



MALAYSIA

8th - 21st September 2018



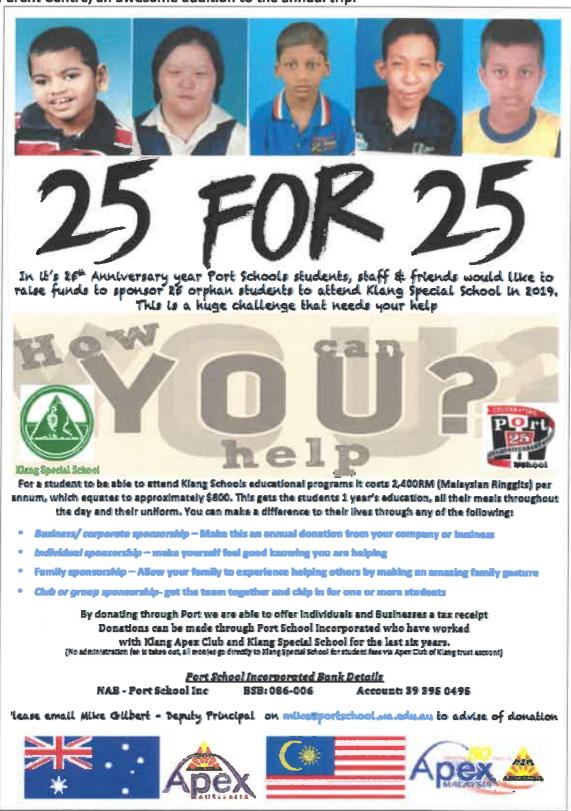




Malaysia Excursion



Once again, over thirty young people originally showed interest in being involved in the 2018 excursion and as time went on in Term 2, the numbers dwindled and started getting down towards a more realistic 15 in number. The trip has a strong focus on appropriate behaviour, attendance and engagement in the planning and fundraising activities to be eligible. That number as always, finally settled at the 10 who were eligible and really wanted to go. This included two young mums from our Young Parent Centre, an awesome addition to the annual trip.



The concept for Port School's 25th Anniversary year trip to Malaysia took on a life of its own, when students and teachers, Mike and Joy, decided to embrace a very ambitious 25 for 25 target. With the school celebrating 25 years in 2018, the 7th Malaysia excursion crew decided to try and raise enough money to sponsor twenty-five orphan students to attend Klang Special School. In real terms that equated to \$20,000 or 60,000 Malaysian Ringitt. No mean feat and an amazing challenge for Port students, parents, teachers and extended friends and family.

The team looked to add new aspects to the annual excursion and one place that had been discussed. as a new cultural excursion option, was Penang. This would mean reviewing the timetable and removing some of the tried and tested cultural visits. After much discussion, it was decided by the crew to remove Malacca and Sunway Lagoon Theme Park and make plans for Penang, Batu Ferenghi and Escape Adventure.

As they would not be heading south this year, Port Dickson New Life Care Home would not be on the agenda, so with the help of Klang Apex members, an alternative tribal Orang Asli Village settlement was sourced on the way to Penang, in an area called Slim River.

At school the 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
- **Booking hotels and flights**

Quality.

I-city/

Temple

Lights Out Lights Out

- Malaysian food experiences creating some tasty Nasi Lemak, Beef Rendang and much more
- Buying Australian themed gifts for Klang Special School and Orang Asli Tribal VIllage children

Malaysia Timetable 2018

Monday

Take away

Lights Out

Home A

combed.

