



MALAYSIA

14th - 24th September 2016



Once again planning for the 2016 Malaysia excursion started in earnest in Term 2. This year stalwart trip coordinator Megan Fitzgerald opted out, freeing up the place for a female member of staff. After putting the word out, Joy Cromwell, Port's English teacher, put her hand up and became a new and exciting addition to the team.

As always, Mike and the team, along with the Malaysian hosts, try to add or introduce a new or different element each year and this year was no exception. Discussions around the historic town of Melaka ensued, as well as what other aspects should be part of this year's excursion

Previous years have been a great success with many memories and many new Malaysian friends and contacts made. Eligible students had been identified at the start of the year and after expressions of interest, posters & parent evenings, natural attrition saw the numbers look at about fifteen potentials. That number ended up being whittled down to eight who finally went.

At school Malaysia classes focused on:

- Planning the trip itinerary
- Liaising with Klang Apex Club
- Fundraising – sausage sizzles, sponsorship letters, selling homemade cakes & sausage rolls
- Booking hotel & flights
- Malaysian guest speakers on customs, culture and etiquette
- Malaysian food experiences – creating some tasty Nasi Lemak, Beef Redang and much more
- Workshop activities – making chopping boards and candle holders to sell
- Planning a community working project week in Jurien Bay and using this to make sure we had a cohesive group that could work together
- Buying Australian themed gifts for Klang Special School & Port Dickson New Life Care Home

Malaysia Timetable 2016

Day/Time	Sun 11 th	Monday 12 th	Tuesday 13 th	Weds 14 th	Thursday 15 th	Friday 16 th	Saturday 17 th	Sunday 18 th	Monday 19 th	Tuesday 20 th	Wednesday 21 st	Thurs 22 nd
7:45am (Leave Port Dickson)		Showers/Breakfast at Hotel	Showers/Breakfast at Hotel	Showers/Breakfast at Hotel	Showers/Breakfast at Hotel	Showers/Breakfast at Hotel	Showers/Breakfast	Showers/Breakfast	Showers/Breakfast at Hotel	Showers/Breakfast at Hotel	Showers/Breakfast at Hotel	Get stuff together
8:00am - 10:30am	Meet at school 10am	Money changed. Call at Care Home in PD. Head to MELAKA	Balance of Melaka sights	9am Klang School Welcome Tour	9am Klang School Activities	Orang Asli Tribal Village. Hamper & toy donations & lunch	GOPENG Rainforest White Water Rafting	GOPENG Rainforest Caving	8am Travel to WISMA HARAPAN	Sunway Lagoon	9:30am Klang school	Leave for airport Sun
10:30am		MELAKA Tour starts	Head to KL	Morning Tea Klang School Activities Lunch	Morning Tea Klang School Activities Lunch	Morning Tea Orang Asli visit	Morning Tea GOPENG Rainforest WWR	Morning Tea GOPENG Rainforest Caving	Morning Tea WISMA HARAPAN	Morning Tea Sunway Lagoon	Morning Tea Shopping near Port Klang	8:25am Flying
1:00pm - 1pm	Travel to airport	Lunch				Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	WISMA HARAPAN	Lunch	Lunch	Flying
1:30pm - 4pm	Fly Out 3pm	MELAKA	KL Breakfast at Marriott	Klang School Activities	Klang School Activities	Travel to Gopeng Rainforest	GOPENG Rainforest Abseiling waterfall	Return to Klang	WISMA HARAPAN	Sunway Lagoon	Klang Club (Basketball and swim)	Flying 2:10pm arrive Perth
4pm - 6pm	Fly	Hotel in Port Klang	Pulau Tioman	Showers, relax & freshen up time	Goodbye, Farewell & Presents	GOPENG Rainforest	GOPENG Rainforest Abseiling waterfall	Return to Klang	Batu Caves	Sunway Lagoon	Farewell Dinner & Presents with Apex Klang staff and Klang students @ Klang Club	Home
6pm - 11pm	Arr 6:55pm	Local Walk around Melaka & Evening meal	Return to Klang & Evening Meal	Palace & Taman Rukyat walk then dinner with Port Klang Rotary	Banana Leaf Dinner and t-dry	GOPENG Rainforest River swim Evening activity	GOPENG Rainforest Evening Activity	Western Dinner (Pizza) & Relax	Vegetarian food in Anson's	Steamboat Dinner		Home and gear own bed
11pm		Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	

The finely tuned program above provided an amazing range of experiences for all students with Port Dickson & Melaka being fantastic additions to the trip. It was nice to visit Wisma Harapan and see how the other school under Selangor Association for Mentally Handicapped runs (SAMH).

