



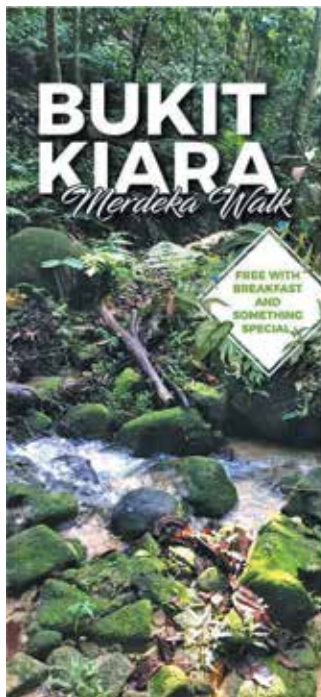
Living On TheHILL

DECEMBER
2019

A Publication of BTRA

www.btra.com.my

**This Monkey Business
Fire Safety At Home
MPP3 Malaysia Day Celebrations**



A lovely climb up
Bukit Kiara passing
through water,
secondary forest
etc

24th August 2019
8am | Saturday

Meeting Point:
SMK Seri Hartamas
Jalan 48/70A,
Desa Sri Hartamas

An initiative by:



Nature Park & Recreation
Singapore (NParks)

Co-organised by:



BUKIT SUNGAI

PIPTD

Supporting Partner:



4



7

- 1 The President Speaks
- 2 Community Capsules
- 4 My BT
- 6 Living
- 8 Vignettes
- 10 BTRA Membership Forms
- 20 The Last Word
- 21 Useful Contact Numbers



16

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

GUEST CONTRIBUTORS • Han K Hoh, Geoffrey Yeow

ADVERTISING btra.loth.ads@gmail.com • FREQUENCY Twice a year

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form without prior written permission of the Publisher. Permission is only deemed valid if approval is in writing. Living on the Hill holds all rights to contributions, text and images, unless previously agreed to in writing.



The President Speaks

And just like that, a new decade is upon us. The past 10 years have seen profound change in our world — for good and ill. You only have to Google “highlights of the decade” to find non-exhaustive lists of significant events, from geo-politics and social activism, to science and technology, popular culture, and natural disasters.

The on-going behind-the-scenes work between the BTRA Environment Committee and DBKL continues to strengthen our relationship. City and Public Service workers are now a common sight on the streets of Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta — sweeping, cleaning drains, mending roads, burst pipes or electrical wires, trimming over-grown trees and vegetation. To be sure, progress may seem slow in some cases, notably with regard to action against owners of derelict properties, but the proper process must be followed and collectively we are monitoring and staying on course.

I would like to draw residents’ attention to an issue that persists in our neighbourhood — the trapping of birds. Recently spotted in Taman Duta were men on motorcycles with equipment clearly for bird-trapping. I encourage residents to assist the authorities by reporting such matters, if you see them. Photos would help, or even speaking to the person directly and asking him to please stop. We don’t want to lose our avian wildlife and unbalance our fragile eco-system.

I was pleased that Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta residents participated in two more community events — one

nature walk in Mont Kiara, and the other a Malaysia Day celebration with residents of Bukit Damansara and Medan Damansara, and YB Hannah Yeoh. Apart from being neighbourly, such social community events help to foster better relations with other Residents’ Associations to strengthen our collective voice on common concerns about living in Kuala Lumpur.

Lastly, once again on membership to BTRA — homeowners and house occupiers living in Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta who are not members yet, please do join and support BTRA. Membership options are Ordinary and Associate (but Associate Membership requires at least one Ordinary Member from the same household). For RM200 a year (Ordinary member) or RM50 a year (Associate member), you are supporting one of the most active and engaged residents’ associations in KL.

Membership forms are available in every issue of this magazine, or to download from the BTRA website (www.btra.com.my). Forms are also available on the BTRA Mobile App, and you can pay through the App itself. If you have any questions about membership to BTRA, please email bukit.tunku.residents@gmail.com and we will respond.

Wishing everyone Merry Christmas, Happy New Year (Happy New Decade!) and Gong Xi Fa Cai.

Muthanna Abdullah

Feedback? Suggestions? Comments?

If you have feedback or comments on Living On The Hill, or would like to suggest topics for future issues, or wish to contribute an article, please don’t hesitate to email 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)
Living On The Hill is available at www.btra.com.my/newsletter.



BTRA Security Patrol Scheme Update

Since our last magazine some six months ago, there have been no home intrusions or attempted break-ins recorded among BTRA Security Patrol subscribers.

There was one incident of a serious break-in in Taman Duta; this home is not a subscriber to the BTRA Security Patrol scheme.

The patrol service began in 2002, and was upgraded in 2013 to three vehicles — two patrol cars (1900 hours to 0700 hours) and a motorbike (2300 hours to 0700 hours).

One round of day patrols is also done by car. They patrol the neighbourhood daily, and will respond to distress calls (of subscribers only). The service offers improved security on two fronts — general deterrence and quick response.

General Deterrence

General deterrence is best achieved via visibility. To this end, the guards are constantly on the move, except for scheduled rest breaks. The patrol route is shaped by the subscriber base, so some parts of Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta may not be visited at all.

Visits to each subscriber address are recorded in an electronic clocking device, with the data downloaded to a PC and subsequently analysed by the task force each month.

The number of visits will depend on the weather (cannot clock visits when it rains, but the car continues to patrol), and distress calls (responding to calls leaves less time to patrol).