Weds

Thursday 13^a Sunda 16th 120 100 199 20* SPREED P. ffranklast 1-20mm **Heading** Bruskfiest at Breakfast. distributed. Brandwit sig Problem 24 Barren . Breidder at Retai Flight 2102 at Reme Retal ba News 4. Week Art La 9am 9am Klang School GOPENG Kling Goneme Trueel to Rutu GOPENG Pack Balteforwat Radiofarest 9-30am Removes Theme Armer M.boto Klang biggs Slim River Welcome Activities Orune Ash Authorg Village Morning Marning Tea Morning Morning Morning orm Tea Tea Tea Tea Klang School Klang COPING Slim River Hlang Last Mathhurst Constryes School School Persons Penune. Froats. Orang Asli **Hainfarest** school Activities Activitie Lameh. Lunch Limb Lunch Lunch Lunch Lunch Lunch ertays Kil GOPENG MARKED Klang School Activities Klang **Hainforest** Head Tie Rainforms 3pm Head to Alternations School Activities Penang Kellies waterful. Leave Klass atepurt Castle Penns Penang 4-30 pm Showers, Showers, Check in Petaling COPENG Rainforest relax & relax & Femans Rainforgal fresher freshen up time up time COPENG Lifera Lifera GOPENG 7 6pm Satay Palace / Banana **Augusturest** Rainforest Leaf Taman Arrive Dinner at Hawkers Dinner Rakyat Sanation States walk Henst. 1-20ben

The program really has become a finely tuned, jam-packed trip of a lifetime for Port students. The visit ensures cultural, educational and fun experiences, 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 settlement.

Lights Out

Lights Out

Evening

Lights Out

Lights Out

Lights Out

Lights Out

The Malaysia 2018 Crew

Staff Mike Gilbert Joy Cromwell

Students

Jami Laxton
Carlie Monaco
Brandi Robson
Santanna Cound
Khan Barton
Jay Sammels
Sebastian Crowley
Ashlyn Caddy
Sharnie Kiely
Dylan Smith



Day 1 - Leaving Perth

The bus was loaded up with suitcases and 20 boxes of donation items, which could only mean our ten students and two staff were about to head off to Malaysia to start the 2018 excursion. Sporting their new shirts, they certainly looked the part and were all looking forward to the 5½-hour flight with Malaysian Airlines.













The hot and humid weather hit us all as soon as we got out of the airport. Devan, our driver, certainly ensured we had a great bus for all the parcels, boxes and suitcases.







Day 2 - Pulau Ketam

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 came into view as we approached the island was a sight to awe we 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.















Day 3 - Klang Special School

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, and by donations of toys, games and educational items. This year the team, with the support of family, friends, businesses, Port staff and other students, achieved a record amount of \$20,000 (60,000 Ringitt), which equates to sponsorship for 25 orphan students. 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.



It was a public holiday on the first day at Klang School. Port students made use of the quieter time to put together the sculpture made by Tim, Dionne and students. It is a scale model of the Fremantle Container Arch. This eventually took pride of place by our playground donations and the 2017 sculpture.



Following on from the hard work of putting together and erecting the sculpture, it was time for a well-deserved swim and then an introduction to the infamous banana leaf curry lunch.





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. Port students, loved this meal and went back numerous times to have it again on different days.







That evening 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 on the 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.



Jay Sammels taking in the amazing architecture

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





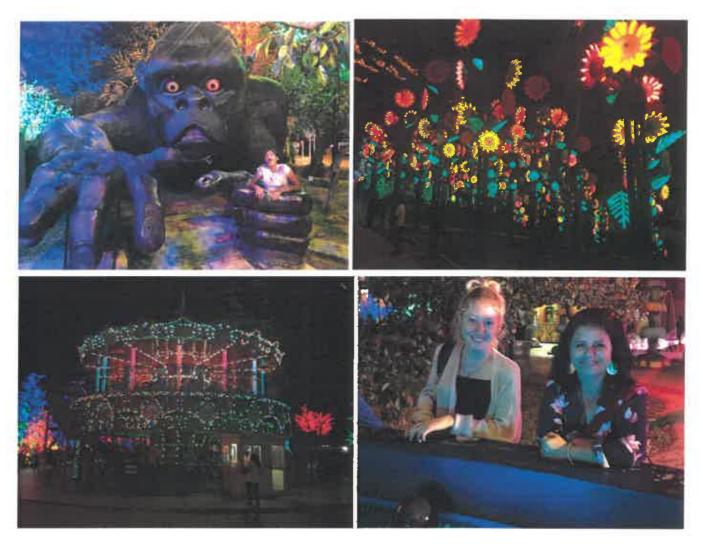








After the temple, students took in the lights of the colourful i-City with an amazing array of shapes, colours and sizes plus, of course, a bit of fun on some of the rides and attractions!



