

Living On TheHILL

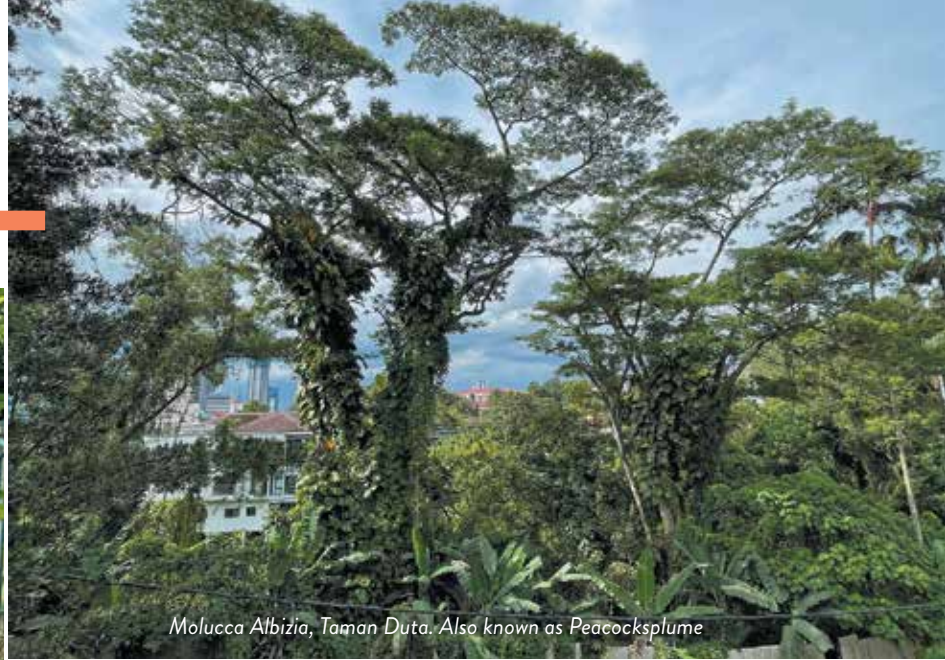
December
2022

A Publication of BTRA

www.btra.com.my

Molucca Albizia, a species of Falcataria





Molucca Albizia, Taman Duta. Also known as Peacocksplume



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The President Speaks

In the June 2022 issue, I mentioned a major undertaking to create an inventory of trees in our neighbourhoods. The purpose is two-fold: to preserve and conserve our natural environment in a sustainable manner; and to encourage the authorities to maintain our area as a residential one.

The Edge reported in its 19th September issue that a large parcel of land along Jalan Tuanku Abdul Halim (Jalan Duta) near Istana Negara has been re-zoned from residential to commercial. I suppose this means yet another high-density mixed development project in the foreseeable future. This is not good news for us. According to the story, the owner has already applied for a development order to build a mixed-use property on the site. I, for one, do not want to imagine that happening in our neighbourhoods, even if it's a fraction of the size of that site.

FRIM covered seven streets in Bukit Tunku – let's call it Phase 1 – and produced a considerable report. A summary of it is published in this issue. Although the assessment covered trees in public road areas only, many of us may find some of the care tips useful for tree maintenance in our own gardens.

Continuing the theme of “natural environment,” some members had an opportunity to attend a talk by Perhilitan, at which the human-monkey issue was discussed. Our own Tunku Sara Ahmad attended and took copious notes – which are shared in this issue. No surprises on how to reduce monkeys intruding on private property, and Perhilitan is here to assist.

Lastly, I would like to call out **Bukit Tunku Youth**, a new group whose purpose is to build a community and connections among residents of Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta between 18 and 40 years old. I'm very happy to see this initiative taking shape. According to socio-demographic research firms, the Millennial Generation (Gen Y) refers to those born in the early 1980s to mid-to-late 1990s, which would place the older millennials in their late 30s, almost 40. And now Gen Z is here! Where did all those years go? Many are digital natives – probably have not seen a rotary phone or a typewriter, except in a museum. Ahem... I shan't say more, lest I show my vintage!

Wishing all a joyous festive season and a happy new year.

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 email btra.loth.ads@gmail.com. Please enter “*Living on the Hill*” in the subject line. We'd love to hear from you.



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Living On The Hill is available at www.btra.com.my/newsletter.

