



**From the Communications Team.....**

Dear Members,

*This is your last Newsletter before some of you head off to the Northern hemisphere for your Summer holidays, we hope that you all have a great time. Whatever you plan to do please consider how you can help out at the MCG, we are a group which is completely run by volunteers and help is always needed. As the President mentions in his message the Communications team is in urgent need of a Webmaster, Alejandra Barbosa, our present Webmaster will be leaving K.L. in mid June.*

Michelle Pease

**Coming up...**

**Lecture: Creating Pentago House**  
Wednesday, 7th June, 10.00 for a 10.30 start to register please click [here](#)

**Lecture : From the Origin to the Malay Manuscripts; a History of Paper**  
Wednesday, 14th June, 10.00 for a 10.30 start, to register please click [here](#)

**Reviews...**

**Excursion - Rimba Ilmu**  
Stan Cox



**Annual AGM, Bank Negara Museum & Arts Gallery, Photostory**  
Photos by Cindy Rollins



**Enak - WTF (What Tasty Food)**  
Mari Gudmundsen, Melissa Loring and Carol Gonsalves.



**Explorers Out and About - Valley of Hope Leprosy Colony, Sungei Buloh**  
Helen Backx-Palsgraaf



**Book Group 1 - 1421, The Year China discovered America**

Joanne Mahendran

**Book Group 2 - Forbidden Lessons in a Kabul Guesthouse**

Neena Chandola

**Book Group 1 - Goat Days**

Marianne Khor

**Book Group 2 - The Blood of Flowers**

Aseema Singhal

**President's Message**

We are very fortunate headed into this new year with a mix of new, excited volunteers and dedicated returning committee members who can continue their wonderful contributions and provide context and wisdom to the new members.



I know that Melissa Loring and Amy Shaw are excited to join as Vice-president and Treasurer respectively, we are lucky to have both of them for the energy and passion they both bring to their role.

Please make sure to give all our committee members some feedback. What are we doing right? What could we improve? It's a team effort for our members and our committee volunteers and we are all after the same things – to have fun and learn about Malaysia and its history, culture and people.

I'm happy to report since the AGM we have learned that Terry Piech will resume her role as Secretary after a brief hiatus and we on the committee are thrilled to have her back! As a reminder, we are still seeking someone for the appointed role of Webmaster as Alejandra Barbosa is leaving Kuala Lumpur soon.

Alejandra has offered to train the new volunteer and promises the role doesn't require any expert knowledge to maintain the site so please consider tossing your hat in the ring. Events Planning volunteers are also needed, so anyone who can spare some time to help out please contact Marianne Khor.

Summer is quickly approaching and with it a bit of a slowdown as many members return home for part of the summer or travel on holidays. Until then, enjoy the events, Enak! lunches and Explorers' activities that are planned. Please be sure to RSVP for all the items you receive invitations to as it makes the work of planning these things much easier for our dedicated volunteers!

Bryan

**A Message from your Librarian**



Above are some of our latest registered books, available from MCG Library. We are always happy for your donations and will collect your unwanted books or bookshelves, please contact [librarian@mcgkl.org](mailto:librarian@mcgkl.org).

**Did you know that the Malaysian Culture Group has a Facebook page? Click [here](#) to visit the MCG page.**

**Meet your MCG Committee.**



**Melissa Loring Vice President**

*My name is Melissa Loring, and I am honored to take on the role of Vice President this year. While I have only been in KL since July, 2016, I fell in love with this beautiful country from the start. From the lush landscapes to the warm heat--I am in heaven.*

*I am the youngest of 5 girls within 7 years, so there was always a lot of*

*energy floating about the family. Mom was born and raised in New Orleans while my father was born and raised in Chicago. They just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past year and have set an amazing example of what true love really means.*

*I have truly been blessed with an amazing husband, Curt. We met back at Iowa State University in 1995, married 2 years later in June of 1997, and are celebrating our 20th anniversary this June. Curt has worked for USG, a construction company, for over 20 years which has brought us on all of our amazing travels.*

*Soon after my husband and I got married I received my degree in Business Management and Computer Science, with an emphasis in Math. I worked for a few years as a Computer Programmer in Iowa, until I was about 7 months pregnant with my first child.*

*After leaving my job in Iowa in a pregnant state, we moved to Pittsburgh, PA area where I had my first 2 children. About 3 ½ years later, we moved to Chicago for about a year, then headed over to*

*Southern California for 3 ½ years, where I had my 3rd child. Our final move within the states was to an Indiana suburb of Chicago, for about 5 years—until the overseas offer to Muscat, Oman. After 1 ½ years in Oman, we made our move to Kuala Lumpur, where I am very happily residing in Mont Kiara.*

*I am the very proud mother of 3 amazing children. All of them are students at ISKL. My youngest, Nathan, is 10 years old in the 4th grade. He has a lot of friends and loves to stay active in any sport involving a ball. Nicholas, is my middle child, and just turned 14. He is in 8th grade and is my math genius and a force on the trumpet. My oldest child, Elise, is in the 10th grade at the high school. She is my science whiz and a beautiful pianist and violinist.*

*I am truly looking forward to the year ahead with great anticipation of some new and exciting offerings to MCG. Bryan, MCG President, and I have already been discussing ways of broadening our group and bringing on some fresh new ideas. Thank you for letting me be a lead part of the Malaysian Culture Group, I hope to see a lot of you this year!*

The MCG Committee remains steadfastly committed to ensuring that the MCG meets the needs of our members. If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to contact any of the Committee members by email. Yours in service of Malaysian culture!