

New Year 2012

LIVING ON THE HILL



Bukit Tunku Environment Special
UNIQUE NATURE



What's Going On

Mirror madness and banners banned

HAPPENING ON THE HILL

Healthy Eats and better wi-fi

BT Gettogethers

Dressed for The Hill



Keeping BT Green

A COOL HOUSE

A Cleaner Hill

A little chat with our very own MP



BUKIT TUNKU
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**HAVING A
CELEBRATION?**



HAPPY ICE CREAM CAKE TO YOU!

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

Muthanna

Dear Members,

It has been a year since our last issue of The Hill. How time flies! The Hill is supposed to be issued more regularly, but this has been difficult to achieve given the hectic schedules of members of your committee. Our apologies.

A new Committee was elected at the last AGM. The AGM itself was well attended and was a lively affair. The new members are Jane Terpstra, Jaspreet Kaur Gill, and Geeta Jayabalan. I take this opportunity to thank Datuk Lim Fung Chee, Tan Sri Yahya Awang and Ruth Yeo who did not seek re-election, for their contributions to the last committee. The new committee continues to focus on development issues at The Hill, preservation of our environment, and improving neighborliness amongst residents of The Hill. The gazettement of the KL Master Plan has been postponed to 1st July 2012. We had expected it to be gazetted this year. Once gazetted, there will be more transparency of the use and development of land at The Hill. Until then, certain discretion remains with the authorities. Your Committee has been vigilant in the past to all development proposals and until the KL Master Plan is gazetted, will maintain being vigilant. However, we do need residents to keep an eye on The Hill as well and to let us know of any potential developments. For a more detailed update on development, please read Kat's report elsewhere in this issue.

Our environment, or more precisely, the decline of our environment was a major topic of discussion at the AGM. The general consensus was that something needs to be done to clean up and then maintain the parts of The Hill which are not behind our private walls. Whilst the authorities try very hard to upkeep our public areas, they have limited human resources deployed to The Hill, certainly not sufficient enough to upkeep The Hill to the levels expected by residents. Your Committee was asked to conduct a study how to tackle this issue. You will receive the feedback and recommendations in the near future.

The get-together of residents at Sid's recently was well attended. Several "new" faces were spotted. It was very encouraging to hear many suggestions how to improve living on The Hill and even more encouraging were the offers of support in any initiatives to this objective. The Committee is planning a neighborhood fair and we hope that many residents will participate both in the organization and attendance of this event. The objective will be to improve neighborliness amongst residents and any profits will be donated to charity.

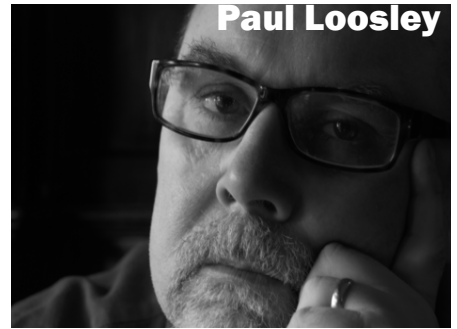
The Committee was very honored to be invited to the house-warming reception at the home of a new resident recently. In recent years, we have seen many transactions of properties at The Hill which has seen the construction of several beautiful new residences. These new residents have shown great interest to integrate with the neighborhood, and strong signals are being sent when we receive such invitations. We welcome this, and believe that our new residents will strengthen our community.

Enjoy this issue of The Hill. And Happy New Year!

Front Cover

A pair of breeding Black-thighed Falconets were seen at Persiaran Carruthers. This is the smallest raptor found in Malaysia and the world. They have not been seen in the KL area for many years.

A note from the editor



Welcome to the latest issue of Living on The Hill.

As the regulars know this has always been extremely 'green' magazine. So it will not come as a surprise that this issue takes the care of BT's environment to a new and even greener level. There is a whole six pages dedicated to The Hill's plentiful, exotic, unique, and in some cases extremely rare, flora and fauna. It's something of a miracle, a real attraction and hopefully a great source of pride that one can live amongst all this natural wonder within minutes of the world's tallest Twin Towers.

There are more green issues with Lorian writing about environmentally friendly housing ideas and we see the BTRA have finally managed to get rid of the ugly and environmentally unfriendly banners that littered our streets.

Add to this an interview with our very own MP; YB Lim Lip Eng, some of the recent exciting 'happenings' on The Hill, Geeta's new recipe and even some fashion tips and I feel we have the best issue yet.

And even more proof that The Hill is the best place to live; not just in Malaysia, but possibly anywhere in the world.

Love.

Credits

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KUALA LUMPUR, Bukit Tunku Residents' Association No.
Pendaftar 1443/92 (Wilayah Persekutuan)

What's Going On



The train is coming: MRT station near Taman Duta

The final alignment of the Kelana Jaya – Cheras MRT line has not been absolutely decided in some areas. However, the siting of the MRT line close to our area is more or less confirmed.

It will be a relief to residents that the Taman Duta/ Bukit Tunku areas will not be negatively affected though the line will pass close to Taman Duta.