MERRY
Christmas

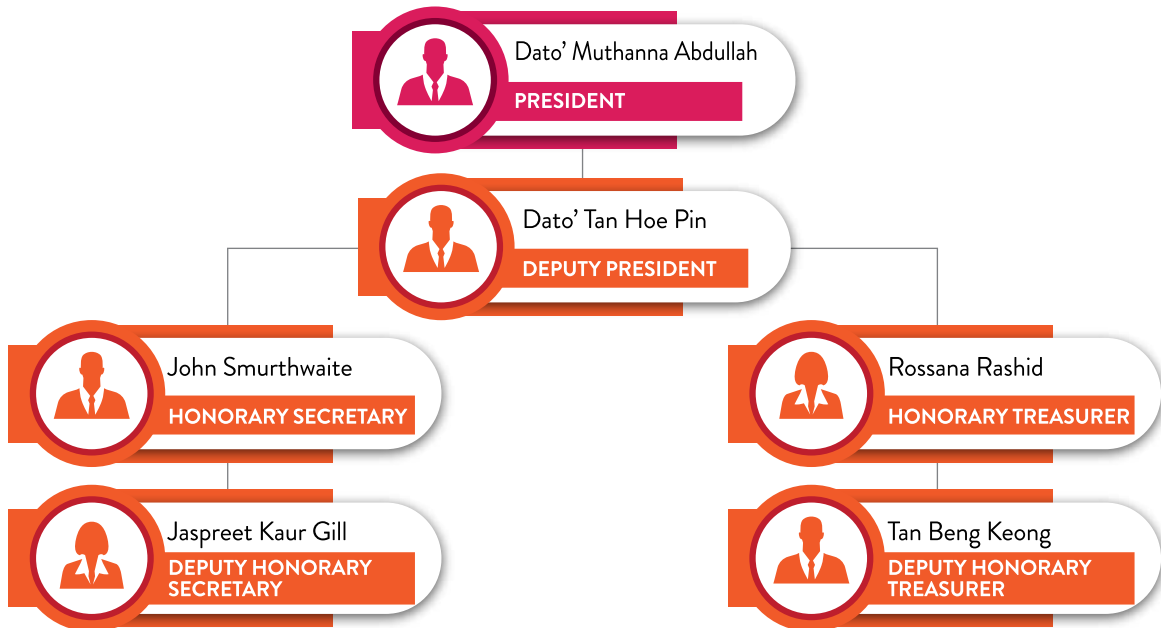
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023



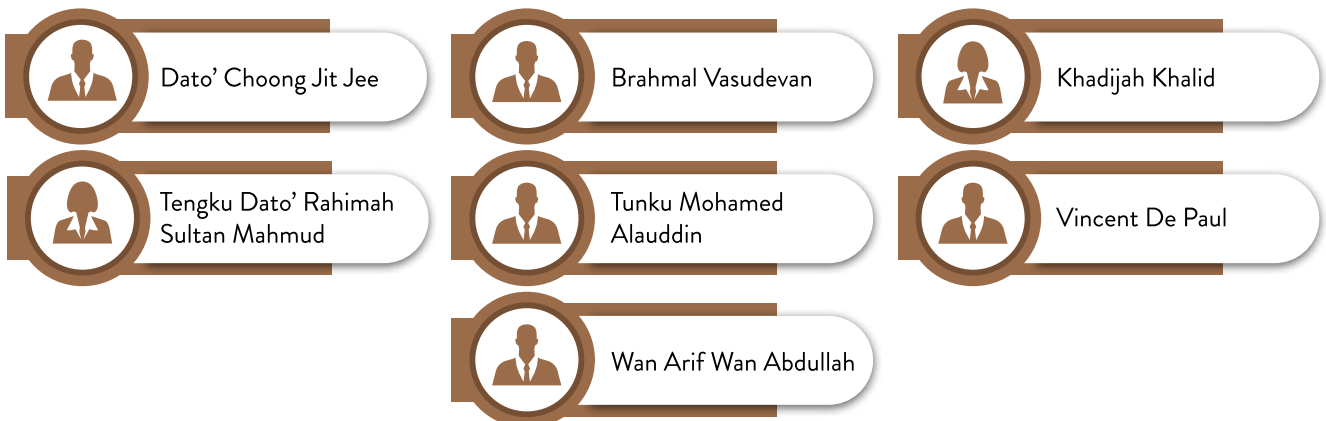
BTRA Committee 2022 to 2023

The annual election of BTRA Committee members was held at the AGM in June. Long-serving committee members, Encik Mohammad Abdullah (Treasurer) and Dato' SC Cheah, retired from their roles. BTRA records its deep appreciation to both stalwarts for their contribution and commitment over the years.

Office Bearers



Committee Members



Update on Retailers at The Stories

DYK:

Glo House @ F8, The Stories

For Appointments: 018.247.0520; and
<https://bookings.gettimely.com/glohouse/book>
<https://www.instagram.com/theglohouse.co/>

- Tuesday to Thursday: 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm
- Friday: 10:00 am to 7:00 pm
- Saturday and Sunday: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Closed on Monday



New to The Stories in June 2022, Glo House offers facial treatments. It is located on the 3rd floor of Block F, above QRA. A current favourite therapy is the *Energizing Facelift* treatment. Three certified facial therapists are on hand to deliver bespoke beauty treatments.



Omar Ali Couture @ F4, The Stories

For Appointments: 011.6330.1935
 Omar Ali group: <https://www.facebook.com/OmarAliOfficial>

Omar Ali Bespoke (featured in the December 2020 issue) has taken another lot at The Stories to house its Couture offering. The main boutique is located at F1, next to QRA. *Omar Ali Couture* is located at F4, on the 2nd floor of the same block. A family business that started in 1935 and currently has eight boutiques in Klang Valley and Putrajaya, *Omar Ali Couture* caters mainly to its women clients, offering traditional Malay attire as well as modern Western attire.

