Surely **Little Meet Fresh** should be Little Meat Fresh? I thought.

To my surprise, there was no mistake to the spelling at all. Bryan wanted his restaurant to be a meeting place where fresh food is served. So there Ms Proofreader!

The menu is small (which is a good thing as it makes decisions so much easier) with most of the items based on soup. The soup stock is based on three fragrances: ikan bilis, pork bones and Chinese wine. Depending on what you order and the different combos, the resultant soup will taste different from bowl to bowl.

For starters, choose from fried fish cake, fried wonton, fried tsui gao (the bigger dumpling) or their homemade Acar (very good), each at RM5.60. For me, I had their **Red Oil Dumpling**, spicy, smooth-skinned with a well-balanced filling of pork, wood ear and given a crunch with added sengkung. Other ways to have their tsui gao is fried or in clear soup.

Other starters are their **Bursting Meatball**, a springy pork ball with a surprise filling of flavoured minced pork inside. Six pieces for RM8.80. Be careful when you bite in though; when it's hot you can burn yourself.

Then we turned our attention to the main bowls. Here you can choose from a choice of noodles from meehoon, flat rice noodles, yellow noodles to silver thread noodles and **mi xian** for which you pay an additional RM1.50. You can have yours with a spicy

soup which is also homemade for an additional RM0.50. The choice of topping is tantalising. From minced pork with pork liver to liver and pig's tripe (my favourite) combos, with added vegetables, these bowls are hearty meals. Varying in price from RM7.50 for the pork mixes to RM17.50 for their mixed seafood which includes two large prawns, grouper slices and homemade fish paste all of which tasted fresh.

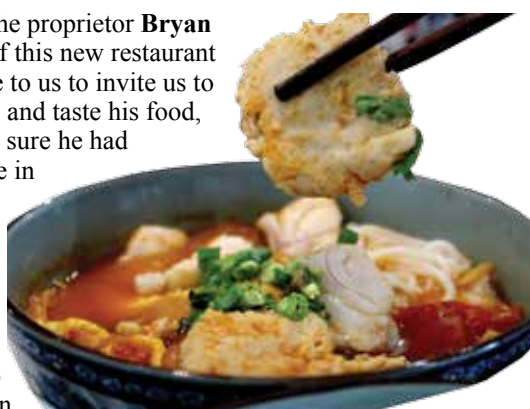
And you can add any of the other ingredients to your bowl of choice for an additional amount. This is one restaurant I will certainly return to again for a quick bite or a longer meal.

## LITTLE MEET FRESH

17 Jalan Medan Ipoh 6 Taman Ipoh Timur, 31400 Ipoh.  
(same row as 1919 and two doors down from Sun Yeong Wai)  
Tel: 011 5338 2800 Bryan Tai: 018 6622 800  
Open: 11am-8.30pm. Off every Tuesday.



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



This culinary school certainly does not get enough credit for training young would-be chefs and bringing them into the culinary world. Not only do they learn a fixed set of cooking skills but the school has a revolving door of guest chefs who come and lend their special skills to the students so that they are exposed to as wide a repertoire of culinary styles and cuisines as possible.

The latest guest chef to lend his skills is Chef Issa Ramadan Al Chabo, a Syrian chef who has a restaurant in Kuala Lumpur. I was fortunate enough to meet him at lunch and taste his cuisine.

All the middle eastern dishes were there, a taste I acquired in of all places, London, where a Lebanese friend would take me to his favourite haunts, in particular, the Al Hamra in Shepherd's Market.

The mezze or appetiser course would always include my two favourites, the Hummus and the Baba Ganoush. Here Chef Issa had incorporated them to be served with Falafel. Hummus which is blended chickpeas is a dip and can be served plain with bread or in this instance, with Falafel, a deep fried lentil patty, lightly spiced and redolent with herbs. Similarly the Baba Ganoush, another popular dip made of grilled eggplant and mashed adding olive oil in the process. Both these dips were made with a light touch, fresh tasting, the olive oil lending its astringent touch to the dish.

The Shawarma lamb or chicken (there was a choice) on pita bun served with hummus made an interesting burger, the creamy hummus a healthy substitute for usual mayonnaise. The meat was well marinated, redolent with middle eastern spices of cumin, coriander, etc.

Pilaf Rice with grilled chicken and a mildly spicy sauce was delicious and the Turkish beef kebab that came along was just too much food in one sitting but nevertheless enjoyable.

Imagine the groans around the table as the piece de resistance of the day arrived in the form of Baklava, that ubiquitous dessert you'll find in every middle eastern sweet shop. Layers of filo pastry sprinkled with nuts and drizzled with honey. This must be eaten fresh for the best taste and fresh it was that day. I, a declared non-sweet fan, had two pieces that day. That speaks for



## CREW SKILLS



itself.

As for me, if the Crew Skills students would pick up some of Chef Issa's skills, they would be blazing a culinary trail for themselves when they finish their course. Now all you parents out there....if your child has no inclination for academia, perhaps you could consider a chef's training for him/her?

No. 9, Lintasan Perajurit 17G  
Taman Perdagangan & Perindustrian,  
31400 Ipoh.  
Tel: 05 545 9800  
Website: crewskills.edu.my  
Facebook:  
Crews Skills International School of Culinary





**PETS, LOVE 'EM OR LEAVE 'EM . . . Continued from Page 2**

dogs. The rabies virus is spread via the saliva of an infected animal. In January 2019, a rabies outbreak was declared in Taiping. Over the years, rabies outbreaks have occurred in Malaysia with Sarawak having the highest number of deaths due to the disease. In order to prevent the disease from spreading, several dogs were put to sleep. In the process, even healthy dogs were culled.

If you have been bitten by a dog, these are some of the signs and symptoms that you need to be aware of: fever, headache, nausea, anxiety and hydrophobia. If any of these symptoms occur, seek immediate medical help.

Dr Ranjit shared her own experience that she was once bitten by a dog and was tested positive for rabies. She advised that the first remedial step is to seek medical assistance as soon as possible and it is crucial to remain calm.

Most rabies outbreaks in Malaysia are caused by dogs that enter our borders via pet shop owners. These dogs are not vaccinated. A new rule saying that all dog owners should own an anti-rabies vaccine should be imposed in Malaysia, as it is done in India. Why wait for an outbreak when the problem can be solved?

Strays do not cause harm if the problem is managed properly. Culling is not the only solution. Start taking responsibility. Dogs are paying the price more than cats. Dog lovers should step out and help overcome the problem. Do not dump everything on the government as it has other problems to attend to.



*Rescuers from Noah's Ark*



Attempts by the scribe to get Ipoh City Council and the State Veterinary Clinic at Kg Simee, Ipoh to respond to questions posed were unsuccessful at the time of reporting.

An annual fundraising dinner will be held on Saturday, May 25, 7.30pm at Shi Fang Zhai Vegetarian Restaurant to help the stray problem. Tickets are priced at RM60, RM100 for VIP and RM300 for VVIP. For more information, please call: **017-5832920** or **012-5918023**.

Donations are welcome. Please remit your money to Persatuan Peliharaan Haiwan Terbiar Perak (**Maybank: 508289307028**)

If you are interested to adopt puppies or dogs, please call **012-2368144** (Ginla Chew). All puppies and dogs are vaccinated, dewormed and have no ticks.

## Nosh News

### Dome Unveils New Menu

Dome Restaurant at Meru Valley Resort has announced a fresh new menu influenced by a fusion of Western delights and Asian flavours.

Showcasing ten new additions to the menu, Dome promises to delight you with mouth-watering bowls, succulent grills and delicious sharing platters, complemented by an awe-inspiring golf course setting.

