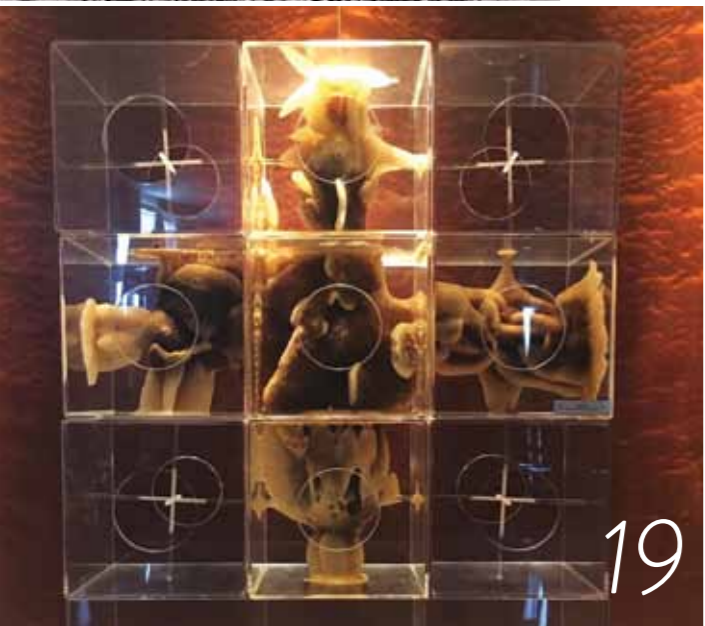
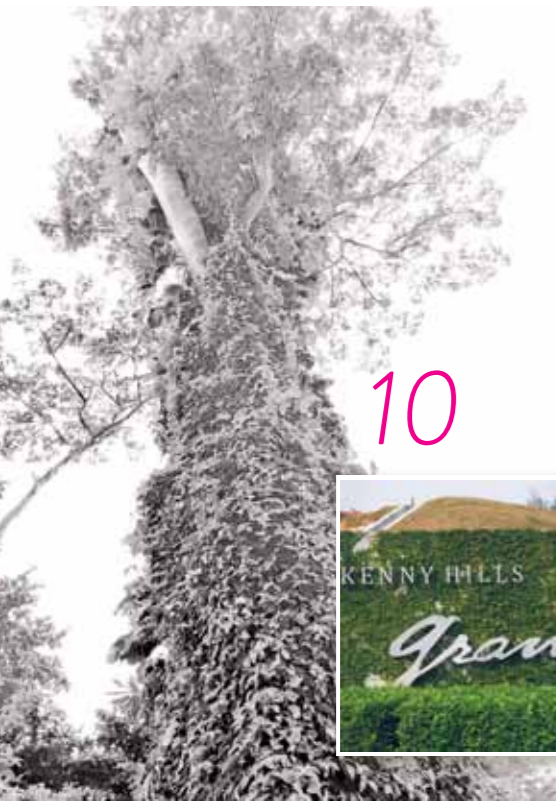


# Living On The Hill

JUNE 2016



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## The President Speaks

We received strong positive feedback on Living On The Hill in its new format, re-launched in December 2015. I hope that this edition continues to receive rave reviews!

In the December 2015 edition, I mentioned DBKL's Flood Mitigation Programme for this neighbourhood. Work has now started and we have been told that it should be completed before the end of 2016. Hopefully, flooding in the affected areas will soon be history.

There has been a slight increase in membership in the last 12 months. There is still more to do. We have approximately 455 landed homes in our combined neighbourhoods - 285 in Bukit Tunku and 170 in Taman Duta. This number excludes apartments. Most homes are owner-occupied, and it would be ideal if residents of all 455 homes are members of BTRA, as this will strengthen BTRA considerably. Our greater membership will help in many ways - not least in terms of depth in numbers to add gravitas if and when we deal with city government agencies or other authorities.

One exciting development for residents of Bukit Tunku

and Taman Duta will be the inclusion of BTRA in United Neighbourhoods, an app for smartphones and tablet PCs. This app is intended to provide residents, who own smartphones and tablet PCs running on iOS and Android platforms, easy access to useful information about Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta.

Naturally, membership has its benefits and BTRA members will have access to additional services through the app. Over time, we hope to add features that will give members more options for their everyday tasks, for example, online payments, online shopping, push alerts. Among the first will be the ability to sign up for BTRA membership through the app. Hopefully, this will make it more convenient for non-members to join BTRA.

As we go to print, BTRA's AGM will have been conducted on 19th June. The entire Committee steps down and a new Committee will be re-elected for a term of 12 months. I'd like to thank the present members of the Committee for their time commitment and efforts for BTRA. I'm sure that the incoming Committee will continue the good work!

Enjoy this issue of Living On The Hill!

*Muthanna Abdullah*

## Feedback? Suggestions? Comments?

If you have feedback or comments on Living on the Hill, or would like to suggest topics to consider for future issues, please don't hesitate to email [bukit.tunku.residents@gmail.com](mailto:bukit.tunku.residents@gmail.com). Please enter "Living on the Hill" in the subject line for easy reference. We'd love to hear from you!

(Contributions and correspondence may be edited for space and clarity)

We received this nice note, dated 27 April (Wednesday):

*Dear Bukit Tunku Residents' Association*

*I received your magazine for the first time this morning and wanted to thank you for the most enjoyable publication and excellent articles - particularly the one from Jaspreet Kaur Gill. I also wanted to thank you for the great work you have done over the years in maintaining the character and serenity of this area - which is a huge achievement given the high property prices and the whirlwind of change in the surrounding areas. In my own case, I left Bukit Tunku in 1984 to go to boarding school in Britain and then remained there for university and work. Luckily, I am a quick thinker and it only took me 31 years to realise that I never should have left. I thus returned about 7 months ago to take up my residence again of this wonderful neighbourhood.*

*Yours sincerely  
Julian Lim*

Thank you, Julian Lim! We're happy you enjoyed the magazine. We're even happier that you're back in the 'hood!

GUEST EDITOR Karen Hoh • PRODUCTION Sasya Ahmad Sebi • PRINT AND DESIGN Adat Saga Sdn Bhd

GUEST CONTRIBUTORS Mark Ng • Adam Smurthwaite • Sam Tan • Shireen Zainudin-Lowe

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# BTRA AGM 2016



BTRA's Annual General Meeting was held on a rainy Sunday, 19th June, at Frenz Café, Taman Tunku. 30 members attended and voted in the new BTRA Committee for 2016-2017.

<b>PRESIDENT:</b> Dato' Muthanna Abdullah	<b>DEPUTY PRESIDENT:</b> Dato' Tan Hoe Pin
<b>HONORARY SECRETARY:</b> John Smurthwaite	<b>DEPUTY HONORARY SECRETARY:</b> Jaspreet Kaur Gill
<b>HONORARY TREASURER:</b> Mohammad bin Abdullah	<b>DEPUTY HONORARY TREASURER:</b> Tan Beng Keong
<b>ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:</b> 1. Khadijah Khalid 2. Brahma Vasudeven 3. Dato' Cheah See Yong 4. Tg. Dato' Rahimah Sultan Mahmud 5. Vincent de Paul, Communications, Condominiums	<b>SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS:</b> 1. Gan Tee Jin, Security 2. Nor Jasmin binti Mohd Azmi, Taman Duta Representative 3. Rosanna Rashid, Tijani Representative

Two presentations from external parties were organised for the benefit of attendees:

1. Outlier Intelligence, the developer of a mobile application for residents of Bukit Tunku, Taman Duta, with additional benefits for BTRA members and Security Scheme members. See separate article in this magazine on United Neighbourhoods.
2. EntoGenex Industries, a biotech company that offers sustainable, organic and non-toxic solutions to control and prevent breeding of Aedes mosquitoes. For more information: [www.entogenex.com](http://www.entogenex.com). Those interested in an appointment: Lylian Dwarkasing, [lylian@entogenex.com](mailto:lylian@entogenex.com), office: +60.(0)3.6203.5531; mobile: +60.(0)11.1434.1809

The President presented the Committee's report for the past 12 months. Among the topics discussed were: DBKL relations (strong); maintaining the secondary jungle in the valley on Jalan Tunku (being monitored); the congestion occurring due to the reduction in lanes from two lanes to one outside the National Tennis Stadium on Langgak Tunku and the request by members to ask DBKL to provide a merging lane in Jalan Duta to allow smoother traffic feed from Langgak Tunku into Jalan Duta.