Presenting the Exuberant.... *Bukit Tunku Youth*

Feiras Muthanna, Skye Smurthwaite, David Tan

Hello Bukit Tunku residents! Allow us to introduce... *Bukit Tunku Youth!* A newly established group of young people that inhabit this beautiful place we call home. This community was founded by the three of us in August 2022. As of October, we have 30 members, and growing.

We believe there lacks an active community amongst us youngsters in our area, and we think it would be great to connect members of the youth to be a part of this club. There are so many of us living here, after all. Some of you have been here most of your life, so it's a mystery that we haven't met. Some of you may have just moved in, so what better way to make this feel like home than to know your neighbours!

We see you running, we see you shopping, we see you drinking. So why aren't we doing any of it together? BTY lets us come together to socialise, chill, exercise, and most importantly, partayyy! By the time this article comes out, we will have hosted our inaugural event themed "Into the Wild" – a cheeky get-together where the 'first batch' of members will finally meet and mingle.

What does it take to be part of this community? Well, as long as you are between the ages of 18 and 40 and live in Bukit Tunku or Taman Duta, then you're in!



Follow us @bukittunkuyouth on Instagram and we'll get you that sweet, exclusive membership to the super-secret group chat. You'll even see some fun pictures of our first event, and more.

Though we may have parents in BTRA, we are not a direct subsidiary of the association. Therefore, BTRA membership is not required. We are an independent group; however, we will maintain a relationship with BTRA.

The youth enjoy this area just as much as everyone else. BTY will be able to communicate to BTRA any suggestions, issues, or ideas that we think could benefit the greater community. We will cooperate on any future initiatives and projects we feel we can contribute to.

We hope this article reaches the youth across our neighbourhoods and we encourage you to reach out so we can build some new friendships and create some great memories! We may be strangers now, but strangers are just friends you haven't met yet! So holla at us.

We hope to see you guys soon.





From left: David Tan, Feiras Muthanna, Skye Smurthwaite

Meet The Founders...

David Tan

Hello there! I'm David Tan and I founded BTY with two fellow residents, Skye and Feiras. When I'm not working at my corporate day job, I enjoy spending time with friends and family. Having been raised in Bukit Tunku, I've seen our neighbourhood grow over the years into the vibrant community it is today. I hope that BTY will become a platform that enables us to build even stronger community relations and friendships into the future!

Feiras Muthanna

Hi, hello, g'day. My name is Feiras Muthanna, one of the founding members of BTY. A little about myself: I'm 24 years old and have lived in Bukit Tunku all my life. While living here, my life consists of golf and the occasion of slaving my life to a corporate entity. But aside from that, I'm hopeful BTY will become a prominent group amongst the very established BTRA!

Skye Smurthwaite

What's up y'all! I'm Skye. Co-Founder of the illustrious BTY. Been kickin' it in Bukit Tunku since '96. Certified Rescue Diver, self-proclaimed rapper. My purpose is in conservation, while my passion lies in entertainment. I love animals and nature just as much as I love the stage and spotlight. Outside of work, you'll catch me bouldering or hitting the dance floor. I have high hopes for BTY to truly flourish and can't wait to get to know the rest of you.



Clean & Clear Pool Water

Choosing your pool sanitation system is one of the most crucial decisions you will make as a pool owner. When it comes to pool sanitation systems, there are quite a few options available and few aspects to consider - which you choose will ultimately be up to what you value as most important. Putting aside the lesser-known and generally-unavailable sanitisation systems such as Bromine- and Iodine-pools, there are three options for primary disinfection systems to choose from – Chlorine, Salt, and Hydrogen Peroxide. Let's dive in!



Chlorine (Conventional) System



This classic sanitisation system relies on the dosing of chemical compounds containing chlorine found in various forms - granular powder, tablet or liquid form. Chlorine systems are popular thanks to its convenience and affordability but will require regular chemical balancing & maintenance as the chlorine level fluctuates more easily compared to other automated pool systems. Even though it requires closer monitoring, chlorine pools are clearly the budget option with no additional equipment required.

Saltwater / Mineral System



Through the process of electrolysis via a salt chlorinator, the salt compounds (Sodium Chloride) in the water are broken down into various by-products and chlorine particles, which form the sanitising agent. This pool system can be automated with the help of timers to manage and moderate the chlorine fluctuations in your pool. Mineral salts can also be used, providing additional health benefits to pool users.

Hydrogen Peroxide System



These systems use Hydrogen Peroxide compounds, which are processed and broken down to H₂O (pure water) and O₃ (Ozone) and water. Using Ozone ions as the sanitising agent, the pool water is soft and gentle to the skin with no odour or taste. These advanced and efficient water treatment systems are easy to install and maintain, providing fully automated sanitisation of pool water. Pool users will have the luxury of swimming in mineral-grade water that is Oxygen-enriched and beneficial to skin and overall health.



MYTH *There's too much chlorine in the pool because I can smell it!*

Actually, the opposite is true. Time for a short swimming pool water chemistry lesson: chlorine in your pool attaches to bacteria and creates chloramines. When you shock the pool, these chloramines turn into oxygen and escape into the air. THIS is the point that you can smell the chlorine, when it's in the air, not in the water. When you smell it in the air, that means more chlorine needs to be added.

