



MALAYSIA



15th - 27th September 2019



Malaysia Excursion



As always, to be eligible, the excursion has a strong focus on appropriate behavior, attendance and engagement at school as well as making sure they are all involved in the planning and fundraising activities. That number settled at twelve for quite a while, then in the last few weeks two more students withdrew for personal reasons and the final, and ideal number of ten was reached.

As always, at school the weekly Malaysia classes focused on:

- Planning the trip itinerary
- Liaising with Klang Apex Club and Klang Special School
- Fundraising – sausage sizzles, sponsorship letters, selling workshop made chopping boards and slumped glass bottles, an amazing art exhibition and a wonderful quiz night
- Malaysian guest speakers on customs, culture and etiquette
- Logistics including birth certificates, passports and all appropriate ID
- Booking hotels & flights
- Malaysian food experiences – creating some tasty Nasi Lemak, Beef Redang and much more
- Buying Australian themed gifts for Klang Special School & Orang Asli Tribal Village children

The program really has become a finely tuned, jam-packed trip of a lifetime for the Port students. The visit ensures cultural, educational and fun experiences throughout the time they are away whilst primarily engaging as much as possible with Klang Special School students. They also get to meet and spend time with Klang Apex Club members and additionally this year support and assist with food, clothes and toy donations at an Orang Asli indigenous settlement in Slim River.

Malaysia Timetable 2019

Time	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12
08:00-09:00	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel
09:00-10:00	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in
10:00-11:00	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
11:00-12:00	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
12:00-13:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:00-14:00	Travel to Klang	Travel to Klang	Travel to Klang	Travel to Klang	Travel to Klang	Travel to Klang	Travel to Klang	Travel to Klang	Travel to Klang	Travel to Klang	Travel to Klang	Travel to Klang
14:00-15:00	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel
15:00-16:00	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in
16:00-17:00	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
17:00-18:00	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
18:00-19:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
19:00-20:00	Travel to Klang	Travel to Klang	Travel to Klang	Travel to Klang	Travel to Klang	Travel to Klang	Travel to Klang	Travel to Klang	Travel to Klang	Travel to Klang	Travel to Klang	Travel to Klang
20:00-21:00	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel	Arrive at hotel
21:00-22:00	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in	Check in
22:00-23:00	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
23:00-24:00	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast

The Malaysia 2019 Crew

Staff

Mike Gilbert
Joy Cromwell

Students

Jami Laxton
Carlie Monaco
Luke Roser
Jorja Keily
Khan Barton
Lily Slater
Desley Singleton Hooper
Isabelle Domasz
Lionel Mead
Georgina Davies



Leaving Perth

Over 22 boxes of donations, 12 student and staff suitcases, and cabin luggage all headed to the airport to be checked in and finally bound for Malaysia. The bus was loaded up, and an excited and nervous chatter could be heard. This could only mean our ten students & two staff were about to head off to Malaysia to start the 2019 excursion. Sporting their very bright new shirts, they certainly looked the part and were all looking forward to the 5½-hour journey with Malindo airlines.



The hot and humid weather hit us all as soon as we got out of the airport. Sri, our new driver, arrived in a fabulous bus, with plenty of room for all the boxes and suitcases.



Day 1 – Malaysia Breakfast, Check In to Lax Boutique Hotel & Pulau Ketam

After a tiring overnight flight it was time for some breakfast with our host Apexians at Pickles, then checking in to the new choice of hotel, 'Lax Boutique' on the edge of Little India, stock up on water for the rooms and some snacks before heading off to Pulau Ketam for the first tour of the excursion.



Lax Boutique is a new hotel and a great find on the edge of Little India. Well positioned for the students to explore the sounds, sights and smells as well as enjoying the vibrancy of Indian shopping. The hotel itself offered a great base, being a 5-minute drive from Klang School and well positioned to get on the freeway for excursions further afield.