The Malaysia 2015 Crew

Staff

Mike Gilbert
Joy Cromwell

Students

Cameron Lloyd
Jarrod Harrison
Caleb Willis
Jay Polkinghorne
Christine Nannup
Kristal Brebner
Hayley O'Neill
Charlee Congreve



Day 1 – Leaving Perth

The bus was loaded up with 10 suitcases and 18 boxes of donation items, which could only mean our eight students & two staff were about to head off to Malaysia to start the 2016 excursion. Sporting their new shirts, they certainly looked the part & were all looking forward to a great 5½ hour Malindo airlines trip to Kuala Lumpur. Flying with malindo this year saved us nearly \$4,000 in flight costs.



As always, the heat and humidity hit the group immediately on arrival and it was off in our vehicle to check in at the Puteri Garden Hotel in Klang.



Day 2 – Melaka (Malacca)

It was an early start and away. This new addition to the excursion was certainly a great one. Malacca is a Malaysian state on the Malay Peninsula's southwest coast. The capital, Malacca City, has a colonial past seen in its preserved town centre, the site of 16th-century, Portuguese St. Paul's Church. It's also home to Christ Church, built by the Dutch in the 18th century. Next to Christ Church in Red Square is the Stadthuys, the Dutch-era town hall now housing a museum of Malaccan history and ethnography.



Students were hosted by a Melaka Apex Club member, who acted as a tour guide. Later in the day they treated the group to a pretty spicy Banana Leaf Curry!!



Whilst in Melaka, we helped to celebrate Christine's birthday with a traditional Nyonya meal, a river cruise and a small gift from the group.



With its history, scenic sights and culture, this new addition was certainly enjoyed by all. Our overnight accommodation was none too shabby either, being hosted by a Malacca Apexian who owned apartments in a resort hotel that overlooked the Malacca Straits.



Ornate and colourful bridges as we cruised up the river inlet



Day 3 – Port Dickson & Kuala Lumpur

Port Dickson was another fabulous new addition with the New Life Care Home Orphanage centre becoming a new place for Port students to donate food hampers and toys. Port students ran some traditional fun and games before the centre hosted us to an amazing lunch.



Port students proud to present food hampers and goody bags of gifts to the centre's students

On our way back from Port Dickson, we called into Kuala Lumpur's Petaling Street Markets for Port students to have a look at all the cheap and nasty fake goods, as well as taking in the smells and culture that the abundance of market stalls have to offer !!



Roasted chestnuts & fresh Rambutan at the market stalls

Day 4 & 5 – Klang Special School

After a nice few days taking in Malaysia culture, it was time to get to the main reason of our trip and head to Klang Special School. As always there was an amazing warm welcome from our hosts with some cultural dances and students dressed in traditional costumes.



Klang Special School



There was also the official opening ceremony of the new playground that we are delighted to have sponsored with all the support from Port School's wider community.



Port was thrilled to see the playground being immediately used by the Klang Special School students and of course Port students got the job of assisting with the see saw and pushing the swing. We cannot thank all our friends and supporters enough for making this happen. With approximately \$5,000 (15,000RM) we have replaced dangerous and outdated equipment with state of the art new facilities for the many children to play on. It was a very emotional opening ceremony, knowing we have once again made a big difference to others less fortunate than ourselves.



Bank of Port School

Wednesday 21st September 2016

Perth, Western Australia

PAY: **Klang Special School Playground**

AMOUNT: Fourteen Thousand, Eight Hundred & Forty Ringgits

14,840 RM



This Donation was Kindly Sponsored By:
Port Students & Staff Fundraising
Northern Ladies Craft Group
Customised Air Conditioning
Karratha Apex Club



It was great to see Klang Special School students using the pool equipment that we bought on last year's trip. Thanks to sponsorship from Klang Apex Club and friends, the swimming pool is now back in action and an instructor has been funded to provide basic swimming lessons.



Port students run a few games for the Klang Special School Students



Later that evening our students headed off to I-city, near Shah Alam for a look around the multi-coloured city of digital lights and some fun on the themed rides.



Day 6 – Heading to the Rainforest

After two fun packed days with the students and staff at Klang Special School, it was time to head off for some more cultural experiences in the Cameron Highlands, with a stop at Kellie's Castle en route to Gopeng Rainforest. 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.

Recently, efforts have been made by the Perak State Government to rescue this magnificent structure

from the encroaching foliage. Besides being haunted, the castle is believed to have hidden rooms and secret underground tunnels. The road that leads to Kellie's Castle follows the contours of the land in a dizzying, maze-like fashion, adding to the mystery and romance of the place.