Hungry? Try the all new Chicken Berempah Burger, Pan-Fried Garoupa Fillet or Spiced Baked Lamb Meatballs Pasta. There's the Japanese Chicken Torikatsu Bento and local cuisines like Seafood Noodle Soup, Fried Noodles, Crispy River Prawn Noodles and Nyonya Fish Head Curry. The new menu is further complemented with the irresistible Nachos Cheese Dip and classic Italian dessert that will melt in your mouth, the Mixed Berries Panna Cotta.

Long-standing favourites are still on the menu, including Nasi Goreng Special, Fish and Chips and Meru Fried Kway Teow, together with Chef's favourites the Wagyu Burgers and the Japanese Bentos.

Chef Desmond and his team inject new life into the menu by exploring new fresh flavours and imaginative creations. "We are thrilled about these additions to our menu because they really highlight the diverse flavour profiles of the East and West," said the Executive Sous Chef, Desmond Wong.

"While we serve food with fresh, better-for-you ingredients, we also aim to offer craveable meals that keep guests coming back again and again," he added.

While enjoying the new delights of the new menu, guests can relax to the mellifluous tunes of our in-house pianist playing live music on Saturday evenings.

For reservations and more information contact Dome Restaurant at **05 529 3358**.



## Local Government Council By-law Abolished



The state government has cancelled the implementation of the Business and Industrial Trades 2017 By-Law (UUK Tred 2017) with immediate effect. This action puts an end to speculation that business licensing fees, imposed by local councils, would increase many folds.

Executive Councillor for Housing, Local Government, Public Transport, Non-Muslim Affairs and New Village, Paul Yong Choo Kiong said the decision was taken based on feedback from the public and the business community. They were worried that it would impact living costs presently.

According to Paul, the increase could be anything between 100 to 400 per cent.

"After considering all aspects, the state government decided to abolish the by-law thus providing a timely reprieve for all 15 local councils," he told reporters during a media conference on March 21 at the State Secretariat Building, Ipoh.

"The state will fall back on the previous by-law passed in 1989."

The 2017 by-law was approved by the previous BN government. Its objective was to standardise licensing requirements and help improve the administration of local councils. "We should rather find ways to raise the councils' revenues instead of raising charges or taxes.

This is in line with Pakatan Harapan's manifesto made in the run-up to GE14," he remarked.

All 15 local councils are required to make the necessary adjustments in their licencing-fee collection for next year.

**Luqman Hakim**



# Perak Medical Centre Now in Kampar



**P**erak Medical Centre (PMC) unveiled its fourth branch at Kampar Sentral, Kampar in addition to its existing two in Ipoh and in Batu Gajah.

Managing Director of PMC, Dr K. Supramanian explained that the new clinic will endeavour to provide the best service to Kampar folk. "PMC was established 40 years ago and now it's well-known by many. This has prompted us to open a branch in Kampar.

"The history of PMC dates back to over 60 years ago. It's known as Georgetown Dispensary then. Around 1978 it was divided into two divisions namely, one dealing in pharmaceutical the other in medical. Presently, the pharmaceutical business is known as Georgetown Dispensary while the medical business as PMC.



"We've eight very experienced doctors and 55 staff members, some having over 30 years of service," he said during the launch of the Kampar branch on Thursday, March 21. Present was guest of honour, Orang Besar Jajahan Kampar, Dato' Toh Sedewa Raja, Dato' Abdul Talib Abdul Fahmi..

According to Dr K. Supramanian, all PMC branches are now furnished with various facilities including the

latest high-tech health examination equipment.

"We've upgraded our service in line with current technology to facilitate and speed up the treatment of patients. For example, we can detect patients with Influenza A or B in just 3 minutes via blood test using the latest technology.

**Operating hours: 8am-9pm daily.**

**Address: 41 Laluan Batu Sinar, Kampar Sentral, 31900 Kampar, Perak.**

## Our Heartiest Congratulations

To  
**Perak Medical Centre Sdn. Bhd.**

On  
**Opening of Their 4th Branch  
PERAK MEDICAL CLINIC  
KAMPAR**

AT  
**41, Laluan Sinar Batu 2, Kampar Sentral  
31900 Kampar, Perak**

Dr. Ruslan Razak  
Mr. M. S. Thas  
Dr. Chan Chong Guan  
Dr. Dharmini Veerakumaran  
Dr. Jaya Balan Valiappan  
Dr. Sumithra Sivasuntharam  
Dr. Rosalind Simon  
Dr. Rekha Balachandran  
Dr. Kathleen Yeap  
Dato' Dr. Vasan Sinnadurai  
Dr. Supparamaniam Narayanan  
Dr. Mahendran Subramaniam  
Dr. Loo Kok Lim  
Dr. Azman Kiflie

Dr. Fanny Bt Tanggong  
Dr. Khor Heng Tee  
Dr. Selvan Nallayan  
Dr. Tan Boon Chong  
Dr. Poh Eu Ping  
Dr. Lee Hak Teong  
Dr. Too Jun Kin  
Dr. Mohd Syahizul Nuhairy

PANTAI HOSPITAL IPOH  
VINESS ENTERPRISE, IPOH (Civil Contractor)  
BVS ENTERPRISE, IPOH (Electrical Contractor)  
RA UNIVERSAL COMMUNICATION SDN.BHD  
MURALI JAYA TRADING, IPOH

**Success is yours on the new ventures you under take every now and then.  
We congratulate you on this wonderful moment of the opening your new branch.**



## Psychological Wellness

### 10 Ways To Be Kindful To People With Depression

1. Don't stigmatize them – they are not mad, psycho, violent or bad. They are human beings like you and me (but with a psychological disorder), who are capable of being good, happy and successful in life.
2. Try to understand depression as much as possible. Recall the occasional periods of sadness and lack of motivation in your life. Amplify that 10 times in frequency and intensity – that's how it feels to have depression as an illness. When we understand, we'll be able to care more effectively.
3. Gently remind them to take medications and do whatever necessary to get well, e.g., engage in more activities, read about depression, eat healthy food, and go for clinic follow-ups.
4. Spend time with and accompany them for their activities, e.g., exercise, a walk in the park, buying things from the market. Don't just tell them to do it; invite them to do it with you and give plenty of encouragement with every slight progress.
5. Offer practical support, e.g., cooking, cleaning the house, giving a lift to the clinic, settling the bills, taking care of children, collecting medicines, etc.
6. Avoid giving advice compulsively, "Try this/that...don't do this/that...must do this/that..." Though with good intentions, you'll probably make him/her feel more confused and helpless. Be a good listener; explore their concerns and empathize, before offering suggestions.
7. Try not to be over-protective. They need to be trusted that they're capable of doing things on their own with support. Sometimes we also need to be firm with them for their own good, e.g., insisting that they should stop abusing drugs (e.g., cannabis), compliance with medications, clinic follow-ups, and daily exercise.
8. Give them equal opportunity for employment when they are well. Allow them to take leave just like any other illness when they need to take time off for clinic follow-ups.
9. Be kind and supportive through non-verbal expressions: a friendly smile, a hug, offer tissue papers for crying, a pat on the shoulder as encouragement.
10. Repeatedly assure them in words that you love, care and respect them unconditionally. It's not they don't trust you; they actually don't trust and probably hate themselves – depression has damaged their self-confidence and self-worth.



Dr. Phang Cheng Kar (M.D.)  
Consultant Psychiatrist  
& Mindfulness-Based Therapist,  
Sunway Medical Centre.

## Business

### Talk Less and Do More

By Mei Kuan



The Perak Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCCI) along with Perak Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DPPM) and Perak Indian Chamber of Commerce (PICC) expressed their concerns over recent talks and gossips, including the circulation of an outdated video clip regarding a possible change of the state government.