A 45-minute boat ride landed us on Pulau Ketam, literally translated, means “Crab Island”. It is a small island located off the coast of Klang. The island was easily accessible from the Port Klang jetty by ferry. The “floating houses” that come to view as we approached the island is a sight to awe us Perth city slickers.



Perching casually on long wooden stilts, these dwellings are suspended about one to ten metres above sea level.



Pulau Ketam offered a unique opportunity for the team to witness and experience the lifestyle of fishermen and to try out the amazing seafood.





After an exhausting time of travel from Perth, and the fun of Pulau Ketam it was back to the hotel to freshen up then out into Little India to take in the busy vibrant and colourful streets whilst trying out some of the local foods and of course a bit of shopping!



Banana leaf rice is a traditional method of serving rice dishes in Malaysia, India and Singapore. In banana leaf meals, white rice is served on a banana leaf with an assortment of vegetables, pickles, appalam and other regional condiments (usually sour, salty or spicy). The banana leaf acts as a disposable plate and it in itself is not consumed. Banana leaf meals are eaten by hand and meal etiquette also dictates that, after the meal, the guest if happy with the meal, must always fold the banana leaf inwards as a sign of gratitude to the host.



Day 2 & 3 – Klang Special School & I- city

Klang Special School is an integral part of this annual excursion. Every year Port students, staff and all of our supporters make a huge difference to the lives of many of the orphan children there. They enhance Klang School by providing new equipment and facilities, by donations of toys, games and educational items. This year the team with the support of family, friends, businesses, Port staff and other students were able to donate approx. \$15,000 (40,000 Ringgit) that equates to 15 orphan students sponsored. Students and our extended supporters should all be so proud of this achievement and the difference it has and will make to their lives. The trip has created so many long-lasting memories for all concerned.



This year Mike & Joy were thrilled to see how well the students embraced the special school students and their interaction with them. It was fabulous to see the smiles that they brought to the faces of the young people there when they joined them in their activities and classrooms.



There were certainly some special moments and very close bonds made this year and you can see for yourselves from these pictures the smiles on both Klang and Port students faces and what a happy time they had.



Whilst there, students donated some teaching resources, toys and equipment to the teachers and students which was much appreciated.



Luke is pictured with a very young boy whose parents have sadly abandoned him, fortunately he is in a care home and Port and Klang Apex club are assisting with his place at Klang Special School next year.

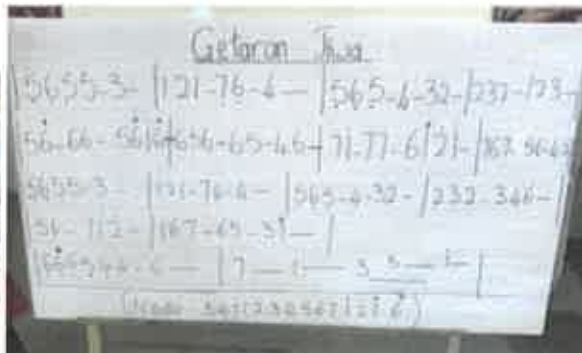
If you would like to help these less fortunate young people in Malaysia, please email Mike Gilbert (Malaysia Coordinator) mike@portschool.wa.edu.au - every donation big or small helps a little.



Playground equipment Port community donated in 2015



Students also had a go at learning to play the traditional Malay Angklung. The Angklung is a musical instrument made of a varying number of bamboo tubes attached to a bamboo frame. The tubes are carved to have a resonant pitch when struck and are tuned to octaves, similar to Western hand-bells.



Students also help to plant new seeds and plants in the schools sustainable garden that they not only use for their own food and meals, but also sell to shops and the local community. The garden has flourished over the last several years with chillis, zucchini, spinach, bananas, papaya, moringa, corn, bok choy to name just a few things.



One of the projects that we all undertook this year was to revamp the rusty entrance gates. So it was a chance to get hot, sweaty and dirty sanding, cleaning and painting the gates.