Each car manages four rounds of street patrol (clock at selected houses on each street) from 1900 hours to 2300 hours, and from 2300 hours to 0300 hours; two rounds of house-by-house clocking will be done with both guards in one car.

From 0300 hours to 0700 hours, two cars will again be operating, conducting four rounds each. In addition to the two cars, the motorbike patrol unit conducts three rounds of full clocking if there are no interruptions.

The patrol car movements are also tracked by satellite, using a GPS device. This is particularly useful to verify its movement during rainy weather, when electronic clocking is not practical.

Quick Response

Subscribers may call the Supervisor to report a break-in, disturbance or suspicious situation near your house. He will then dispatch the patrol car/s. The supervisor's contact number is provided to all subscribers.

Caller ID

Subscribers are encouraged to provide telephone numbers of residents, so that incoming calls can be traced to the caller's address. In the panic of a break-in, the caller may not be coherent, and may not be able to articulate the address over the phone.

Dialogue with Sentul District Police in November 2017

In November 2017, BTRA organised a dialogue with Sentul District Police to better understand how to be more effective in our neighbourhood crime watch. According to statistics, the most popular time for home intrusions is around 2:00am. However, there have been cases where break-ins have taken place in broad daylight. Police analysis suggests that these are mostly opportunistic rather than the work of organised syndicates.

Sentul Police Officers also said that the crime rate in our community is very low compared to other residential neighbourhoods. This may be attributed to the presence of security guards and the nightly neighbourhood patrol — visibility of law enforcement personnel is known to be a deterrent to crime in general.

Sentul District Police Officers shared some key points and recommended actions:

- If there is a security breach (e.g. home intrusion, vandalism, suspicious or unauthorised activity on premises), call the Sentul District Police to report. A patrol will be dispatched to the location within 15 minutes. Residents who subscribe to the BTRA Security Scheme may also contact BTRA Security Patrol through the BTRA Mobile App, who will also alert Sentul District Police.
- If a resident should encounter or surprise an intruder(s) at home, the first course of action is to ensure safety of others in the household. If possible, try to leave the house, or lock yourselves in a room. Call the police as soon as possible.
- In the event of aggression on the part of the intruder(s), self-defence using home weapons (e.g. stick, umbrella, decorative ornament) to disarm or incapacitate the intruders is acceptable and will be considered under the law.
- A video mobile app is available for instant and immediate connection to Sentul District Police. Download **VPS PDRM** to your smartphone to take photos and send reports directly to the police.
- The main difference between private security guards and police officers is that security guards are not authorised to carry firearms.
- Registration for police boxes at household gates does not necessarily mean you will be given one. The BTRA Security Patrol serves the same purpose, and more regularly than the police patrol because the BTRA Security Patrol is a dedicated service to our neighbourhoods.



Subscribe to BTRA Security Patrol

Subscribers to the BTRA Security Patrol scheme can expect up to nine visits per night. Some residents employ their own private security service. The BTRA Security Patrol serves as an additional layer of security, as well as provides more resources, if the need arises.

Forms are in every issue of *Living On The Hill*, downloadable on the BTRA website (www.btra.com.my), and on the Mobile App.

Back to Nature in Mont Kiara trails

Following the successful nature walk in Taman Tugu earlier this year, the “Back-To-Nature-Again” adventures continued with a mini-hike along Mont Kiara’s woodland trails.

On Saturday 24th August, at about 0800 hours, 15 to 20 residents from Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta gathered at SMK Seri Hartamas School with residents from Medan Damansara and Bukit Damansara for a walk organised by MPP Sub-Zone 3 Segambut committee members.

About 80 people joined the Bukit Kiara Merdeka hike (which required pre-registration through an online BTRA circular), setting off just after 0800 hours, ably led by George Gill, our group photographer and guide.

George treks regularly among the many trails but picked an easy one for first-timers to Mont Kiara. Halfway along the route the group stopped to rest and refill water bottles, thanks to good preparation by the guides. The group continued to walk along a stream, narrowly missing a sleeping (and harmless) snake! The

oldest in the group was Dr Jeya, who is a sprightly 85-year-old, while the youngest was a toddler carried by her father for the better part of two hours!

Climbing and descending a steep hill proved the most arduous part of the hike. Fortunately, there were a quite a few people with experience on this trail – and the walkers appreciated the many helping hands!

The trail was shared with passing cyclists who called out as they sped pass. The group took approximately two hours to reach Taman Tun Dr Ismail, where a delicious, healthy breakfast was waiting, catered by PichaEats (who do superlative work giving refugees dignity and hope). The falafel, hummus, sandwiches, coffee and juices were a welcome and surprising treat!

The walk was thoroughly enjoyable, interesting, as well as good for health. It was the perfect activity for residents before the dreaded KL haze set in a scant two weeks later!



About This Monkey Business...

Residents of Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta have often expressed exasperation, frustration and outrage at some of the urban wildlife in our midst. Among the most prominent is the monkeys that roam our streets, and are bold enough to wander into our yards to help themselves to food, or to taunt our pets.

The urban human-monkey conflict is not new. The Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Perhilitan) reports that more than 60 percent of wildlife complaints are about monkeys. It is well acknowledged that human encroachment, monkey feeding, poor animal tourism management, and rapid urban development have forced monkeys to adapt to urban environments – being closer to humans than ever before.

In June 2019, **Animal Neighbours Project** (ANP), a project aimed at helping communities manage urban wildlife conflict, held a community workshop – “Human-Monkey Conflict in Urban Areas” – with BTRA at Taman Tugu Nursery. Perhilitan and DBKL representatives also attended the session.