Day 4 - Batu Caves, Kuala Lumpur and Little India

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 nearby Sungai Batu (Batu River) and is the tenth (Pattu in Tamil) limestone hill from Ampang. Batu Caves is also the name of the nearby village.



Since our last visit the 272 steps and various buildings have been controversially painted, causing much unrest with the heritage commission of Malaysia. Watch this space to see if they stay the same or have to be cleaned off.

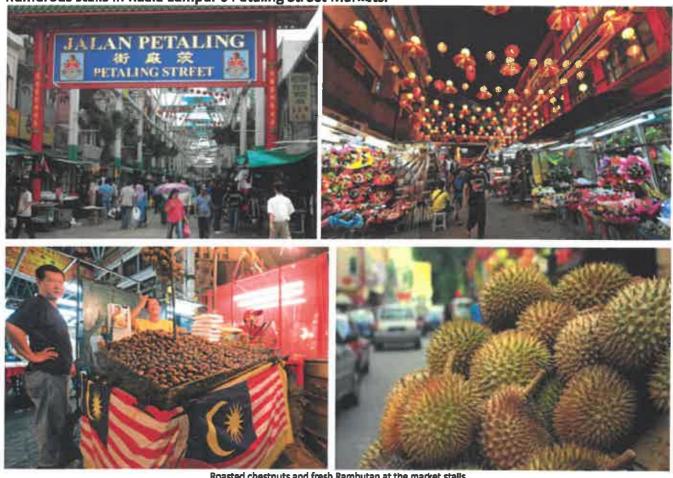


The cave is one of the most popular Hindu shrines outside India and is dedicated to Lord Murugan. It is the focal point of the Hindu festival of Thalpusam in Malaysia.



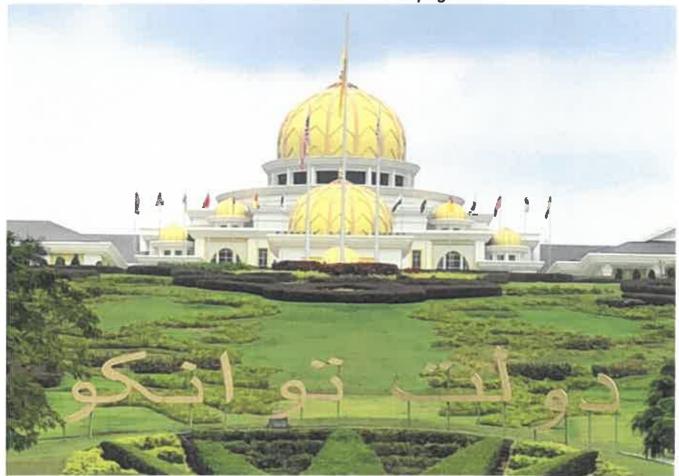
Port students had a look at all the fake goods, as well as experiencing the smells and culture of the

numerous stalls in Kuala Lumpur's Petaling Street Markets.



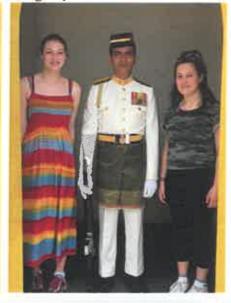
Roasted chestnuts and fresh Rambutan at the market stalls

We were lucky enough to take a drive by the King's 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 enroute 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.





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.

Sadly, the skybridge and viewing deck at Petronas Towers were booked out for the public holiday, but it was a glorious day to view from the ground and to see this spectacular piece of engineering.





The towers were designed by Argentine architect César Pelli. Planning on the 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 with the excavation on 1 March 1993. 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.