During a joint media conference on Monday, March 25 held at PCCCI building, the three chambers of commerce highlighted that the frequent use of race and religion to garner political support has created a sense of uncertainty and anxiety among the people, in general, and the business community, in particular.

"It certainly does not help in promoting goodwill and confidence that are much needed to spur an already soft economy," said Dato' Liew Sew Yee, president of PCCCI.

The three chambers of commerce acknowledged that the new government has initiated several projects and programmes that have benefitted the people, such as the use of common parking coupons for all town councils, the changeover to LED street lighting, the visibly cleaner roads and drains, the regular tourist promotion programmes, abolishment of the Business and Industrial Trades 2017 By-Laws (UUK Tred 2017) which fueled fears of licensing fees increase and others.

"We feel that there's still a lot more to be done going forward, especially in the area of engagement with the stakeholders. Everything notwithstanding, we recognise that the new government, and the people administering it, are still relatively new in office and should be given the time and space to deliver," Dato' Liew added.

In the meantime, the chambers of commerce would like to see less politicking, less hype on race and religious issues and more time and effort expended on improving the wellbeing of the people.

Present were Dato' Muhammad Muhiyuddin, President of Perak Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry and John Nesan, Vice President of Perak Indian Chamber of Commerce.

## BVH – Better Together

By Mei Kuan

Running on the theme "Better Together", Bonanza Venture Holdings Leadership Retreat in Luang Prabang saw a powerhouse team of 36 participants across various business units in the group connecting on common core values and sharing best practices.

It was a leadership immersion like no other set in Rosewood, a luxury resort located in the charming UNESCO World Heritage Site of Luang Prabang from March 4 to 7.

Brimming with better bonding and fun galore, the retreat served as an empowering platform for leaders and budding leaders to get inspired and learn from other professionals across the group for implementation back in their respective units.

The collaborative culture for success was reinforced as everyone went above and beyond to put together the logistics of the event forming a cross-working dream team with a caring culture at play.

Bonanza Venture Holdings Sdn Bhd has a strong track record as an investment holding company through four principal business activities; property development (Kinta Properties), education (Matrix Global Schools, Kinder Labz and Ipoh Learning & Training Institute), hospitality and leisure (Meru Valley Resort) and automotive distribution (Ban Hoe Seng Auto).

Forming its corporate social responsibility (CSR) arms are Ipoh Echo, community-based newspaper and Ipoh World, a not-for-profit organisation which saves, records and makes



available to the public worldwide, the accurate local history of Ipoh and the Kinta Valley.

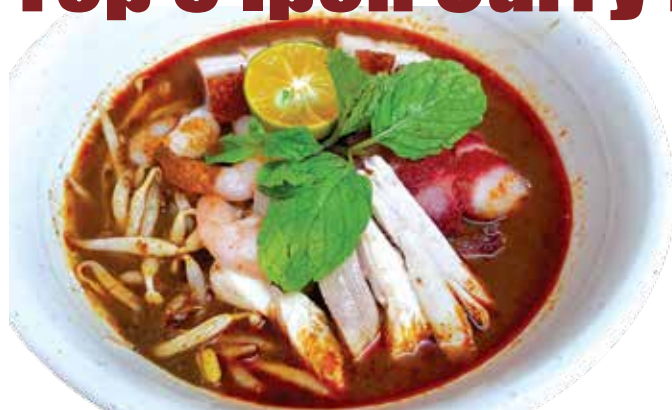
Established in 1975, BVH was founded by the late Dato' Lim Keng Kay as a mining consultancy firm, which later evolved into mineral extraction and processing, manufacturing, construction, development,



value-added services, leisure and hospitality, education and automotive distribution. BVH has engaged with public and private market-leading companies around the world including, Multicore Solders, UK; TOR Minerals, USA; Swatch Group, Switzerland; Nihon Superior, Japan; Mitsubishi Materials Corporation, Japan; and Taiheiyo Cement, Japan.



# Reader's Choice Top 5 Ipoh Curry Mee



*These are the places which are repeatedly nominated by our readers online:*

Name	Location and Business Hours
Xin Quan Fang	174, Jalan Sultan Iskandar, Taman Jubilee, 30000 Ipoh. 7.30am - 1.00pm
Diamond Kopitiam	30, Jalan Tranchell, 31450 Menglembu. 12.00noon - 7.00pm
Yat Yat Seng	83, Lebuhraya Ipoh (off Jalan Dato Lau Pak Kuan) Taman Canning, 31400 Ipoh 7.00am - 2.30pm
Restaurant Moon De Moon (Dry and wet)	148, Hala Wah Keong, Taman Mirindi, 31400 Ipoh 7.30am-12.30pm (Closed on Monday and Tuesday)
Restoran Chuan Fatt	294, Jalan Pasir Puteh, Taman Hoover, 31650 Ipoh 7.30am-2.30pm

## Ipoh Echo's list :

Turn to The Foodie's Guide to Ipoh's Best Eats 2 page 163 and 164 where you will find different kinds of flavorful curry mee there.

## Connexion

By Joachim Ng

### Preserve Vicky's Multi-ethnic Mosaic

Ipoh-born Vicky Treadell, former British High Commissioner to Malaysia, remembers fondly her childhood days playing with Malay, Indian, and Chinese schoolmates at Tarcisian Convent near Maxwell Road where she lived. Back then, Ipohites were Malaysians unsegregated into racial categories except in the official statistics.

Till now this remains the street reality, as open-air marketplaces and commercial workspaces display much inter-ethnic friendships and customer relationships. But in the realm of politics and governance, we have become a race-based society. At every by-election, and in the next general election to come, we are counted by our separate racial identities, and not our common Malaysian identity.

It's more than just a race for victory. Every political party sets up a war room to prepare for battle at the polls. And believe it or not, on March 13 during a Dewan Rakyat session, some parliamentarians actually said loudly that they would welcome a war. Is democracy a war game to be fought by our elected reps at taxpayers' great expense?

Over the past 10 months there have also been calls for elections at local authority levels. If this wish is granted, the race mania will grip every town and city with neighbourhood fences turned into racial fault-lines. Vicky's childhood multi-ethnic mosaic will disappear in a fiery blaze forever. Don't let the rabble-rousing party vote-catchers turn every neighbourhood into a racial precinct. Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is right in fearing that local council elections will churn up racial conflict, as the race card will obviously be played.

The street where you live and the park where children gather for games are the sole surviving spaces for non-racial democracy that focuses neutrally on everyone's well-being in the locality. Never surrender them to the politicians, as the best neighbourhoods in Malaysia are those with active residents associations or management corporations.

Do you care whether your neighbourhood chairman is a Malay, an Indian, or a Chinese? All you care is whether he is actively serving the neighbourhood. This is non-racial democratic governance, and it ensures a better life for all dutiful residents.

Their only problem is: residents associations and management corporations have to raise every ringgit from members, as they get no financial help. All the money collected in the form of assessment tax levied on property owners goes to the town or city council. But it's not the council that can effectively look after you. It's the dedicated volunteers who sit on residents or owners committees in your neighbourhood.

NEXT: High Time For Neighbourhood Self-governance



## Valuate your car & get FREE movie tickets

Thinking of selling off your car but not sure about the selling price? Wanted to know how much is your car worth but no time to survey one-by-one?

No worries, MUV – an online car-selling platform that offers a car valuation service at **ZERO cost** is giving a pair (2) of GSC movie tickets when you visit MUV's hub for a **FREE** car valuation! You can first check your car selling price at [www.muv-x.com](http://www.muv-x.com)

Hurry up & take your chances! The giveaway is ongoing till 26th April 2019!

Book a **FREE** car valuation with us today.