Coming from Kelana Jaya and passing through areas such as One Utama the line will approach our area at Pusat Bandar Damansara where a station will be sited. The line will be above ground from P.B.D to the Semantan MRT station which will be sited next to the Shell and Esso stations in Jalan Semantan. This will be the closet MRT station to Taman Duta. The line will follow Jalan Semantan above ground to the junction with Jalan Duta and follow Jalan Duta along towards Jalan Mahmeru. At that point the line will go underground all the way to Sentral Station in Brickfields.

Clearing works are already in progress and can be clearly seen at the corner of Jalan Duta and Jalan Mahmeru opposite Parlimen. Work on the tunnel itself is expected early next year.

Residents will probably have access to the Semantan Station in 2014.

How to recycle.

Please prepare your papers, bottles and plastic containers for recycling.

For information, a recycle truck comes by on 1st. and 3rd. Wednesdays of the month between 4 - 6 pm to Taman Tunku (Selangor Properties) shops and apartments at Langgak Tunku.

Please note that the truck may not be parked at the same spot every time. However, if you have any problems, you may call Mr. Umesh of Alam Flora, hp no. 019-276 2208

A tidier BT: Winning the up Hill battle

The BTRA Environment Committee has been very concerned about the seeming lack of attention DBKL and Alam Flora have been paying to the build-up of waste and the lack of timely collection.

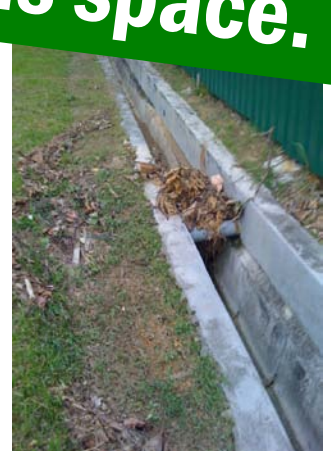
Therefore another meeting was held with a member of the staff of DBKL and Alam Flora and the very real problems we are facing regarding garbage and general waste collection were made in no uncertain terms. And, as a result it appears our grouses and concerns have been accepted and understood.

An official letter has been written together with these pictures which are quite frankly damning evidence of the lack of care and attention given to keeping The Hill tidy.

Tired of being given the run around regarding these issues we now trust that DBKL will, as promised, take prompt action.



Watch this space.



What DBKL Plans for The Hill

On 5th October 2011, the Mayor announced that the gazettelement of the KL Local Plan had been postponed to 1st July 2012 as to include further feedback from residents and stakeholders and specifically to include the Greater KL Plan, the MRT project and additional infrastructure. DBKL had earlier released a Media Statement on their website dated 4th October 2011

BTRA has been quite vocal about the planning of Kuala Lumpur since the KL Structure Plan was published in 2004. Various objections and letters were sent to the DBKL Local Plan department, to the Mayor, to the Minister of Federal Territories and also to the Prime Minister's office. Discussions were subsequently held with DBKL and we were also called in to give a presentation during the Public Hearing sessions. Amendments were made to the Plan and was presented via workshops held in 2010 to get feedback from public. We discovered several discrepancies which was pointed out to the staff of DBKL, and corrections were duly made.

The final session was the Amended Draft Display of the Local Plan in Nov-Dec 2010. There were still some issues we were not contented with and we followed up with a meeting and letters of appeal and objection. The Bandaraya Development project got the go-ahead even though the residents and neighbours objected to the increase in density; there was no definite answer regarding the Duta Bus Station and there were still some more areas that had ambiguity in terms of planning guidelines and density limits. These would have to be tackled case by case. There is still also the issue of Telco towers in the neighbourhood which we hope to solve soon.

We are glad to see however that DBKL has taken into consideration our appeal for a park in the Ledang area and basically have put a stop to high rise buildings amidst our residential houses.

This postponement of the Gazette is expected considering the multitude of objections from various quarters who all have totally different grievances. If all needs to be accommodated, then we have to be patient. However everyone needs to be vigilant of what goes on next door and in the neighbourhood and if need be, please object, write, appeal, and do whatever necessary to protect your environment, even after the Gazettelement.



You will see that BT is now relatively free of banners. After many calls to City Hall it seems that throughout the capital they are taking action. For the longest time it was a puzzle as to how these, mainly property developers and Telcos, were licensed; it's still not crystal clear. It was not known whether the license number featured on the banners was a development number or a permit to display a poster, and if so for what duration. The major problem being less the banners being there and more that they very quickly became ripped and dirty and subsequently a huge eyesore. But now, thanks to the actions of the committee it seems all is well, clean and bright. The guards are given a small ex-gratia payment for their efforts. It is probably also a nice change from their patrol routine.

NEWSFLASH

Mirror Madness



It seems some 'concerned' residents complained to the Banda Raya that due to the twists and turns on Jalan Bukit Tunku the road required more mirrors. This in itself was no bad thing but they also asked for the mirrors outside of some people's houses that allowed their gates to be visible to be removed, citing 'selfishness' on the part of the owners. This is not only very un-neighbourly but also foolish as the danger of collision to traffic travelling on the road is equally if not more dangerous if they cannot see someone exiting their home. Especially now there are many trucks using the roads on The Hill. Unfortunately, the Banda Raya technicians did remove the mirrors outside the houses saying it was a they had no choice as it was a VIP who had made the report. It took several weeks and many calls to have the mirrors replaced.