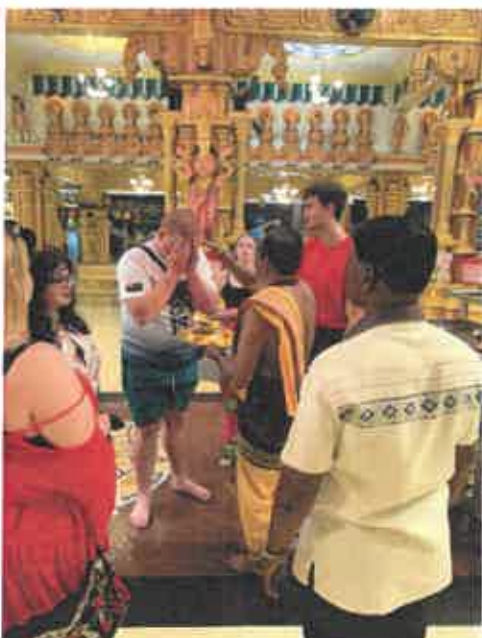
It was a fantastic job by the Port students in the renovations of the gates. It really has brightened up the front entrance to Klang Special School with two great new signs donated by Port also.



Later in the evening of Day 3, the crew headed to the very ornate Sri Mahamariamman Hindu temple at I-city Shah Alam.



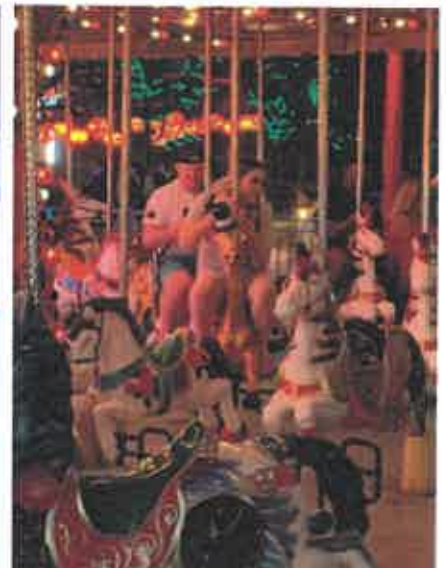
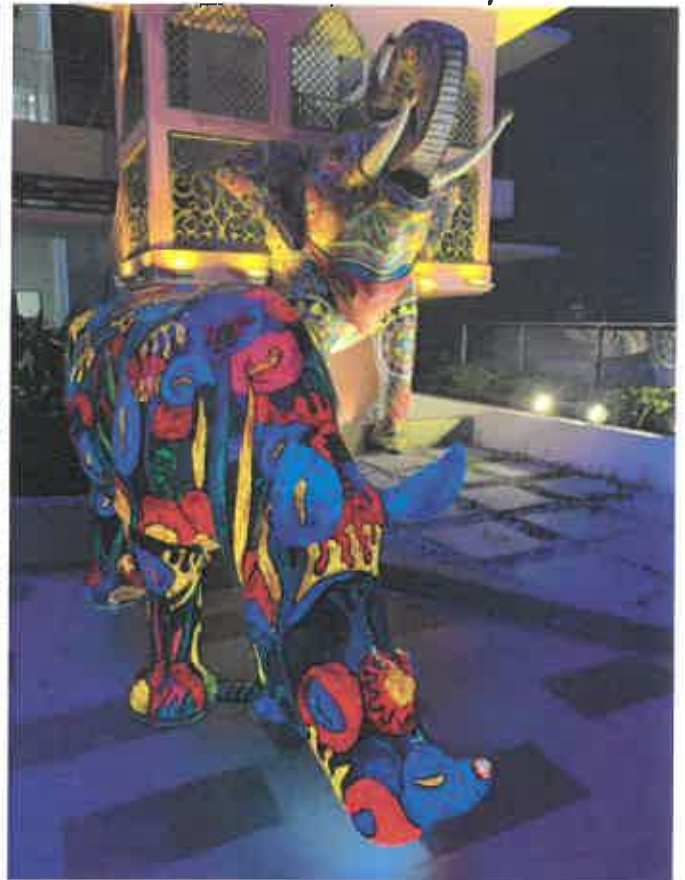
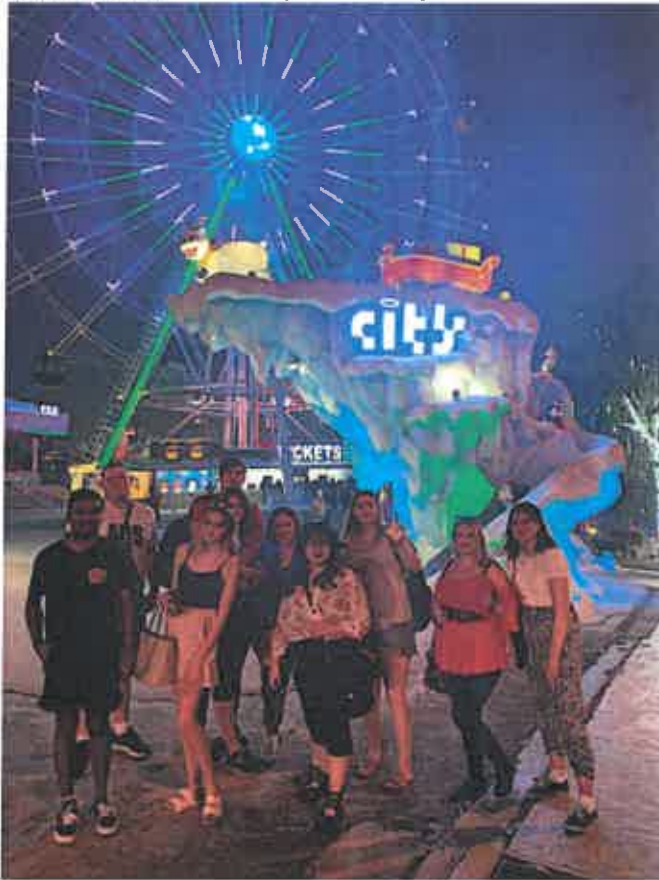
The Sri Mahamariamman Temple is the oldest Hindu temple in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Founded In 1873, it is situated at edge of Chinatown in Jalan Bandar (formerly High Street). In 1968, a new structure was built, featuring the ornate 'Raja Gopuram' tower in the style of South Indian temples. From its foundation, the temple provided an important place of worship for early Indian immigrants. It is now an important cultural and national monument.