BTRA proposed a survey for residents of Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta. The purpose is to better understand



ANP-BTRA workshop at Taman Tugu Nursery

key issues faced by residents with regard to the perennial human-monkey conflict. The feedback would further enable understanding as to what residents feel about monkeys in the area so that mitigation strategies proposed would meet realistic expectations.

To this end, ANP and BTRA collaborated to develop a questionnaire that can be delivered online or as hard copy. It is hoped that information and data on monkey sightings (including time and size of the troop), issues caused by human monkey conflict, residents' own initiatives and perspectives towards reducing conflict, can be collected and analysed for effective next steps.

Through this Human-Monkey Relationship survey, ANP and BTRA aim to understand the magnitude of the human-monkey conflict in Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta, with a view to developing practical and feasible strategies that can be implemented in the area. The long-term aim of the project is to achieve better human-monkey welfare in urban settings and promote sustainable community awareness, while reducing such practices as monkey-trapping and culling.



Dr Sharmini Paramasivam, founder, Animal Neighbours Project

ABOUT ANIMAL NEIGHBOURS PROJECT

ANP is a community project that aims to reduce human-monkey conflict using research and awareness. The project was established and founded in 2013 by Dr Sharmini Paramasivam, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) alumni from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. Dr Sharmini is currently based at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Surrey in the United Kingdom.

In 2018, the ANP won a Global Challenges Research Fund grant from Research England in collaboration with Universiti

Putra Malaysia. The GCRF project aims to develop a multi-disciplinary stakeholder partnership to address the human-monkey conflict in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur.

To date, ANP has engaged with local communities in urban areas that are directly affected by the human-monkey conflict, among them Bangi, Bukit Gasing, Bukit Kiara, Bukit Jalil, Taman Tugu, Bukit Tunku, and Kuala Selangor, to assess the severity of the problem.

The project continues to expand and engage with more communities in Malaysia. ANP is actively looking for volunteers who are interested to participate and support this cause. Contact ANP at animalneighbours@gmail.com or send a message on its Facebook page.

Animal Neighbours Project Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/animalneighbours/>

Fire Safety and Prevention for the Home

Our homes are our castles, and it would be an unspeakable tragedy if disaster struck and inflicted material damage as well as loss of life. A fire at home would be one such disaster, but fortunately, there are ways that help to prevent a fire from happening, or make a quick escape if one has already started but has not reached its flashover point.

MPP3, the sub-zone within the Segambut constituency that covers Bukit Tunku, Bukit Damansara and Medan Damansara, organised a talk on fire safety and prevention on Saturday 2nd November for members of these three residents' associations. Held at Cempaka International School in Bukit Damansara, the session included a demonstration on how to deal with Stage 1 small fires in the home, followed by a more complete presentation explaining the ingredients of fire, and



YB Hannah Yeoh shares her experience

possible flashpoints within a home. And there are many more than we can imagine!

The demonstration and presentation were given by Flamoff (www.flamoff.net), a home-grown company that manufactures and markets fire-fighting solutions for home and workplace. These solutions are easy to use to extinguish small fires and create a path out, if trapped. The idea is to get away from the budding flames and call the Fire Services as quickly as possible.

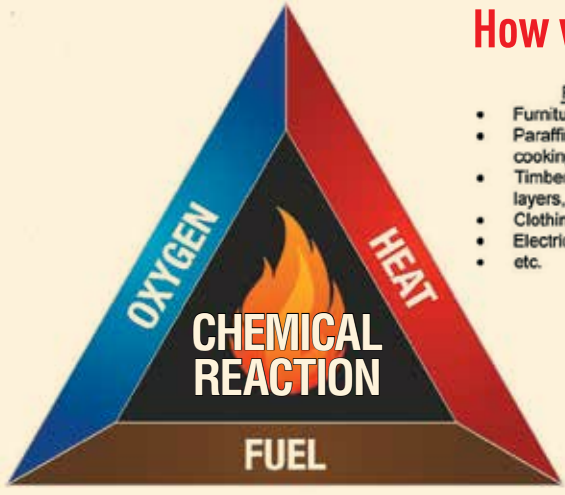
YB Hannah Yeoh, who joined the Saturday event, said that when she first attended the talk during her stint at Subang Jaya, it changed the way she sleeps at home. Having some fire safety products in the bedroom and in strategic spots in the house provided a sense of security in the event of a fire outbreak.

According to Flamoff, the time it takes for a fire to reach its flashover point — the point at which it becomes out of control and all-consuming — has reduced over the years. One reason is that many items in the home are now made with synthetic materials and burn much faster — furniture, curtains or drapes, carpets, sofas, and beddings are some examples. Then there are things such as cooking oil, paint, thinner, alcohol, cosmetics and make-up, computers, and compressors — any number of everyday items we have and use.

Fires can reach flashover points in under five minutes, whereas it may take as long as 15 minutes for fire and rescue services to reach your house.

A promotional poster for a fire safety event. The top half features a photograph of a house with significant roof damage. A yellow speech bubble on the left says 'All are welcome'. The main text is in bold yellow and white on a red background. It reads: 'FIRE SAFETY & AWARENESS : PREVENT, PREPARE, PLAN', 'Two fires in Bukit Damansara; 13 July and 30 August Could your house be next?', 'Saturday, 2nd Nov 2019 | 3 pm', 'Venue: Cempaka International School Damansara Heights, Pinggiran Setiabudi, Bukit Damansara', and 'Officiated by: YB Hannah Yeoh'. At the bottom, there are logos for the organizing bodies: MPP3, Bukit Tunku Residents' Association, MPP3, Cempaka Schools Malaysia, Bomba Sri Hartamas, and Flamoff. A registration link is provided at the bottom: 'Register online at: http://bit.ly/MPP3FireTalk'.

