

# MV Monthly

*The latest news from our volunteers and the museum*

Nr 1 - November 2013

**Latest stats**

*In september, we guided a total number of 173 visitors: 65 English tours, 30 French and 36 Japanese. That's a record. In september 2012 we counted 137 visitors while in 2011 there were only 120 visitors. Well done!*

**Perak Man gone home**

*Some of you might already have noticed that Perak Man has disappeared from Gallery A. Our 'star' has been moved back to the place he came from: the Lenggong Museum. He will be replaced by a replica in the near future.*

**Slogan Competition!**

*Our beautiful logo can sometimes do with a little more explaining. Do you think you have a good slogan to add to it? Please email it - we will announce the winning slogan at the annual MV Dinner (see Page 2)*

**Not-to-miss Lecture**

*The highlight of this month's training sessions is no doubt the lecture prof Nik Hassan will be giving on early Malay kingdoms before Melaka. Lectures are 9 and 12 November, 10-12 am. Please sign up - seating is limited!*

**Please remember**

*In order to get a good picture of how we are doing, please don't forget to fill in the guide book every time your guiding. We would like to know in which language you guided and how many visitors you had. Thank you!*

**Save the date: 16/11**

*The annual MV dinner will be something special this year. Please reserve 16 november for a special night out.*



## YAHOO IS HISTORY - WELCOME TO GMAIL

**No doubt you've all noticed by now: the MV has said goodbye to good old Yahoo. Biggest advantage of Gmail is the new agenda we can all work with from now on.**

It has taken some time, but the whole communications platform of the Museum Volunteers has been transferred (thanks to Magan's hard work) to Google Groups. All volunteers have received an invitation to join the group. Most people won't have to log in to the group in order to receive the MV's messages, calendar, events, or even this newsletter. You can, but usually, you won't have to, because all the messages are sent to the inbox of your own email account.

**Website and blog**

We have also re-vamped and updated our [website](#). Apart from all the information about the Museum Volunteers and our goals, you will also find reports on our latest trips. If you want to stay informed, you can sign up as a follower, so you will get an email every time there is news. But you're also more than welcome to contribute to the

**We now have a new communications platform on Google Groups. Notifications will be sent to you by email, so you won't even have to log in to the group!**

website, whether as a regular feature or a one-off article. Please send an email to Magan if you feel inspired!

**Calendar**

Another important feature of Google Groups is the calendar. Some points to note on this [calendar](#): the trainers will be publishing the Tuesday and Saturday Training Agenda on the calendar and you will be receiving

calendar invites. Should you be interested in attending any of the training sessions, please feel free. Space and places are limited though, so please let us know you're coming by responding 'yes' to the invite. Registration for future Focus events will also be done using these calendar invites.

**Guiding**

But most importantly: we have started using the calendar as a reminder of your guiding and desk duties. You will get an invite for the day you are on duty. Please acknowledge your duty by accepting the invite - if you don't, we think you haven't seen the invite, don't know that you're 'on' and are not coming. Once you accept the invite, we assume you will be there.

**In case of emergency**

Gentle reminder: if you can't make it for your duty for any reason whatsoever, please let us know as soon as possible. We have had a number of complaints about guides not showing up for their assigned duties. **The number to call for last minute cancellations is: 03-22671155**

Let's celebrate

Muzium Negara's golden jubilee

Saturday 16 november

7.30 pm

location to be disclosed -save the date!

## VOLUNTEERS ARE LEARNING BAHASA MALAYSIA (AGAIN)

As Museum Volunteers, we have a fair amount of knowledge about Malaysia's history. Still, many of us don't speak the language. But for a group of 11 volunteers that will change. They come together every Friday to learn, listen and try.

By Susan Haveman

"Two years ago, JMM gave MVs their first (free) opportunity to learn how to speak Bahasa Malaysia. I had been in Malaysia for two years at that time and didn't speak a word, so it seemed like a great idea to join.

It was a lot of fun but, unfortunately in that course, the focus was mostly on formal Malay. Very beautiful, but very difficult. After twelve weeks I had a notebook full of words, but no idea how to put them together. And I still didn't

understand most of what people were saying.

### Another try

Lucky for me, the MV-force behind that first trial, Angela Naylor, decided that she, too, needed a little more. So on Friday the 11th of October we all came together in our own MV-room and met Cikgu Mas, our new teacher. She turned out to be very well-prepared: we all got a folder, a *kamus bergambar* (I know now that that's a dictionary with pictures), a glossary and a book full of basic conversations.

### 'Ini kerusi'

There were flashcards everywhere: on the windows, on the chairs (that's *kerusi*, by the way), on the walls... And before we even knew it, we were

walking around, asking each other's names and making our first short conversations. A little shy to start with, but that didn't really last very long!

### 'Minta Maaf'

Of course I'm nowhere near fluent after the few lessons we've had so far. But I find that, having been in Malaysia for almost four years now, I do recognise words more easily and I am less shy about trying to speak Bahasa Malaysia - even though I am sure I make a lot of mistakes, even though everybody thinks it extremely funny and even though everybody starts speaking English back as soon as I've started. I'm glad I can at least make the effort. And by learning both the history and the language, I think I'm doing quite well."

### BOOKCLUB WATCHES MOVIE FOR A CHANGE

The MV Book Club will be doing things a little differently this month. On **14 November at 10 am** the group comes together at 17-3A Kiararams Cendana to watch the movie *Sandakan No 8*. The film is based on the 1972 book *Sandakan Brothel No. 8: An Episode in the History of Lower-Class* by Yamazaki Tomoko, about the "karayuki-san," the Japanese term for young women who were forced to work into prostitution in Pacific Rim countries and colonies during the early 20th century. Please let Karen know if you are interested to join the Book Club.



### Have you seen the Book of the Month?

Every month, the MV librarians recommend a book from our library. You'll find a copy of the cover stuck at the side of the bookshelf.