018- 311 8089

MUV Ipoh

1A, Laluan Perusahaan Menglembu 8, Kawasan Perindustrian Bandar Baru Menglembu, 31450 Ipoh, Perak. (in Nissan Building)



In Collaboration with Golden Screen Cinemas

\*Terms and Conditions apply.  
\*While stocks last.



## LETTERS

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

## Dress Code for Marriage Registration

I accompanied my son to the registration department in Meru to witness registration of his marriage. There was signage on the dress code. For the groom, it was a photo of a man in western attire wearing a coat, tie and pants. For the bride, it was saree and long dress. There were photos of dresses which were not allowed.

There were a number of couples who had come with their relatives and friends to register their marriage and no one was wearing a coat; the nearest was a groom who wore a long-sleeve shirt and a tie. Men were wearing shirt and pants. A number of women were wearing sarees and long dresses. No one was wearing the type of attire that was banned.

Though registration of marriage is not considered a formal marriage, couples, their relatives and friends who come there wear their best clothes. Marriage is usually consummated after the traditional marriage ceremony takes place in a church, temple or other places in front of relatives and friends. Couples consider this as their marriage date. During various ceremonies of traditional marriage, couples wear different costumes including western attire and occasionally bizarre dress, but all dressing would be decent.

I wonder why our government thinks Malaysians are stupid and do not know what to wear for the occasion. The public should not be taken for granted.

As far as dressing is concerned I think the best is to wear what is suitable for our climate and not ape others.

A. Jeyaraj

## Farewell "Ipoh-mali UK Envoy"

It is sad to note that "Ipoh-mali UK Envoy" will be leaving Malaysia after serving as the British High Commissioner for five years. She is no other than Vicki Treadell. Well-known woman of substance, her bond with this country will get stronger as she was in Malaysia for a long time.



As for me, I had met her in person in Ipoh on several occasions. An Ipoh Mali, every year, when our Warrior's Association Malaysia held the Remembrance Day at Ipoh Cenotaph (in front of the Railway Station/Town Hall), she will be present at this ceremony. Her humility has always impressed and every one of us is proud of her and it will be a sad day for all of us as she is returning to the United Kingdom after completion of her service in this country. Let us all pray for her good health and hope that she will visit Malaysia in the coming years.

All this was possible because it was initiated by our founder member and President of the Warrior's Association Malaysia, Dato' R. Thambipillay, ex-OCPD of Batu Gajah, Perak. The current President, Mr Ravinder Kumar Sharma and his committee will be organising the Remembrance Day event on June 14 in Ipoh.

On another note, it is news that our Royal Customs Department Director General, Datuk Seri T. Subramaniam retired on March 9. He is popularly known as Mr GST (Goods + Services Tax). He served with distinction for 35 years in the government department. Although I don't know him personally, it is noted that his contribution and sacrifices to this department is well appreciated by all. As a retired government servant myself, it is good to follow in the footsteps of this Customs Director General, so that more and more revenue can be collected for the government. Let us all pray for his good health and happy retirement.

K. Letchimanan

## Community

### The Chettiar Temple: 112 Years Old Like New

By Darshini

Also known as Chettiar Temple, the Sri Thandayuthabani Alayam at Jalan Lahat is well known to Hindu devotees in Ipoh and in Perak. It is well patronised, especially during the Vaikasi Visagam festival which falls during the Tamil month of Vaikasi (usually in May). Vaikasi is the second month in Tamil calendar. Vaikasi Visagam is believed to be the day of incarnation of Lord Murugan (for whom Hindus celebrate Thaipusam).

This temple was originally built by Chettiars for Chettiar devotees. However, today the temple welcomes all Hindus, regardless. The Chettiars originated from Tamil Nadu and Burma. They came to Malaya as merchants.

Chettiar is one of the many Hindu castes. The title is used by the mercantile, agricultural and land-owning caste from South India. The Chettiars, in those days, would bring with them a statue of Lord Murugan in Thandayuthabani form, the bachelor form of Lord Murugan.

The Chettiars believed that this form of Lord Murugan, who is without family ties like them can be brought away from their land without restrictions like other Hindu gods and goddesses. Thus, temples built by the Chettiars are always named after Lord Thandayuthabani.

In 1870, the first batch of Chettiars landed in Taiping and built a temple for themselves. They worked in warehouses, as they were well-known merchants. Later some of them moved to other parts of Perak such as Gopeng and Jalan Belfield, Ipoh to expand their business. They found it difficult to travel frequently from their new homes and to temple.

The Chettiars are very particular about their religious rites and prayers. For convenience, they built another Thandayuthabani temple on Jalan Lahat. And that is how this temple came into being.

Groundwork for the temple began 1904 and was completed somewhere in 1907. The Chettiar community still manages the century-old temple today. The structure of this temple resembles the architecture of a traditional Chettiar house in Tamil Nadu. The entrance leads to a traditional veranda



## Community

### Old-school Barbers in Ipoh

By Darshini

The old-school barbers are vanishing day by day as more contemporary hairdressers and salons are mushrooming. Old school barbers are always known for their inexpensive charges and the after-cut signature neck massages.

The institution of barber is very old in India. Usually, barbers belong to a particular sub-caste back in India. In the early 30s, some of them emigrated to Malaysia and began cutting hair with a pair of scissors and comb under shady trees. Mobile barbers then slowly progressed to setting up a place for themselves in buildings.



#### New Star Salon

If you've been to Concubine Lane before, you would have seen a smaller barber shop which can only accommodate the barber and maybe two of his customers. It stands alone amidst the uniquely dilapidated setting.

The New Star Saloon was started at Jalan Sultan Yusof back in 1927. Mr Thirunavukarasu's father set up a shop which accommodated 14 barber chairs back then and had 14 barbers working under him. Today they relocated the shop to a smaller platform. According to him, he barely gets a customer on weekdays while on weekends and public holidays, he manages to have about six to eight customers.

Charges per head: RM15

Services: gentleman haircut, shaving, head massages and talking partner

Operating hours: 10am-5pm (Monday-Sunday, including public holidays)

Contact: 011 2785 8900 (Mr Thirunavukarasu)

Address: Concubine Lane

#### Medan Kidd Salon

Hidden in a narrow corner of the old building in the Medan Kidd bus station, the outlet has been going strong since 1965. Mr Manikam who established the outlet then passed it over to Mr Balan in 1978 and the outlet is still being managed by Mr Balan single-handedly.

Charges per head: RM8

Services: haircuts, shaving, hair dyeing, head massages

Contact: 016 565 7415

Address: Medan Kidd bus station

#### Kedai Gunting Rambut Bunga Raya

Situated at the rather dead town in Simpang Pulai, this outlet became a hang-out spot for the regulars. This outlet is being managed by three brothers who started it in 1970. The outlet always greets one with evergreen Tamil songs where the regulars drop by to have a cup of tea from a nearby shop and chat.

Charges: RM10

Services: haircuts, shaving, head massage

Operating hours: 8am-11pm

Address: 2 Persiaran Simpang Pulai 2, Taman Muda, 31300 Ipoh.

#### Bercham Hair Dressing Salon

Fondly known as Raj, he set up the salon 20 years ago and printed flyers to promote his outlet in the neighbourhood. The chatty man manages the outlet single-handedly since then.

Charges: RM10-15

Services: haircuts, shaving, hair dyeing, head massage

Address: Lot 417, Trade Parade, Jalan Bercham, 31400 Ipoh.



accentuated by a pillared hallway.

The 112-year old temple retains its original architecture with some minor alterations done over the years. The temple conducted its 6th Kumbabishegam ceremony once every 12 years. The purpose is to cleanse and to restore the power in the temple's Gopuram (the monumental entrance tower).