UV DISINFECTION SYSTEMS

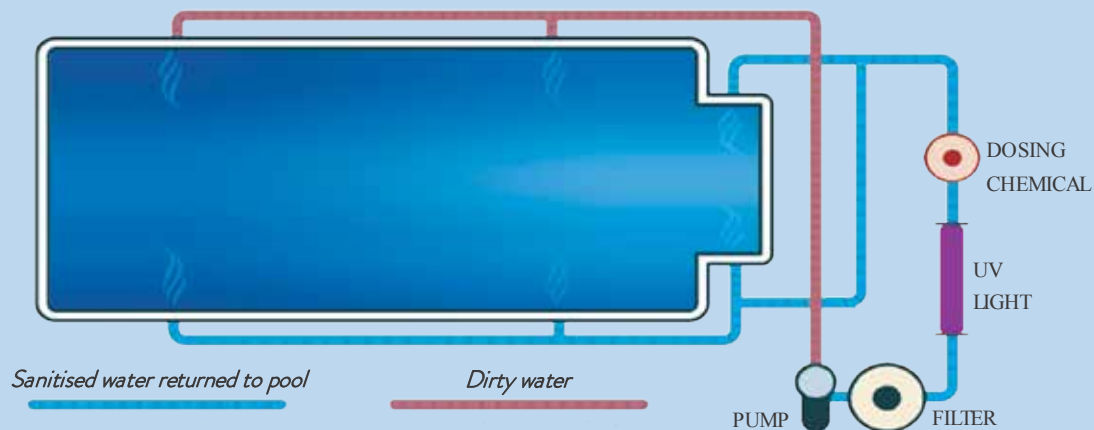
Whilst most pools make do with one mode of disinfection, having a secondary or back-up system can significantly improve the cleanliness and clarity of your pool. Primary disinfection systems (like Chlorine) kill common pathogens whereas secondary disinfection systems (like UV) are used to kill chlorine-resistant organisms. This additional system is used to complement and augment the effectiveness of primary disinfection systems to maintain safe and hygienic conditions in the pool.

WHAT

A water sanitisation system that uses high-frequency light waves produced by a specialised ultraviolet lightbulb to target and kill harmful bacteria and other microorganisms. These UV light rays are contained in a purpose-built housing so is not unsafe for swimmers.

HOW

A UV sanitisation system is typically installed so the water goes through the pool's regular filtration system first where physical impurities are filtered out by a sand filter. The bacteria and other harmful pathogens in the water are largely sanitised chemically (typically by chlorine compounds) before the water is piped through the specially designed housing where UV light destroys bacteria, algae, viruses, and other microorganisms by attacking them through their cell walls.



WHY

UV systems are low-maintenance, easy-to-install and affordable – being easily retrofitted into existing pool systems, UV equipment provide an excellent secondary system of disinfection to your pool. By using UV light to help sanitise the water, the pool will use less chlorine, which also means softer water on the skin and less of that chemical chlorine smell around the pool. Being less reliant on chlorine chemical compounds also makes your pool more environmentally-friendly!

With our advanced options now available, it's never a bad time to consider upgrading and improving your pool system for wholesome family fun, with safety, health and comfort to make sure it is ever ready for anyone to jump in without a doubt!

Our friendly team will be happy to assist and advise you, whether it relates to upgrading your pool system or sprucing your pool up to give it a new look so you and your family can **MAKE A SPLASH !**

If you need more information about these little pool hacks, you may find us at :



FRIM Arborist Tree Assessment

part 1

As residents of Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta are well aware, trees and other types of vegetation abound in our neighbourhood – on public roads and private properties, in secondary jungles, hill slopes and deep valleys. The abundance of foliage on the Hill has made this area more desirable, enabling potential developers to talk it up when marketing their projects.

Over the years, the many tree species in public areas have propagated naturally and wildly – one doesn't need to be an arborist to see “Frankenstein” trees, distressed trees, and damaged trees that cast eerie shadows across streets and over houses on a cloudless moonlit night – creating a “haunted house” look that contributes to Bukit Tunku's reputation of housing the paranormal! One can also easily discern deadwood, climbers and creepers, top-heavy canopies, and overhanging heavy branches that threaten to collapse at any time.

The combination of over-grown or decaying trees and torrential rains are a hazard to people living, driving, cycling or walking along these narrow tree-lined streets. A large rotting tree – or a dead tree – precariously balanced on any hillside part of the road or bank increases the risk to homes, road users and the general landscape.

It is clear that to preserve the natural greenery in a sustainable manner, relevant expertise and experience would be needed to assess the current state of vegetation in our midst, so that appropriate maintenance can be carried out.

With this objective in mind, BTRA engaged arborists from FRIM (Forest Research Institute of Malaysia) to conduct a first-time inspection and assessment of trees on selected streets in Bukit Tunku. The purpose is to ensure that our neighbourhood continues to sustain a healthy and verdant natural environment, allowing bio-diversity to flourish. Trees and such vegetation are living organisms that require appropriate care and maintenance to survive and thrive.