This has been done and now all is safe.

This is a perfect example of why the BTRA committee exists. If this had been handled through the normal channels; BTRA has excellent relationships with the Banda Raya, any risk and any inconvenience could have been avoided. That's what we're here for.

Security alert

I think we are all aware of the on-again off-again debate regarding a Minimum Wage Act in this country. Well, it is now confirmed that security guards are the first group to benefit from this act. I was informed sometime in the third quarter of 2011 that all members of the Security Services Association of Malaysia were instructed to comply with the decision of the Wages Council with effect 1 July 2011. In fact, the Wages Council issued its order a year earlier, but it appears that devils-in-the-details needed to be ironed out first. The relevant pages from the Wages Council order and letter to SSAM members are attached for your information.

Anyway, the long and short of the above is that wages of our patrol men has increased by about RM330 to about RM1,400 a month. Including EPF and Socso, the cost to our service provider increased RM370 a month for each of the three guards. Therefore, our contract with the service provider will be adjusted (retroactively) to RM11,200 a month or an increase of RM1,200 a month. Fortunately, we have enough buffer in our budget to absorb this increase, so members will continue to pay RM250 a month to enjoy this service. Four new members signed up for the service in 2011, boosting our membership base and revenues by 8%; this has helped us to maintain the subscription fee. I am always hoping for more members in order to take the service to a higher level. Imagine three, or even four, vehicles responding to a distress call with a greater show of force. Right now we can afford only two vehicles to cover a widespread neighbourhood, but with more members, we could add another motorbike and so on.

To recap, the service comprises a car patrol (7 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily) and a motorbike (11 p.m. to 7 a.m.) manned by three guards. The guards work on 8 hour shifts, instead of the industry norm of 12 hours, because we believe this is a more sustainable level and in the longer run, we get better quality of service. The KPI is six patrol rounds each night for the car, and three for the motorbike; and patrol movements are closely monitored via electronic tagging and gps. With a larger membership base, we could add a second motorbike.

PROPER BUILDING

Residents have complained that some construction sites in the neighbourhood have blatantly flouted rules and regulations and have caused distress and disturbance. Examples:—

- a) Working beyond the permitted Work hours - Permitted hours are 8-5pm weekdays and 8-1pm on Saturdays. Absolutely no work on Sundays.
- b) Open burning of refuse
- c) Excessive / heavy machinery Piling works that is causing hairline cracks in neighbouring properties
- d) Throwing of rubbish in neighbour's front pavements

So folks. Those of you with projects on-going please be good neighbours and have your workers stick to the rules. And those of you who see people flaunting the rules now you know what to say.

Kenny Hills Grandé. Where nature and modernity collide.



Imagine waking up to the sound of chirping birds in the morning. Inhaling the fresh crisp air from the natural forest of Bukit Tunku. What a perfect life it would be!

S P Setia Berhad proudly presents another signature development; namely Kenny Hills Grandé. Exclusively located in the heart of Bukit Tunku, one of the most prestigious addresses in Kuala Lumpur, this acclaimed FREEHOLD development hosting 12 exclusive bungalow lots with minimum lot area measuring at 16,956 sq ft will become the perfect canvas for distinguished residents to construct their own playground.

Kenny Hills Grandé is the perfect place for the crème-de la crème of society to mingle, live, learn and play. Offering views to die for and complete with accomplished access and infrastructure; one can truly have peace of mind while enjoying the noble living and quiet relaxation within your own private sanctuary in one of the Klang Valley's most sought after neighbourhoods.