How will heat get in?



Fire Triangle

Fuel sources:

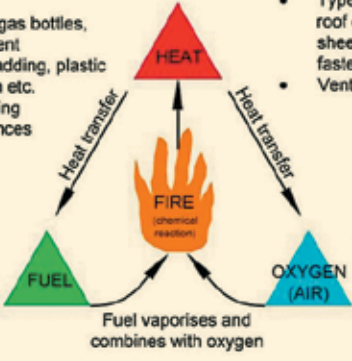
- Furniture
- Paraffin stoves, gas bottles, cooking equipment
- Timber walls, cladding, plastic layers, insulation etc.
- Clothing & bedding
- Electrical appliances etc.

Influences on heat retained:

- Type and thickness of walls and roof construction. Thin steel sheets allow heat to radiate out faster than timber boards.
- Ventilation as below.

Influences on ventilation:

- Number and position of doors & windows.
- Spaces between floors, walls and roof.
- Changes occur due to windows breaking, walls opening, people intervening, structure collapse etc.



Fuel vaporises and combines with oxygen

1. Electrical short circuit, appliance malfunction, etc
2. Kitchen cooking oil fires
3. Cigarettes not properly put out

These two timelines suggest a less than favourable outcome: if there isn't already an escape plan to deal with a home fire, waiting for your local Fire and Rescue Services to arrive could be fatal.

So, what are the key things one can do to either prevent a fire or deal with a small-ish fire at home?

1. Install smoke detectors in specific rooms; these are essential to buy time to get up and get out;
2. Ensure distribution boxes are well maintained and wall electrical points are not overloaded with multiple extension cords;
3. Have a fire escape plan for your home (detached houses and condominiums) that includes fire-retardant protective covering for residents and a route out;
4. For those living in condos, know where the fire exits are and make sure they aren't blocked; and
5. Don't leave items that can actually cause a fire

Flamoff products for home fire safety



unattended or out of sight, e.g. scented candles, incense sticks or tea light candles.

On whether keeping a fire extinguisher at home is useful: the short answer is **“it depends”**. Ask yourself: is my fire extinguisher in good working condition? When did I last get it checked? Where is it? Is it easy to get to? Do I remember how to use it? Who else knows how to use it?

One might want to consider other quick fire-fighting options for fires still in Stages 1 and 2.

All of us can take basic fire prevention measures to minimise the risk to ourselves, our family, pets, domestic workers, and our homes.

For further information: www.flamoff.net

- Haris Mohamed Ibrahim: 012 207 0534
- Wilson Yew: 012 232 0393

Haris Ibrahim Mohamed (centre) and Wilson Yew (foreground) with Sri Hartamas Fire and Rescue team













Learning to Drive (and other things) from Kart Racing

Kart racing, sometimes known as go-kart racing, is commonly viewed as a stepping stone to the elite ranks of motorsports, such as Formula One. Indeed, many former F1 champions started their motorsports careers with the humble kart.

Closer to home, fitness and wellness advocate Melissa Zecha took on kart racing for a specific reason — not to build a career in motorsports, but to better handle and enjoy driving her newly acquired sports car. Along this learning journey, other valuable lessons surfaced.

It started in 2016, when Melissa acquired a Lotus sport car, and soon realised that she wasn't getting maximum enjoyment from driving it.

"It sounds funny, but I didn't know how to drive my Lotus. It was too powerful," said Melissa. She then met a friend who suggested karting to better understand how to handle her new baby. Before fully committing to buying her own kart and all the requisite gear for the motorsport, she borrowed a kart (125cc 2-stroke category) and learnt the basics.

INITIAL KARTING <i>Competizione</i> 2018 CHAMPIONSHIP TOP 10		
1	 VINCENT LIM	691 pts
2	 HAQIMI	608 pts
3	 RASHID	578 pts
4	 RIN FALCONE	552 pts
5	 IMRAN	525 pts
6	 MELISSA	517 pts
7	 KABIR	498 pts
8	 ANDREW F.	428 pts
9	 MUN HOE	383 pts
10	 KS NG	380 pts



"Sure enough, after a few sessions, going around corners was smoother, and I felt more confident with my handling," she said. She also admitted getting sick acclimatising to the speed, heat, lack of oxygen under the helmet, G-force and noise level.

"I realised that my arm strength was weak, which was a problem when I need to go around corners or make sudden turns," a frequent occurrence.

So how did she overcome this barrier? "Weight training and swimming helped a lot. When I started, I was getting sick after three or four rounds. But upping my weight training, I could last 10 rounds. I could drive faster, more efficiently, and achieved my speed target of 52 seconds per lap [at Sepang] to qualify for competition within 12 months," Melissa said proudly.



INITIAL KARTING *Competizione*
2018 OVERALL **6th PLACE**

Competitive success came in 2018, when Melissa raced 11 out of 12 Amateur races that year. “I was competing against men between 30 and 40 years old, and I was the only female competitor,” declared Melissa, who is a youthful 45++. Her times exceeded those of many competitors, some of whom were, it has to be said, slightly aghast. In fact, such were her skills that she finished the year placed 6th out of 40, as well as taking a podium place in a few of the races.

So, did she achieve her original objective, which was to better handle and enjoy her Lotus?