FRIM Arborists started work in March 2022, covering seven streets in Bukit Tunku over a period of four to five weeks, in this first stage:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Laman Tunku; | 5 Jalan Bukit Tunku; |
| 2 Pinggiran Tunku; | 6 Parts of Persiaran Bukit Tunku; and |
| 3 Dalaman Tunku; | 7 Jalan Tunku. |
| 4 Jalan Girdle; | |

The inspection covered only the public road areas. Trees on private properties, visible from the main roads, were assessed factoring in the limited access and view.



Two trees planted too close to each other. The tree on the right is also too close to the main road. The fronds at the base may grow to be a danger to road users and need to be removed. The wild oil palm should also be removed.

What We Know So Far

According to the FRIM assessment report, there are well over 200 trees lining these seven streets. Several species were identified, among the more common:

Species (botanical name)*	Common names and some tree trivia*
Ficus Virens	White Fig: belongs to the family of strangler figs that are able to germinate on another tree and then grow around and eventually kill it.
Cocos Nucifera	Coconut Palm: “coco” is derived from the 16th-century Portuguese and Spanish word “coco,” which means “head” or “skull” as the coconut shell was thought to resemble facial features.
Peltophorum Pterocarpum	Copperpod; Yellow Flame; Yellow Poinciana: a popular ornamental tree whose wood is used for making cabinets.
Morinda Citrifolia	Great Morinda; Indian Mulberry, Noni: a tree in the coffee family, producing a fruit with an odour similar to vomit.
Artocarpus Heterophyllus	Jackfruit: related to the fig tree native to India and Malaysia. Its fruit is a common component of culinary dishes around the world.
Caesalpinia Ferrea	Brazilian Ironwood; Leopard Tree: its bark peels in patches of light and dark brown, making it look like leopard skin.
Terminalia Catappa	Indian Almond; Tropical Almond: an ornamental tree prized for its ability to provide shade with its large leaves. The fruit is not a true almond.
Cyrtophyllum Fragrans	Tembusu: produces bitter berries that are a food source for bats. Termites tend to stay away from the wood, allowing the tree to last much longer than others.
Terminalia Mantaly	Madagascar Almond: Said to be rich source of polyphenols and antioxidants.
Adonidia Merrillii	Manila Palm: said to be one of the most popular ornamental palms worldwide. Produces nectar highly sought by bees.
Wodyetia Bifurcata	Foxtail Palm: named for its exceedingly fluffy leaves that vaguely resemble a fox’s tail.
Samanea Saman	Rain Tree: as an act of self-protection, known to curl its leaves when not useful, or during rain, or at night. Parts of this tree are toxic.
Gliricidia Sepium	Mexican Lilac; Madre de Cacao; Aaron’s Rod: native to Mexico and Central America where they were traditionally used to shade cocoa plantations. It is a legume - it fixes nitrogen in the soil. It is an ingredient in rat poison.

*Source: **FRIM Arborist Tree Assessment Report**; **PictureThis** plant identifier mobile app.

These, and several other tree species on the roadsides, may have been planted by residents of private properties over the years, or were the result of Nature’s pollinators doing what comes naturally – seeds and spores spread by wind and rain, insects, birds and other animals.



This tree on Laman Tunku has over-grown foliage and requires major pruning.



A close-up of the tree base shows that it's being strangled by unmaintained undergrowth. The thick and unruly cluster prevents proper inspection of the condition of the tree collar. Deeper diagnosis would help to assess the potential risk posed by a damaged tree base.

State of Trees

Trees in these streets were observed to be young, semi-mature and mature; proper tree care and maintenance were clearly lacking, leading to unruly growth and distressed trees.

- Lots of damaged tree trunks and branches (which in turn inhibits healthy growth).
- Ropes, string and barbed wire found around tree trunks and winding over branches (harmful to trees).
- Tree bases were cluttered with undergrowth, which hides any decay from sight.
- Clear presence of parasitic plants on tree trunks.
- Top-heavy canopies indicate poorly pruned trees, common across our neighbourhood.
- Trees that have been topped, a practice that will permanently disfigure and damage the tree.
- Trees planted too close together; inadequate space between them inhibits healthy growth. In some cases, incompatibility of tree species growing close together leads to the dominant species suffocating the weaker ones.
- Clusters of vegetation, unmaintained, have created blind corners (traffic hazard).

The ubiquity of poles and cables add to the risk.

Save our Trees

Overwhelmingly, on these seven streets and most likely elsewhere in the neighbourhood, the priority is to clean up, crop/prune, care and maintain, and even remove some trees, following the advice of experts. The FRIM Arborists broadly recommend:

- Clearance of dead trees: trees with major defects (such as decaying bases, damaged trunks), and undergrowth at tree bases.
- Removal of clusters of vegetation that obstruct visibility of traffic flow.
- Removal of parasitic plants; the tree may be saved, depending on its condition.
- Removal of trees or branches hanging over or balanced on cables, as well as trees tilting towards the road, trees growing on sloped walls or banks.

- Judicious and corrective pruning should be applied.
- Culling – and subsequent selection of healthy trees to keep – should be done to create a positive and visually pleasing landscape, and a healthy natural environment.

What's Next

BTRA will continue with the tree assessment project, as it is a priority to preserve the green and forest-type environment, to encourage the authorities to retain the zoning status of our area as Residential.