A peepal tree was planted at the rear of the temple the same year the temple was erected. A statue of Lord Ganesha (Lord Murugan's brother) was then placed beneath the tree. A few years ago the century-old tree was felled and replaced with a new peepal tree.



## Community

## It Pays to be Loyal

By A. Jeyaraj

Ipoh City and Country Club hosted Loyal Members Recognition Night to honour 23 long-term members for their support of events, frequent patronisation and being good paymasters. Each recipient was given an RM100 cash voucher, free karaoke room voucher, certificate of appreciation and souvenir.

Some 300 members and guests attended the function and were entertained with a belly dance performance by dancers from Geok Dance Fitness Art Centre.



## CORRECTION

With reference to the article titled, 'Stop Using Caves as Temples!' (Ipoh Echo issue 300, March 1-15, 2019). These are the writer's comments:

"We visited two caves in a day, both are next to Po Sat Tong in Gunung Karang Besar and not, as I mentioned, Kwong Fook Ngan. The other we call Siam Temple (as stated in Google Maps) since there is already one cave with the name Koon Yum Tong. Another cave is what we cave enthusiasts call Bat Cave since it is full of bats. I'm naming the cave here so that it is more convenient for mentioning in future instead of calling it the cave next to Siam Temple.

## Malaysia (MY) Hearing Day

Hearing loss is actually quite common in Malaysia. Statistics show that 17.14% of the 30 million population of Malaysia suffers from a hearing problem. One to three out of 1000 babies suffers from congenital or neonatal hearing loss, while amongst the ageing population, one out of three people shows signs of significant hearing loss by the age of 65. It is also a fact that 30% of the 3.8 million senior citizens have some degree of hearing loss.

This was revealed by Deputy Minister of Health Dr Lee Boon Chye, during the launch of the 'Malaysia (MY) Hearing Day' Campaign at AEON Midtown Falim, Ipoh on March 3.

He added that according to World Health Organisation statistics, 466 million people worldwide (6.1% of the world's population) have hearing problems and 34 million are children.

According to Dr Lee, one of the main impacts of hearing loss is on the individual's ability to communicate with others. For the elderly with hearing loss, they have a higher risk of cognitive declines and are more likely to develop dementia. Hearing will also affect our social and emotional wellbeing. Without normal hearing, we have Less communication, causing feelings of loneliness, being isolated and increasing rates of depression. Adults with hearing loss have a much higher unemployment rate.

For babies and children, early detection of hearing loss is very important. In Malaysia, children with hearing loss and deafness rarely receive any schooling. Development of cognitive, social and communication skills will be affected too. Thus, he hopes all the hospitals in Malaysia can provide 'Universal Newborn Hearing Screening' in their service so we can manage the hearing disabilities as early as possible.



"Today with this event that is called 'Malaysia (MY) Hearing Day', it is my sincere hope that with this kind of great initiative, we can bring people to understand more about hearing loss. This includes how to deal with it and how to prevent it in the first place. Because raising awareness and improving access to services at the primary level can help to reduce the prevalence and adverse impact of hearing loss," Dr Lee concluded.

The organising chairperson of MY Hearing Day cum Senior Audiologist of KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital, Sylvia Lee Wai Hun, then announced that KPJ Ipoh will be running a special promotion with a discount on hearing tests and hearing devices. Besides, KPJ is offering three years of 0% interest instalments with a credit card on every purchase of hearing aid from KPJ Ipoh. "With affordable, advanced technology and audiological professional services, I wish for all our patients to communicate with their loved ones with ease and enjoy the sounds of the world around them," she said.

On top of that, the main sponsor, managing director of Swiss Medicare Sdn Bhd, Mr Vincent Cheong announced that his company will also be donating 20 units of Phonak hearing aids, with a total retail value of RM133,200, for supporting this campaign.

## Advanced Wound Centre - Your Healing Starts Here..

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## Community

# Young People's Dilemma

## — Peer Pressure

By Jack Foo

If there is something worse than pressure from school – it is pressure from your peers. Peer pressure is defined as the influence of members of one's peer group and could include friends and family; both of which have virtually identical consequences to an individual.

Often, these pressures can develop from a young age up until early adulthood. Individuals with peer pressure are often seen "swimming with the stream" by imitating their peer group's norms, behaviours, attitudes, fashion choices and verbal articulation to earn petty acceptance and approval. This may not seem like a bad thing, but it is an indication that the individual may lack self-esteem and confidence.

"It's probably a huge problem, especially for teenagers," said Lee Shi Hau, a student from Monash University Malaysia, "this is because they're at that development stage where reality doesn't seem like rainbows and butterflies anymore".

He states that peer pressure during the teenage years may become an issue leading up to adulthood, as they experience escalating insecurity about their own identities. This is because they always conform to what is considered "normal behaviour" within their social circle.

"Some may regard this behaviour from peer pressure as something normal, which seems alright at first. However, following the masses was not a trait that successful people like Elon Musk had in the beginning," he added.

Not surprisingly, parents are a crucial component in leading an insecure child into adolescence and, ultimately, healthy adulthood. This is significant because a child usually follows the behaviour patterns and lifestyle choices of their parents from a young age; if the parents are highly-active sportsmen who value a healthy lifestyle, the child would eventually get into sports, as well. If the parents are harsh to the extent where they demonstrate

abusive tendencies, then it is reasonable to suggest that the child may carry those same tendencies as they move into adulthood. Simply said, no amount of peer pressure can shake the confidence and integrity gained from childhood experiences.

Though peer pressure is disseminated rather easier now than before as social media allow for more communication between peers - which provides a platform for spreading influence. "Often times, the language that we speak and the words we use tend to suit the society more than it suits ourselves," said Justin Chong, a business student in Australia, "We use vulgar words not because we want to but because people think it's cool."

"Fashion choices can also be impacted by peer pressure, as proven in the line of streetwear. People tend to wear what they think is more appealing to others, even if it's not to their own liking," he enjoined.

Consequently, the influence from peer pressure can be so large that (figuratively) it can gain executive control over how a person goes through the decision-making process – exactly like how a parasite would control the nervous system of their host.

Tan Zheng Kai, a student currently studying in Kuala Lumpur, stated that peer pressure can be very powerful because it can make decisions for you like buying shirts that do not appeal to you but feel that you will receive compliments from others and doing it so that you can fit in with the crowd.

"You want an iPhone just because all the cool kids are using it. You want a Gucci belt as all your friends have it," he remarked.

Whatever it is, peer pressure is unmistakably a young people's dilemma.



## Yeohs Visiting The Chews

By Mei Kuan

The Chew Museum, which houses the history of the Chews and their relatives including the Lims and Yeohs, received a visit from 82-year-old Dr Henny Yeoh Kian Hian from Singapore and his daughter, Dr Yeoh Chee Kheng from England on Thursday, March 14.

"It has been 40 years since I was back in Ipoh and my first time to this museum. It's all very exciting. It would be nice to return here maybe next year," Dr Yeoh Chee Kheng told Ipoh Echo.

"It's fantastic and I get emotional whenever I come back. The museum is growing all the time and they have dug up some things about me there. I miss everything about Ipoh like its surrounding hills and Ipoh people are the best!" Dr Henny Yeoh Kian Hian, who calls St. Michael's Institution his alma mater, enthused.

"Latest addition to the museum is further detail on Dr Henny Yeoh Kian Hian, the third generation of Yeohs. I'm doing all this to understand the family. The relatives are very excited about it and they are contributing all the time by bringing things thus the museum grows by itself," Ignatius Chew, founder of Chew Museum said.