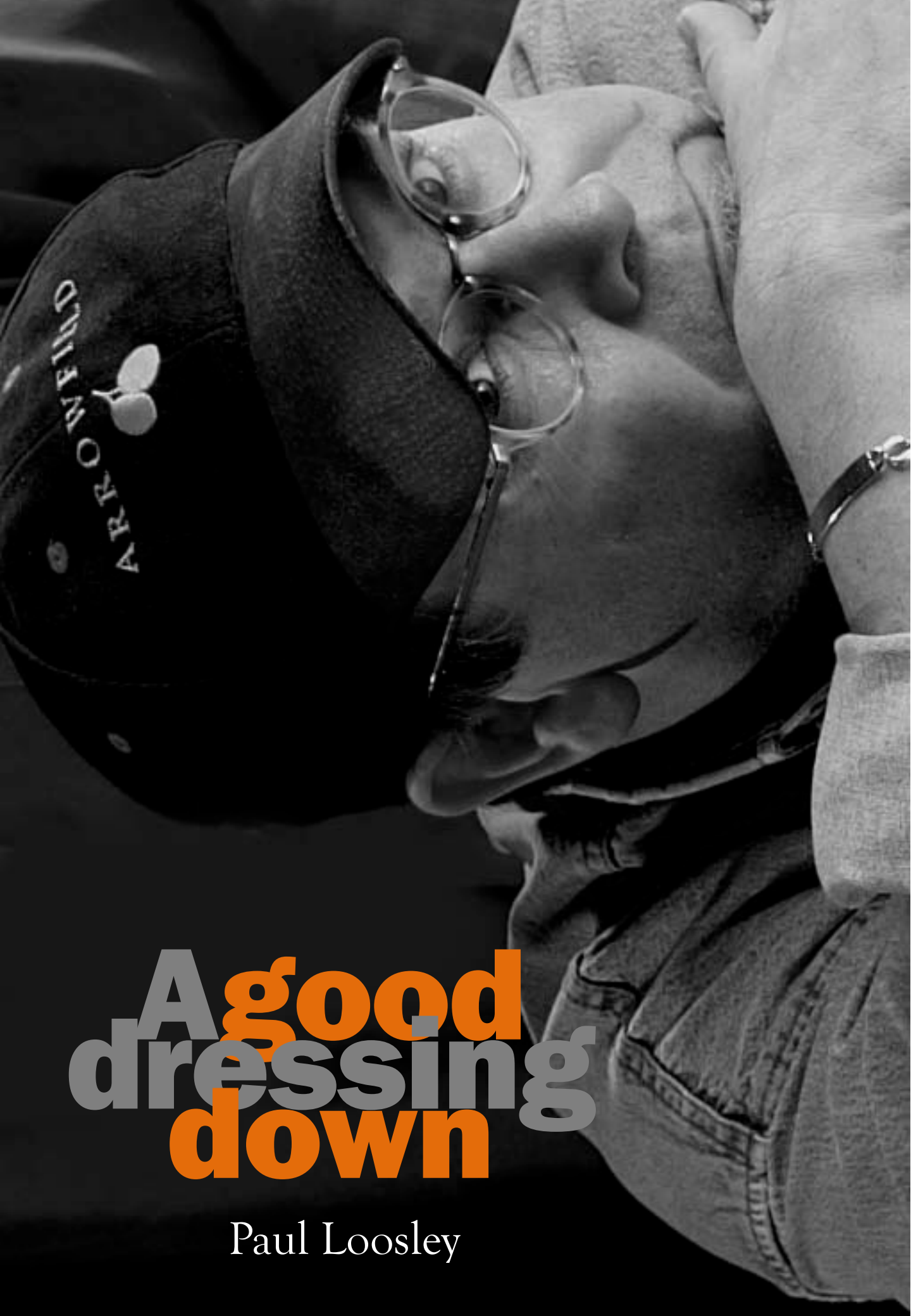
To be the next fellow residents of Kenny Hills Grandé, contact +603-2697 2255 or email

diyana.nordin@spsetia.com.my

Builder of Distinction

Setia

S P SETIA BHD GROUP



A good dressing down

Paul Loosley



I was once refused entry into a club here for not wearing socks under my shoes. Unusually my feet are quite fragrant (as opposed to my late father's, whose gentle arches one might suppose had laid dormant in a French cave for five years waiting to mature) and I, like Don Johnson in *Miami Vice*, who I then modeled myself after, wore shoes, which were quite expensive, with no socks. I brought this to the attention of the bouncer who stood some eight feet high and was as wide as he was long, and probably had hair on the soles of his feet. But, implacably, he was not impressed. So myself and my pinkies were denied a night of shaking our booty down to the ground. So you see, in Malaysia, clothes say more (or less) about you than you may have imagined. Many are the odd clothing taboos and habits.

Take the ruling at our one and only casino, nestling up in the moistness and chill of the Genting Highlands. Long sleeve batik or a lounge suit I believe is minimum requirement to permit entry. Few are the lounge suits but many are the long sleeve batik shirts (I believe the men's wear shops up there do a roaring trade for those unaware of the dress code). As we all know a batik shirt in tasteful, subdued tones is not unattractive but when chosen in haste without regard for design and worn over a t-shirt bearing the proud legend, 'Ah Wong's Motorcycle Repairs and Bah Khoo Teh Stall', one would be hard pressed to see this as smart and formal attire. Added to which, the forced wearing of a batik shirt fails to stop the average punter from shouting deafening and fruitless words of encouragement or venal Hokkien curses related to the heritage or sexual preferences of the mother of an innocent playing card or an inoffensive roulette ball. Sorry to say though, the Malaysian men's national costume; the batik shirt, gives pause for thought. Often they are in patterns and colours so dreadful they look like they have passed through the digestive system of a cow. Like anything, cheap and nasty, bad designs flatter no-one. Whereas there are batiks in black and gold or black and silver which look formal, smart and comfortable; make that the code I say

Still, while most comparisons are odious I have to say the Philippine men's habit of wearing the 'Barong'; a transparent shirt over a white t-shirt, strikes me as most odd. I mean, my underwear is nobody's business but my own and my proctologists!

Then take Tan Sri Tony Fernandez. A remarkable man by any measure, but why does he insist on wearing those goofy baseball caps? I admire his pride in his excellent airline.

But surely he doesn't require the small additional publicity he might gain wearing an ill-fitting chapeau better suited to a redneck truck driver from Bell Buckle, Tennessee (look it up).

Now Tan Sri has become a fabulous success, and also seems to be possessed of a hearty head of hair, so he may want to express his proud connection with Air Asia via a nice red tie or a blazer with a tasteful pocket badge. As a sidebar; you may call me an old misogynist but the difference in the somewhat modest attire of an MAS stewardess and the slightly naughty, bosom and derriere-hugging suits worn by the Air Asia stewardesses may account for the differences in the two airlines' respective fortunes. Although that could be the aging hormones talking. (In passing I have always been rather vexed that Singapore Airlines appropriated the Malay Sarong Kebaya for their stewardesses and had it adapted by Pierre Balmain; the rotters).