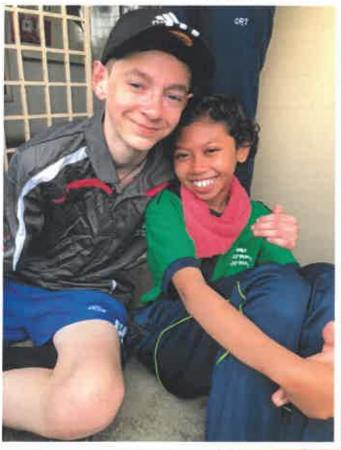


Day 5 - Klang School

Being at the school was a very special and emotional time for many of our students this year. The 2018 crew really seemed to get the reality of how much of a difference they were making with their donations of equipment, the sculpture and sponsorship of 25 orphans. Although not every student below is an orphan student, in real terms this is what everyone has supported to make happen.



Memories have been created, emotional tears have been shed and lifelong friendships have been made. Many stories are ingrained in the minds of all the 2018 Malaysia crew and these photos tell a small tale of how that has come about.





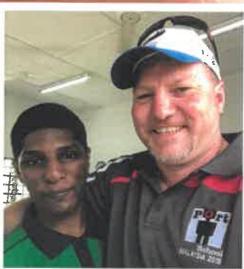


























Klang School offers a variety of programs to special needs students, starting with an Early intervention program offering educational programs to under 6 year olds. There is also a school program, which focuses on 7 - 17 years olds, and is broken down into 4 levels.



The vocational program introduces: sewing, handicraft, life skills, academic skills (Mathematics, Malay, English and Social Moral) and other activities such as swimming, computer skills, recreational activities, chess club, horse riding, educational outings and sports.







Specialty services, such as a physiotherapy room offering invaluable and often unaffordable resources to the students and their families, are made possible through volunteer physiotherapists who aim to improve the students' quality of life and mobility.



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











Day 6 - Slim River Orang Asli Tribal Village

Slim River settlement was a new addition to the program this year. The indigenous settlement has 112 residents, has no access to electricity and clean drinking water, and relies on diesel generators and solar powered lights. The lifestyle is simplistic with little or no work in the area. Villagers struggle to exist and survive, relying on community, church and volunteer donations.





Port students experienced a warm welcome with singing, dancing and some fun games. Port was very pleased to help the struggling community by providing much needed food donations as well as toys, games and sports equipment brought from Australia.



It was an emotional part of the trip and our students truly appreciated the luxuries we all have, despite some of the challenges in their own lives.

Orang Asli is a collective term (which means original or first peoples in Malay) for some 18 ethnic groups of less than 150,000 in total, who are widely regarded as comprising peninsular Malaysia's original inhabitants (in the sense that they pre-date the arrival of Malays). They are generally divided into three distinct groupings: the Negrito, Senoi and Proto-Malay.

The Temoq, Senoi and Negrito speak related languages known as Aslian, which belong to the Mon-Khmer family, while the ancestors of the Proto-Malay spoke languages that, like Malay, belonged to the Austronesian family of languages.



Around half of the Orang Asli live in or close to forests and are still involved in hill rice cultivation or traditional hunting and gathering activities. Others, such as the Orang Seletar and Mah Meri, live near the coast and fish, and the Jakun, who are involved in agriculture. A few Negritos continue a seminomadic lifestyle.



Days 7 and 8 - Gopeng Rainforest Resort

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 and a stay at our now regular spot in Gopeng Rainforest. After a hot and sticky day on the road, it was great to finally arrive 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 and 16km north of Kampar in Perak State, Malaysia. It is about 200km north of Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur.



Gopeng 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, glant stick insects and many others. This vast area is a paradise for nature lovers and adventurers to explore. Our first 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, passing some old rehabilitated tin mining sites. Heavy tropical rainfall 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 !!!



Later that afternoon, as if the rapids were not enough, students were challenged to absell down a waterfall under the watchful eye of our Riverbug instructors.



The 2018 Malaysia crew, enjoy some time in the Gopeng Rainforests and the challenges of Kampar's waterfall abseiling



Before leaving Gopeng, there was time for some caving at Kandu Caves, Gua Tempurung. Deep within the jungle of Malaysia is one of the most majestic white marble and limestone towers called Gua Tempurung.



Concealed within this limestone massif is an intricate system of caves of various dimensions honeycombed inside the limestone hills.







