



From the Communications Team.....

Dear Members,

Our annual AGM is coming up in April. The AGM is very important to the continued running of the Malaysian Culture Group so please attend if you can. Please see Pam's message and contact any of the Committee members if you are able to help out with filling any of the positions that will soon become vacant. Please accept my apologies in advance, the next Newsletter may be a little late, I am travelling for most of April with potentially limited internet. See you when I get back.

Michelle Pease

Coming up...

Annual AGM
Wednesday, 12th April, 9.30 for a 10.00 start please register via your personal Anyvite invite previously sent out, members only.

Excursion: Guided tour of the Botanical Gardens, University of Malaya, Wednesday, 19th April 9.00 for a 9.30 start, limited to 25 members only, to register please click [here](#).

Reviews...

Excursion - Thaipusam Festival Tour
Michelle Dye



Enak - Walk-about, A Taste of Chinatown
Janine Williams



Explorers Out and About - Visit to Artha Woodcarving
Christine Rost



Book Group 2 - Burmese Days, George Orwell
Judyth Gregory Smith

President's Message



Well it is that time of year again - when we at the MCG need to do some specific forward planning. Along with having an AGM during which the Members can propose changes to our organization and Constitution, we also will have an election to fill any upcoming vacancies on the Committee. This next year the following positions will be open - President, Treasurer which are Committee positions and Webmaster, as well as an appointed position of Public Relations/Communications. If you have an interest in any of the positions please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the other Committee members. All of these current position holders will still be in KL next year so full training will be provided. It has been a fantastic Committee to work with and eight of the current eleven position holders will continue on next year! It is a lovely group and there are minimal meetings to attend. Please consider volunteering.

All paid-up MCG members have been sent AGM documents for their perusal. Included in the mail-out are your proxy sheet, agenda and a nomination form. The AGM will have a fantastic guest speaker: Marina Mahathir - the 2010 UN Person of the Year and one of the 100 Most Inspiring Women in Malaysia. We will also have a personal tour of an art exhibition. Please come along and help us continue the MCG legacy in Malaysia.

There are also another couple of housekeeping topics. Dori Van Koesveld Levai and her team have put lots of effort into updating the library. She has implemented many new ideas that make the library even better. Please do visit, borrow books and take a look at the duplicate books available for purchase. If anyone has a short bookcase they would like to donate, Dori would put it to good use. If you would like to donate any books about Malaysia, South East Asia or Malaysian Culture Dori would welcome these as well.

One of the things I enjoy about working with the Committee is the great ideas they come up with. One thing that came up at our last meeting was the idea of a printed MCG Calendar. We all know how much our members enjoy travelling and photography and we thought it would be a great way to celebrate Malaysia. Things are still in the research phase but if you have any ideas Jeanie Kennedy would love to hear from you.

Stay tuned for your AGM mail-out and please give some thought to helping out. The MCG needs you!

Pam Currie

Did you know that the Malaysian Culture Group has a Facebook page? Click [here](#) to visit the MCG page.

Meet your MCG Committee.



Rosemary Chin, joint Enak Convenor, taken with Liew Kung Yu's "Wira 2020" At the exhibition ERA MAHATHIR, Ilham Gallery

I am Malaysian and was born here in Kuala Lumpur many, many decades ago. There is no doubt that I have seen many changes and have watched the city grow from a small town to a mega city.

I remember...

When Jalan Tun Razak was Jalan Pekililing and earlier, Circular Road.
When road names were simple and

named as they were - Batu (Stone) Road, Brickfield, Bukit Nanas (Pineapple Hill); and Pudu referred to as 'Half Jungle' in Cantonese.

Walking past rubber estates and forests on my way home from school on days I had no ride. We picked local berries and drank water from stand taps along the way.

The grand mansions of Jalan Ampang and the avenue of magnificent rain trees.

When Central Market was a wet market and had the only Cold Storage where one could get imported canned butter and salad cream from Britain.

When trishaws and bicycles were still a popular means of transport.

When Petaling Jaya, the satellite town, was first developed to support the fast growing town of Kuala Lumpur. New homes were built and cost for RM 5,000 up!

When the Majestic Hotel became the National Art Gallery and then the Hotel Majestic.

I have been interested in the Arts, Culture and Performing Arts from an early age and have maintained my interest through the years, participating at any opportunity possible. I was actively involved in the Wednesday Art Group, the Malaysian Arts Council and the Liberal Arts Society, which produced light operas, musicals and plays.

I pursued training in art and art education here and in the U.K and had the opportunity to trav-

el and live in the U.K, France and later in the US. On my return to Malaysia I began teaching Art at the International School of Kuala Lumpur (ISKL), first at the Istana Campus in Jalan Maxwell, then, as the school grew, the Ampang Campus and finally the Melawati Campus. I also had the opportunity to work as an Art Specialist in Montgomery County Public Schools, Maryland, USA.

In 2011, I retired after a most rewarding career at ISKL. With a new sense of direction, I picked up the brush once more and began painting again. With encouragement and help from my friends and family, I had a solo exhibition in 2013. Currently I continue to enjoy painting and taking time to check out the vibrant Arts and Performing arts scene in KL.

Why MCG???

I was envious of my good friend and colleague, Joanne Mahendran, who couldn't stop talking about the lectures/ talks, presentations and exciting excursions organized by the Malaysian Culture Group. She was enjoying all the events and the wonderful people she had met there. I couldn't attend as most events were held in the mornings while I was teaching school. However, as soon as I retired Joanne gifted me a year's membership to MCG.

Needless to say, after attending my first event... I got hooked and am currently the Convenor of Enak! MCG, (ably assisted by Janine Williams). If you love the "Tastes of Malaysia", please join in our food adventures and sharing yours.

Rosemary Chin

The MCG Committee remains steadfastly committed to ensuring that the MCG meets the needs of our members. If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to contact any of the Committee members by email. Yours in service of Malaysian culture!