Talking of hats, one Malaysian look I really admire is the lounge suit topped off with a songkok. A superb and, frankly very stylish blend of east and west. Combining as it does the comfort of a nice wool-worsted two piece and the patriotic splash of the nation's traditional headgear. Tunku Abdul Rahman always looked extremely spiffy in this look. One suspects he also benefitted from the 4 or 5 extra inches of height it provided so he could loom and lord it over those snotty Brits during the negotiations for independence. In fact it may have been the songkok that swung the deal.

And having said that, did you see the Royal Wedding? Hats of phenomenal idiocy, starchy, high collars, antiquated morning suits and over-the-top, stiff-as-a-board uniforms. Only the Brits can manage to look so bonkers by deliberately setting out to make themselves just as uncomfortable as possible.

But all women in Malaysia look remarkable in their cultural outfits; e.g. Sarong Kebaya, Cheong Sam, Sari. Comfortable, smart, elegant and, dare I say, sexy. By far and away these are the most attractive displays of Malaysia's diversity. I never ever get tired of seeing them. (Hormones again.)

In Malaysia, styles of dress can even describe a time period. The much maligned chaps of the Jin Jang district of Kuala Lumpur have barely managed to shake themselves out of their 1970s hipster flairs and waisted shirts with long collars. Which is a pity really; if they'd stuck with it a little longer they would have soon come back into fashion. And instead of being something of an insult, saying someone is a bit 'Jin Jang' could have become a jolly trendy compliment.

So, here's today's fashion hint. Chose your outfit wisely and you might be seen as the member of a smart club. Chose badly and you could be mistaken for the owner of a major airline.

A cozy little chat with our colourful MP

YB Lim Lip Eng. MP on The Hill



How long have you been MP for the area?

Since I was elected in the 2008 general election.

What notable changes have you seen during your tenure?

Government has made some historical changes that are beneficial to the people. For examples, announcements were made that controversial laws which curtail civil liberty will be either repealed or replaced and Kuala Lumpur city hall is now more people-oriented by having frequent dialogs with the people.

What ambitions do you have for the area?

More green lungs, lesser traffic, a controlled development, quality maintenance by Kuala Lumpur city hall and most importantly, frequent police patrol in Bukit Tunku.

What are the best and the worst things about the area?

Bukit Tunku is best known for its most prestigious neighborhoods. Potholes and illegal banners are the two main issues that I find most annoying in most part of the city including Bukit Tunku.

Any suggestions for the magazine?

I find the content and design of your magazine is awesome. I would say it is the best local community magazine in the Segambut parliamentary constituency, if not in the whole of Kuala Lumpur.

What do you feel the residents can do to help you achieve your goals?

The residents in particularly the Residents' Association, is the most powerful pressure group to influence government policy and decisions for the betterment of their neighborhoods.

What makes Bukit Tunku/Taman Duta different from other KL Constituencies?

Bukit Tunku/Taman Duta is a favorite amongst the country's most wealthy and famous individuals with its high land values and low densities located in an exclusive upscale

residential area yet it is close proximity to the vibrant city centre and to most of the major highways.

Do you feel Dewan Bandaraya is doing enough to support/enhance the area?

While it is pleasing to note that DBKL is safeguarding the exclusiveness of the area by imposing some of the most stringent regulations to any new development in the area, there is still room for improvement in the basic maintenance needed for public infrastructure and delivery of service.

If you had to name one thing that best sums up the area what would that be?

If there's one thing that best sums up Bukit Tunku/Taman Duta, it is the friendly environment in a multiracial community you'll find here and people live here have the best of both worlds in terms of being near to many access to and out from the city and yet still have a quiet environment and leafy streets.

Do you have a particular message for the residents?

One very important aspect of harmonious living is the willingness to share and to care at things in the community that no one else has bothered to look at. Instead of taking things for granted, the residents should appreciate the quality of living in Bukit Tunku/Taman Duta with gratitude.



Black-naped Oriole

The elegant Black-naped Orioles and their nests are found in several places in Bukit Tunku.

We all talk of the environment and we all, let's hope, try to do our best to preserve it. But sometimes we forget just what we are saving.