# Implementation of the Flood Mitigation Project in Bukit Tunku

## Follow-Up Report

Date and Venue	Friday 1st April at Frenz Cafe
DBKL Attendees	Mr. Shanmugam ( <i>Jabatan Perjuruteraan Awam</i> )
Consultant Engineers	Representatives of UNITI Consultants Sdn Bhd, led by Mohd Sopian bin Othman, Director
BTRA Attendees	Mr John Smurthwaite ( <i>Honorary Secretary</i> ) Mohammad Abdullah ( <i>Honorary Treasurer</i> ) Mr Tan Beng Keong ( <i>Exco Member</i> )

### SUMMARY

The project consultant, Engineer Mohd Sopian, briefed the attendees that the actual amount awarded to the consultants was RM4.3 million instead of the earlier stated budget of RM6 million.

The upgrading contract covers:

- the river walls of the Sungai Batang Tolak to be increased in height from the current 2.5m to 3.7m.
- critical monsoon drains will be increased in size to 600cm x 600cm from the current 400cm x 450cm.

The improvement to the monsoon drains applies to both sides of the road, starting from the Selangor Properties Apartments in Taman Tunku and Langgak Tunku to the junction with Lembah Tunku; the Lembah Tunku area will be widened and deepened.

The increase in height to the walls of the river and the monsoon drains will mean that during times of torrential downpours, there will be significant additional holding capacity to mitigate overflow.

However, in addition to the improved drainage capacity, the new monsoon drains have been designed to link to three new very large water retention tank sites along the Sungai Batang Tolak. These three water retention tanks will be able to retain



Flood mitigation work behind Taman Tunku

approximately 2,350 cubic metres (about the same volume of water as three Olympic-size swimming pools) during a heavy downpour.

These retention tanks are designed to hold the additional rain water to be released to Sungai Batang Tolak when the water level in the river subsides. The consultant is confident that the installation of the retention tanks will be able to stop the flooding in the low lying area in Lembah Tunku and Langgak Tunku.

As for the monsoon drain along Tijani 2, a drain cover will be installed to allow for a pedestrian walkway and a small cycling path.

BTRA members queried the consultant on whether the monsoon drain along Langgak Tunku opposite Tijani 2 needs upgrading and a planned retention tank to ensure that no future flooding occurs in that area. The consultant will discuss this with DBKL.

Also, BTRA questioned the consultant on the height of the road in Langgak Tunku where it crosses over the Sungai Batang Tolak as this low height appears to block the smooth flow during heavy downpours. The consultant will discuss this matter with DBKL and come back to BTRA on this issue.

As far as the consultant is aware, there was no mention of any new upgrade in Sungai Batu into which the Sungai Batang Tolak water flows.

Mr. Shanmugam of DBKL asked BTRA to assist in the removal of the existing guard house in Lembah Tunku and also obtain permission for the contractor to access the premises of houses that were abandoned so that their work will not be hindered. BTRA also requested DBKL to ensure that the contractor beautify the pavement after upgrading is completed.

BTRA members further raised the issue of poor drainage at the SP Setia Kenny Grande site in Jalan Girdle. During heavy downpours, water flows through the Villa Bukit Tunku Apartments and then floods some properties in Dalaman Tunku.

DBKL will respond to BTRA on four matters, the most important of which is information or plans on the upgrading of the bridge. Details on beautification of Langgak Tunku and follow-up on the SP Setia problem are also issues for DBKL to advise BTRA. Finally, DBKL will update BTRA on the monsoon drain issue opposite Tijani 2.

## BTRA Security Scheme – What It Is

The BTRA Security Scheme is a service that is available to BTRA members who sign up for it. The security team, which consists of two patrol cars and one patrol motorcycle, works in eight-hour shifts. The task at hand is physically taxing. Each shift sees the team making visits and “clocking in” at each member’s house. A comprehensive log of these visits is prepared at the end of each month by the security company. This allows for strict monitoring on our part to ensure that the level of service is acceptable. For example, long gaps in between visits can be captured and reported to the security company for an explanation.

In short, members can expect up to nine visits per night. To incentivise and recognise the security team’s commitment and efforts, cash bonuses are paid out on a monthly basis directly to the guards.

At present, there are 66 paying members out of 455 individual homes and 25 apartment blocks in the whole of Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta. This represents a take-up rate of only 12.8%. We recognise, of course, that many homes have their own security guards.

Residents who have not signed up for BTRA Security Patrol but already have their own security guards, can certainly benefit from having an additional layer of support.

### Call for Assistance

Since the inception of the BTRA Security Scheme, Mr. Gan Tee Jin has managed the service and admin matters but will be handing over the main role to another Committee member shortly.

The new manager would like an assistant to help in analysing the GPS data used to monitor performance of the guards.

For further information, please contact the above address or contact John Smurthwaite.

If you know of a neighbour who is not yet a member of BTRA or the BTRA Security Scheme, do let him or her know. These households can be identified because they do not have the “BTRA Security” house sign.

More paying members means a bigger budget to expand the service with more patrolling vehicles. Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta collectively cover a massive area; two patrol cars and one motorcycle will be pretty inadequate moving forward.

We would like to thank our paying members of the BTRA Security service. For those who have yet to sign up, here’s what you need to know:

- Cost per year per household: RM3,000
- Contact to sign up: email [bukit.tunku.residents@gmail.com](mailto:bukit.tunku.residents@gmail.com)



## “Deliver us from dereliction”

The neighbourhoods of Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta have their fair share of properties that are vacant, even run-down to the extent that they seem beyond repair and redemption. There are many instances that our vision of the green vistas of Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta is rudely interrupted by undeveloped land and abandoned houses, prodding one to wonder how these valuable property assets were left to deteriorate to such a dire state.

These vacant properties, especially if left unattended, present environmental and health hazards to the neighbourhood, not to mention a security risk. The good news is that there are signs of development and rejuvenation, which will hopefully reduce these risks and add more value to the area.

**Taman Duta** has some 200 titled lots, including some 30 or so vacant lots not yet developed. This means roughly 170 occupied landed properties. In addition, there are three major apartment blocks and one smaller block. Since Taman Duta is a relatively new area – at least by comparison with Bukit Tunku – it is not surprising that there are fewer derelict properties. By latest count, the estimate is around 10 homes, which includes the four old Tenaga Nasional properties along Jalan Tunku Ampuan.

On the other hand, **Bukit Tunku** has more homes. Out of the approximately 325 lots, around 40 are vacant, meaning there

are **285** completed homes. Bukit Tunku also has a small number of apartment blocks and one large block in Tijani. Three years ago, there were approximately 30 derelict homes in Bukit Tunku. Today, this number has reduced to around 25, as homes have been demolished or renovated.

Some streets previously suffering from a number of abandoned homes have seen notable activity recently, rejuvenating the area. Tepian Tunku is one example, with two new beautiful homes and one nicely renovated.

Tenaga Nasional still owns a number of landed properties in Bukit Tunku – five in one area along Persiaran Bukit Tunku. These have been vacant for a number of years and are now being renovated.

**Liku Tunku**, off Langgak Tunku, is another area with new development replacing some previously run-down properties.

The SP Setia property along Jalan Bukit Tunku – previously Tenaga-owned but abandoned for many years – has not been built yet. Called Kenny Hills Grande, there are eight lots on the upper side of the road and four on the lower side of the road. SP Setia originally had plans to build homes for sale. The developer has since changed direction and now plans to sell land only instead of completed homes.



# An Evening with DBKL

A few years ago, DBKL began to recognise the tremendous value that residents' associations play in assisting DBKL to better manage Wilayah Persekutuan. Associations are in a prime position to contribute to neighbourhood security, cleanliness and, particularly, in improving the environment. Realising this value, DBKL invited various residents associations to provide views for the KL Plan in 2011. Unfortunately, that plan was never implemented.

