



MALAYSIA

10th - 21st September 2017



Planning for the 2017 Malaysia excursion started in Term 2 with Mike Gilbert & Joy Cromwell heading up the trip once again. As always, Mike and Joy along with the Malaysian hosts, tried to add or introduce a new element each year. This excursion was no exception. Discussions around the historic town of Melaka versus a new addition of Penang further North ensued, as well as re-introducing an old favourite, Pulau Ketam (Crab Island). After much research, Melaka was chosen by the final team of students, along with many tried and tested venues such as the Gopeng Rainforest, Kuala Lumpur, Port Dickson and Kellie's Castle.

Previous years had 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, over twenty-five students were interested from the outset. Natural attrition saw the numbers decrease to fifteen potentials. That number ended up being whittled down to nine who finally went, including a Finnish Rotary exchange student, Kaisla Kainulainen.

At school Malaysia classes focused on:

- Planning the trip itinerary
- Liaising with Klang Apex Club
- Fundraising – sausage sizzles, sponsorship letters, selling homemade cakes, pies & sausage rolls, an amazing art exhibition and a wonderful quiz night
- Booking hotels & 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 a spectacular sculpture to take to Malaysia
- Buying Australian themed gifts for Klang Special School & Port Dickson New Life Care Home

Malaysia Timetable 2017

| Day/ Time | Sun 10 th | Monday 11 th | Tuesday 12 th | Weds 13 th | Thursday 14 th | Friday 15 th | Saturday 16 th | Sunday 17 th | Monday 18 th | Tuesday 19 th | Wednesday 20 th | Thurs 21 st |
|------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Time Guest Notes | | 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 | Sun Get well togethers |
| 8am to 10:30am | Meet at school 10am | Leisurely Morning Money Change | 9am Klang School Welcome Tour | 9am Klang School Activities | Sun Early start Port Dickson New Life Care School | Travel to Gopeng Rainforest | GOPENG Rainforest White Water Rafting | GOPENG Rainforest - Canoeing | Bus Travel to WISMA HARAPAN | Possibly Petronas Towers Sunway Lagoon | 9-10am Klang school | Leave for airport Sat |
| 10:30am | Travel to airport | Pulau Ketam | Morning Tea Klang School Activities | Morning Tea Klang School Activities | Melaka Tour | Morning Tea Kellies Castle | Morning Tea GOPENG Rainforest WWH | Morning Tea GOPENG Rainforest Canoeing | Morning Tea WISMA HARAPAN | Theme Park | Morning Tea Klang school | 8-24am Flying |
| 11am to 1pm | | | | | | | | | | | | Flying |
| 1pm | | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Flying |
| 1:30pm - 4pm | Fly Out 3pm | Pulau Ketam | Klang School Activities | Klang School Activities | Melaka Tour | Travel to Gopeng Rainforest | GOPENG Rainforest Abseiling waterfall | Return to Klang | Patrolling St Markets & Twin Towers from Outside | Sunway Lagoon Theme Park | Shopping near Port Klang Farling/ Bibis | Flying 2-10pm arrive Perth |
| 4pm - 6pm | Fly | | Showers, relax & freshen up time | Goodbye, Farewell & Presents | Melaka Tour | GOPENG Rainforest | GOPENG Rainforest Abseiling waterfall | | Riau Caves | | Farewell Dinner & Presents with Apex, Klang staff and Klang students @ Klang Club | Home |
| 6pm - 11pm | Arrive 8-9:30pm Hotel to Hotel | Local Walk around & Evening meal | Palace & Taman Bakyt walk then dinner with Klang Apex | Bannana Leaf Dinner & I-city/ Temple | Melaka River Cruise Leave WTH | GOPENG Rainforest River swim Evening activity | GOPENG Rainforest Evening Activity | Western Dinner & Riau | Vegetarian food in Annamaya | Steamboat Dinner | | Home and your own bed |
| 12pm | | Lights Out | Lights Out | Lights Out | Lights Out | Lights Out | Lights Out | Lights Out | Lights Out | Lights Out | Lights Out | |

After six years, the program really is a finely tuned and jam-packed trip of a lifetime for the Port students. The visit ensures cultural, educational and fun experiences throughout the ten days they are away.