Discussions with FRIM are on-going to cover the next set of streets in Bukit Tunku, along with the most effective way to move ahead with recommended actions in the first seven as a start. Taman Duta streets will also be covered. Our neighbourhoods are sizeable, and this project will spread out over the months ahead. It is intended that regular tree care and maintenance will be established for the preservation of our much-valued foliage and natural environment.

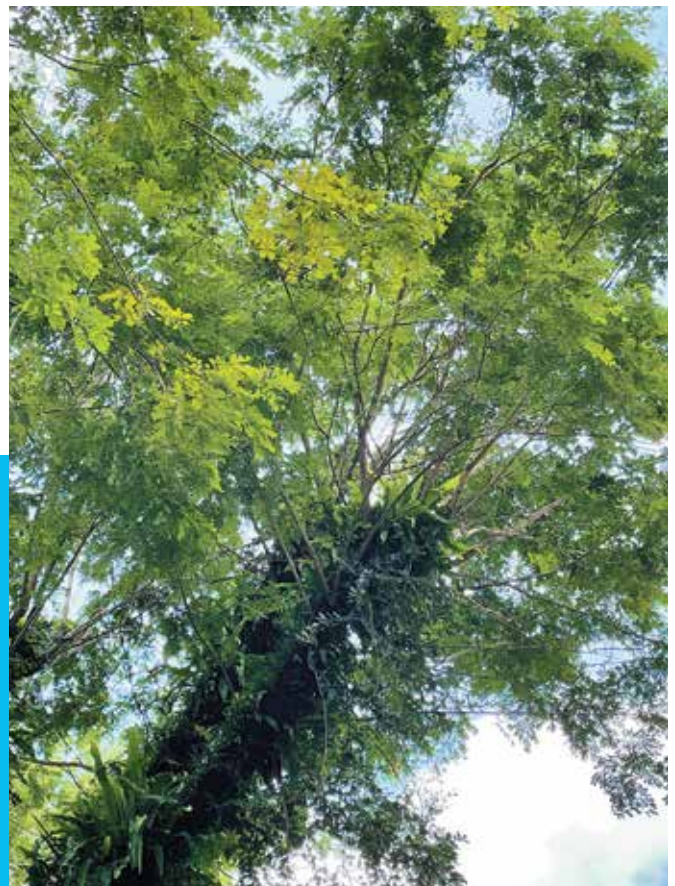
The FRIM Arborist Tree Assessment Report is the property of BTRA.

Anyone wishing to engage arborists for private consultation on their residential gardens may contact the following organisations. Fees may apply.

- **Persatuan Arborist Malaysia** (Malaysian Society of Arborists) at malaysiaarborist@gmail.com
Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PersatuanArboristMalaysia/>
- FRIM at feedback@frim.gov.my.
FRIM website: <https://www.frim.gov.my>



Parasitic plants have made this tree on Persiaran Bukit Tunku their source of food. The tree itself is entangled with cables, and the right-most trunk is tilting towards the main road, increasing risk to road users. Clearing the tree trunk will enable arborists to better assess the condition of the tree. Better overall visibility will enable arborists to suggest options to avoid clashing with cables.



This tree is an example of the practice known as “topping.”

Topping permanently disfigures and damages the tree and may even kill it. Once a tree is topped, it can be improved with the help of an arborist, but it can never be completely restored. Topped trees are highly susceptible to disease, decay and insects; they present a hazard because the branch stubs decay and break. The water sprouts that grow at the top of the tree have weak, shallow anchors and are likely to break off in a storm.

Source: Gardening Know How: Tree Topping Information – Does Tree Topping Hurt Trees <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/trees/tgen/tree-topping-information.htm>

FRIM study disclaimer

The assessment of trees presented within this report has been made using arboriculture techniques. These include a visual examination of the above-ground parts of each accessible tree for structural defects, scars, external indications of decay, evidence of insect presence, discoloured foliage, the general condition of the trees and the surrounding site, as well as the proximity of property and people.

All inspections are limited to visual examination of accessible parts, without dissection, excavation, climbing, probing, boring, cored, probed or other invasive procedure, unless otherwise noted in the report. Detailed root crown examination involving excavation was not undertaken. No warranty or guarantee is made, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the plants or property will not occur in the future, from any cause. The consultant shall not be responsible for damages caused by any tree defects and assumes no responsibility for the correction of defects or tree related problems.

Notwithstanding the recommendations and conclusions made in this report, it must be realised that trees are living organisms and their health and vigour is constantly changing. They are not immune to changes in site conditions or seasonal variations in the weather.

FRIM study methodology

The inspection method used was rapid Visual Tree Assessment method. This method involves inspection of the tree from ground level. Camera with zoom lens was used to aid in identification of any external signs of decay, physical damage, and growth related with structural defects at higher level. This method ascertains the need for a more detailed inspection of any part of the tree.

Each tree, or in some cases group of trees, was photographed with observations and recommendations of maintenance or necessary steps to be taken. There are some trees that require further investigation with *resistograph* if they are to remain.

Left: The trunk of this African Tulip tree (left) on Jalan Girdle is damaged with a huge cavity. It is too close to the Bucida tree. The recommendation is to remove the African Tulip tree.