However, DBKL has continued to support residents' associations based in Kuala Lumpur, which has evolved beyond public service to financial support. In May 2015, DBKL hosted its first dinner for several residents' associations at which "promissory notes" of RM9,000 were presented to each association.

On Tuesday 12th April this year, DBKL hosted another dinner at the Dewan Perdana. The Guest-of-Honour for the evening was the Minister for Federal Territories, YB Datuk Seri Utama Tengku Adnan Bin Tengku Mansor, who spoke about the important work



that residents' associations are doing for the improvement of Kuala Lumpur.

In recognition of the valuable contribution by the associations, DBKL once again demonstrated its commitment through financial support. Each residents' association received RM10,000, an increase from RM9,000 in 2015.

Representing the Bukit Tunku Residents' Association at the 12th April dinner were the Honorary Treasurer Mohammad Abdullah and Honorary Secretary John Smurthwaite.

BTRA uses the money to support its magazine, Living On The Hill, and a part time administrative secretary.

# Bukit Tunku Residents' Association Joins United Neighbourhoods



BTRA is pleased to announce that it will be joining United Neighbourhoods, a mobile app that will connect members and non-members of BTRA to each other.

Didn't get the last community notice? That will be a thing of the past. All residents can now receive all BTRA announcements on their mobile phones or tablet PCs - whether it's community news or a security issue - anytime, anywhere.

Need street lights fixed? That overgrown tree trimmed? Or another pesky snake removed but didn't know who to call? With United Neighbourhoods, residents will have access to all relevant public services and emergency contacts that work behind the scenes to keep Bukit Tunku running smoothly.

No time to reach out to BTRA about communal issues? By using United Neighbourhoods, residents will be able to report issues in the community while on the go. Simply pull out your smartphone or tablet, tell us what the issue is and submit your report. It will come straight to BTRA for review.



That's not all. Our Security Scheme just got better too. BTRA members who subscribe to the neighbourhood Security Scheme will be able to summon the security patrol to their homes by activating the distress button in the app. With a simple tap,

Security Scheme subscribers will be able to alert the guards and close family or friend to the distress call.

The United Neighbourhoods app is available for free on the iOS and Android platforms. Optimised for smartphones, it also works on tablet computers using iOS and Android (iPad users may need to select "iPhone only" on the App Store menu to locate and download the app).

The App is already up and running, but it is a work in progress. Relevant content on BTRA still needs to be developed. Some BTRA Committee members have downloaded the app to their smartphones or tablet PCs in anticipation.

While the app is free, there will be different levels of access. Level 1, the highest level of access, will be available to BTRA members who have signed up for the neighbourhood Security Scheme. They will have access to the distress button.

Level 2 access is available to Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta residents who are members of BTRA but have not yet signed up for the Security Scheme.

Level 3 access is available to residents of Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta, but who are not members of BTRA.

There will be demos to familiarise members on how to get the most out of this app. Full readiness of the app will be in the second half of this year.



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# THE RETURN OF AN ICON THE ALL-NEW VOLVO XC90



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**THINK VOLVO, THINK CLEAR MARQUE.**

## Kenny Hills Bistro: The New Kid On The Block

It's official! There's a new place in Taman Tunku that aims to tantalise your taste buds with food and drink that will make you feel entirely at home.

Kenny Hills Bistro, from the same owner-proprietor who brought us Kenny Hills Bakers, is set to open for business at the end of June or early July. If you've ventured to Taman Tunku in the past five weeks or so, you might have noticed some work going on in Lot H1, which is the corner lot on the entrance side of the crescent.

This endeavour from Au Tai Hon aims to replicate the family-like ambiance of Kenny Hills Bakers. "We're looking forward to adding to the diversity of Taman Tunku F&B outlets. We will serve mostly local comfort food aligned with the concept at Kenny Hills Bakers. That means, using traditional methods to create familiar dishes, but with a modern twist.

"Our lunch menu will consist of perennial favourites, such as nasi lemak, Hainanese chicken rice, salads, and burgers," said Tai Hon. Lunch menu selections are being finalised as we go to print.

Dinner, on the other hand, will see guest chefs create a bespoke menu for a unique experience. A small element of surprise can do wonders to whet your appetite, it seems!

Tai Hon added that Kenny Hills Bistro will be able to cater to private dining parties for groups of 30 people. The restaurant is an ideal size for a private birthday, anniversary or other occasions. Alcohol will be available.

### KENNY HILLS BISTRO

Lot H1,  
Taman Tunku Bukit Tunku

Type of food:  
"local comfort food"

Hours of business:  
Monday through Sunday

Lunch:  
11:30 to 15:00

Dinner:  
18:00 to 22:00

Dress code:  
casual and comfortable

# Living in Bukit Tunku Still Rocks

Shireen Zainudin-Lowe

Shireen, a vivacious and very active mother of two, has lived in Bukit Tunku since the early 2000s. Despite its ups and downs and seemingly endless property development projects, she is still happy to call this neighbourhood home. Here, Shireen tells it like it is:

I've lived on Jalan Girdle for almost 14 years. I returned to Malaysia with my then four-year-old son, Alexander; our African Leopard Tortoise, Toto, and our Maltese Terrier, Thalji, after many years in London and Dubai. I grew up a Section 16

(Petaling Jaya) girl and my mother still lives there. I have a sister down the road at Sri Kenny ~ so we are both Kenny Hillbillies as I affectionately refer to my 'posse' of friends who live in Bukit Tunku. My other sister lives in New York City, and my brother lives in that foreign land known as Jalan Kia Peng ;-)

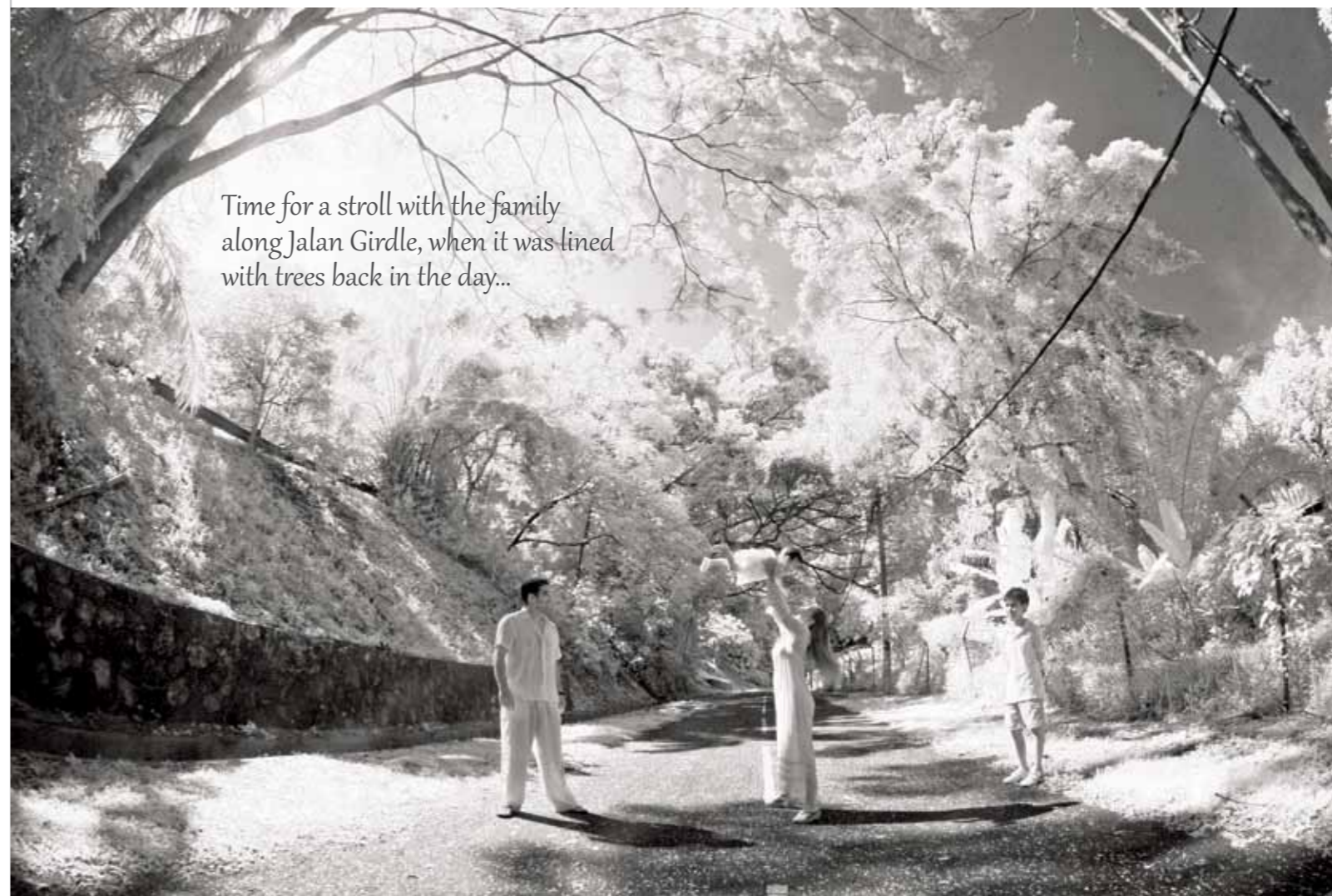
Living on the hill has always struck me as a total privilege, being a huge nature lover. Smack in the city, but look outside and you'll see monkeys and snakes and monitor lizards casually crossing the street on any given day. So it's just heart-breaking to see old 70s houses ~ so full of character ~ being torn down and boarded up and, horrors, encroaching development take over. The chopping down of granddaddy trees has resulted in the displacement of the neighbourhood wildlife, and the flooding that's ensued in recent years, possibly due to over-development without corresponding infrastructure adjustments, has taken a toll on this lush location.