As always, there was a very warm welcome from the members of the temple and we were encouraged to take a look around after taking off our shoes and washing our feet. Staying with tradition, you have to walk around clockwise, otherwise it's deemed bad luck.



After the temple, students took in the lights of the colourful i-City with an amazing array of shapes, colours and sizes and, of course, a bit of fun on some of the rides and attractions at i-City!



Chinese Dinner Hosted by Petaling Jaya Apex Club

It was fantastic to be hosted by Petaling Jaya Apex club who took us out for an amazing Chinese meal whilst in Malaysia. The club has recently had great growth attracting many new members & award winning President Jesse Mah & his club members were kind enough to treat the Port students & staff.



As well as the meal, PJ club members interviewed the students to ask them about their time in Malaysia and have produced a dinner meeting newsletter where we all feature.



Day 4 – Petronas Towers, Central Market & Petaling St Markets

This year we managed to pre book tickets for the Petronas Twin Towers and students were able to head up to the skybridge and the observation deck and despite a few wobbly legs and a very hazy day, it was still an awesome experience for everyone.

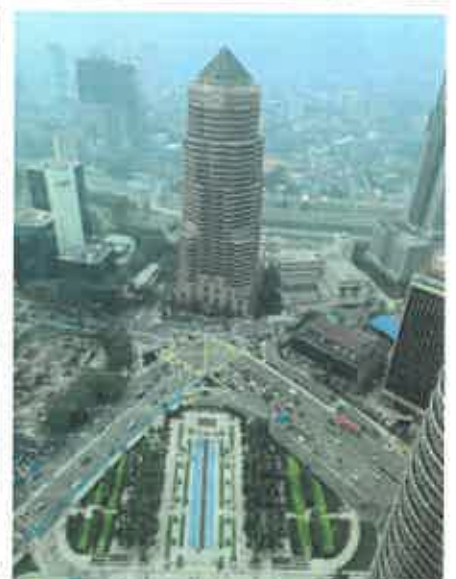


The towers were designed by Argentine architect César Pelli. Planning on the Petronas Towers started on 1 January 1992 and included rigorous tests and simulations of wind and structural loads on the design. Seven years of construction followed, beginning on 1 March 1993 with the excavation. This involved moving 500 truckloads of earth every night to dig down 30 metres (98ft) below the surface. The 88-floor towers are constructed largely of reinforced concrete, with a steel and glass facade designed to resemble motifs found in Islamic art, a reflection of Malaysia's Muslim religion.





PETRONAS
Twin Towers



Petaling Street is a Chinatown located in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Haggling is a common sight here and the place is usually crowded with locals as well as tourists. The area has dozens of restaurants and food stalls, serving local favourites such as Hokkien mee, Ikan Bakar (barbecued fish), asam laksa and curry noodles. Traders here are mainly Chinese but there are also Indian, Malay, and Bangladeshi traders.



Port students had a look at all the fake goods, as well as experiencing the smells and culture of the numerous stalls.



Traders start to fill Jalan Petaling from midmorning until it is jam-packed with market stalls selling everything from fake designer handbags to jackfruit.



Roasted chestnuts & fresh Rambutan at the market stalls



Day 5 – Slim River Orang Asli Kampung

After an action-packed few days at the school and around Kuala Lumpur, it was time to head off for some more cultural experiences in the Cameron Highlands, stopping at Slim River Orang Asli Village (Kampung) and Kellies Castle on the way to our now regular spot in Gopeng Rainforest.



Port students had food hampers, toys, musical instruments and games to donate and villagers put on a warm welcome with music, song, dance and a feast of traditional foods.