Middle: The thick growth around the trunk of this tree prevents closer inspection to determine the condition of the tree. Parasitic plants should be removed for deeper inspection of its condition. This tree has been topped, a practice that can permanently damage a tree and make it vulnerable to disease.

*Right: This tree on Jalan Bukit Tunku is known as Corn Plant, a species of *Dracaena*. It is in dire need of professional pruning to enable it to flourish to its full and glossy potential.*





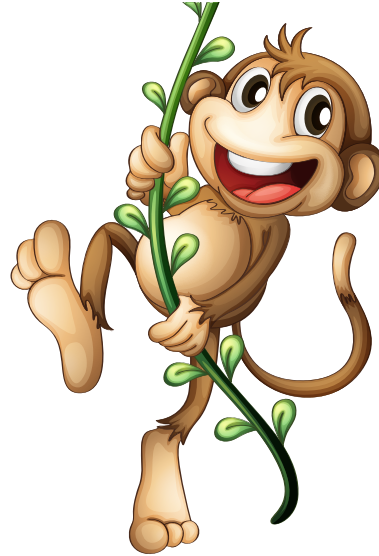
This tree on Persiaran Bukit Tunku is top-heavy and needs pruning. The tilting branch is a hazard to road users and home-owners; it should be cut. Parasitic plants on the trunks should be removed. Entanglement with cables presents additional hazards.



A Morning with Perhilitan

Tunku Sara Ahmad

Living in Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta means we have to share our space with wildlife in our midst. I confess that I am an animal person and support their right to their habitat in our forests. That said, there is the occasional encounter with monkeys, birds, monitor lizards, snakes and the like that remind me that our scaly, furry and feathery friends can create mild panic and havoc (if there's such a thing as "mild panic and havoc") at times.



We heard about the alarming plight of tigers, whose population has dropped from 3,000 in the 1960s to only 150 in the 2021 survey. Poachers with syndicates in many other SEA nations are coming to Malaysia because the wildlife they target are now scarce – or perhaps extinct – in their countries.

I had an opportunity to spend the morning of Tuesday 20th September at the Royal Selangor Golf Club to attend a talk by the **Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (Perhilitan)** hoping to get some insight on monkey management.

I discovered that **Perhilitan** is a combination of “**Per**” (**perlindungan**) “**Hi**” (**hidupan**) “**Li**” (**liar**) “**Tan**” (**Taman Negara**), roughly translated as “the protection of wildlife and national parks.” The government department was represented in full force – the director-general, some top brass and at least 10 others. The talk was well attended – RSGC members were there en masse; co-existence with urban wildlife is an issue for many metro KL residents, that much was evident.

The director-general, Dato’ A. Kadir Hashim, introduced Perhilitan, which was established in 1932, having been a “group of rangers” before that. Its jurisdiction covers only Peninsular Malaysia and Labuan (not the rest of East Malaysia).

Dato’ Kadir explained that the role of Perhilitan is manifold: to prevent roadkill by patrolling protected areas; to manage human-animal conflict; to set up electric fences (mainly for elephants); and to translocate wild animals to safety, where appropriate.

Perhilitan also deploys drones for surveillance and law enforcement, including raiding “medicine shops” selling products derived from wild animal parts. As with most things, education is key, and Perhilitan runs awareness programmes at schools and other institutions.



Hotline

PERHILITAN
hotline
1 800 88 5151
8.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Sunday Including Public Holiday

PERHILITAN website:

<https://www.wildlife.gov.my/index.php/en/>

About Primates

Dato' Kadir then turned the session over to Encik Mohd Taufik bin A Rahman, the Head of the Conservation Division, who spoke about the urban primate problem.

Generally, there are two types of monkeys that are the source of our anxiety, known as: Kera or long-tailed Macaque; and Beruk or crab-eating Macaque. The latter type is very adaptable and live along the coast, hence the name.

According to Perhilitan, primates by nature are social animals, with an alpha male. They are ecological opportunists. We learnt that our primate cousins are very adaptable and thus can take over an area occupied by humans, resulting in damage to property, fears for safety and damage to public parks. Perhilitan received approximately 30,000 complaints in the previous 12-month period. Furthermore, encounters with or intrusion by primates could lead to injury, loss of peace, damage to homes and plants, damage to the environment, and zoonotic diseases such as malaria.

Encik Taufik cited reasons that may give rise to conflicts:

- Loss of habitat.
- Feeding the animals – **hugely discouraged**, and frankly, a big no-no in my books. I am reminded of something I heard about bears: “**a fed bear is a**

dead bear.” Monkeys are quite capable of surviving by eating leaves, shoots, seeds and other fruits of the forest. Human food is not suitable for wild animals and can lead to disease and unhealthy animals, exacerbating conflict with humans.



- Unclean areas, i.e. areas where the monkeys can scavenge.
- Inefficient rubbish management. If trash is left in bins that can be opened by monkeys, this is an irresistible invitation to scavenge. Primates have opposable thumbs!
- Provocation – Encik Taufik advised us not to provoke the animals (e.g. using firecrackers or garden tools to scare them off, stamping your feet at them), and don't even look them in the eye as this may be interpreted as an aggressive gesture.