Days 9, 10 and 11 - Penang

Penang was another new addition to this year's excursion and replaced the usual southern trip to Malacca. Following advice obtained from our Malaysian friends and people in Australia, we stayed in the seaside town of Batu Ferenghi, which proved to be a nice part of Penang, close to night markets, beaches and facilities. The first day we ventured to Escape Theme Park, offering a fun water park, high ropes course, zip lines, slides, a climbing tower and many more attractions. Students enjoyed the challenges and an adventurous day with Jay taking out 'Diver of The Day'.















Penang is a state in northwest Malaysia comprising mainland Seberang Peral and Penang Island. On the Island, the state capital of George Town is home to landmarks such as colonial Fort Cornwallis, the ornate Chinese clan house Khoo Kongsi and the Kapitan Keling Mosque, all testaments to centuries of foreign influence. To the west, a funicular ascends Penang Hill, with its trails, flower gardens and panoramic views.





Penang Hill is a hill resort comprising a group of peaks on Penang Island. It is located within the Air Itam suburb, 6 km (3.7 mi) west of the centre of George Town. Penang Hill is also known by the Malay name Bukit Bendera, which actually refers to Flagstaff Hill, the most developed peak.



Penang Hill covers a number of hills, with the highest point at Western Hill, which is 833 m (2,733 ft) above sea level. The hill stands out prominently from the lowlands as a hilly and forested area. It was used as a retreat during the British Colonial period, and is now a popular tourist destination in Penang.



The top of the hill is accessible via the Penang Hill Railway from its base station at Hill Railway Station Road. To date, this funicular railway system is the only one of its kind in Malaysia, transporting millions of visitors to the peak of Penang Hill.

George Town is the colorful, multicultural capital of the Malaysian island of Penang. Once an important Straits of Malacca trading hub, the city is known for its British Colonial buildings, Chinese shop-houses and mosques. Beyond the old town, George Town is a modern city with skyscrapers and shopping malls. Verdant Penang Hill, with hiking and a funicular railway, overlooks it all.



Mike and Santanna (below) were the only brave ones wanting to try the traditional Cendol. It is an iced sweet dessert that contains droplets of worm-like green rice flour jelly, coconut milk and palm sugar syrup. It is commonly found in Southeast Asia and is popular in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Cambodia, East Timor, Vietnam, Thailand and Burma.







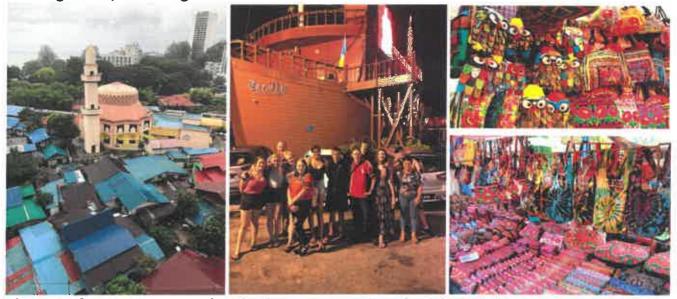
George Town is also famous for its street art, which can be freely enjoyed whilst wandering around the city.







Our accommodation in Penang was a little out of main city at Batu Ferenghi, a beach resort northwest of George Town, on Penang Island.



It's known for water sports and seafood restaurants. Street food, household goods and batik clothing are sold at the seafront night markets. Batik pieces are also on display at local galleries and shops. To the west, the Tropical Spice Garden has spice terraces, a bamboo garden and tropical flowers.



Students once again enjoyed the food at local restaurants as well as having the freedom of looking around the markets, bartering and negotiating best prices on clothes and gifts for themselves and for friends and families.

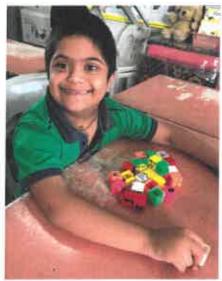




Day 12 - Klang School Donations and Farewells

It was a long, six-hour drive back to Klang from Penang. It was well worth it though, having experienced yet another part of Malaysia. Day 12 offered an opportunity of spending more time with the students at Klang Special School. That evening, at the Royal Klang Club, Port's amazing 25 for 25 donation of \$20,000 (60,000 Ringitt) was formally presented. This donation will sponsor 25 students in 2019.