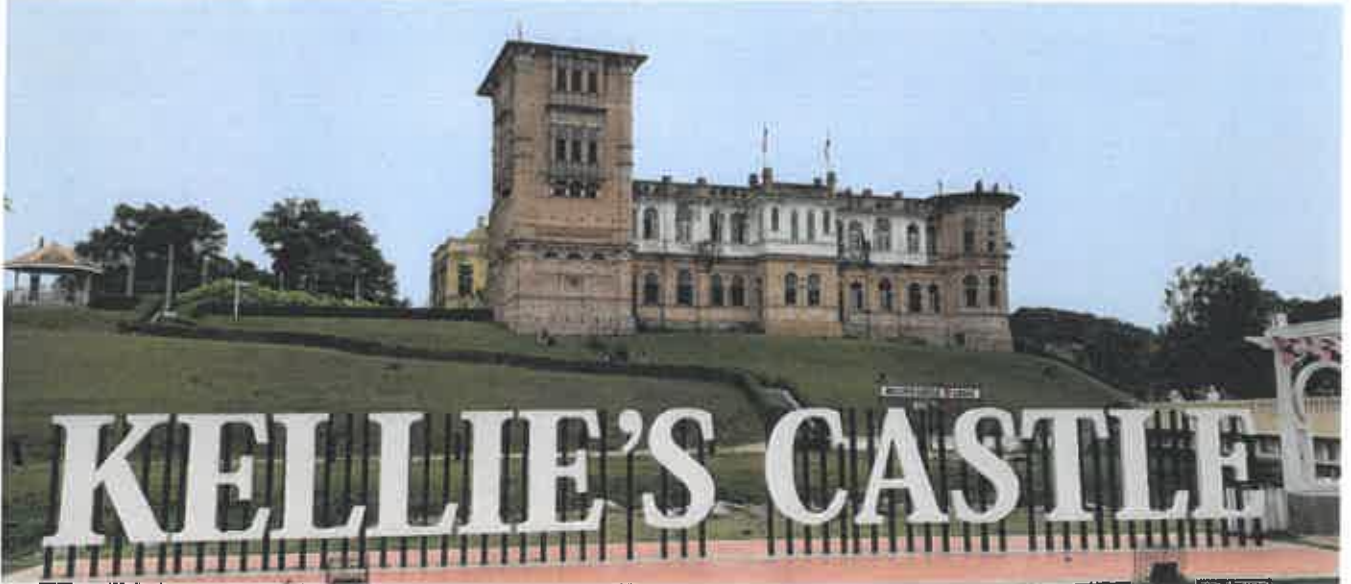


The village children were fabulous and loved their new hats and toys. Port students even played some games including soccer, musical chairs, head n tails as well as coconut bowling and hoop the cockerel (yes your read that correctly)!!



Day 5 – Kellies Castle & Arrival at Gopeng Rainforest Resort

Kellie's Castle is located in Batu Gajah, Kinta District, Perak, Malaysia. A Scottish planter named William Kellie Smith built the unfinished ruined mansion. Kellie's Castle was meant to be a home away from home for William Kellie Smith in the 20th Century. Being far away from home, Kellie desired his new residence to be reminiscent of his home back in Scotland. The castle is perched on top of a hill in what used to be a rubber plantation estate.



William Kellie Smith was an interesting man who was popular with his South Indian workers. Kind at heart, he erected a Hindu shrine for his workers on the castle premises. As a token of appreciation, his workers erected a statue of Kellie complete with a white suit and hat. Construction of this unique castle began in 1915. However, it came to an abrupt halt with Kellie's sudden death in 1926. The solitary castle looks almost surreal in these wild plantations of Perak and it projects a strong personality and an aura of mystery.



After a hot and sticky day on the road, we all arrived at Gopeng and our accommodation for the next few nights. Gopeng is set in the tranquility of the Cameron Highlands and is truly idyllic.



Gopeng is a small town located about 18km south of Ipoh & 16km north of Kampar in Perak State, Malaysia. It is about 200km north of Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur.



The rainforest is blessed with rich natural environmental surroundings. With many crystal clear rivers, streams, local and native villages, orchards, nearby caves, waterfalls, flora and fauna, It is a harmonious blend of nature and diversity providing the perfect getaway to nature and eco-adventure.



While trekking in the nearby Malaysian rainforest, we were rewarded with the unique sightings of the world's largest flower, the rare Rafflesia, beautiful Rajah Brooke butterflies, giant stick insects and many others. This vast area is a paradise for nature lovers and adventurers to explore further.



Day 6 – Gopeng Rainforest – White Water Rafting

Our first full day consisted of white water rafting and abseiling down a waterfall certainly not for the faint hearted!!!



On the river, students had the thrills of tackling rapids and paddling down clear water amidst lush rainforest and passing some old rehabilitated tin mining sites. Having had heavy tropical rains the day before meant the waterfall really was in full flow, which made it a challenging descent for all those brave enough to give it a go.





Students being put through the challenges of the Kampar River rapids!!!



After an exhausting day on the river, Its always fun to have a truck ride back to camp through the jungle whilst dodging the overhanging palm leaves.



Later that afternoon after a much needed lunch and rest, we headed to the nearby Ulu Geroh Orang Asli Settlement to have a tour around and learn about traditional village life.



Most of their dwellings, called "wind screens," are made from jungle materials, such as bamboo, wood, leaves, sticks, and rattan. A very simple dwelling usually consists of a small and rather narrow sleeping platform. However, others, such as the Temiar, live in longhouses. Every longhouse has a number of divisions or compartments, each with a separate hearth or fireplace.



Students were treated to some traditional food, tour of their homes, learned about their native ways as well as having fun learning to shoot a blow pipe in a very competitive and thrilling competition. Georgina took out the contest with Lionel in a very close second place. To finish, they all tried out traditional fishing using just a bamboo, line and hook.