That aside, I love our little strip of shops on Taman Tunku, and that crescent itself has seen many changes. I miss the old cafe on the corner ~ one stop for your magazines, essential oils and a bowl of Laksa Kedah, thank you very much!

But Pinang Masak still fills that masakan kampung craving albeit at Bukit Tunku prices. Frenz, of course, has seen many reincarnations at the hands of various owners over the years, but hooray for Kenny Hills Bakers! Definitely dragging us Kenny Hillbillies on to the trendy KL caféscape with its designer beans, cold-pressed juices and freshly baked breads. Double cheers for our local bank, and Cindy at the drycleaners too!

Sundays in Bukit Tunku are the best. There's a really friendly early morning running community ~ all pounding the tarmac ~ working up a good sweat and appetite on

Time for a stroll with the family along Jalan Girdle, when it was lined with trees back in the day...



the winding way round, up and down and down again to Taman Tunku for a nasi lemak or eggs. For me, the community spirit has always best manifested itself with this little ritual. You salute your favourite old trees, peer over walls hiding some amazing properties, wave hello to familiar faces in the 'hood, and then there's that great Malaysian tradition of chatter and food down on the strip.

We don't have a park, as other residential neighbourhoods do, but both my kids (I now have Julia, aged 6, too) have always had good fun just collecting flowers and twigs and little mounds of precious red saga seeds on our many, many adventures along these lanes.

Of course, when my son was still at school in KL (he's now away at boarding school) many of my early weekday mornings were spent bleary-eyed in my car waiting with him for the Alice Smith bus to pick him up from the Langgak Tunku stop. In fact, we parents fostered a little club right there. Knowing who would park where and always leaving car space for each other as we waited for that yellow and black bus. Not forgetting that if we ever missed the bus, we'd have to chase it all the way up to the next stop on Dalaman Tunku and so on ~ the things parents do!

As a nature lover and outdoor buff, what I like a lot about living in Bukit Tunku is that there is still secondary jungle and many, many trees. If only these trees could talk! I wonder what secrets they would tell of the comings and goings of Bukit Tunku and its history.

Also, I have a group of friends who all live in the 'hood and that's pretty special. To have plenty of people you can rely on living mere minutes away. There's always company for a chat or a long cold glass; someone to leave your kids with for a few hours, someone's pool to swim in, the national tennis courts right there for their lessons, or in true Malaysian style, someone to share a bowl of lontong with down the road. Yes, it always comes back to food with me :)

I love living in this neighbourhood, despite all the changes over the years. I guess we may call that "progress." But if I could influence one thing, I'd like to stop the developers of some of those ~ frankly speaking ~ ugly residential houses or condominium developments. "Eyesore" would be putting it mildly! I'm all for progress, but let's do it well!

And please, please save the trees!

## BTRA SECURITY SCHEME

### COST

RM250 a month, paid a year in advance. In the event of early termination, the unexpired balance shall be refunded, less RM100 administrative charge.

Please return this portion with your payment. You will receive a sign and an electronic tag, to be mounted on the gate, gate post or a nearby wall, and the guards' contact details after we receive your cheque. The sign and electronic tag are properties of BTRA, and must be returned if your subscription is terminated.

Amount : RM3,000 for 12 months  
 Payee : **Bukit Tunku Residents' Association - Security**  
 Forward to : John Smurthwaite  
 15 Dalaman Tunku  
 50480 Kuala Lumpur

BTRA member (Please tick)?  Yes  No  
 (If not, you need to become a member first. Please email [bukit.tunku.residents@gmail.com](mailto:bukit.tunku.residents@gmail.com) for a membership form)

Subscriber's Name

House Address

House and Mobile Phone\* (of residents, not of landlord)  
 1.  -  2.  -   
 3.  -  4.  -   
 5.  -  6.  -

Email Address

Cheque No  -  Amount RM  .

\* To enable the Caller-Line Identification system to trace your emergency calls, please give us a list of the phone numbers that might be used to call the guards. Note that if your mobile phone does not send out its ID and displays "Private number" at the receiving end, then your call cannot be traced.

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FORM

I hereby apply for membership of the Bukit Tunku Residents' Association Kuala Lumpur in the appropriate category:

- Ordinary Member** - Owner or Resident of property  
 - Representative of Management Corporation of condominium
- Associate Member** - Applicable to family members of Ordinary Member residing with Ordinary Member  
 - Resident proprietor of condominium
- Corporate Member** (Applicable to corporation owning one or more properties in Bukit Tunku)

Name :

Address :

Postcode :  City :

Residence Phone:  -  Fax:  -

Office Phone :  -  Fax:  -

Email Address :

Mobile :  -

Occupation :

Signature Of Application :

Date : (Dd/mm/yy)  /  /

Cheque No :  -  Amount : RM  .

Property Ownership (Please tick) :  Sole Owner  Joint-owned  Company-owned

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION/ VOTING

- Ordinary / Corporate RM 200 – voting rights
- Associate RM 50 – no voting rights



# Birds of Bukit Tunku

Mark Ng

**B**ukit Tunku, with its lush greenery and secondary jungle, is a veritable haven for flora and fauna to thrive. In 2011, a survey by Malaysian Nature Society, commissioned by BTRA, highlighted the natural heritage of the area.

This survey uncovered, among others, the presence of 212 species of plants (including two endemic plants), 34 species of birds, five species of reptiles and amphibians, 66 species of aesthetic insects, and 17 types of spiders. It's also gratifying to know that uncommon forest butterflies and moths, as well as a forest cicada not found in KL since 1936, were seen in the forests of Bukit Tunku.

Thanks to the 2011 study, we can identify some avian wildlife that have been spotted in our neighbourhood.

## Black-thighed Falconet (Helalang Rajawali/Helang Belalang)

*Microhierax fringillarius*

This is the world's smallest raptor, about 16cm. Raptors are birds of prey like eagles, kites, falcons and owls. This bird is found in Myanmar, down Peninsular Malaysia to the greater Sundas.

A breeding pair has been spotted in the Bukit Tunku area. An adult male, an adult female and two juveniles were seen. The adult birds are between 15cm and 17cm in length. They normally feed on flying insects, such as the dragonfly. This bird has been known to feed on other smaller birds, too.

## Red Jungle Fowl

Source: <http://1.bp.blogspot.com>



## (Ayam Hutan/Ayam Beroga)

*Gallus gallus*

Many will recognise this bird, at least the male of the species. It is the evolutionary ancestor of all domestic breeds of chicken. It is between 42 and 75 cm in length. This bird is found in North India, through Nepal and Southern China, throughout South-east Asia, and south to Sumatra, Java and Bali.

