



From the Communications Team.....

A big MCG welcome to all our new members who joined at the recent Open House. A record this year with 39 new members joining on the day, with the potential for more joining online.

From next month we will be introducing a new "Selamat Datang/Selamat Jalan" section to this Newsletter, if you are leaving K.L. please let us know at newsletter@mcgkl.org

Michelle Pease

Share your skills and experience with the MCG

The vibrant atmosphere at the Open House is indicative of the diverse MCG membership. Coming from different cultures and backgrounds, we are united in our quest to understand more about this country and region.

And we have all had 'previous lives', giving us valuable skills and experience which could be utilised to keep the MCG 'on the road'.

We currently need people to:

- manage the MCG Facebook page
- help with Communicatons (PR / creative writing or editing)
- provide IT technical support

These activities are usually done in your own time and do not involve attending any committee meetings.

There is however one committee position vacant - the best one - it's the ENAK convenor, who leads a group of intrepid foodies to experience Malaysia through their taste buds! Yum.....

Maybe you have a young family and the move to KL has stalled your CV, maybe you are a serial Expat in your nth posting looking for a lively group to hang out with.....or.... maybe you have recently retired with loads of energy wondering what to do next

Whoever you are, whatever your background, the next step is to contact Pam Currie or Maryann Kozban-Diakow to see how you can contribute to the MCG team. Pam - president@mcgkl.org, Maryann - veep@mcgkl.org

Coming up...

-  **Lecture: The Alluring Cheongsam**
Wednesday, 28th September 10.00 for a 10.30 start, to register please click [here](#)
-  **Lecture & Excursion: Sharia Law followed by a guided tour of the Federal Territories Mosque**
Wednesday, 5th October 10.00 for a 10.30 start, to register please click [here](#)
-  **Excursion: New Member's Tour of the Textile Museum & lunch - Wednesday, 12th October 10.00 for a 10.30 start, to register please use your Anyvite invite previously sent out.**
-  **Lecture: Mother Knows Best: The Fascinating World of the Minangkabau**
Wednesday, 2nd November, please note change of date from the 16th November, 10.00 for a 10.30, to register please click [here](#)

President's Message



Any great organization is a product of its members. Your Committee has officially started the ball rolling for another year. The bank account has been updated, the membership list tallied and the Registrar of Societies has been notified of our filing of past accounts.

As I write this I am still thinking about our annual Open House. What a great event organized by Maryann Kobzan-Diakow and put into action by a whole lot of people (you know who you are. Many thanks!) I was very impressed by the energy in the room, especially with our newcomers. As I always say " MCG is an organization by volunteers for volunteers." I think the Open House really was a shining example of this sentiment.

The Committee has sent our Intern Teddy Williams off to pursue his university studies in the UK. It was lovely to have him assist us in things like tech and publicity. Keep an eye out for his articles about MCG in Senses Magazine and KL Expat. Spread the word about MCG as the more, the merrier!

There are some fantastic events coming up. An Explorers' visit to a Hakka village, a tour of the lovely Textile Museum and a cheongsam lecture are among the events coming up. Be sure to sign up by our Anyvite system - it has never been easier to RSVP! Remember some events have limited numbers - so snooze, you lose.

Finally I would like to say a warm welcome to all of our new MCG Members. If you have not been specifically contacted yet by the different group Convenors please be proactive and get in contact with them. In our life-cycle of MCG we may be having some Convenors switching out due to relocation or other commitments. For those of you who were unable to attend the Open House please get in contact with us about coming to the next lecture or event. We look forward to having you join us!

Pam Currie

Reviews...

 **Enak! - Wadi Hadramawt**
Mary Arafah



 **Excursions - Kampung Bharu Walking Tour**
Jeanie Kennedy



 **Events - Open House**
Maryann Kozban-Diakow



 **Book Group 2 - The Oleander Girl**
Nabila Ahmad

A CALL FOR USED SPECTACLES

One of our members Judyth Gregory-Smith will be travelling to Myanmar in October and would like to ask for your unwanted glasses. Below is a message from Judyth.

"On my last trip to Myanmar I visited villages far and wide: one at Mindat in the mountains of Chin State and another in the middle of the Ayeyarwady River - where it is three miles wide! Some of the old people had no (formal) education and could not read. They found the distance glasses helped them get around their village. Those who were weavers, tailors or plied other crafts found reading glasses improved their accuracy! One very smiley fisherman wanted to know how to say 'thank you very much in English' - so I pass his words on to you in advance!

I return to Myanmar in October and hope to take many more pre-loved glasses with me if you can spare them. I could collect these at the MCG events at the Islamic Arts Museum on the 21st or the lecture on The Alluring Cheongsam on the 28th September."

Meet your New MCG Committee.



Leslie Muri
Book Group
Convenor

Thursday's child has far to go and I think I have. I started off in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada in 1944, on a Thursday in June. While my mother was obviously present my father, a Lieutenant in the Canadian Navy, was involved in the War effort in England, only returning when I was 10 months old. With the end of the War, he resumed his civilian life as a journalist with a news agency, Canadian Press (CP). Montreal was our next desti-

nation, where a brother was born and I started school. Subsequently CP moved us to New York, where we lived on Long Island (pronounced longailin locally) and I attended two New York schools. How cool to find that I only had to learn the words for 'My Country Tis' of Thee' as it had the same melody as 'God Save the Queen' which I already knew from school in Canada. After two years, CP next sent us to its head office in Toronto (trawna locally). Here a second brother was born and I finished elementary and high school at several more schools. For university I returned to Halifax to attend Dalhousie University, majoring in psychology and English. In 16 years of education, I had attended 12 schools.

At Dal, I met a handsome fellow among all the Malaysians who were so 'aksi' - showing off - on the badminton courts. I became an imported bride marrying Muri in 1968 in his kampong, Bentong, in Pahang, the first time either of us had been to a bersanding, the Malay wedding. It was apparent that teaching was a profession open to an OP (orang puteh - European) wife so I went along to an interview at Bukit Bintang Boys Secondary School in P.J. - Do you have any experience? No. Do you speak Malay? No. Are you a citizen? No. - Needless to say I wasn't holding my breath. One of

Muri's colleagues at ICI suggested that I try a new, small American school. So I went to an interview at the International School of Kuala Lumpur and was hired at the grand salary of RM 869 a month.

For many years I taught at ISKL's elementary grades. The Muri boys started arriving: Khalil in '73, Karim in '76 and Kamarul in '79. Muri made his way through the Department of Fisheries, ICI, KPM Niaga, finally ending up with Petronas in 1975 when there were only 60 employees. He found it exciting to set up the first Petronas gas station in 1979 selling diesel from skid tanks in Kepong after Prime Minister Hussein said he wanted diesel available to the country yesterday.

Middle School attracted me next and I taught Humanities for several years. After a spell, High School beckoned and I taught secondary English and IB. In 2002, Muri retired from Petronas as Vice President, Gas Business. And after 40 years at ISKL, I retired in 2008. Now I am truly blessed for I have nine grandchildren. Khalil lives in KL, Karim in Perth and Kamarul in San Diego. So with three sons on three continents, I feel that I still have far to go.

Leslie Muri

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!