



From the Communications Team.....

Dear Members,
Gong Xi Fa Cai

The MCG and the Events Planning team would like to thank Ciao Ristorante for graciously hosting our Chinese New Year event free of charge. The staff were wonderful and they even provided complementary tea, coffee, juice and water for the event. We very much appreciate it.

Have you renewed your membership as yet? If not please renew as soon as possible, at least by the 28th February, if you do not renew by that date unfortunately this will be the last Newsletter that you receive from the MCG. If you do not intend to renew your membership please let our membership secretary know.

Michelle Pease

Coming up...

-  **Lecture: Flying Foxes, Plants & People**
Wednesday, 7th March, 10.00 for a 10.30 start, to register please click [here](#)
-  **MCG Annual General Meeting (AGM)**
Wednesday, 21st March, 9.30 for a 10.00 start, please register via your personal Anyvite invitation previously sent.
-  **Lecture: The Chitties of Melaka**
Wednesday, 4th April, 10.00 for a 10.30 start, to register please click [here](#)
-  **Excursion: Special guided tour of the Pre-History Gallery**, Wednesday, 11th April, 10.00 for a 10.30 start, to register please click [here](#)

Reviews...

 **Enak! - Simple Life**

Kyoko Rabbetts and Terry Piech



 **Explorers Out and About - Visit to the Hive bulk foods and zero waste community**

Carolyn Ritchie and Désirée den Ouden



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

Vice President's Message



Message from the Vice President

GONG XI FA CAI! Happy Chinese New Year! Welcome to the Year of the Dog! Since the beginning of the calendar year we've rolled into one celebration after the next.

I had the good fortune of participating in the Thaipusam Day event outing. How eye-opening it was to follow the trek of one man, from the river, being tongue-pierced (vow of silence) and adorned with a headdress, across the hot pavement, to climbing the stairs to the sacred place within Batu Caves. Fortunately, he had support throughout his journey, giving him water, providing a stool, and giving encouragement. Although it was only a couple of hours, it was a journey that most of us will not make in a lifetime. The experience made me pause and reflect on what's important in our busy lives. I hope that you all take the opportunity to do so during the Lunar Year celebrations.

Next month, on March 21 is our Annual General Meeting(AGM). Although it's a required meeting for most organizations, it's a rare opportunity for us to come together as a collective group. Do you realize we have nearly 200 active members?! That's impressive for a non-profit that's been running strong for over 35 years! Karen Loh will be our guest speaker, enlightening us with stories of shipwrecks off the coasts of Malaysia. I hope that you can attend. Please do so by responding to the Anyvite invitation which has been previously sent.

Thank you to the many members who have dedicated their time in keeping MCG alive and strong. Now is the time for newer members to get involved, share their ideas and continue the fantastic programs that already exist. Currently, we need to fill the positions of Vice President, Secretary and Explorers Leader. We work as a team, so the job is enjoyable. Please contact myself or Terry if you are interested.

Best Wishes,

Jeanne

Meet your MCG Communications Team



Michelle Pease
Newsletter Editor and team co-ordinator

My husband Michael and I have lived in South East Asia for over 25 years. In 1992 we were asked if we would like to take up a two year posting in

Jakarta, Indonesia which we jumped at. Since then we have never returned to live in Australia and we now consider South East Asia our home with no plans to return to Australia permanently.

Michael and I have lived in Jakarta (five years), Bangkok (seven years), Hanoi (three years) and a total of 10 years in Malaysia. This is our second time in Kuala Lumpur, we lived here for three years 2004-07. We are now here on a MM2H visa. Our children Ceiwen and Lachlan lived around the region with us until they both returned to Australia for University several years ago. They now live in Darwin and Sydney respectively

I was born in England, spent my first five years in Wales before my parents and I emigrated to Australia in 1962. My childhood years were spent in Melbourne, Australia. Quite a lot of my 20s were spent in the UK and Europe which was generally "the thing to do" for young Australians in the 1970s. So I guess I have always been a bit of a gypsy.

While living in the region I have always been very involved in museum and cultural associations, holding committee positions in most of them. The Indonesian Heritage Society in Jakarta, the National Museum Volunteers in Bangkok,

The Friends of Vietnam Heritage in Hanoi and of course the Malaysia Culture Group here in Kuala Lumpur. They have always been my "saving grace", especially when I had young children.

My involvement with the MCG started immediately I arrived in 2004. I remember writing to Cindy Peters-Zeier, who was the President at time, before I left Bangkok to ask her about the MCG. During that time in K.L. I held the Committee positions of Newsletter Editor and Events Planning Convenor.

Michael and I returned to K.L. in late 2010 and have been here ever since. I slipped back easily into K.L. and the MCG and have held the positions of Acting President, Events Planning Convenor and Newsletter Editor since we returned.

As you can see the MCG has always been a big part of my K.L. life. I encourage all our members to consider taking up a Committee position. They are a friendly bunch of people and it is a great way to give back to the K.L. Expat community and the MCG as a whole.

Michelle

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!