## Black-naped Oriole (Burung Kunyit Besar)

*Oriolus chinensis*

This bird is 27cm in length, and is commonly seen in urban gardens. The Black-naped Oriole is highly noticeable because of its brilliant bright yellow plumage. It is found in several places, from the Indian sub-continent through China, Korea and Eastern

Below picture right top: **Male Red Jungle Fowl**  
Source: <http://www.markeaton.org>

Below picture right top: **Female Red Jungle Fowl**  
<http://avise-birds.bio.uci.edu>



Source: <https://drscdn.500px.org>

Russia, continuously through South-east Asia to the greater and lesser Sundas, Sulawesi and the Philippines. Species from the Northern regions will migrate over winter to the southern tropical zones.

The Malaysian Nature Society is Malaysia's largest and oldest non-governmental environmental organisation focused on conservation of Malaysia's natural heritage. Its origins pre-date independence – in 1940 with the publication of the Malayan Nature Journal Vol 1 – and MNS has evolved from a group of volunteers to an organisation with a dedicated team of full-

time staff, approximately 4,000 members and 14 branches spread across the country. Over the years, MNS has received recognition from regional and global environmental bodies for its conservation projects in Malaysia.

MNS offers several options for membership, and members are entitled to participate in its various nature-centric activities. More information is available at the MNS website: [www.mns.my](http://www.mns.my).

### Notes and Acknowledgements:

Mark Ng is a veteran bird watcher with 11 years' bird-watching experience, and is currently the vice president of the Wild Bird Club of Malaysia. Mark was a contributor to the Malaysia Nature Society Report on Bukit Tunku, and was the chairman of the Bird Conservation Council of Malaysia at the time of the survey

### References:

1. Wong, S. C. H., 2012. Camera trapping in the DBKL Staff Quarters Green Area, Bukit Tunku, Kuala Lumpur. Report prepared for Bukit Tunku Residents' Association. Kuala Lumpur: Malaysian Nature Society. (Unpublished)
2. A Checklist of birds of Malaysia (2nd Edition) 2015
3. A Field Guide to the Birds of West Malaysia and Singapore; Allen Jeyarajasingam and A

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# The Jungle Hill

Adam Smurthwaite

If ever there were a jungle within a city, it would be Bukit Tunku. A green expanse of trees and hills dotted with mansions, abandoned houses and endless winding roads. For the last 20 years this has been my home, and I have watched it change so much yet still remain the green lung of KL.

Of course, having such a large unbroken sanctuary means we get to live side by side with some of the most interesting animals who live here, or often are just passing through. Exotic birds, poisonous snakes, dangerous monitor lizards, annoying monkeys (and the shy ones) are just some of the animals most Bukit Tunku residents have come into contact with at some point. A word of warning, if you are a new resident or just thinking about moving into the area, you may want to stop reading!

I cannot count the number of animal encounters I have had, though I can remember some of the more memorable ones. I suppose the earliest one is coming to look at our house in 1989, and our entire pool was a pond. The owners had let it be for too long and nature has a way of taking back the land around here! I had never seen so many frogs and tadpoles in my life and from then on I would hunt down frog or toad eggs all around in the drains, ponds, wherever I could find. Also, back then it was normal to hear and see peacocks in the area and Binturong (or

some kind of civet) but it's quite rare these days.

Snakes are common visitors, from the small green tree emerald snake to the brown rat snake and, of course, the Bukit Tunku heavy weights – the reticulated python and the spitting cobra. My first snake memory was when a cobra got stuck to some rat poison under our sink. This was a big cobra (of course I wasn't even 10 years old yet, so I am sure it looked huge). My father, with three kids in the house, was obviously concerned and it would be a long time before someone would come to remove the snake; having a cobra that could break free at any moment in the house wasn't on his Sunday to-do list. So, he got a large wooden shovel or tool of some kind and fought it in the kitchen. Now, fighting a cobra with a shovel is not something I think I am capable of doing. Maybe living in the country towns of Australia, or worrying about children, makes a difference but either way it's a daunting task. And while he fought the snake, trying to kill it, there were some mixed reactions in the house. Me, the eldest, crying in the living room. Not for my dad's safety but for the snake's life. I have always been a bit of an animal lover and was quite upset. My younger sister however, who takes after my mother, was in full support, giving my dad words of encouragement to remove this threat. Egging him on to kill it.



The spitting cobras are the worse, though. We must have taken our dogs at least half a dozen times to the vet to clean their eyes out after picking the wrong battle. The one time I saw a spitting cobra, the first third of its body was standing up and the hood was out. I grabbed the dogs and made a swift retreat and most definitely averting my eyes.

I've seen snakes everywhere ~ our bathrooms, the roof, living room, pool... even inside a toilet. Yes that's right, in the toilet. A mother python had given birth to a few dozen snakelets and one of them had sought the comfort of our toilet. Every time you flushed it would poke its head out to see what was going on. This was a squat toilet in the maid's room but it gave me nightmares and for a long time I thoroughly checked a toilet before sitting down.

On the way home in a taxi at about 2am after a night of drinking, my friend and I came across a python that actually took up the entire road. That's a good five metres... just casually crossing the road. My drunken friend insisted we take it, not sure what his reasons were, but I am glad we stayed in the car. Its bite would be savage enough but the constriction is the dangerous part.

Some animals don't always live here; some birds of prey often pass through this area during migration as it provides a great rest stop. One time, our gardener told me an eagle or something had crashed-landed in the backyard. I found it in a cage under the house, obviously terrified and hungry. I brought it upstairs. It was only a young raptor, and at the time I wasn't sure if it was a falcon or an eagle but over the next three days I fed it chicken and kept it out of the rain. It wouldn't drink any water until I discovered most birds of prey get their water from their kills. My only solution was to soak the chicken in water. In hindsight I am not so sure that was a good idea. On the third day I started leaving the gate of the cage open and it would wander around, trying to flap its wings. And then the next morning it was gone. I don't know what happened to it but a few times a year I see a large black eagle flying around our area, perching on its favourite tree and after a few days it disappears. I doubt it's the same one but I like to think so.

Then there are the monkeys. I have a difficult relationship with them, they usually cause me grievance by trashing something or other and have no problems drinking any leftover alcohol or opening up cigarettes that have not been cleaned up from the party the night before. It's not uncommon to run into the long-tailed macaques during a walk. These are the grey naughty ones that go through your garbage and are generally pests. If you pass a group of them, the younger ones will walk close to the dogs and myself, trying to show off. The largest male will bare its teeth and ignore us as though we mean nothing to it.

They aren't the only monkeys in the neighbourhood... the elusive Silver or Dusky Leaf monkeys are more shy and not so easy to spot. They are actually quite beautiful creatures, sometimes they will hang out on the balcony out of the sun just grooming one another, not bothering anyone. I am pretty sure they take a lot of fruit from the trees, however!

Can't forget the monitor lizards either ~ another reason our dogs end up at the vet. Just last month we were in the pool before we realised a 1.5m long monitor lizard was also enjoying the cool water. Needless to say we vacated pretty quickly.

I love sharing the area with the animals. As long as Bukit Tunku can have large enough green areas connected, we can shelter a whole variety of wildlife. But the more we develop the faster, they disappear.

Adam lives in Bukit Tunku and has a front-row seat to the myriad wildlife that populate our neighbourhood ~ some transient and migratory, others permanent residents.





Art Basel 2016 Hong Kong

## The Art of Transporting Art

Lately, there's been increasing attention on the growing interest in the visual arts in Asia, as evidenced by major art exhibitions, such as Art Basel, showing in this region. Buying art has traditionally been the exclusive privilege of the elite class, who have deep pockets. However, with a growing middle and upper-middle class emerging across Asia, buying art is no longer the domain of the wealthy elite. Despite a less predictable global economy, there will always be a segment of people who will invest their money in art pieces, either by well-known artists, (expected to hold their value even in tough times) or in fresh names who could turn into big successes over time. And, there are some people who buy art simply to hang in their homes for their own personal enjoyment.

People interested in viewing and acquiring art invariably travel to art fairs and auctions further afield to see what's on the market. For example, Art Basel in Asia, one of the world's largest art fairs, features some of the world's leading modern and contemporary art galleries showcasing paintings, sculptures and digital art annually in Hong Kong.