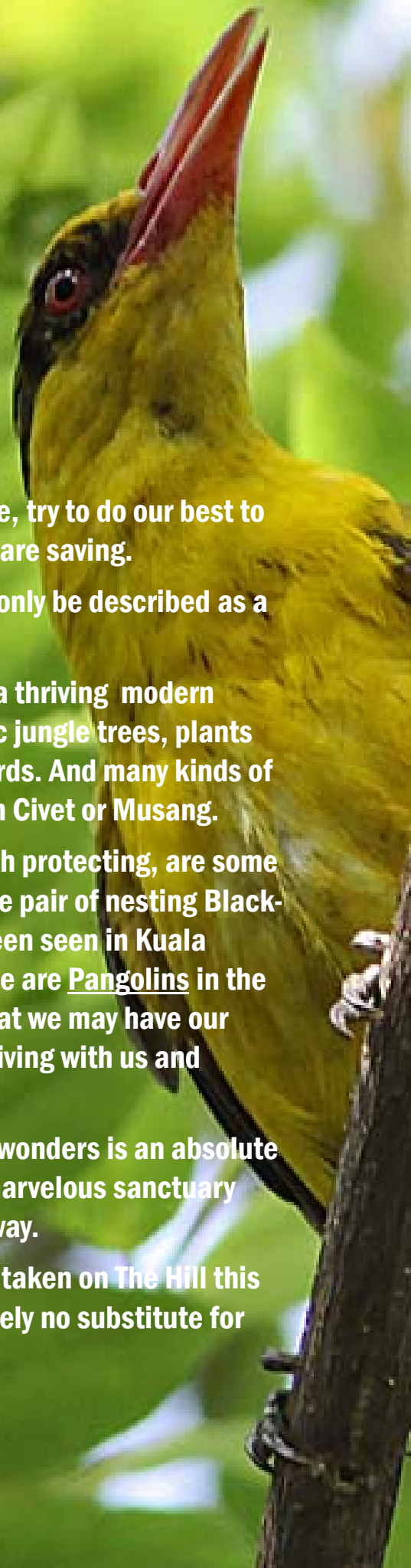
If you live in Bukit Tunku you are living in what can only be described as a unique environment.

A mere 10 minutes from downtown Kuala Lumpur, a thriving modern metropolis, you are among 212 species of fantastic jungle trees, plants and shrubs. There are up to 72 species of Exotic Birds. And many kinds of animal life usually found in the jungle like the Palm Civet or Musang.

And perhaps most special of all, and certainly worth protecting, are some extremely rare natural residents on The Hill; like the pair of nesting Black-Thighed Falconets (see front cover) that haven't been seen in Kuala Lumpur for decades. And there are signs that there are Pangolins in the heavier wooded areas and even some indication that we may have our smart national treasure, the Mouse deer (Kancil) living with us and skipping around on the jungle floor.

Keeping The Hill safe and secure for these natural wonders is an absolute priority. For people and wildlife alike The Hill is a marvelous sanctuary and we all hope we can do our part to keep it that way.

The pictures over the next couple of pages were all taken on The Hill this year. They are beautiful photos but they are definitely no substitute for the real thing.



A vibrant yellow and black bird, possibly a parrot, is perched on a dark tree branch. The background is a soft-focus, lush green forest with sunlight filtering through the leaves. The text "A UNIQUELY NATURAL HILL" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

**A
UNIQUELY
NATURAL
HILL**



The Green-billed Malkoha

This elusive fellow is usually seen in lowland forests and secondary jungle. It is a bonus to see one in the wooded area at the top end of Changkat Tunku.



The Blue-tailed Bee-eater

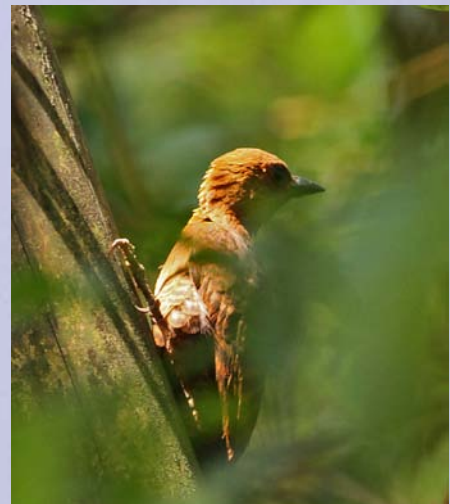
This is a migratory bird. These birds were seen at the Bukit Tunku area, using it as a stop-over (resting) place.

Common Flameback



Three species of woodpecker were seen. Common Flameback, Rufous and Banded. The Rufous Woodpecker was seen "drumming" on a bamboo.

Rufous Woodpecker



Asian Glossy Starling

These cute birds nest in hollows of dead tree trunks. Here seen busy protecting their nest as a pair of very rare Black-thighed Falconets were perched nearby.

Spotted Dove

This Spotted Dove was seen in the valley between Persiaran Carruthers and Jalan Tunku. It is often kept as a popular song bird by Malaysians.



Yellow Vented Bulbul

This chap can be very noisy, especially in the mornings as well as evenings. They usually nest in shrubs and garden trees.



Dillenia suffruticosa

There is a profusion of rare and unusual shrubs, flowering plants and trees found on The Hill. Many are usually found only in the jungle and all are totally uncultivated.



Eugeissona tristia with fruits



Asystasia gangetica ssp gangetica



Didymocarpus platypus

Rana raniceps (Copper-cheeked Frog)



There is a huge amount of wildlife mainly hidden from view. But there is plenty of evidence of civet cats, kancils and, as you can see above, even evidence of pangolin clawing rotten timber to look for white ants

MY BT

Jennifer
Chan



We have lived all over the world but I think I can say that Bukit Tunku, of anywhere, is the one place I can call home.

I first lived in Jalan Syers back in 1978 when it was called Kenny Hill (some older taxi drivers still call it that). We then moved to Jalan Gallagher, where we stayed until 1981.