“The short answer is yes, but only for a while. The truth is that I sold my Lotus during the year so I could continue kart racing. I discovered that I relished the grime and grit of kart racing more than owning my Lotus! It was sad to say goodbye to it, but I have no regrets. What I’ve gained from karting outweighs owning a sports car,” Melissa declared.

In 2019, Melissa traded in her old kart and acquired a next-level kart, a DD2. “With my new kart, I felt I had to start from scratch, almost. I needed to learn a different driving style, other techniques for braking and cornering, improve reflexes, footwork. But most of all, my speed slowed to 55 seconds per lap. I need to be faster to qualify for competition.”

What kind of activity helps to improve reflexes and footwork? For Melissa, it was drumming.

“Again, this might sound a bit strange. I was watching my niece play football one day and noticed her footwork was deft and smart. I asked her what she did to achieve that level of footwork, and she told me she plays drums. When I thought about drumming as a way to improve reflexes and footwork, it made sense. You have to switch from left to right, and right to left, sharply and quickly. So, I started drumming lessons,” Melissa elaborated, matter-of-factly.

As for those other valuable lessons, Melissa said, among other things, she could feel overall improvement in her interaction with others, and in handling adversity.

“I could see the impact one’s words and behaviour have on other people. How I speak to someone, or vice versa, and what effect that would have, for example. Also, avoid reacting in the heat of the moment, because that



Melissa Zecha is a fitness and wellness advocate and enthusiast, and qualified instructor of gyrotonic and pilates. Melissa teaches group classes, as well as private sessions, for anyone who wants to maintain optimum levels of strength and flexibility. Interested parties may contact Melissa at 012 200 1998 to schedule appointments.

will lead to costly errors, especially during a race! And most of all, finish the race. It’s easy to give up when you’re trailing, but I always made it a point to make it to the chequered flag. Finishing the race, even if you’re last, shows your mettle,” Melissa shared.

Still karting, but not racing until she qualifies, Melissa continues to teach gyrotonic and pilates, which she calls her day job.

“Karting, drumming, gyrotonic and pilates make strange bedfellows, but for me, the disciplines complement each other. What matters is the outcome, and I can confidently say that I’m now a more skilful driver, more centred in mind and stronger overall. That’s a good outcome, at any age!”



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 : Adam Smurthwaite
15 Dalam 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 for a membership form)

Subscriber's Name

Bank

Cheque No - Amount RM .

House Address

Email Address

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

*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

Fast Car, Slow Drive

Han K Hoh

How does one experience a fantastic MRT journey? Go for a memorable **Malaysian Road Trip!**

Gran Turismo (Italian for “grand touring” and typically abbreviated GT) cars are designed for high performance, luxury travel over long distances — a “Grand Tour”, so to speak. British Marques hold top spot today (think Bentley or Aston Martin), but the chance to test Germany’s sporting interpretation — a Porsche 911 Carrera GTS (Gran Turismo Sport) — over 1,300km across seven states resulted in a wonderful *Cuti-Cuti Malaysia* week!

Rise and Shine, and Hit The Road!

An early morning start from Taman Duta was bolstered by breakfast in Ipoh at a famous *Chee Cheong Fun* stall. The apocryphal story behind its fame was that the seller’s father once served a customer who, after finishing his meal, left payment on the counter and walked away. When the vendor scooped the money up, he found he was paid in “Hell Money” (an offering that many Chinese people burn during funerals, and the currency in the afterlife!) There are many cemeteries in Ipoh and the legend grew that his food was so good, people came back from the dead to eat it — although some cynics say that he started the story himself for self-promotion!



Taking the MRT through Selangor, Perak, Penang, Kedah, Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang

After breakfast, the first leg of the trip continued to the old part of Georgetown, Penang — a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2008. Recognised as having a “unique architectural and cultural townscape without parallel anywhere in East and Southeast Asia,” Georgetown contains one of the largest collections of pre-war buildings in Southeast Asia, some decorated with murals and wrought iron street art.

Accommodation for the first two nights was at Seven Terraces — a heritage hotel that celebrates Penang’s history while offering one of the best locations in old Georgetown. The architecture and authentic interior provides peace and seclusion in an otherwise hectic area, with the popular hawker stalls of Chulia Street and the bars of Love Lane close by. A mere five-minute walk away is Masjid Kapitan Keling and next to it, Nasi Kandar Beratur — where queues starting from 10pm are *de riguer*. Many say it’s well worth the minimum 30-minute wait!



After a relaxing weekend in Penang, the next stop was Baling in Kedah, en route to an eco-resort in Pulau Banding in Perak. Baling is known for its 1955 summit when Tunku Abdul Rahman and the British met with Chin Peng to end the Malayan Emergency. The Baling Talks ultimately broke down, but the town has kept up with the times — including a Pizza Hut in the town centre! Lunch was at local favourite Laksa Tok Weng. Cost? A grand total of RM8.00 (including drinks)!

Our arrival at Belum Rainforest Resort was greeted aptly...with rain! Watching nature at work over one of the world's oldest rainforests (130 million years old — an ecosystem older than both the Amazon and the Congo) provided stark contrast to the man-made hub-bub of Georgetown. Walking around the resort, situated on a slope beside Temenggong Lake with multiple viewing levels, you can see hornbills, monkeys and even a resident toman (giant snakehead fish). Royal Belum State Park is also the place to spot Rafflesia, the largest single flower of any flowering plant in the world — however, you need to apply seven days in advance for permission to enter, so planning is required!