"The history of the Yeohs all began when patriarch Yeoh Khuan Joo from Fujian province, China came to Malaya in 1899. He started working in a textile shop and from there he learnt the trade. Then he started a shop of his own and his memory was so good he was able to remember the cost price of each and every textile in his shop in mind before quoting the sale price. He didn't have to refer to the original accounts book. That way he built up his company and with the money he invested in different trades and built up a fortune for the family," Chow Yoong Yue @ Chow Yung Yu (Mrs Yeoh), former headmistress of Ave Maria Primary School and wife of the late Dato' Yeoh Kian Teik explained.

"I just really admire these forefathers who could leave home and love of family to come by themselves, alone, into a new place and start all over again. They had done so much and in a way help to bring prosperity to Malaya because of the hard work. If they had not worked so hard, the economy would not have grown," the amiable 90-year-old Mrs Yeoh added.

Opened in 2013, the two-storey Chew Museum is located in a bungalow behind Ban Hoe Seng Auto showroom at Jalan Kampar (Jalan Raja Permaisuri Bainun).

## SUKSES Club Visits Orphanages

During the last Chinese New Year, SUKSES Club of Pantai Hospital Ipoh organised a charity visit to Pertubuhan Pengurusan Pusat Jagaan 1 Malaysia and Precious Gift Home.

On the day of the event, CEO Ms Chong Siet Fong, and her mother Madam Choo Znak Chow, joined the charity visit to distribute ang pow and provisions to the orphans at Precious Gift Home, and lunch for Pertubuhan Pengurusan Pusat Jagaan 1 Malaysia.



## No More Parking Woes

By Rosli Mansor

A total of 190 parking stickers for 2019 were distributed to 24 media agencies by Ipoh City Council on Wednesday, February 26 at Impiana Hotel, Ipoh.

Council Secretary Mohd Zakuan Zakaria said that the parking stickers are "gifts" to media practitioners in recognition of their role in the propagation of news. "Ipoh City Council would like to thank all media agencies for keeping Ipohites and Perakeans informed about the state's progress. The parking stickers are nothing compared to the hard work and sacrifices made by media practitioners. Hopefully, they'll continue to work closely with the Council," he said.

The president of Perak Media Sport and Welfare Club, Rosli Mansor thanked the council for the assistance rendered to media agencies.

"The stickers enable reporters to move about easily without fear of being booked for illegal parking. The Council has resolved many problems affecting members of the media club. We can't ask for more," he said.





**iSpeak**

By A. Jeyaraj

# Preserve Forests for our Children

We only see about ten per cent of a limestone hill which is above the ground, the rest is underground; likewise, the destruction we see in Kledang Hill is only the tip of the iceberg in terms of damage done. And what about elsewhere? Destruction of the forest has taken place and is taking place in many places in Perak; some legally and many illegally.

After attending the briefing on Rehabilitation of Kledang Hill, I followed members of civil societies to Pusing to see the condition of the 400 hectares of forest planned to be developed. The map of the area published in 2010 by Forest Department says the area is Primary Forest; however, the map issued in 2017 states the area is Tanah Miskin or degraded forest.

We noticed the place is still Primary Forest with hardly any degradation. Aerial view of the forest canopy from a drone looked like broccoli, one of the indicators to show that it is Primary Forest. It is a dense forest untouched by man. Are officers from Forest Department willing to visit the place with members of NGOs and prove it is degraded forest.

While we were at the location, we noticed that work was being carried at the top of the hill below us. Smoke was seen. What are enforcement officers of the Forestry Department doing? Meor Abdul Razak, field officer of Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) or Friends of the Earth, who was with us said that the people who were encroaching the hill must have come from the other side.

A confidential letter was written to a company (name of company blanked out) dated December 14, 2018, from Forest Department has given a permit to the company to develop the land. Why must this be confidential? Any justification? The public should be informed of government activities and not work under secrecy. We changed the government for the sake of transparency.

Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu was quoted as saying that NJ Development Sdn Bhd, the company that was awarded 400-hectare land concessions was chosen for its ability to carry out forest farming. The company's directors have vast experience in forest farming development. Did he check out with other companies to make the claim? PH government policy is to award contracts on an open tender basis. Who negotiated the contract? Is our MB ignorant of this?

The public is not so gullible to accept the MB's explanation. Our MB has the blessing of Tun M and must keep up his reputation. If what the MB says of the Company is true, then he must justify it by making public:

1. Company profile
2. Names and particulars of key personnel
3. The expertise of key personnel, the projects they have done



4. Track record of the company; list jobs done locally and overseas.
5. Provide details of work to be done
6. Cost and duration of the project.

I hope the above is not under OSA. When I worked for Brunei Shell, everyone had access to particulars of the contractors and staff are free to visit and inspect contractors' office and site.

If MB fails to do this then he would lose his credibility and Perakians must report to Tun M of the integrity of our MB and suitability of him holding the post. We voted for PH to be transparent and not sign deals behind closed doors.

I tried to contact Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir, former MB of Perak to get his comments on the above but was not successful. I handed a letter to UMNO office asking them to pass it to Zambry. No response till submission of this article. I suppose he must have been doing the same. Kettle can't call the pot black.

About 800 hectares of forest land near Simpang Pulai where Orang Asli are staying is to be developed as Timber Latex Zone. Orang Asli are not aware of the project. It is their land and their permission should be obtained.

According to the letter from SAM to MB, dated 12 February 2019, five plots of Permanent Forest Reserve land have been re-gazetted to Forest Reserve by the present government. The move was initiated by the previous government, but the current MB should not have signed blindly without making an investigation. I am told that normally the land status is listed as Forest Reserve, but Land Use can be for plantation or housing. So the forested area reported by the government is not accurate; actual coverage is less.

When there is re-gazetting of land in Selangor, public hearing is held to get feedback from the people. Why is Perak not doing this? Why the secrecy?

According to SAM, mangrove trees in Manjung have been destroyed. Mangrove trees act as a buffer during a tsunami and reduce devastation and erosion. There is also encroachment of forests around Bukit Merah Lake City.

You can have a good view of Kledang Range from the 10th floor of MBI building or 4th floor of Tun Razak Library. I have noticed the vegetation has been destroyed in many places, especially at ground level due to natural causes and also by deliberate clearing. The Forest Department must restore the vegetation before irreparable damage is done.

Tun M has cancelled a number of contracts, likewise, our MB must re-evaluate contracts signed by the previous government and himself and cancel those that would destroy the forest in the name of development. Don't keep on blaming the previous government, when you are doing the same.

We are only guardians of the forest and have to preserve it for our future generation; we have no right to destroy them. Once gone, they are gone forever. There is no Plan B here.

There are other means of making money; our MB can legalise gambling and red light districts to generate income. These evils are reversible and definitely better than destroying the forest.

## Public Sector Gotong-royong

By Darshini

The launching of the inaugural public sector gotong-royong programme was held at the Ipoh City Council building grounds on Friday, March 8. The programme, initiated by Putrajaya, was aimed at instilling awareness in the public sector on the importance of a clean and conducive working environment.

Councillor Puteri Holijah bt Muhamad Rali, officiated at the launch. She was pleased with the enthusiasm shown by the participants.

Similar events will be conducted by other government agencies in the weeks ahead.

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Most local people are aware of the Kinta Medical Centre (KMC) and its supporting role in the community. With its up-to-date hospital facilities, 24-hour Accident and Emergency Service and modern ambulance service it is an important limb of Perak's healthcare facilities. But there are few who know the fascinating history of the main building which was one of the family homes of a very important Chinese millionaire.

His name was Chung Thye Phin, the last Kapitan China of Perak, whose father, Chung Ah Kwee (Chung Keng Kwee) led the Hakka, 'Hai San' Secret Society against Cantonese 'Ghee Hin,' in the fourth Larut War. This was the war that brought the British to Perak and changed the face of Malaysian history.