Day 7 – Gopeng – Gua Tempurung Cave & Ulu Geroh Waterfall Abselling

Before leaving Gopeng, it was time for some caving at Gua Tempurung. A new addition to this year's excursion was a challenge but also a very big hit. These amazing limestone caves at first seemed a bit tourist like, however that was levels 1 & 2. Level 3 turned hard-core and put students through their paces having to crawl through muddy wet water to get through the cave system.



Tempurung Cave (Malay: Gua Tempurung) is a cave in Gopeng, Perak, Malaysia. It is concealed within this limestone massif is an intricate system of caves of various dimensions honeycombed inside the limestone hills.



It is popular among spelunkers, or caving enthusiasts. More than 3 km long, it is one of the longest caves in Peninsula Malaysia. Part of it has been developed as a show cave with electric lighting and walkways and there are a range of tours of different lengths and difficulty. A fine river cave, the river passage runs about 1.6 km through the hill. There are three very large chambers and some spectacular stalactites and stalagmites.

As if the morning caving was not enough, the afternoon's activity of abseiling activity started with traveling to Ulu Geruntum in an open truck ride through narrow village roads. Upon reaching there, a short safety briefing was conducted by professional guides.



During the afternoon students abseiled down the rock face of a lush rainforest waterfall with water splashing over all parts of their body and when they never thought it was possible to go down, that was where the challenge began. It was a truly an invigorating experience pushing their fears to the limits.



Day 8- Gopeng Goodbyes and a final swim in Kampar River



Day 9 - Batu Caves, Istana Negara (Kings Palace) & Independence Square

Batu Caves is a limestone hill that has a series of caves, and cave temples in Gombak, Selangor, Malaysia. It takes its name from the Sungai Batu (Batu River), which flows past the hill and also it is the tenth (Pattu in Tamil) limestone hill from Ampang. Batu Caves is also the name of the nearby village.



The cave is **one** of the most popular Hindu shrines outside India and is dedicated to **Lord Murugan**. It is the **focal point** of the Hindu festival of **Thaipusam** in Malaysia.



We were lucky enough to take a drive by the Kings Royal Palace (Istana Negara) and a few of the students fancied themselves as the newest members of the Royal guards.



The Istana Negara is the official residence of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the monarch of Malaysia. It is located along Jalan Tuanku Abdul Halim in Segambut, northwestern Kuala Lumpur. The palace opened in 2011 and replaced the old Istana Negara, which was located in central Kuala Lumpur.





As we headed into central Kuala Lumpur, we passed some of the historical buildings on the way to the Petronas Twin Towers. The Sultan Abdul Samad is a late nineteenth century building located along Jalan Raja in front of the Dataran Merdeka (Independence Square) and the Royal Selangor Club in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



The building originally housed the offices of the British colonial administration, and was known simply as Government Offices in its early years. In 1974 it was renamed after Sultan Abdul Samad, the reigning sultan of Selangor at the time when construction began.



Day 10 – Sunway Lagoon

After a very bust schedule, it was time for some fun and relaxing at Malaysia largest theme park. Sunway Lagoon is like Adventure World on steroids with a water park, wildlife park, thrill seeking rides and Nickelodeon themed park all in one place.



From slides to rides and archery to paintball and bikes, Mike and Joy did not see the students for the whole day!!



Day 11 – Klang School – Farewells and Donations

Klang School proved to be a very special place for us all once again this year and sadly it was time to start saying our goodbyes. However, our wider Port community had once again achieved something very special in being able to donate 40,000RM, approximately \$15,000 that would sponsor orphan students to attend Klang Special School once again. On top of that some amazing artwork by Dionne and Jami was donated as well as 19 I pads thanks to PRA Computers in Perth.



Memories have been created, emotional tears have been shed and lifelong friendships, and stories are ingrained in the minds of all the 2019 Malaysia crew. These photos being shared in this newsletter, tell a small tale of how that has happened and come about and how this 2019 crew have made it a very special excursion for everyone concerned.



Klang School offers a variety of programs to the special needs students starting with the Early intervention program which offers educational programs to under 6 year olds. Then there is the school program, which focuses on 7 – 17 years olds and is broken down into 4 levels.