Acquiring an art piece is one thing; transporting it to your home or office is another. Protecting precious art pieces is critical, so what comes to mind when considering storage and transport of these new assets?

According to Bobby Wong, a successful Malaysian entrepreneur and businessman who visits art fairs in Asia and Europe each year, and has acquired an extensive and eclectic art collection, he would definitely favour a transport company with significant

experience in handling luxury and delicate items, preferably with international experience.

"My pieces include large oil paintings, large standing metal sculptures, long ceramic table pieces, pieces with moving parts, such as dials and chimes, even a standing sculpture made from specially treated honeycombs! So you can imagine I would select a company who has deep experience handling a highly diverse portfolio of art pieces," said Bobby.

As someone who likes to be surrounded by art, Bobby has bought from galleries around the world - Japan and Hong Kong, Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States. Therefore, it's essential that the transport company is adept at navigating the Customs process, from knowing the storage environment and security within the Customs warehouse, to the clearance process. For example, is the storage area climate-controlled? Is it monitored 24/7 with a top notch CCTV system?

"Buying from a number of galleries in different countries, I rely on the gallery to know the best transport company for art pieces they sell. Reputable galleries will have a database of shipping and transport companies with the necessary experience to ship art pieces to their global customers.

"Lastly, it goes without saying that the transport company must have workers who know how to move the art pieces into your house or apartment, especially if the art piece is large or an irregular shape, or made of unique material. The last thing I want



The honeycomb sculpture: Ren Ri - Yansu Series II, 2013 - 2015

to happen is that my art piece ends up back in storage instead of in my home, because the movers could not manoeuvre it through the door," Bobby added.

One such company that has experience in transporting art pieces is Crown Fine Art, the unit of Crown Worldwide Group that has been providing specialised fine arts packing and transportation services since 1989. Crown Fine Art provides services across the spectrum of art packaging and transport, from a dedicated secure storage facilities with alarms and CCTV systems and a climate-controlled environment, to Customs assistance, heavy handling and delivery and unpacking services.

Many people are familiar with and may have used Crown's relocation services, but are less familiar with this part of the company's business. With the art market in Asia gaining momentum, Crown Fine Art has a presence in Malaysia to meet the needs of its customers who invest in art and want the reassurance of an experienced and reliable transportation company with such specialised knowledge and services.



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# The Benefits of Acupuncture

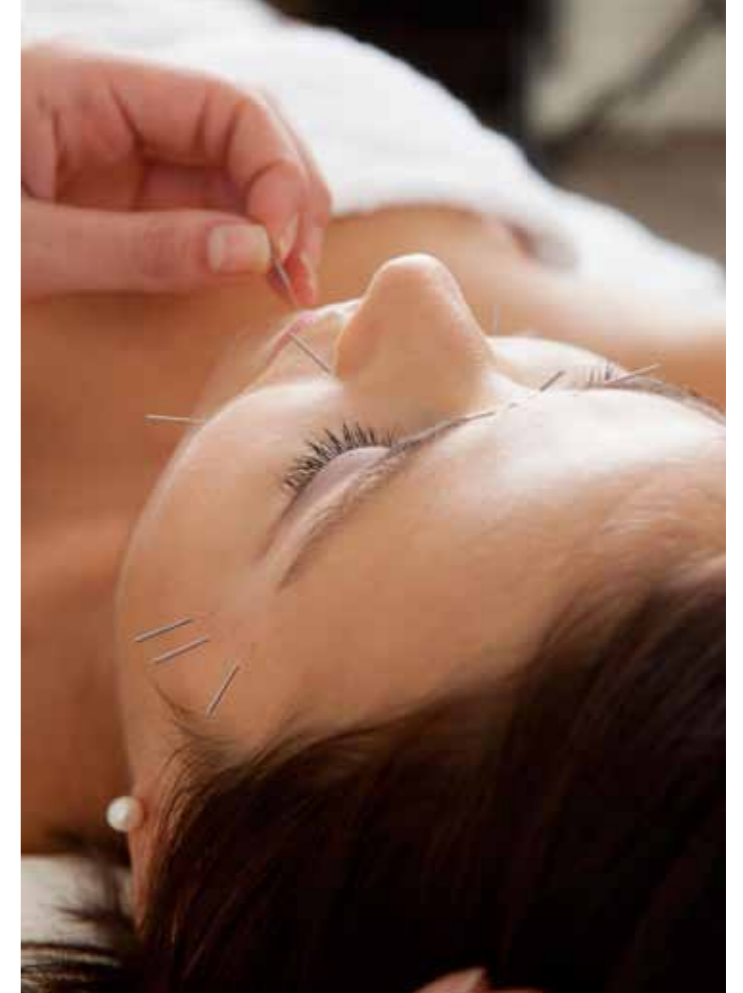
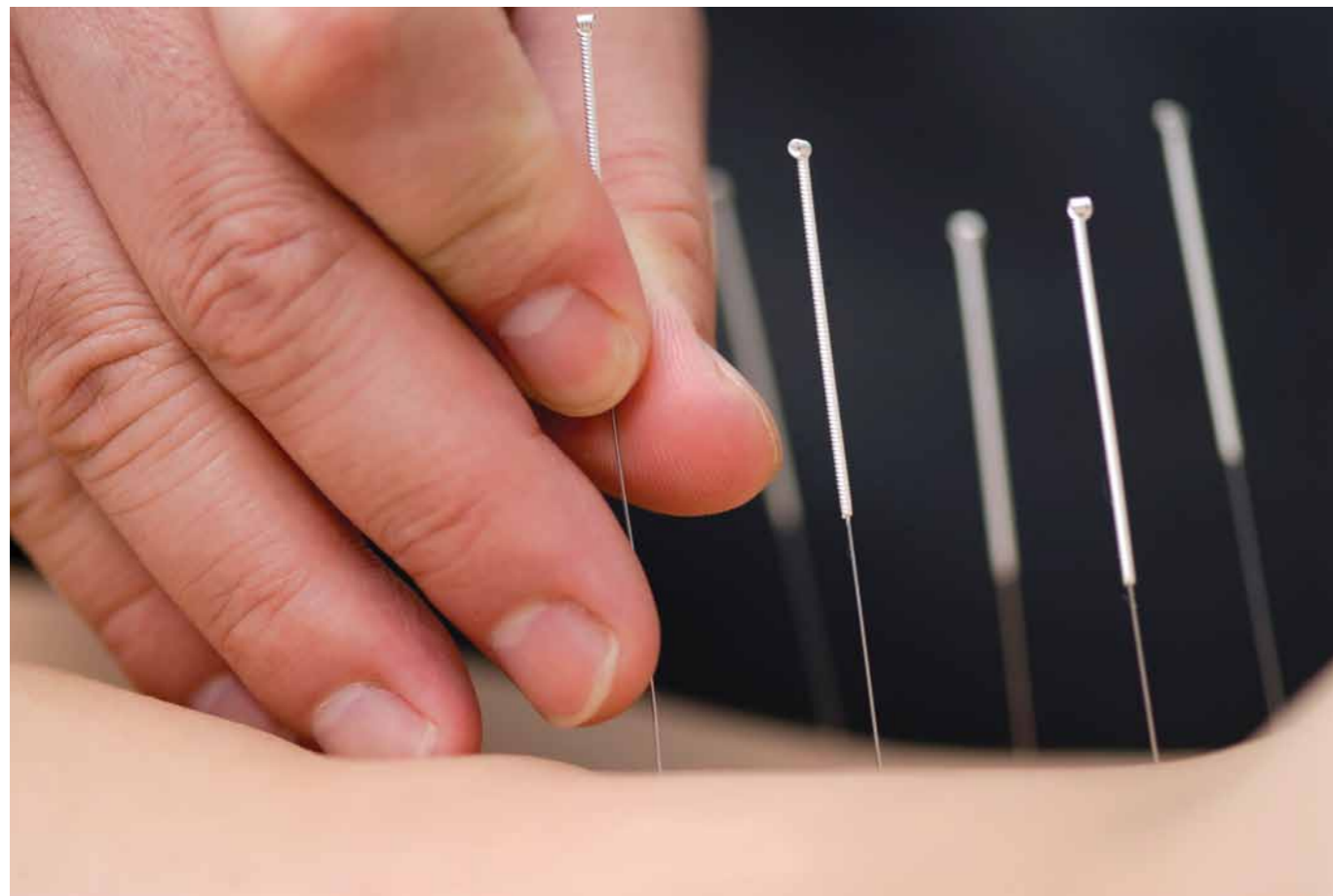
Contrary to popular western belief, acupuncture is not just a system for inserting very fine needles into specific body locations to alleviate pain. So, what is acupuncture, then? Acupuncture is a complete medical protocol focused on correcting imbalances of energy in the body. Since its inception in China more than 2,500 years ago, acupuncture has been used traditionally to prevent, diagnose and treat disease, as well as to improve general health.