What's a visit to Hulu Perak without eating a FRESH freshwater fish dinner? It's a 40km drive from the resort to Grik, the seat of the district, but well worth it for a tasty 1.3kg tilapia in an unpretentious shophouse — it was the smallest fish they had, as well! Two nights and a lymphatic drainage massage later, we left the resort to make our way to the beaches of Malaysia's East Coast.

From Eco Resort to Beach Resort...

The road from Belum in Perak to Kelantan is posted with numerous “Elephant Crossing” warning signs — so we hoped to see some of these majestic creatures

Dusk settles after the rain at Belum Rainforest Resort



Authentic heritage feel in Seven Terraces hotel room, Dom Perignon optional



Kampong roadside parking near Laksa Tok Weng, Baling



Elephant sighting! Are they on a road trip, too?

by the roadside while driving. We did — but not as we envisioned! We passed two elephants being relocated in a truck as we made our way to a delicious Nasi Kerabu lunch in Bukit Bunga, less than 1km south of the Friendship Bridge that marks the Malaysia / Thailand Border.

Yum Yum!





1



2

1. Room with a view...from the window...
2. ...and from the door.

The Porsche is pure teutonic efficiency and before long, we arrived in beautiful Terengganu, specifically Tanjong Jara Resort, where we were greeted by a single hit of their Entrance Gong. Having stayed here in the past, we noticed the stunning hand-carved wooden chandelier in the lobby had been removed, but fortunately the rest of the hotel retained all its customary charm, with peacocks strolling freely between the beach chalets.

Our reservation was billed as “sea view room with fabulous breakfast” — more marketing hype, or so we thought. What a delightful surprise to discover that breakfast was indeed fabulous — with a bewildering choice of delicious western and local fare (such as Nasi Dagang) that changed every day.

We also enjoyed the resort’s “Bakar Ikan Bawah Pasir” dinner, where the main course is baked under the sand, right beside the dining table. We were told this was how East Coast fishermen caught in a monsoon and forced to spend the night on nearby Pulau Tenggol cooked



their food (and warmed their bed). Dinner ended under a full Moon!

Service throughout our stay was truly excellent, with housekeeping staff pampering us by preparing a relaxing *Mandi Bunga* and surprising us with a towel “elephant” as homage to our elephant sighting!

Homeward Bound

Our departure merited three gong hits and many friendly waves, and soon it was a straightforward highway jaunt back to KL, broken only by a coffee stop at Hai Peng Kopitiam, Kemaman — practically a mandatory pit stop for coffee lovers visiting the East Coast since the 1940s.

Make the acronym MRT mean more than mere urban transport! (Abject apologies for the abundant alliteration...). Undertaking a “Grand Tour” by road to visit a living cultural heritage neighbourhood, a verdant rainforest and a pristine beach whilst indulging in fabulous local food reveals why Malaysia will simply amaze you.

Life is, without doubt, a journey, and not a destination.



Han K Hoh lived in Bukit Tunku for 19 years, then moved to Taman Duta, where he has lived for the last 30 years. A chemist trained by the late Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson (Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1973), Han’s life is an equilibrium of playing golf, drinking wine, and driving Porsches and VWs quickly (not at the same time!) on one side, and having happy times with family and friends on the other.

THE EPITOME OF FINER LIVING

ARTIST IMPRESSION OF AIRA RESIDENCE

Developer: Selangor Properties Sdn. Bhd. (5199-X) • Address: Level 2, Block D, Kompleks Pejabat Damansara, Jalan Dungun, Damansara Heights, 50490 Kuala Lumpur. Tel: 03-20941122 • Developer's license no.: 14467-1/08-2020/02563 (L) • Validity period: 28/08/2019 – 27/08/2020 • Advertising & Sales Permit no.: 14467-1/08-2020/02563 (P) • Validity period: 28/08/2019 – 27/08/2020 • Approving Authority: Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur • Approved building plan no.: BP T2 OSC 2015 3240 • Type of Property: Condominium • Tenure of Land: Freehold • Expected Completion Date: August 2020 • Remaining Units: 64 units • Built up area: Type A1 – 5,253 sf; Type A2 – 5,351 sf; Type B – 4,489 sf; Type C – 7,679 sf; Type D – 7,201 sf; Type E – 5,856 sf; Type F – 6,383 sf; Penthouses – 6,566 – 7,730 sf • Minimum Price: RM 5,284,600.00 • Maximum Price: RM 14,914,800.00 • Type A1, A2, B, C – 3 Carparks • Type D, E, F – 4 Carparks • Penthouse – 4 Carparks • Bumiputera Discount: 5% • Encumbrances: NIL • This advertisement has been approved by National Housing Department.

Refers to RESIDENSI AIRA DAMANSARA

A prestigious development by:



Selangor Properties Sdn. Bhd. (5199-X)

Between a Sock and An Expensive Hobby

Geoffrey Yeow

Just like many other aspects of my life, my obsession with socks was borne out of practicality. Two years ago, I started participating in CrossFit workouts (a functional sport involving elements of Olympic weightlifting, gymnastics and high-intensity workouts). Barely two weeks in, my shins were visibly bruised and scraped from constant contact with the barbell.

So, I went into my wife's sock stash and started wearing the ones that could reach high up, regardless of how ridiculous they may look. It was then that I began to look for more socks wherever I went, not only to serve its functional purpose but also for aesthetic appeal. My collection of socks has grown to a healthy (or unhealthy?) 75 pairs. They have followed me home from various places, among them England, Hong Kong, Italy, Singapore and Thailand.