There is also the vocational program that introduces: Sewing, Handicraft, Living skills, Academic (Mathematics, Malay, English and Social Moral) and other activities such as Swimming, Computer Skills, Recreational Activities, Chess Club, Horse Riding, Educational Outings and Sports.



There is also a specialty service such as the physiotherapy room that offers invaluable and often unaffordable resources to the students and their families through volunteer physio's that aim to help improve their student's quality of life and mobility.

Lastly there is the Sheltered Workshop program targeted toward students that have completed the vocational program. There is a probation period of 3 months with paid work offered including: assembling, packaging, labeling, sorting, quality control, loading and unloading of goods.



Thank you to everyone

As always, this excursion is not possible without support from individuals, groups, and businesses as well as our friends and community in both Perth and Malaysia. The friendships, partnerships and support has once again been amazing and we hope we have mentioned all of those involved below, as well as capturing some of the highlights from the Malaysia 2019 journey.

Thank you to:

- * Students, Staff and Board members at Port School (Especially Eileen, Tim & Dionne)
- * Klang Apex Club and its members, friends and families
- * Petaling Jaya Apex Club and members
- * Selangor Association Mentally Handicapped
- * Klang Special School Board, Management staff and all the students
- * Slim River Orang Asli Tribal Villagers & Grace Church
- * Ann Hamblin – Board member, Port School – \$300 Port student sponsorship
- * Anne & David Gee – \$500 Port student sponsorship
- * Bunning's Ocean Keys, Clarkson & Bibra Lake
- * Annie Q Homewares & Gifts partnering with Gilbert's Fresh Hilton and their botanical florist & stylist Kim Little, Canvas Your Life
- * Cellarbrations Rivervale: Anthony & Carmel Jardim
- * Main Event Hire: Dom & Vanessa La Rosa-Lacono
- * Port Art Students, Present & Past
- * Port Hospitality
- * Scarvaci's IGA Hamilton Hill: Luisa Scarvaci
- * The Entire Port Team
- * My Delicious Cakes: Lynette Della Bona
- * Magnus Singleton – Hooper – musician at art evening
- * Karma Resorts – Rottnest Island
- * PRA Technology Solutions, Perth

Art and Craft donations & support:

- * Abdul Abdullah, Jill Ansell, Freda Blakeway, Ann Boekman, Kristal Brebner, Barbara Carter, Phoebe Chapman, Thelma Cluning, Rachel Coad, Belinda Cody, Marlene Collins, Ben Crappsley, Tammy Cuff, Rebecca Dagnall, Dan Duggan, Christian Fletcher, Susie Ponte, Anais Garvey, Anne Gee, Mike & Kath Gilbert, Sarana Haeta, Ann Hamblin, Patricia Hawthorne, Paul Holland, Camilla Loveridge, B. Russell, Rita Monaco, Tim Murphy, Annette Orr, Barbara Parker, Liz Paulin, Marcia Ryan, Dori Sherwin, Magnus Singleton-Hooper, Kristy Smith, Andrea Stacey, Ann Steer, Jim Sumpter & Julie Hoyle, Valerie Taylor, Michelle Timms, Sue Valente, Mary Wardman,

Klang Special School Student Sponsorship Donations:

- * Devco Builders - \$1,600
- * Geraldton Apex Club - \$200
- * The Sherwood Family of Geraldton - \$800
- * The Gilbert Family - \$800
- * The Peatling Family - \$200
- * Jim Sumpter & Julie Hoyle - \$100
- * John Jenkins - \$500
- * Lela Gordon - \$50
- * Brad & Jamahla Rowden - \$800
- * Carlie Monaco - \$400
- * Jami Laxton & Khan Barton - \$920

JUMPA LAGI – TILL WE MEET AGAIN

A BIG THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Selangor & Federal Territory Association For The Mentally Handicapped (SAMH)
Serving The Mentally Handicapped Since 1964



Klang Special School



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