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.



And when it is hot and humid, there is nothing better than a cold river to cool us all down.



Gopeng is a small town located about 18km south of Ipoh and 16km north of Kampar in Perak of Malaysia. It is about 200km north of Malaysia's capital city, Kuala Lumpur. With the stressful life in the city and work pressures, more and more people yearn for the nature and the slow pace of life in the countryside.



Gopeng Rainforest is blessed with a rich natural environment surrounding. 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 to offer you the perfect getaway to nature and eco-adventure. With some trekking and adventure in the nearby Malaysian rainforest, we were rewarded with the unique sightings of the world's largest flower, the rare Rafflesia flower, the beautiful Rajah Brooke butterflies, the giant stick insect and many others. This vast area is a nature lovers and adventurous enthusiasts' paradise to explore further.



Our first night included a night hike with local Orang Asli tribal villagers, spotting some amazing creatures including large stick insects, bugs and chameleon lizards.



Cameron gets a hands on experience with a giant stick insect



Day 7 & 8 - Gopeng Adventures

It was time to start some of the more adventurous challenges with white water rafting down the rainforest rapids, caving at Gua Tempurung and abseiling down a fast flowing waterfall.





Day 9 – Wisma Harapan & Petronas Towers

A new addition to the program this year was a visit to the Selangor Association Mentally Handicapped School in Kuala Lumpur called Wisma Harapan. A warm welcome was given to us all, with a short show and some songs by the students.



After that Port students were invited to take part in traditional basket weaving and stool making craft activities before having lunch and a few presentations.



Day 9 –Petronas Towers & Batu Caves

After a great time and having been truly spoiled at Wisma Harapan, it was time to head to the Petronas Towers. Sadly timings this year did not allow us to go to the top to the skybridge and viewing deck, but it was a glorious day to view from the ground & see this spectacular piece of engineering.



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, which 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.

As if the day wasn't packed enough, it was then on to see the amazing natural Batu Caves. 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 a 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 Hindu festival of Thaipusam in Malaysia.

Day 10 – Sunway Lagoon

Sunway is a chill day and a chance for students to reflect on what they have been part of over the last ten days, whilst having a blast in one of Asia's biggest theme parks. With a massive water park, adventure theme park and wildlife park it offers an all day non stop range of activities.



In the evening it was time to head back for a steamboat dinner, which is often loved or hated!! Steamboat refers to several Asian varieties of stew, consisting of a simmering metal pot of stock at the centre of the dining table. Ingredients are placed into the pot and are cooked at the table. Dishes include thinly sliced meat, vegetables, mushrooms, wontons, egg dumplings, tofu & seafood.



Day 11 – Farewells

It is never easy leaving and as they say all good things come to an end, but not without creating a few more amazing memories. It was a chance to say final farewells to Klang School and present them with a few donations. Port raised over \$5,000 to donate to the new playground as well as raising nearly \$7,000 through Australian support to sponsor 8 orphan students for 1 years education at Klang school



It was sad to say goodbye to our good friends at the school, and after talking closely with staff there, we look forward to a great relationship in 2017 and beyond. Thanks must go out to the President of the Royal Klang Club and to Klang apex Club for hosting what was an amazing and memorable final evening for all. It was great to see Klang school staff and students join us at this event and close off what was a brilliant and unforgettable 11 days.



Day 12 – Homeward Bound

After a late night, it was back to the Puteri Garden to pack up and get ready for an early flight home. The excursion had so many high's and some amazing memories have been created for all our Port students. Many new activities and venues were introduced and overall it was a very successful trip. We very much look forward to seeing you all in 2017.



As always, this excursion is not possible without support from individuals, groups, businesses and clubs both in Perth and Malaysia. An inordinate amount of time goes into this from so many people, to make this an, unforgettable experience for the students. The friendships, partnerships and support has once again been amazing and we hope we have mentioned all of those involved below as well as captured some of the highlights from the Malaysia 2016 journey, both in Perth and Malaysia: **Thank you to:**

- * Students & Staff at Port School
- * Klang Apex Club and its members, friends and families
- * Selangor Association Mentally Handicapped
- * Klang Special School Board, Management staff and all the students
- * Wisma Harapan School Board, Management staff and all the students
- * Karratha Apex Club & Apex Camp Jurien
- * New Life Care Centre – Port Dickson and Yvonne Halska-Smith
- * Northern Ladies Craft Group
- * Mayor Tracey Roberts & City of Wanneroo
- * Gopeng Orang Asli Tribal Villagers
- * Royal Klang Club
- * Ann Hamblin – Board member – Port School – student sponsorship
- * Bunnings Ocean Keys & Bibra Lake
- * All our sponsors and supporters