The Malaysia 2017 Crew

Staff

Mike Gilbert
Joy Cromwell

Students

Jami Laxton
Jarrod Harrison
Georgia Bleach
Kaisla Kainulainen
Khan Barton
Kristal Brebner
Sebastian Longden
Kirrilly Hale
Kim Wallam



Day 1 – Leaving Perth

The bus was loaded up with 11 suitcases and 25 boxes of donation items, which could only mean our nine students & two staff were about to head off to Malaysia to start the 2017 excursion. Sporting their new shirts, they certainly looked the part and were all looking forward to a 5½ hour journey.



The heat and humidity hit us all as soon as we got out of the airport. Devan, our driver, certainly ensured we had a big enough bus this year..... A party bus.



Day 2 – Pulau Ketam (Crab Island)

A 45-minute boat ride landed us on Pulau Ketam, a small traditional fishing village island with no transport other than push bike hire or walking. The bikes were dubious, to say the least, but improved on previous years. We had seen better ones on bulk rubbish around Fremantle!!! But then, \$15 for ten bikes all day, you can't ask for much I suppose!! It was a great day sightseeing on an unusual island. Most of the houses were on stilts due to it being on a flood plain.



Day 3 & 4 – 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, by donations of toys, games and educational items, or through sponsoring students to be able to attend on an annual basis. This year we were all so proud of being able to achieve all of the above and make so many long-lasting memories for all concerned.



Port students enjoyed spending some very special time and moments with the Klang children, taking part in their day to day educational activities, as well as seeing how they learn



Georgia, Kimmy and Kristal (hiding behind the ball) getting to know the Klang Special School children



This year, the action-packed 11-day program included taking over and donating an amazing sculpture that will be at Klang School for many years to come. Port's values of **Growth, Empowerment, Diversity and Community** will be very visible, along with two aptly chosen additional values that we thought appropriate to Malaysia and Klang School: **Spirituality and Wisdom**.



We believe those values represent what has become a truly multicultural project and relationship, developed between Klang School, Port School and the Apex Club of Klang and Malaysia, from its inception in 2012.



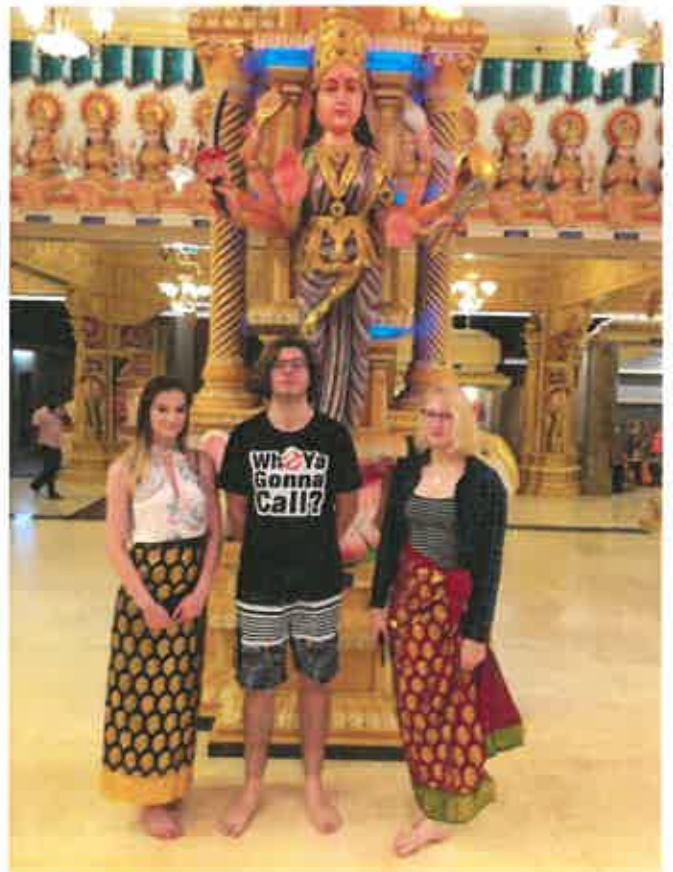
In addition to the sculpture, Port School and all of our supporters managed to donate enough to pay for and sponsor nine orphan students for the 2018 school year. This includes the children's school fees, uniform and food for the year.