We learnt that Perhilitan is collaborating with University Putra Malaysia in a special and closely monitored project to feed monkeys birth-control substances mixed in food that has been approved for their consumption. The purpose of this on-going initiative is to reduce the population without capturing and neutering them.



Question Time

Many attendees had loads of questions, including how to prevent monkeys from entering their houses. The reality is that there is no fool-proof way to prevent a home visit, but there are some simple deterrents:

- Do not leave food in open areas or within arm's length near an open window.
- Use a bin that can be locked, or at least not easily opened by primates.
- Cut away branches that provide easy access from tree to roof or garden.
- Create a buffer zone between their habitat and ours.

The emphasis was on food. If there's no food for the taking, there's no big incentive to visit.

Someone asked at what point would Perhilitan decide to act on a monkey problem. The short answer is: Perhilitan will respond to a report or complaint that comes through its hotline.

Finally, someone asked if there was any truth that Perhilitan “kills all animals, if called.” The response was an invitation to host any interested person or group to join a Perhilitan team engaging in a translocation exercise.

I found the talk an eye-opener and most useful. My appreciation to the members who hosted me as their guest – you know who you are!



The Consequences of Feeding Primates

1 Uncontrolled population

The primate population will increase until it is uncontrollable and concentrated in certain areas beyond its natural habitat and food sources due to over-reliance on feeding by the general public.

2 Epidemics

Primates who are used to living near human settlements are a concern due to the possible spread of disease by primates to humans, some of which are very dangerous to public health.

3 Changing natural behaviour

Giving food will change the natural behaviour of primates that normally forage in the forest to choose to stay close to human settlements.

4 Risk of injury

Feeding may result in primates losing their fear of humans, leading to possible aggressive behaviour by primates that may cause injury or death.

5 Damage and loss

Feeding primates near residential areas will lead to encroachment on property, houses, and gardens, potentially resulting in a threat to the public.

Original translation by *Google Translate*; edited for clarity.

Apakah PRIMAT?

Kera, Lotong, Beruk



Jabatan Perlindungan Hidupan Liar Dan
Taman Negara (PERHILITAN) Semenanjung Malaysia
KM 10 Jalan Cheras, 56100 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : 603-90866800, Faks : 603-90752873
www.wildlife.gov.my

HOTLINE 1-800-88-5151
BEROPERASI DARI JAM 8:00 PAGI SEHINGGA 6:00 PETANG SETIAP HARI

22-Marathon Fund-Raiser – Almost At The Finish Line

CYMI, Bukit Tunku's own Marathon Man Jeffrey Ross decided that 2022 would be his "Year of the Marathon" in KL, committing to completing 22 marathons in costume, to raise funds for five charities (featured in the June 2022 issue).

An arduous challenge indeed, even for Jeff, who is the Head Coach of The Running Club and is an accomplished and experienced runner himself. The 22 marathons are done and dusted, raising just over RM18,000 (according to latest count).



PLEASE HELP US HIT

RM20,000!

The season of giving and goodwill is upon us, so would it be a stretch to hope that some guardian angels will top up to help these charity organisations continue their vital work?

In addition to raising funds, Jeff hopes to inspire people to make regular exercise part of their lifestyle, and to let them know that exercise can be fun, especially if done in a group. An active lifestyle with regular exercise (and balanced diet) brings many benefits to physical and mental health, which is key as the years roll by.

The five charity organisations are:

1. The Malaysian Red Crescent Society
2. The Lost Food Project
3. Paws Animal Welfare Society
4. Yayasan Chow Kit
5. Trap Neuter Release Manage

Those who wish to donate may do so at: www.simplygiving.com/appeal/22marathons, or scan the QR code directly



Spooks-ville is Alive and Well... in Taman Duta



For the third consecutive year, a group of children and their chaperones (parents) took a trick-or-treat walk to exchange sweets and candy with sporting neighbours along Persiaran Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin. Ghouls and other scary creatures were out in force, and severed arms, legs, feet and a bloody head were spotted in a nearby cemetery!

Splendid effort by Chief Ghoul Van Vu Piette and Chief Sorcerer Valerie Didier for this year's chills and thrills.









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	2617.9453
Tree trimming / overhanging branches	General Line 2693.4132
Stray cats and dogs	4021.1682
Snakes / beehives (24 hours)	9284.3434

OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES

ALAM FLORA 1.800.88.7472 www.alamflora.com.my Garbage collection, cleaning, clearing of drains, sweeping of roads, grass cutting, recycling	AIR SELANGOR (water) 15300 www.airselangor.com
POLICE Sentul Station 4048.2222 Bukit Aman 2266.2222 KL Traffic Police 2071.9999	INDAH WATER KONSORTIUM 2284.7828 www.iwk.com.my Service / Operations Enquiries Email: care@iwk.com.my
TNB (electricity) 15454 www.tnb.com.my Breakdown, power failure, streetlights	DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT 1.800.88.2727 Open Burning – 24 hours
TELEKOM MALAYSIA 100 www.tm.com.my Dropped telephone cables, faulty lines	AMBULANCE SERVICE 999



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