



MVM VOICES



Museum Volunteers Malaysia, hosted by Muzium Negara, 50566 Kuala Lumpur
email: mvmqueries@yahoo.com web: www.museumvolunteersmalaysia.org
Newsletter Issue 2, February 2, 2009

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

***The new Saturday training programme still needs more people. It starts on 7th February, please pass on the word to those you think might be interested.**

***Check out the temporary Traditional Weapons Exhibition 'Mysteries and Mystical Beliefs' in Gallery 2. This runs until April 20 and covers the manufacture and superstitions surrounding the kris, spear, lance and dagger and other Malay weapons.**

***Volunteer renewal of RM50 for all trained guides will be due as soon as we get our official registration.**

MVM's docent tours are scheduled like this:
TUESDAYS English 11am
THURSDAYS Japanese 10am, English 11am and French between 9-12noon
SATURDAYS English 11am

MVM SCHEDULE Feb & March
7 Feb 9am New docent programme, batch 7, starts
12 Feb 10am Visit to Eu Sang Medical Hall
19th Feb Lecture on Gallery B Early Kingdoms, to be confirmed
Also walkthrough on Gallery B on a Feb date to be confirmed.
Please check the MVM Yahoo! Group or our blogsite/website for other visits and talks.

Dear MVM Members,

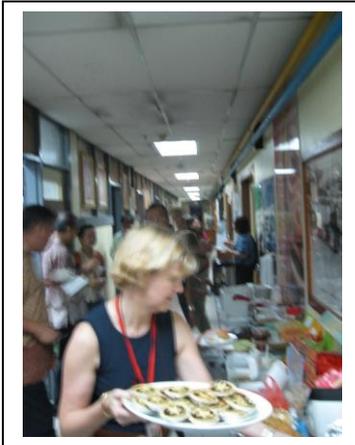
Happy New Year. It was lovely to see so many of you at the 'MVM New Year Coffee Morning' catching up with each others news and making plans for the coming year. Hayley and Lorien had some positive responses to their recruitment for the schools and publicity programmes, however, we are always looking for more volunteers. The MVM needs your input to thrive, so do consider what else you could do.

The new Docents training programme is due to start at 9.00am on Saturday **7th February**. At the moment we are still recruiting as numbers are very low and we are in danger of having to cancel the course. Therefore if you know a family member or friend, who would be interested in registering for the Docents training programme, please encourage them to contact us at mvmqueries@yahoo.com or sms on 0125248365 for details and an application form.

Gallery B Early Kingdoms is now open and I think you will all agree it is a fantastic gallery and will no doubt be a joy to guide. We do realise that some of you may wish to refresh your knowledge of the Early Kingdoms of the Malay Archipelago, therefore we are producing a series of events to help. Angela will be conducting a walk through, open to all MVM Members. Plus we are in the process of organising a lecture, provisionally for Thursday **19th February**. This will be given by a former Director of the Museum, Tuan Haji Redzuan Tumin who was also a consultant on Gallery B. I realize that a week day event does not suit everybody, but we were unable to secure a room big enough for a Saturday event. More details will follow on this. Zahara, Fauziah and I are busy in meetings this month with the museum directors, to advance our application with the ROS and we will report on our progress in the next issue of MVM Voices.

I would like to say congratulations and well done to Hayley and her Schools Programme Team who worked hard to create a very successful programme of children's events over the festive holiday period. I would also like to thank everyone who has worked so hard and volunteered so much over the past two years, we have come a long way in a very short period of time and this is down to you. Well done everyone.