Chung Thye Phin was born on 28 September 1879 in Kota, Taiping. He received his education at the St Xavier's, Penang and on leaving school, he was initiated into his father's tin mining business. Having a Malayan birth certificate from the Federated Malay States, he was granted a certificate of naturalisation by the Straits Government, in 1902, making him a British citizen.

A Tseng Lung Hakka, son of a very powerful father, Chung Thye Phin soon became a Justice of the Peace,



## Heritage

By Ian Anderson

### A Mansion, Motherhood and a Murder

Federal Councilor, Perak State Councilor, Member of the Perak Chinese Advisory Board, and then, on his father's passing, took over the title of Kapitan Cina. In 1925, he co-founded the first Chinese limited liability company, the Toh Allang Chinese Tin Company in Perak and, with Government approval, printed his own money for use in his mines. For relaxation, he was a keen motorist and owner of prize-winning racehorses.

Shortly after his death, the mansion was turned into military Married Quarters for British officers during the Communist Emergency. At that time it remained unchanged and one of the most striking things was a portrait of the original owner, in mosaic tiles, in the entrance hall. Lennie Brookes, who lived there in 1955, remembers the eyes – they followed you as you passed by them!

In 1961 a miner named Foo Yet Kai bought the mansion. He had been born in Batu Gajah in 1907 but left for China when his father died, returning to Malaya and his Uncle's mines in 1924. Soon, as miners did in those heady days of the Great Tin Rush, Foo had money and could diversify his interests into finance, property and agriculture. He also became a generous philanthropist.

Having bought the Chung Thye Phin Mansion, Foo Yet Kai arranged its conversion to a private hospital, Our



Lady's Hospital and leased it without charge to the Sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood. The hospital operated from April 1964 to January 1983 when it became known as the Kinta Medical Centre providing free healthcare for patients recommended by the Foo Yet Kai Foundation.

But there is a sad end to this story for Foo Yet Kai was murdered during a robbery at his house on August 6, 1961. In his memory, the family donated a significant amount of his fortune to charity and set up the Foo Yet Kai Foundation to help the sick and needy. He had six sons and 13 daughters.

Despite renovation and development, the original building stands as a memorial to two great Chinamen.

## Nostalgia

### LAU EK CHING – Entrepreneur and Philanthropist

By Ian Anderson

Lau Ek Ching, born in 1880 in Fuzhou, Fujian province, to Cantonese parents, was one of the Chinese elite in Ipoh before the Second World War. Well educated, he soon became a multi-faceted entrepreneur, philanthropist and took a great interest in the "Affairs of State".

As the Secretary and Attorney of Foo Choo Choon, dubbed "The Richest Chinaman in the World" Lau gained swift success as a tin miner and quickly became influential in the Perak Chamber of Commerce.

In 1924 he became a member of the Kinta Sanitary Board, from which position he was able to make his voice heard, forcefully lobbying the British Resident in 1925, to address the urgent problem of flooding in the town. Not wishing to stop there, he also became President of the Chinese Philanthropic Society and Honorary Secretary of the Perak Chinese Maternity Association. He was made Justice of the Peace in 1927 for his services to Perak.

Two years later, when the price of tin and rubber fell dramatically in 1929 Lau Ek Ching actively lobbied the government again, this time seeking action to overcome the difficulties experienced by the miners and planters.

Around the same time, Lau Ek Ching turned to property development while at the same time playing an influential role in the Town Planning Committee which was establishing the layout of the growing town. As a reward for his positive contribution to the development of Ipoh, he had a street named after him; the self-same street he built. It was a quiet and elegant neighbourhood of townhouses, which lies between Anderson Road and Cowan Street, and which became the homes of many rich businessmen in New Town. The Ruby Theatre was also custom-built for him and which he leased to the very experienced cinema manager, Ong Ee Lim.

English-educated and a Christian, he was buried in the Methodist cemetery on Connolly Road.



But there is a sting in the tail of this story. Towkay Lau Ek Ching had a mansion (almost a castle) built for himself and his family at Jalan Pasir Pinji, Ipoh. His children lived the 'High Life'. European clothes, fancy cars and servants to attend to every whim. There were many parties in the mansion and by 1957, the year he Towkay passed away, there was not too much left in the bank and the mansion had started to deteriorate.

Consequently, in 1976, the condition was such that it required significant finance to bring it back to a safe and habitable state. Therefore, the Towkay's granddaughter, Patricia, made the decision to sell the property for demolition. As they say, "Money never stays in a Chinese family for more than three generations!"

## Discovering Ipoh

By Joelyn and Darshini

Dong Café @ 22 Hale Street, Han Chin Pet Soo and i-Innovative Gavel Club Ipoh organised a walk along Ipoh's iconic heritage trail on Saturday, March 23. The walk was led by Commander Ian Anderson (Rtd) of ipohWorld.

A total of 25 participants, all below 18 years old, gathered in front of the Ipoh Railway Station for a briefing before beginning their journey.

The walk commenced at 8.15am. The team stopped at designated heritage sites such as the Cenotaph, Birch Memorial, Residence and Law Office of the Seenivasagam Brothers and Han Chin Pet Soo.

According to Leong Ming Fai, Han Chin Pet Soo's manager, the walk was good exposure for the young participants.

"They need guidance when it comes to history. Most of them think that history is not important but by participating in such events, they'll get the opportunity to discover some of the hidden gems of the city," he told Ipoh Echo.

Participant Wong Shen Wen, 14, said he came across many historical sites that he never knew ever existed.

"Although I'm tired, I'm glad that I participated in the walk. It's very interesting indeed and I've gained a lot. If there is such a programme in the future, I'd definitely join," said Chan Hei Yann, 16.

The walk ended with lunch at 22 Hale Street.





## Finance

# RHB Bank's 20th Branch

By Joelyn and Darshini



**R**HB Bank Berhad opened its 20th branch in Perak at Ipoh's new commercial centre, SOHO Ipoh along Jalan Sultan Iskandar Shah on Monday, March 11.

The office was previously located at Jalan Tun Sambanthan. The relocation is done to facilitate an expanding business.

Present to officiate the opening ceremony was Dato' Khairussaleh Ramli, Group Managing Director RHB Banking Group. He was accompanied by Mohd Rawi Idrus, Regional Director of Perak Region RHB Banking Group, Eddie Liew, Manager of SOHO Ipoh branch and his staff.

According to Dato' Khairussaleh, the opening of the branch at SOHO Ipoh demonstrated the bank's continuing commitment as a partner in the economic and financial development of Ipoh. "We have a total of seven branches in Ipoh. This particular branch serves over 17,000 customers from the banking industry, consumer services and corporations," he added.

The new one-stop centre has its banking operations on the ground floor, the Premier Centre on the first floor and the RHB Investments Bank, which offers a variety of banking products, on the second floor.

## Upcoming Event

# Religious Carnival

By Rosli Mansor

**A**n Islamic-themed carnival will be held at Stadium Indera Mulia from April 14 till 28.

Perak Islamic Affairs Department Director, Dato' Mohd Yusop Husin told reporters that the objective was to source funds for religious activities at Muhibbuddin Shah Mosque, Ipoh, during the fasting month of Ramadan (May 5 to June 3).

"Ipoh City Council and Syeun Hotel will assist in organising the event. Sale of religious items, religious talks and forums, charity dinner, fun run, fun ride and related activities will be held throughout the five-day festivity.

"Programmes will be held at the stadium due to limited space at the mosque. We plan to make the carnival an annual event," he said during a press conference on Friday, March 8 at Syeun Hotel, Ipoh.

Well-known local artistes such as Datuk Seri Siti Nurhaliza and Hijjaz will perform during the charity dinner.

For details call Ahmad Bukharie Baharuddin at **013 4866 153** (email: [ahmadbukharie@gmail.com](mailto:ahmadbukharie@gmail.com)).