In 1996, we came to Bukit Tunku for the second time. This time, in a house we built for ourselves. I still remember with great fondness the day my husband, our son and myself walked hand in hand through the front door for the first time. One of those great moments in life. One of the great things about Bukit Tunku is you can be surrounded by so many trees and plants. Like living in a forest resort. In fact, that's how we designed the house; to be as much outdoor as indoor. During the day, you can hear the wind drift through the trees and at night, you can hear the insects chirping away.

And talking of wild-life, we have the famous (or infamous) Bukit Tunku monkeys who regularly come through – I think we must be on some kind of route. It's a love/hate relationship, I guess; they make noise, they run up and down our canopy and they even have sex on our balcony. No shame! But they are amusing, sometimes cute and, of course, God's creatures. I think I would miss them terribly if they were gone.

I love Tai Chi and to be able to do my routines, with the green plant life all around, is incredibly restful. (as well as being a great work-out)

It's a good place for kids too. I still remember on my son's 12th birthday (he's now a strapping, rugby playing, 26 year old, working for Price Waterhouse and living in London) when he banished us from the house, while he and his buddies from Alice Smith School had a pool party. We came back to find the house awash; bathing suit clad kids running all over, drenching the floors. But boy, did they have a great time! I still hear kids in other houses in the distance playing in swimming pools; it's a great sound – children happy and having fun. And it's a great environment for throwing dinner parties too. Our friends come and we can sit out in the open, eat well, laugh, have fun and drink wine into the early hours. Most of our

best friends live here on The Hill; some of them are our absolute oldest friends. Some of my other great memories are the Christmas dinners (which have become a bit of a tradition) and the great reunion dinners with my mother before she left us. Every few years, rather than going back to my husband's kampong (London) for Christmas, we stay here. It's different but it's still great fun. Opening Christmas presents under a tree out by a swimming pool in 30⁰ takes some getting used to; but it's a refreshing change. My mother-in-law has spent it with us and naturally our son comes over too. (see picture) Talking of him, although he's lived in England now for about 13 years, he still regards BT as his home. That's the effect it can have on you.

Now, apart from physical exercise, some retail therapy is often needed; 15 minutes to the Pavilion, Star Hill, and KLCC is amazingly convenient. Where else could you be in a cool wooded Hill one minute and a few minutes later, in one of the best shopping areas in the world?

So again; living on The Hill is really like living in a resort. You don't need to whizz off for a break every month, just staying on The Hill is like a holiday – every day.



ALL TOGETHER NOW.

Casual Get Together

Saturday 19th November

A bunch of the residents got together for free drinks and food at Sid's Pub.

A fairly impromptu affair but a great chance to catch up with new members of the community



Coming Soon

The 2012 Bukit Tunku Fair

Plans are well underway for the Bukit Tunku Fair. It's sure to be the event of the year. There is no date or venue fixed yet but we have at least 3 strong crowd-pulling stalls which will help make our Fair a success: Irish oysters; Burger King; and Baskin Robbins! So if anyone can organize a stall or event please email us right away. You name it – games, treats, even small businesses and especially food. Contact either jaspreetkg@gmail.com or muthanna.abdullah@gmail.com



A COOL HOUSE

Lorien Holland



The “Cool House” in Section 2, Petaling Jaya is not cool in the trendy, urbane sense of the word. There are no social butterflies here, or designer furnishings, or in fact any standout features at all.

But the 32-year-old terrace house is ever so cool in practical terms. It is a demonstration house (project funding by the Danish International Development Agency from 2004-2007) that shows how to make changes to reduce energy consumption and keep cool in Kuala Lumpur, particularly when you are in the process of renovating your home anyway.

The main changes to the house, designed to cut electricity bills and still keep the place at a cool temperature, were: installation of roof insulation

“lifting” of roof tiles and ridge to allow air circulation
addition of aluminum louvers on windows in direct sunlight
addition of louvered glass windows solar panels for water heating rainwater collection

solar photovoltaic cells on roof to feed electricity back into the grid
use of aerated concrete to reduce heat transfer
a lifestyle change of keeping windows open at night time and closed during the hot part of the day

The project is one of many run by CETDEM, the Centre for Environment, Technology & Development, Malaysia. This is an NGO dedicated to sustainable development, which is chock full of practical ideas on how to do this. You can arrange to go and visit and see the practical changes

made in the house by contacting CETDEM at least a week ahead of your visit. Telephone 03 – 7875 7767 or visit their website www.cetdem.org.my

CETDEM ADVICE:

There are simple things in your everyday life that you can do to save energy.

1. In the Home

Remember to switch off the lights and fans when you leave a room. TVs, Radios and air-conditioners should be switched off at the plug point.

Try and have natural ventilation coming through your home, to reduce the need for fans and air-conditioners. Have some indoor plants, as plants help cool the surrounding. Use all household appliances

efficiently; e.g. when using the washing machine, run full loads only. Make use of natural light. Use the most appropriate energy source; e.g. gas for cooking rather than an electric cooker which uses much more energy.

2. While Shopping

Try not to buy products/material that have excessive packaging, or uses plastics made from non-renewable material. Choose items/products that have a long life, can be re-used, repaired or recycled.