The traditional explanation for acupuncture's effectiveness is that it modifies the flow of energy (known as qi or chi) throughout the body, but there is no scientific consensus that this is actually its mechanism of action. Research published in the 30 May 2010 online edition of Nature Neuroscience demonstrated that the effects of acupuncture needling include influencing the activity of adenosine, an amino acid that becomes active in the skin after an injury to ease pain. This may explain in part why pain relief is

often experienced as one of the benefits of acupuncture. In fact, much research in the west has focused on this pain-relieving effect, rather than acupuncture's traditional role of balancing energy to address a wide range of disorders, and the more subtle mechanisms that may be responsible for its overall benefits to health.

Because the goal of acupuncture is to promote and restore the balance of energy, which flows throughout the body, the benefits of acupuncture can extend to a wide variety of conditions, from emotional disorders (anxiety, depression) to digestive complaints (nausea, vomiting, irritable bowel syndrome). It can be beneficial for pain syndromes due to an injury or associated with chronic degenerative diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis.

It can also be helpful in treating neurological problems such as migraines or Parkinson's disease, or as a rehabilitation strategy



for individuals who have suffered a stroke. Respiratory conditions, including sinusitis and asthma, have been relieved with acupuncture, as have many gynaecological disorders and infertility. Acupuncture has proved beneficial for reducing fatigue and addictions, and for promoting overall well-being.

Acupuncture has been shown to assist in the treatment of emotional pain syndromes, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as controlling chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting. Furthermore, it has demonstrated clinical success in achieving pregnancy when used in conjunction with in-vitro fertilisation.

*Disclaimer: this article is published for information purposes only. It does not replace advice from a medical professional.*



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# Water,

## a most precious resource

SAM CS TAN

Water is the essence of life. Without it, nothing can grow, and in time to come, wars may be fought and lives may be lost in the pursuit of this life-giving element. Scientific evidence suggests that one day potable water will be scarce due to water pollution and contamination, available only to the monied few who are able to afford access to it. Art imitates life and Kevin Costner's *Waterworld* could well be a reality in future.

Indeed, many of us may be aware of the impasse among water concessionaires and the state and federal governments over the management of water in Selangor. And as anyone who has tried to fathom their developments can attest, these talks are convoluted and utterly complex.

But of one thing we can be sure: more expensive water bills in future. Many in Malaysia can be somewhat negligent and irresponsible in our management and cultivation of water. The fact is that we take our rainfall for granted simply because we have more than sufficient rainfall. The problem is we do not have sufficient infrastructure to deal with it. We also experience floods, such as those that ravaged the northern states in 2015. However, we can change things and more than any other profession, property developers are in a position to proactively mitigate these circumstances.

As home-builders, we can change people's lives for the better. What if we, as developers, build homes that allow enable the capture and storage of rain water? If every house had a rainwater harvesting tank, then the strain on drainage is considerably less and dwellers have free water to use!

Don't forget: in a forest, natural precipitation means water goes back to the system through natural earth seepage. But when concrete replaces the forest floor, it severs this natural process.

On a typical development, rain falls on roofs, flows into the gutter and then runs into drains, which overflow during a heavy storm!

But this need not happen. Rainwater harvesting is easy to implement, is reasonably economical to set up and quite simple in its operation. And if every single home in every new housing development were equipped with one, the positive impact on the earth would be immense.

Sustainable development and living need not be rocket science. It can be simple domestic water management, such as dual-flush WCs, or water-efficient fittings where flow rates are controlled.

It could even amount to the simple installation of sub-meters to monitor water usage in different parts of the house. Most homes only have one main meter that measures the entire house. But with sub-meters, you will know how much is used, whether it is for the purposes of irrigation or refilling the swimming pool.

Indeed, home owners can have efficient irrigation systems that self-irrigate on a timer versus someone watering the plants.

Harvested rainwater can be used in a number of ways. Did you know that it can be used to cool our houses down? Water is a wonderfully flexible element that has for centuries been used for cooling.

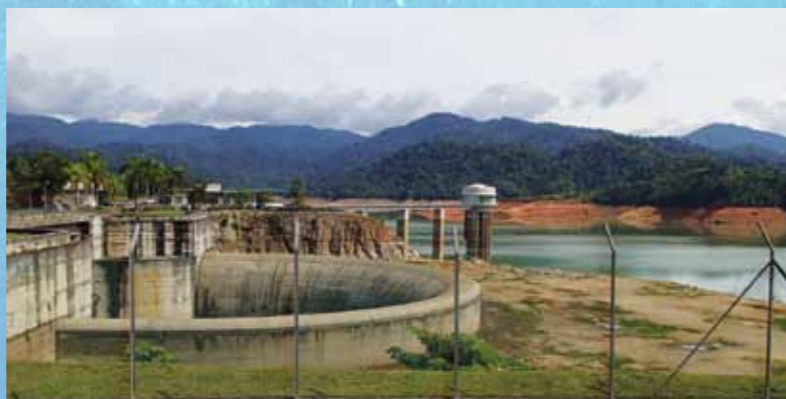
You can use harvested rainwater to water plants or wash cars. Certainly, neither cars nor plants need potable or filtered water. In so doing, people save money, drainage systems are less burdened, and we will alleviate the strain on the supply of treated potable water.

The humble but very effective mist-fan at the local mamak restaurant comes to mind. It is a simple but effective process. The cooling effect occurs when heat from the immediate surroundings is used as the energy needed to vaporise the extremely minute water particles in the fan. The result: heat is dissipated at the cost of ceiling fan.

There are countless other examples of this very simple process, such as homes that contain water features, or houses intentionally located near large bodies of water, such as a lake.

In short, sustainable living can involve simple yet effective steps to save a precious resource, which can then be on-used to improve human comfort without burdening the environment.

It just needs a little thought and a will to do so.



# What's in a Street Name?

## (Part One)

Have you wondered how streets in Kuala Lumpur were named? What is the history of the street names in Kuala Lumpur, specifically Bukit Tunku? How did the name "Kenny Hills" morph into "Bukit Tunku"? How did all the corresponding street names in this neighbourhood lose the "Kenny" in the street name and acquire "Tunku"?

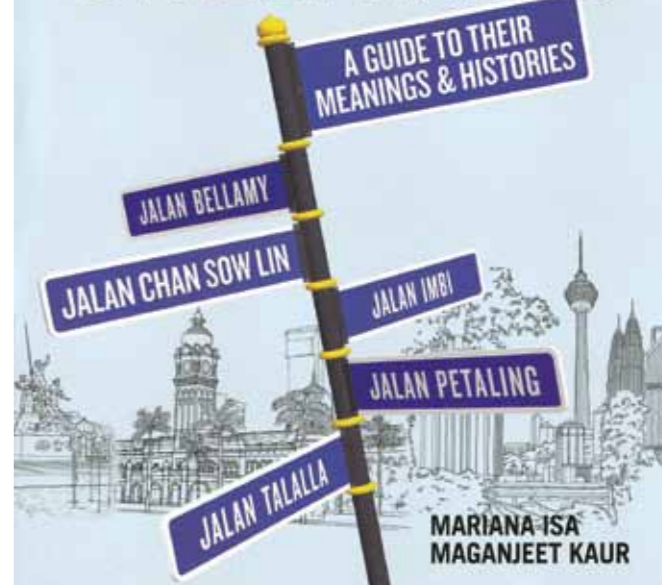
Street names in Kuala Lumpur used to come under the jurisdiction of Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur until the Ministry of Federal Territories took over the responsibility in 2009. DBKL's current role is to process applications, assist the Ministry, and recommend suitable names and locations to the Street Naming Committee, which was formed in the early 1900s. This Committee is now known as Jawantankuasa Kebangsaan Nama Geografi (National Geographical Name Committee). Established in 2002, its role is to coordinate the correct geographical terms for places and road names. Members comprise governmental and non-governmental bodies, including MAMPU, Pos Malaysia, Malaysian History Association and Dewan Pustaka dan Bahasa.