## Education

# STPM Excellence for ACS

**T**here were 158 candidates taking the Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia (STPM) in SMK Methodist (ACS) Ipoh; the passing percentage was 94.93.

Five students obtained straight A's, Kong Meng Xuan, Lee Hao Yi, Tan Woon Pin, Lou Shiang Lan and Raymond Leong Weng Hong. Two students got a Cumulative Grade Point Average (PNGK) of 3.75: Ho Zi Xian and Wong Yong Jie.



# RPS Helps Homeless

**S**tudents and teachers of Upper Six of SMK Raja Perempuan Ipoh (RPS) took part in community service with the theme "Dapur Jalanan RPS" (RPS Street Kitchen) to raise awareness about the importance of caring for the homeless and poor.

The Form Six students, especially from the Interact Club, organised this project as part of the club's annual community service programme. Club teacher-advisor N. Sushil Kaur said it was the first time the club conducted a soup kitchen for around 100 homeless and poor at Medan Dato Sagor on March 3.

"We are also grateful that Dapur Jalanan Ipoh, a non-profit organisation, allowed us to be involved in this programme, as they carry out this Soup Kitchen every fortnightly at this specific venue from 5pm to 7pm" she said.

The Interactors were touched and felt sad that there were so many people in need of basic necessities and have volunteered to assist Dapur Jalanan Ipoh crew in future.

"This project is relevant and should be encouraged because it develops and equips the students the knowledge of caring, responsibility and cooperation" added Sushil Kaur Interactors were proud to carry out such a significant project and had a fun time contributing to society by upholding the motto "Service above Self".



# Do You Know Your Family History?

**T**he Ipoh Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints recently organized a seminar for those interested in researching their Indian ancestry. The speaker was Peter Rajaratnam Bushi, the FamilySearch International Area (Asia) Manager. FamilySearch has the world's largest collection of free family trees and genealogy records. It offers free access to its resources and service online at [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org), which is one of the most heavily used genealogy sites on the Internet.

Peter Bushi's powerpoint presentation included the Indian Diaspora and the role of the Pandit in keeping records in Indian society. He advised that having a family surname (last name) will help future descendants when they search for their ancestors. After the presentation, many questions were raised during the Q & A session.

A number of young people took the opportunity to display their family trees. Those at the seminar were touched and amazed at the youth's creativity and for the time spent in researching and gathering information. They had gathered most of the information by talking to their elderly relatives and they hope to be able to add more generations of names onto the branches of their family trees by searching at [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) or even by going to their roots in India.

Those interested in FamilySearch or in searching for their ancestors may call **016 538 0121** for more information.





**B**udding juniors from Tenby Schools Ipoh had their first swing out of class at the Meru Valley Resort's River and Academy Course on Wednesday, March 20. The first edition of the Junior Golf Challenge provided a fun environment for young aspiring golfers to compete in three categories: Elite, Panthers and Cub.

Chin Jin Loon shot 24 strokes to win the Junior Elite category by nine strokes defeating Lin Yin Lin who played 33 strokes. Both played on three holes of River Nine course.

Chin Jin Loon said, "I was worried that I may lose the tournament in the beginning but really glad to finish by winning it. I'll continue to practise harder to improve my skills to compete in the many other competitions to come".

Meanwhile, on the Academy Course, Lakveer Singh carded 21 strokes which is (- 3), projected a total score of 24, to win the Junior Panthers category.

He also tied the course record with Matheus who also shot 21 strokes which is (- 3) for the tournament; winning the Cub category defeating Tomohiro who played 30 strokes in total.

Both the Panther and Cub teams played over a specially designed 6 holes green for juniors.

## Sport

# Juniors Golf Challenge Debut



Speaking to the juniors, Principal of Tenby Schools, Richard Davidson shared, "Winning or losing is part of a competition and it's all about participating and gaining

experience. It's in a rare situation where students get to perform better than their teachers. I saw little champs here play better than me. I would like to see more of your friends joining the academy."

Of the competition, Instructor, Sundaresan, explained: "We definitely have witnessed some truly spectacular golf by these budding young golfers despite being the first event for the academy. Our junior golf academy is aimed to encourage parents to promote their young children to take up golf which can inculcate good character building and social skills that are needed when they enter adulthood."

The Advisor and Patron of Meru Valley Junior Academy, Dato' Hock Toh added, "As a golf resort, we felt the need for a junior golf academy for the benefit of not just the members and their children, but also for residents and long-stay guests. We believe that the junior programme to be not only one of the best in the country but possibly one of the least expensive as well, making the entry to the game, not just enjoyable but affordable."

For more information on the Meru Valley Junior Academy Programme, please visit [meruvalley.com.my](http://meruvalley.com.my) or email [academy@meruvalley.com.my](mailto:academy@meruvalley.com.my).

# E-Sports Championship

By Luqman Hakim

**M**alaysia's first Northern Celcom Xpax E-Sports Championship was held at University Technology Petronas (UTP) from Friday, March 8 till Sunday, March 10.

Teams from the country's institutions of higher learning participated in the event.

The closing ceremony, organised by Media Prima Digital through MyGameOn portal and Kitamen, was officiated by Assoc Professor Dr Nor Hisyam Hamid, Vice Chancellor of Student Welfare and Alumni UTP along with Media Prima Digital Chief Executive Officer, Rafiq Razali.

Three popular games namely, Mobile Legends: Bang Bang, Pro Evolution Soccer 2019 and DOTA 2 were demonstrated.

The three-day championship saw 48 teams competing following the qualifying rounds in February.

The institution with the most number of victories will receive an RM50,000 scholarship from Celcom Xpax as an initiative to promote e-sports.

According to Rafiq Razali, the support received was excellent. The commitment shown by the main sponsors namely, Celcom Xpax and UTP is important in popularising



Malaysia. It helps creates a healthy-gaming environment among students.

Danny Chew, the Chief Consumer and Home Business Officer of Celcom Axiata Berhad felt the event fulfils their customers' needs, especially e-sports enthusiasts. It too provides a platform for players to sharpen their gaming skills.

Two notable commentators, Radzi "ikuto" Rahman and Adam "Spartanker" Faiz were present to cover the games.

Visitors were given the opportunity to experience other e-games such as Beat Saber and F1 Racing

Simulator.

Besides the main event, other activities organised were education booths, a meet-and-greet session with the gamers, fitness sessions and lucky draws specifically for Celcom Xpax customers.

Executive Councillor for Youth and Sports Development, Howard Lee, was the guest of honour.

## 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 & CULTURE

**FILM BY TUNKU MONA RIZA: 'REDHA', Inspired By True Stories. APRIL 6-7, at Brother Liborius Auditorium, Hospital Fatimah Ipoh.** Organised by Ipoh Fine Arts Society and hosted by Hospital Fatimah Ipoh, in conjunction with World Autism Awareness Month 2019. All proceeds go towards funding early intervention programmes for underprivileged children. For programme and enquiries, contact: **016 506 7770, 016 532 1087, 012 500 1421.**

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

### COMMUNITY

**KPI IPOH SPECIALIST HOSPITAL ANTENATAL CLASSES 2019. MAY 18 (in Mandarin), JULY 20, SEPTEMBER 21, NOVEMBER 16 (in Mandarin) (Saturdays) at 1pm to 5pm at 5th Floor, Dewan**

**Anugerah, KPI Ipoh Specialist Hospital, Ipoh.** Free admission. Refreshments provided. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Goodies for participants. Contact Customer Service at **05 240 8777 ext. 8111** for enquiries.

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

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

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

**FREE REALITY-BASED STREET DEFENSE WORKSHOP.** Organised by Urban Street Defense's

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

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