Look for energy labels/energy ratings at the back of appliances. Bring along your own shopping bag to reduce the use of plastic bags.

3. Transportation

For short distances, it is better to travel on foot or cycle. Try using more public transport. It helps you avoid traffic congestion and saves costs on parking, tolls and fuel. Carpool. Carry four people instead of one and help reduce your emissions of greenhouse gases and energy consumption. Don't leave your car engine running idle for too long. Limit use of car by combining all errands into one journey. This will save you fuel, running costs and parking fees.

4. In the Garden

Plant leafy trees, shrubs and grasses in the garden.

Leafy trees will provide shade and shield your house from direct sunlight. Plants also help cool surrounding areas.



HAPPENING ON THE HILL

So, how do you get on the Broadband Bandwagon?

Lorien Holland explains

If you have traveled to Seoul or even Singapore in recent months, the chances are that you were blown away by the speed of Internet connections there. Of course, Internet access in Kuala Lumpur is getting better but if, like me, you are having trouble working out which service to take (and this is important as most come with a two-year contract) then read on.

There are two ways that you can get broadband – either with a fibre optic cable that is buried under the road and wired into your house, or with a wireless transmission.

Wireless (like the YES service from YTL or P1Wimax) is much less painful to set up, and it is available in the Bukit Tunku/Taman Duta area. However, it was designed for mobile phones rather than computers and the charge per Gigabyte of downloads is quite steep. On some services there is an excess charge if you go over your quota. As the technology used is wireless, the available speed is also determined by how many other people are using the service in a similar location at the same time. So if a lot of people log on, your speed drops.

The other option is fibre optic cable, available either from TM (Unifi) or Maxis (Home Broadband). P1 Wimax also has a broadband offering.

Now, fiber optic cable is more reliable and more economic but a rather more painful option. It is painful because some workers have to come and dig up the road and lay down the fibre optic cable. And even though the service is apparently available in the Bukit Tunku/ Taman Duta area, some streets appear out of range, and getting to speak to someone about when certain streets will come online is high impossible.

The equipment you get in your home depends whether you opt for TM or Maxis. And of course the fibre optic cable runs back to Maxis Network Centres or TM Network Centres, depending again on which you choose.

Maxis's customer service is a little sharper (but then I do know someone to call in the organization) and I do actually have an appointment with a Maxis person this week to get my broadband sorted.... You never know, by the time you are reading this article, I may even be watching live TV streamed through my broadband. On the other hand, I may still be battling the monkeys on my roof who seem to like the minor electrical shocks they get from biting into the telephone cable....

Fixed Broadband	Quota	Monthly Fee	Download Speed	Speed Rating	Excess Charge?	RM per GB
Maxis FTTH (disc - Maxis subscriber)	40GB	RM118	6Mbps	up to	NO	2.95
Maxis FTTH (discontinued)	40GB	RM158	6Mbps	up to	NO	3.95
Maxis Home BB Advance	100GB	RM218	10Mbps	up to	NO	2.18
Maxis Home BB Standard	30GB	RM128	4Mbps	up to	NO	4.27
Maxis Home BB Value	60GB	RM158	6Mbps	up to	NO	2.64
P1 4G Home/Office 139	30GB	RM139	5Mbps	up to	NO	4.63
P1 4G Home/Office 59	5GB	RM59	600kbps	up to	NO	11.80
P1 4G Home/Office 99	15GB	RM99	2Mbps	up to	NO	6.60
P1 WIMAX Home Lite (discontinued)	5GB	RM49	400kbps	up to	NO	9.80
P1 WIMAX Home Plus (discontinued)	20GB	RM99	1.2Mbps	up to	NO	4.95
P1 WIMAX Home Pro (discontinued)	30GB	RM139	4.8Mbps	up to	NO	4.63
UniFi VIP10	90GB	RM199	10Mbps	up to	NO	2.21
UniFi VIP20	120GB	RM249	20Mbps	up to	NO	2.08
UniFi VIP5	60GB	RM149	5Mbps	up to	NO	2.48

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Geeta's Grub

Cranberry Walnut Quinoa Salad

- 1 cup quinoa
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 1 cup frozen green beans defrosted
- ¼ cup walnuts, chopped
- ¼ cup green onions sliced
- ¼ cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 ½ Tbsps olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp pepper

Method

Combine quinoa with 2 cups water in a medium saucepan & bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to a simmer, cover & continue cooking until all the water is absorbed.

In a medium bowl combine cooked quinoa, dried cranberries, green beans, walnuts & green onions until well mixed. In a small bowl whisk the balsamic vinegar, olive oil & garlic until well blended. Season with salt & pepper to taste. Chill in the refrigerator at least 30 mins before serving.

For a variation make this dressing

1/3 cup low fat yoghurt, 2 tbsps lime juice, 1tbsp minced ginger, 2 tsps curry powder, ¼ cup ev olive oil, salt & pepper to taste.

For a variation on the salad use

Quinoa with ripe mangoes, red pepper, green pepper, spring onions, red chilli, chopped fresh mint & walnuts.



**// The mulloay we took home
was simply amazing.**

**Wow, haven't tasted fish like that
since I was in Sydney too long ago... //**

Robyn Eckhardt, EatingAsia.typepad.com



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