In the evening students enjoyed (well most did!!) the Malaysian food and some of 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.



Kirrilly, Jarrod and Kaisla taking in the inside of Sri Mahamariamman



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!

Day 5 – Port Dickson & Melaka

Students were up early for a trip to the New Life Orphan Home in Port Dickson, followed by a sightseeing trip to Melaka. Port Dickson was visited for a second year and we were delighted to be able to assist the New Life Care Home Orphanage centre by donating food hampers, toys, books and sports equipment. Port students ran some traditional fun and games with the children there before heading off to Melaka.





Melaka is a Malaysian state on the Malay Peninsula's southwest coast. The capital, Melaka City, has a colonial past, seen in its preserved town centre, the site of the 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 Melakan history and ethnography.



Whilst in Melaka, we helped to celebrate Jami's sixteenth birthday, and what better way than to head to Hard Rock Café- Melaka



Day 6, 7 & 8 – Kellie's Castle & Gopeng Rainforest Resort

After an action-packed 5 days travelling around Malaysia, it was time to head off for some more cultural experiences in the Cameron Highlands, with a stop at Kellie's Castle on the way 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 early 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 the wild plantations of Perak; it projects a strong personality and an aura of mystery.



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 & 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, giant stick insects and many others. This vast area is a paradise for nature lovers and adventurers to explore further.

Our first afternoon consisted of 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.



Port students got up close and personal with nature on the Kampar River, white water rafting. They were encompassed by exotic and mystifying rainforest on either side of the river with butterflies peacefully collecting nectar on the riverbank, whilst enjoying the thrills of the river rapids on a raft.



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.



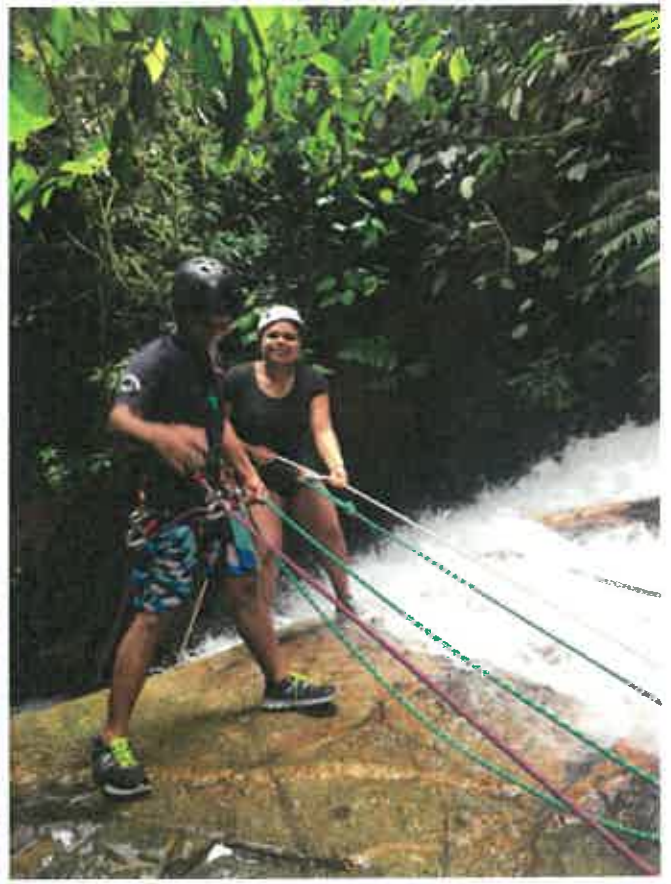


Students being put through the challenges of the Kampar River rapids !!!



Certainly not for the faint hearted!!!

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



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.

It was then time to just cool down a bit before heading for a night hike and insect spotting



Our second night included a night hike with local Orang Asli tribal villagers, spotting some amazing creatures including large stick insects, bugs and Chameleon Lizards.