Chrissy Lioe MVM President



MVM Morning Coffee 2009

MVM ushered in 2009 by hosting a Morning Coffee on Saturday 10th January at the Cenderawasih Room, Muzium Negara. The morning also marked the first event of the Batch 3 Diary and was co-organized by Harith, Cze Yan and Maharani. It started off at 9.30 am with a talk on “Herbs & Spices in Malay Cooking” by Mr Abdul Razak Azizi from Universiti Teknologi Mara, Shah Alam. Docents were introduced to the cooking culture in the Malay world, the usage of herbs and spices as well as the brief history on spices. Herbs and spices play an important role in Malay cooking as it is a fusion of different gastronomic traits; from India to China, Arabia to Thailand. In fact, the history of spices can be traced all the way to ancient Egypt, where spices were used by aristocrats in cooking and by priests in mummification process. Docents were also introduced to the more unfamiliar herbs and spices in Malay gastronomy such as the *bunga kantan* (ginger torch), *temu kunci* (a tuber more familiar in making of Javanese *kerabu*), *cekur*, *halba campur* (mixed fenugreeks), *daun kesum* (Vietnamese mints) and *daun pandan* (screw-pine). Food is an important part of any culture and in the Malay world, it goes beyond the more familiar white rice, curry, *nasi lemak* and *laksa*. It wasn't a surprise that after the talk everyone enjoyed the pot-luck buffet, courtesy of everyone present that morning and the Muzium Negara.

Harith Jamaludin



Did you know? The Jalong Statue

This statue dates to the 9th century and takes its name from the place it was discovered in 1936 at Jalong in Perak. It is made of bronze and is 52.5cm tall.

The statue is dressed in a short knee length dhoti with the yajnopavita (sacred thread worn by Brahmins) flowing down its torso. Its hair has been pulled up on the top of the head and falls in long locks onto the back and shoulder. With its beard and prominent belly, the statue is portrayed as an old, wise man.

The left hand is holding a religious object, possibly a vase of water (symbolising the water from which the universe evolved) used in praying. The statue is similar to those found in the Kingdom of Srivijaya between the 9th to 11th centuries.

Zahara Shahrman



Attention all MVM Members

The position of Secretary to the MVM Executive Committee has become vacant. If you wish to be considered for the position or wish to nominate another MVM Member please contact MVM president Chrissy Lioe on chrissy_lioe@hotmail.com

The MVM schools project is getting a lot of interest from schools in the Klang Valley. More docents are needed to help develop the programme, especially family trails and holiday activities in the museum. To find out more, please contact MVM Schools Programme coordinator Hayley Holle on hayleyholle@yahoo.com

MVM Saturday Batches

Two Saturday batches graduated in 2008. There are about 19 volunteers in Batch 3 and 18 in Batch 4. Most of the docents are working Malaysians, with 8 non-Malaysians making up the rest. The most dominant profession appears to be guiding – we have 7 professional tour guides in our ranks. When the second Saturday batch graduated in October, we had a small meeting to try to organize some “continuing professional education” (CPE). Because we have many working and busy members, we agreed on only one event a month. Of course, all other docents are welcome to join these events, they are not just for the weekend batches. So far, general attendance levels have been 15-20 people. It has been quite difficult to organize these events as communication is a problem with many people not responding. But hopefully this will improve!

Events so far:

Mar 08	Batch 3 graduation
Aug 08	Visit to Dataran Merdeka & Royal Selangor Club
Oct 08	Batch 4 graduation
Oct 08	Visit to Sri Mahamariamman temple
Oct 08	Gardenia factory tour
Nov 08	Prehistory Gallery talk
Dec 08	Parliament visit
Jan 09	Talk on local spices & New Year coffee

Kon Cze Yan

MVM/MCG Library More User Friendly

We have been hosting and sharing the library of the Malaysian Culture Group (MCG) for almost a year now. Many thanks to the MCG for trusting us and agreeing to share their books.

The library currently has around 700 books, and the list of titles can be found in the MVM room in the General Information folder. When the full MVM website is operational, the list of books will go there, so you can check the catalogue from anywhere.

If you are familiar with the borrowing procedures, you are welcome to visit the library any time, but if you are borrowing the books first time or are not sure how to fill up all necessary cards, please come on Tuesdays when there is a volunteer on duty from 10am to 12 noon or Thursdays from 9am to 12 noon when the French guides may help you too. You can also get advice about books that might be relevant to your research or area of interest.

Even if you are familiar with the library, do remember to put the book you are returning into the “Returned Books” box and not straight onto the shelves. The books will be put back on the shelves by the library volunteers, who are more familiar with the Dewey library classification system we use.

Also, please do consider donating your own books to the MVM/MCG library too. If, for example, you are leaving the country or if there are books on your shelves at home which you are not planning to read again, give them to the library for others to enjoy. For donations, contact Renate Maerz (renatemaerz2001@aol.de) or Nathalie (le_chat@streamyx.com)

Nathalie Pelhate-Lechat & Renata Baltrunaite