

MV Monthly

The latest news from our volunteers and the museum

Nr 3 - January 2014

Latest stats

November was a bit quiet: only 84 people joined our tours. It's always a quiet month though - in the four years we have been keeping stats, only in november 2010 we had more visitors. Next month: the totals for 2013!

Please share!

This newsletter aims to be a platform for all the MVs to share experiences and information - to keep us connected, even if we are not guiding. In order to do that, please feel free to send in all you want to share regarding the Museum Volunteers: pictures, a funny anecdote on one of your tours, your favorite artefact or a visit to a museum that you would really want to recommend to the rest of us. There's a place for all of it in this newsletter - so, again, please do not hesitate and email susan.haveman@gmail.com

Potluck Lunch: 25/01

To celebrate the new (Chinese) New Year, the annual MV Potluck Lunch will be held on 25 January 2014. .



End of year message from our President Karen Loh

Achievements! Achievements! Achievements!

Let's look back on 2013 and the milestones we have achieved, the accomplishments and changes which took place in our mv group the past year. First of all, I am very excited about the museum volunteer Coffee Table book which we have been talking about compiling the past two years and finally kick-started again, by Magan. Thank you to all of who have contributed their articles to the book and to our great team of editors; Magan, Rose, Hani, Hayley, Pam and our very talented in-house designer, Mariana. We will keep you posted of the date, the book will be ready.

The school program team hosted 2 important school visits this year amongst other schools. We had for the first time, a visit by children from a Down Syndrome School and children from a Chin refugee centre. Many thanks to Cay, who has untiringly led the school program team for the last 3 years. She is however exhausted from it all and asks for another courageous mv to replace her.

Please email me if you like children and have plenty of educational ideas and energy!

The wait was finally over in May for JMM's brand new bus and we were lucky to be one of the first groups to take the bus to Ipoh, Batu Gajah and Kampar. Do sign up for our next trip to Melaka in January (15 & 18) 2014. Our Focus team also organized our first movie screening at the Discovery Room in July. Though the title "Queen of Lankasuka" did sound a little melodramatic, the movie turned out to be very interesting. We hope to screen more movies (with a historical reference) in 2014 and welcome any suggestions.

Last but not least, the "Bunka No Hi" themed Anniversary dinner was a success. 73 people attended the event for a night of delicious Kristang food. There were many interesting performances demonstrated by our volunteers and it was an enjoyable night. Kudos to Cze Yan for her ingenuity. What will she come up with next? Also, many thanks to Erina and the

many Japanese volunteers who joined us for the first time this year and shared their culture. Our slogan was decided by vote that night and the winning slogan went to Stuart for his catchy line "take the Mystery out of History".

For 2014, I hope that the problems we have had with the guiding schedule and guide absentees will be solved. Many thanks to Fiza, who is juggling both weekend and weekday rotas. Please do give her your full cooperation. Susan and Lena will also be promoting our guided tours through travel websites and by sending leaflets to major hotels in the Klang Valley.

I look forward to a great year of the Wood Horse. Happy New Year & Happy Guiding!

Best wishes,

Karen



WHERE IS MALAYSIA? THE MVS FOUND OUT!

Museum Volunteer docents visited the exhibition of Where is Malaysia? at Sasana Kijang, Bank Negara Malaysia on the 14th of December.

By Kazuko Mukai

The building opened its doors in September 2011 and carries several galleries including an art gallery. The exhibition *Where is Malaysia?* is temporary and open until 31 December. The exhibition offers the history of Malaysia through ancient and modern maps. Ms. Juliana Abdul Rahim, who is a museum curator at Bank Negara, was our tour guide on the day.

Ancient maps

The first half of the exhibition consisted of old maps, made by foreign seafarers, showing us how Malaysia has been regarded over a

period of almost a millennium. The museum research team collected the ancient maps from the global map database. The modern maps in the latter half of the exhibition could be shown thanks to collaboration with the Malaysian government official mapping department (JUPEM).

Ships and monsters

Almost all ancient maps were beautifully decorated with drawings of ships, sea monsters and land animals. The maps of those olden days look like art rather than just a map, in my impression. However, I was surprised to see how accurate the Europeans had captured the region of South East Asia in this era, while my country, Japan, was not even recognized at all. I could see how strategically important this region was to the

traders in many countries by then. *Malaysia* had been recognized as *Malacca* for many centuries in the maps of this era.

Role in history

In the second part of the exhibition, we can see how Malaysia sees itself through the displayed maps. There were many different categories, like aviation maps, telecommunication maps and many more. These maps contributed to building to modern day Malaysia.

Having taken part in the museum tour, I realise that maps contribute very much to history. I am sure this exhibition is very interesting for all museum docents who have learned Malay history. I would recommend to visit the place before the exhibition finishes at the end of this year!"