Hot Sauce

When I was studying for my master's in the UK, my housemate and I would cook very simple meals. In keeping with our students' budget, it would primarily be a pot of rice, grilled chicken breast and a plate of broccoli. We would be the first to admit it was not the most flavourful of meals. However, with the added kick

of the Sriracha sauce, we would happily gobble down the food before diving back into our books. Wearing this pair of socks reminds me of the cold weather and the warmth that would come from consuming this sauce. An ode to simpler times.

Mahjong, anyone?

An indelible memory of my childhood is that every Chinese New Year, members of the older generation would gather to play Mahjong for hours on end in my parents' hometowns. My cousins would play card games or with firecrackers, but my attention was always drawn to Mahjong. Listening to the sound of tiles being shuffled, I sat next to my father, trying to understand his strategies in silence. I saw when he took calculated risks, which in my later life, I realised was symptomatic of how he made business decisions.

After a few years observing, he gave me the chance to take over his game for short rounds. Nervous and proud at the same time, I held my own against the wily aunts and uncles. Seeing these socks reminds me of how my father taught me life lessons — not by telling but by showing.

Mischief Managed!

As a teenager, I hadn't yet cultivated a strong reading habit. My mother would rent Archie comics to encourage me, but I found it hard to read a full novel from start to finish. That was until Harry Potter came along. I was 11 years old in school when the girl sitting next to me was reading Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. She was completely engrossed in the story and I was sold.





WELCOME TO THE HIGH POINT OF LUXURY. AIRA AWAITS.

Indulge in spectacular views of the panoramic skyline and glimpse the myriad colours of the sunset while the cityscape transforms around you.

AIRA Residence is SPB's exemplar of luxury living. This two-tower development is conveniently and prestigiously situated at 8, Jalan Batai in the coveted lands of Damansara Heights.

ARTIST IMPRESSION OF AIRA RESIDENCE

AIRA
RESIDENCE

By private viewing appointment only. 1800 88 5111, airaresidence.com

Developer: Selangor Properties Sdn. Bhd. (5199-X) • Address: Level 2, Block D, Kompleks Pejabat Damansara, Jalan Dungun, Damansara Heights, 50490 Kuala Lumpur. Tel: 03-20941122 • Developer's license no.: 14467-1/08-2020/02563 (L) • Validity period: 28/08/2019 – 27/08/2020 • Advertising & Sales Permit no.: 14467-1/08-2020/02563 (P) • Validity period: 28/08/2019 – 27/08/2020 • Approving Authority: Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur • Approved building plan no.: BP T2 OSC 2015 3240 • Type of Property: Condominium • Tenure of Land: Freehold • Expected Completion Date: August 2020 • Remaining Units: 64 units • Built up area: Type A1 – 5,253 sf; Type A2 – 5,351 sf; Type B – 4,489 sf; Type C – 2,679 sf; Type D – 7,201 sf; Type E – 5,856 sf; Type F – 6,383 sf; Penthouses – 6,566 – 7,730 sf • Minimum Price: RM 5,284,600.00 • Maximum Price: RM 14,914,800.00 • Type A1, A2, B, C – 3 Carparks • Type D, E, F – 4 Carparks • Penthouse – 4 Carparks • Bumiputera Discount: 5% • Encumbrances: NIL • This advertisement has been approved by National Housing Department.

Refers to RESIDENSI AIRA DAMANSARA

A prestigious development by:



Selangor Properties Sdn. Bhd. (5199-X)

That evening, I went home and asked my mother if I could have the book. The Harry Potter series opened my mind to many aspects in life, such as friendship, loyalty, purpose, pain and loss. Reading about those mischievous students roaming the castle at night with a secret map and an invisibility cloak just filled my curious mind with adventure. When I saw these socks at Typo, I was reminded of J. K. Rowling introducing a world of possibilities to an 11-year-old.

Accidental (Alien) Artist

Not only do I find the wordplay of this one hilarious, the green alien holds personal significance. Back in primary school, we had art classes from ages 13 to 15. Each end of year, there would be an exam to test what we had learnt.

Not being a talented artist myself, my father devised an ingenious plan to help me pass the grade with minimal skill required. He painted an alien in a spaceship chasing a boy — that was all part of a dream. We lowered the difficulty level even further by omitting the boy's torso and merely painting his legs running away from the frame.

Surprisingly, the teacher found it artistic enough to award a passing grade and so I did the exact same painting a year after! The running joke in the family is that my competency in art extends only as far as painting green aliens and body-less humans.

Pac Man

Rewind to my childhood years, Pac Man was one game that I was certainly addicted to. I would spend hours trying to beat those high scores. The sound effects, the song and those menacing colours have been seared into my brain for all time.

Geoffrey Yeow lives in Bukit Tunku and is a young entrepreneur who keeps himself busy with a day job, participating in health and fitness programmes, and indulging in quirky hobbies after-hours.



Celebrating Malaysia Day with YB Hannah Yeoh and neighbours



The date 16th September is special in Malaysian history, and history was created yet again when the Resident Associations of Bukit Tunku, Bukit Damansara and Medan Damansara jointly celebrated the 57th anniversary of the establishment of the Malaysian federation with a party.

Held on Saturday 14th September, the day started bright and early with rousing renditions of Setia, Sejahtera Malaysia, Tanah Pusak (an oldie, but a goodie!) and of course, our National Anthem: *Negaraku*.

What followed was a dazzling programme that included songs, dances, speeches (by a young man who described his harrowing digital detox experience) prize giving, a BOMBA demonstration and a creative, impactful pantomime by PDRM!