In 1953, a decision was made to avoid mixing languages in street names, meaning that street names had to be completely in English or in Malay. By 1960, the policy for all street names to be in the national language came into play, and all street names in Kuala Lumpur were translated into Malay. The Urban Terminology Committee, with approval from Dewan Pustaka dan Bahasa, changed the English words for "road," "street" and "lane" to "jalan," "lebu" and "lorong," respectively.

The street names in Bukit Tunku, formerly known as Kenny Hills Estate, track the changing cultural, political, traditional and social landscape of this residential area. The "nationalisation" of street names is evident in almost all the neighbourhood's street names.

Most of the streets were renamed for Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, the first Prime Minister of the newly independent Malaysia, whose private residence is located at 1, Jalan Tunku. Given the hilly terrain, the prefixes of many street names reflect

# KUALA LUMPUR STREET NAMES



its topological make-up: cerunan (slope); dataran (plains); lembah (valley); selekoh (bend); simpangan (fork); tepian (bank); and tinggian (heights). Hence, there is Cerunan Tunku, Selekoh Tunku, Tinggian Tunku and so on.

There are still a handful of streets in Bukit Tunku without the word "Tunku" in them – Jalan Girdle, Jalan Merchu, Jalan 1/63, Jalan Syers, Jalan Tijani (for the Tijani property development).

Kenny Hills is steeped in colonial history. The original Kenny Road (subsequently renamed Jalan Kenny), which is now Jalan Tunku, was named to commemorate William Eyre Kenny (1867–1924), the Director of FMS\* Public Works. According to records, Kenny was an engineer in the New Zealand Public Works Department and New Zealand Artillery in 1883. He left for Sarawak when he was 23 to join the Survey and Public Works Department under Rajah Brooke, and relocated to the Straits Settlements as Assistant Superintendent of Public Works in 1895.

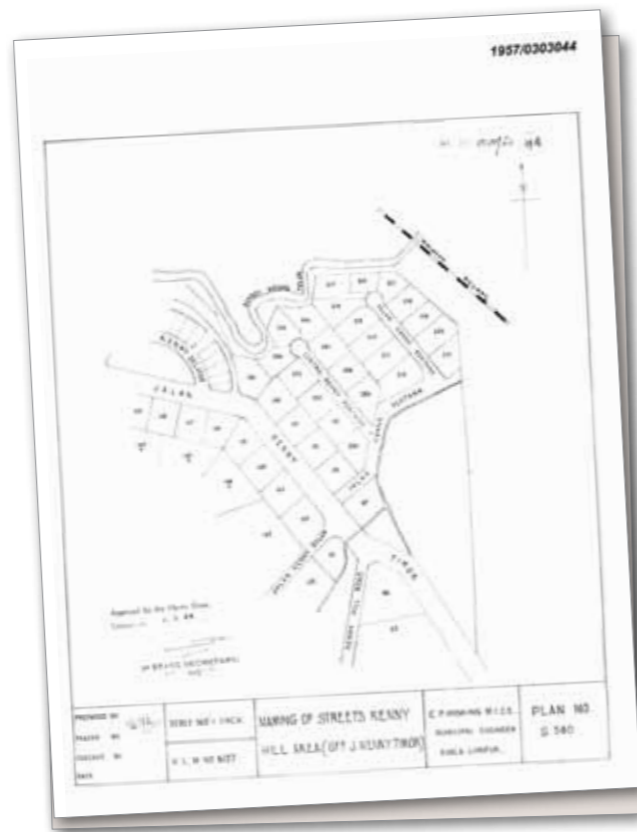
In 1903, Kenny was transferred to Selangor as Acting Engineer and subsequently Executive Engineer. He was appointed Senior Warden of Mines in 1910 and Director of FMS Public Works from 1920 to 1930.

Records show that in 1949, Messrs. Ewart Land Development Company, an Anglo-Thai corporation, submitted proposals to develop a portion of the Batu Estate flanking Kenny Road. This

scheme called for the sub-division of lots and removal of old rubber trees to make way for a residential estate, with plots of about one acre each. This scheme for about 150 houses came to be known as Kenny Hills Estate, and internal roads would have the name “Kenny” in them.

As for Messrs. Ewart Land Development Company, it would seem that the company had some clout in suggesting names for many of the streets of Kenny Hills Estate, as shown in these letters.

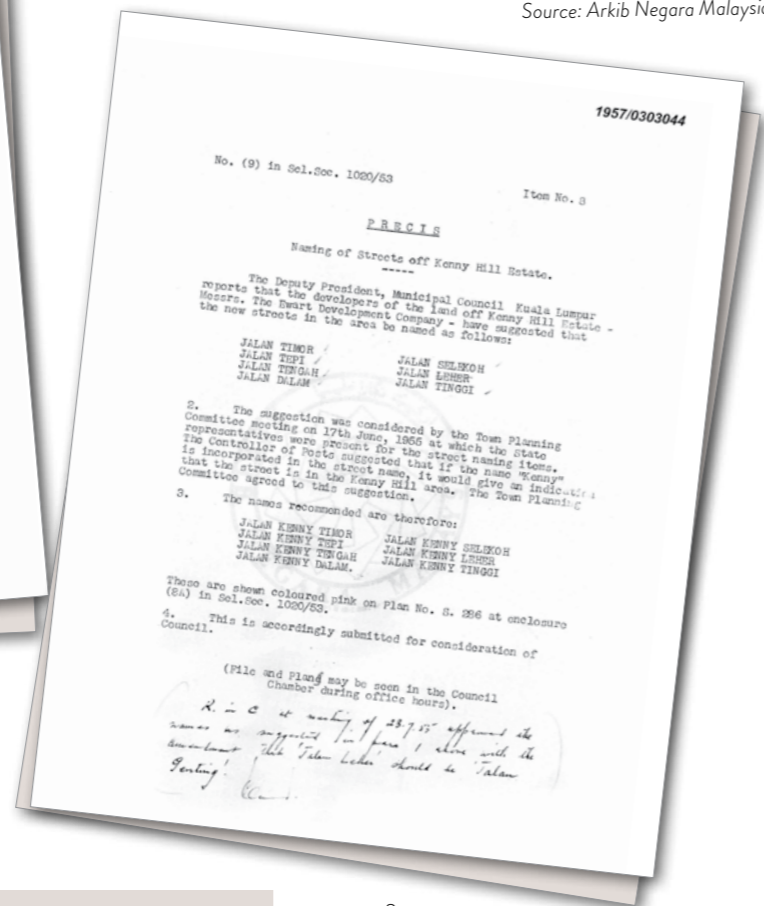
In Part Two of What’s In A Street Name, more insight will be shared about the names of selected roads in Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta. Which streets have undergone name changes, and which streets have retained their colonial names? Find out more in the next issue of Living On The Hill!



A street name plan dated 1960. Jalan Kenny Timor is now called Jalan Langgak Tunku. Can you spot Jalan Bukit Tunku, Dalaman Tunku, Jalan Lembah Tunku, and Taman Tunku?  
Source: Arkib Negara Malaysia



Source: Arkib Negara Malaysia



Source: Arkib Negara Malaysia

## USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

### DEWAN BANDARAYA KUALA LUMPUR (DBKL)

All matters / complaints – need only to call:  
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**1 800 88 3255**

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Alam Flora Hotline

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**2693 4132**

Encik Abdul Aziz  
Officer

**019 266 4099**

Stray Dogs and Cats

**4021 1682**

Snakes / Beehives (24 hours)

**9284 3434**

### Notes and Acknowledgements

\*FMS: Federated Malay States (Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan)

#### Sources:

- Various documents from Arkib Negara Malaysia (National Archives of Malaysia)
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