JUMPA LAGI – TILL WE MEET AGAIN



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



Klang Special School

(08) 9417 1071

Air Conditioning Perth

- ✓ Free Professional Advice
- ✓ Ducted Refrigerated Systems
- ✓ Split Systems
- ✓ Established & New Homes
- ✓ Quality Product Guaranteed
- ✓ 2 Year Installation Warranty
- ✓ 5 Year Manufacturers Warranty

1 Call Us To Find Out!

Proudly Supporting Port's Malaysia Excursion 2016 & Klang Special School

A huge thank you to Darren Harding, Director of **Customised Air Conditioning** for an extremely generous donation of **\$1,000** to this years fundraising for Klang Special School, people's kindness always amazes us.

Please support Darren and contact his business directly for all your air conditioning needs





Apex Global Participation Award 2016

Port School is delighted to announce that after five years supporting Klang Special School in Malaysia, that they have won a Global Apex Project Award jointly with the Apex Club of Klang. The accolade acknowledged the support they have all given the school and the special three way international relationship that has developed over that time.

Mike Gilbert, Deputy Principal & Malaysia Coordinator from Port School, Perth was inducted as an Honorary Member of Klang Apex Club only two days before the award, for his international work over that time. Mike has served over 23 years in service groups including Round Table in the UK, Apex in Australia and more recently joining Mindarie Rotary Club in Perth, Western Australia.

Both he and Rovin Raj the Klang Apex Club President jointly accepted the sought after prestigious trophy by outgoing Global Chairman- Kate Huth at the Royal Port Dickson Yacht Club after beating other projects in India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Fiji, Singapore, Philippines and Australia.



Klang Special School



A spokesperson for Klang School and Selangor Association for Mentally Handicapped said, *"We are delighted that the award has gone to such amazing recipients, Klang Apex Club have supported us since the 1980's and Apex Australia as an organisation since 2009. Mike & the Port School team took us on as a project in 2012 and have donated much need resources, equipment and funding over that period."*

Port School has taken over ten students from its school near Fremantle each year for the last 5 years adding a cultural, leadership and international theme to their timetable. Port has made many friends over the journey and has had support and donations from far and wide. The highlight was in 2015, when Mike and the team were successful in gaining a Department of Foreign Affairs grant for \$17,500 that funded Port to go to Malaysia and six Klang Special School students and two teachers to be able to come to Perth on a trip of a lifetime.



By the time your reading this article, two Port staff and eight students, once again will have headed to Malaysia for another ten-day excursion and experience not to be forgotten. Taking in the cultural aspects of Malaysia, whilst helping out Klang Special School again. This year they have raised \$5,000 equating to 15,000RM (Malaysian Ringgits). The money will be going towards much needed, brand new outdoor play equipment to replace the rusty, dangerous and very outdated ones they currently have. Local Malaysian businessman and parent of a student, Mr. Kenny Yang has been helping to remove the old play equipment and get the area prepared for the new state of the art play facility.



The award and international accolade must go to all the friends, families and supporters of the initiative over the 5-year duration in both countries. Multiple people have been involved over the journey in this very special project between two amazing schools. Whilst there, National Apex President, Mathew O'Donnell also presented Klang School a cheque for \$11,271 from Apex Australia.





\$1,000 donation for Malaysia Excursion

by the

Northern Ladies Craft Group

Over the last few years Northern Ladies Craft Group have donated over \$3,000 to Ports annual Malaysia excursion, helping out with donations to Klang Special School and Ports excursion costs. The ladies group who meet weekly in the Northern suburbs have closely followed what Port do overseas and liked it so much they decided to help and do their bit as well.



Port's 2016 Malaysia students and Malaysia Coordinators; Mike Gilbert & Joy Cromwell along with Chairperson Anne Gee and Principal Barry Finch were delighted to welcome the ladies to Port School last month to accept the kind and very generous donation. As part of their visit students gave them a tour of the school facilities and hosted a morning tea and lunch catch up.



Whilst on their tour, not satisfied with donating \$1,000, the ladies had also made an amazing wall hanging for the children of the Early Learning Centre. Mike Gilbert commented, "This is community relationship building at its best and for some reason, the Malaysia project and links with Klang Special School and Klang Apex has touched the heart of many over the years with support coming from far and wide". Chairperson Anne & Principal Barry thanked the ladies for their support and presented them with a framed certificate of appreciation and some personal thank you gifts for their support over the years.