The venue was Cempaka International School, a last-minute change to take into account the awful haze shrouding Kuala Lumpur. The sky was grey, but the mood was definitely the opposite.

The Head of the Cempaka Education Group welcomed everyone with warmth and sincerity. He added it was his pleasure that the school could stand-in as host for the event as Cempaka has had a presence in the community for close to 30 years, and then generously offered the use of the school hall for any similar community event in future FOR FREE! Wow and thank you, Cempaka!

YB Hannah Yeoh then addressed the residents, explaining that this was a celebration with Sub-zone 3 (Bukit Damansara, Medan Damansara and Bukit Tunku) of the six Subzones of her constituency.

Segambut is one of the biggest areas and covers:

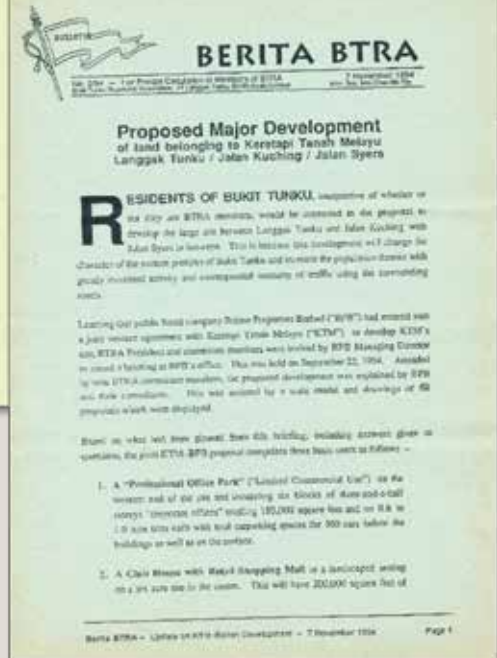
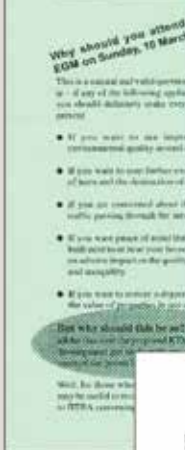
- Sub-zone 1** Menjalara, Maluri, Desa Park City and Sunway SPK;
- Sub-zone 2** TTDI, Kampung Sungai Penchala and Kampung Bukit Lanjan;
- Sub-zone 3** Bukit Damansara, Medan Damansara and Bukit Tunku;
- Sub zone 4** Segambut, Mont Kiara, Hartamas and Taman Sri Sinar;
- Sub-zone 5** Dutamas, Taman Cuepacs and Sri Segambut; and
- Sub-zone 6** Taman Kok Doh, Taman City Kanan, Taman Segambut, Kampung Kasipillay and Kolam Ayer.

She reiterated her desire to have more events at Community level with the hope that these would be inter-generational, including Malaysians young and old. To this end, YB Hannah pledged RM5,000 to each of the three Resident Associations present. She also encouraged the audience to take their vacations locally, citing her own diverse experiences as an MP, which brought her out of her Subang Jaya shell and helped her better understand her country. She suggested that instead of thinking of London or Singapore, we **Cuti-Cuti Malaysia!**

After blowing out the candles on a Malaysia Day Birthday Cake with the Heads of the Residents' Association, everyone adjourned to the School Canteen for fellowship and food supplied by Tanglin Nasi Lemak and PichaEats. All registered participants received a Goodie Bag, and if desired, took home a sapling from the Free Tree Society.

A walk down Memory Lane

Started in 1992 as the main communications bulletin, the modest **Berita BTRA** went through a few iterations in layout, evolved into BTRA Bulletin in 2005/2006, and subsequently into a magazine format, **Living On The Hill**. Its purpose remains the same – to keep residents of Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta informed of fundamental issues related to living in this community and in KL in general.





USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

DEWAN BANDARAYA KUALA LUMPUR (DBKL)

All matters / complaints – need only to call: DBKL Hotline (24 hours) www.dbkl.gov.my **1.800.88.3255**

ADDITIONAL DETAILS FOR DBKL

Public Health (Bukit Tunku-Damansara Zone) • Abandoned houses / land / swimming pools • Breeding mosquitoes, festering rodents, snakes • Fogging of public drains	General Line 2027.5300
Enforcement 24 hours – Emergency	4024.4424
Maintenance of drains, broken drains, structural problems	General Line 2617.9392
Maintenance of monsoon drains	General Line 2617.9453
Tree trimming / overhanging branches	2693.4132
Stray cats and dogs	4021.1682
Snakes / Beehives (24 hours)	9284.3434

OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES

ALAM FLORA

www.alamflora.com.my

Garbage collection, cleaning, clearing of drains,
sweeping of roads, grass cutting, recycling

1.800.88.7472
General Line **2052.7922**

POLICE

Sentul Station **4048.2222**
Bukit Aman **2266.2222**
KL Traffic Police **2071.9999**

SYABAS (water works)

www.syabas.com.my
Puspel 24 hours
Email: puspel@syabas.com.my

1800.88.5252

TNB (electricity)

www.tnb.com.my
Breakdown, power failure, streetlights

15454

INDAH WATER KONSORTIUM

www.iwk.com.my
Service/Operations Enquiries

2284.7828

TELEKOM MALAYSIA

www.tm.com.my
Dropped telephone cables, faulty lines

100

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT **1800.88.2727**

Open Burning – 24 hours

Phone numbers updated 9.1.2017 • Websites added 20.12.2016