Day 8 – Orang Asli Traditional Village – Gopeng

Before heading back to Klang students, we were lucky enough to be invited to spend the morning at a local Orang Asli tribal village



Students were lucky enough to be invited for a traditional lunch with some very interesting food.





Meeting the locals, making necklaces from leaves and trying their hand at blow dart shooting were just some of the activities undertaken whilst there.



Day 9 – Wisma Harapan, Petaling Street Markets & Petronas Towers

Once again this year the group visited the Selangor Association Mentally Handicapped (SAMH) School and headquarters in Kuala Lumpur called Wisma Harapan. A warm welcome was given to us all, with some craft activities, donations from Port students and a fabulous Malaysian lunch provided.



After a busy morning at Wisma Harapan, we headed to 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 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.



Port students had a look at all the cheap and nasty fake goods, as well as experiencing the smells and culture of the numerous stalls in Kuala Lumpur's Petaling Street Markets.



Roasted chestnuts & fresh Rambutan at the market stalls



On the way back to the hotel, we decided to have a look at 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. 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 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.



Day 11 – Boomerang Painting, Donations & Farewells

Students took advantage of having the morning to spend time doing some good old Aussie Boomerang painting with craft kits they took over. Port students split into groups and enjoyed spending time with the Klang kids before the excitement of the presentations.




After a full on 11 days for everyone, it was time to say sad farewells and present our donations of gifts and support towards Klang Special School. This year Port students, friends, supporters, sponsors and families raised over \$17,000 and that's without the \$5,000 individual total student contribution. That has allowed us to sponsor 9 orphan students to attend for one year in 2018.

Bank of Port School


Wednesday 20th September 2017

Perth, Western Australia



PAY: Klang Special School

AMOUNT: Twenty One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixty Ringgits

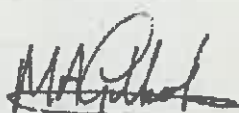


Supported By Apex Clubs of WA
& Apex Club of Klang

This Donation will fund 9 Klang Special School students and has kindly been Sponsored By:

- Port School Inc. (5 students) - \$4,000
- John Jenkins & Michelle (1 student) - \$800
- The Gilbert Family (1 student) - \$800
- Karratha Apex Club (1 student) - \$800
- Extra Student due to good exchange rate

21,760RM



Mike Gilbert - Deputy Principal

In addition the team donated, sports, music, arts, toys and educational equipment. Special thanks also must go to Sebel Furniture and Luke's Boots for the Outback and their very generous donations.





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 highs, a few challenges and it has created lots of amazing memories for all our Port students to talk about for many years to come. We very much look forward to seeing you all in 2018 and celebrate our 25th Anniversary.



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 organizing this from so many people, to make it 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 capturing some of the highlights from the Malaysia 2017 journey, both in Perth and Malaysia:

Thank you to:

- * Students, Staff and Board members at Port School (Especially Tim & Dionne)
- * 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
- * New Life Care Centre – Port Dickson
- * Northern Ladies Craft Group
- * Mayor Logan Howlett – City of Cockburn
- * Gopeng Orang Asli Tribal Villagers
- * Royal Klang Club
- * Ann Hamblin – Board member – Port School – student sponsorship
- * Bunnings Ocean Keys, Clarkson & Bibra Lake
- * Art and Craft donations from: Thelma Cluning, Camilla Loveridge, Patricia Cawthorne, Tammy Cuff, Anne Gee, Sarana Haeta, Paul Holland, Adrienne Owen-Turner, Carole Longden, Michelle Horrocks, The Robertson Family, Jane Hawdon, Freda Blakeaway, Ann Hamblin, Riverton Baptist Church Group, Frances Stone, Rebecca Dagnell, Miles Carpenter, Raymond Jones
- * Main Event Hire
- * Malindo Airlines & their CEO and staff for all the support with excess baggage
- * John & Katrina Hopkins - \$500 donation
- * The Gilbert Family - \$800 Klang student sponsorship donation
- * John Jenkins & Michelle - \$800 Klang student sponsorship donation
- * Magnus Singleton – Hooper – musician at art evening
- * All our sponsors and supporters

JUMPA LAGI – TILL WE MEET AGAIN



THE SUPPORTERS



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



Klang Special School