Klang School always offers special memories, fantastic people and great times and this year was exceptional, with Port students truly embracing the purpose of their amazing achievements,











There was also the chance for a final (and much loved) banana leaf lunch, which the crew tucked into once again.



Day 13 - Homeward Bound

With a change in airline this year, our flight was later in the afternoon, so students had the morning to pack bags, check out and head to Klang School for one last time, to say our tearful farewells.

As always, this excursion would not be possible without support from individuals, groups and businesses, as well as clubs both in Perth and Malaysia. We set ourselves an incredible 25 for 25 challenge at the start of the year, and an inordinate amount of time went into fundraising and organising by so many people. It has made 2018 an unforgettable experience for the students and all of those who have been involved. The friendships, partnerships and support have once again been amazing. We hope we have mentioned all of those involved below, as well as capturing some of the highlights from the Malaysia 2018 journey, both in Perth and Malaysia:

Thank you to:

- * Students, Staff at Port School (Especially Eileen, Dionne, Michelle F and Tim)
- Klang Apex Club and its members, friends and families
- * Selangor Association Mentally Handicapped
- * Klang Special School Board, Management staff and all the students
- * Northern Ladies Craft Group
- * Mayor Logan Howlett City of Cockburn
- * Slim River Orang Asli Tribal Villagers and Grace Church
- * Royal Klang Club
- * Port School Incorporated Board
- * Ann Hamblin Board member, Port School \$500 Port student sponsorship
- * City of Melville 2 x \$500 student youth grants
- * Bunnings Ocean Keys, Clarkson and Bibra Lake
- * Art and Craft donations from: Thelma Cluning, Camilla Loveridge, Tammy Cuff, Anne Gee, Paul Holland, Adrienne Owen-Turner, Mike Gilbert, Megan Gilbert, Carole Longden, Freda Blakeaway, Ann Hamblin, Riverton Baptist Church Group, Frances Stone, Rebecca Dagnall, Raymond Jones, Honor Boekman, Kristal Brebner, Phoebe Chapman, Rachel Coad, Ben Elton, Catrina Fawns, Miranda Free, Anais Garvey, Jennifer Gaye, Rita Monaco, Veronica Moore, Tim Murphy, Annette Orr, Liz Paulin, Ann Smith, Andrea Stacey, Jim Sumpter and Julie Hoyle, Valerie Taylor, Michelle Timms, Sue Valente, Mary Wardman
- * Dan Duggan and Darren Hutchinson
- * Devco Builders \$800 Klang student sponsorship donation
- Nolene Martin & Family \$800 Klang student sponsorship donation
- * Michelle Forsyth \$500 donation
- Knight Piesold Consulting \$800 Klang student sponsorship donation
- * Main Event Hire Heavily discounted hire for quiz night and art exhibition
- Scarvaci's IGA, Hamilton Hill
- * Guy Sebastian and Sebastian Foundation \$4,000 donation (5 students sponsorship donation)
- The Gilbert Family \$800 Klang student sponsorship donation
- Colleen Crowley and Family \$800 Klang student sponsorship donation
- * Marie Earls and Family \$800 Klang student sponsorship donation
- * Brad and Jamahla Rowden \$800 Klang student sponsorship donation
- * Billy Connolly artwork donation
- * Ben Elton \$500 donation
- * Magnus Singleton Hooper musician at the Art Exhibition
- * Australian Olympic Committee signed Olympic jersey
- * All our sponsors and supporters

ABIG Thunks to our Spousous!



Knight Piésold





Selenger & Federal Territory Association For The Mentally Handicapped (SAMH) Sering The Mantally Handicapped Sace 1984

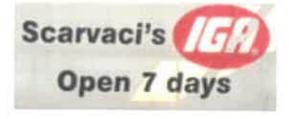
















SEBASTIAN FOUNDATION















