



MVM VOICES



Museum Volunteers Malaysia, hosted by Muzium Negara, 50566 Kuala Lumpur
email: mvmqueries@yahoo.com web: www.museumvolunteersmalaysia.org
Newsletter Issue 6, September 25, 2009

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

+ MVM's new training program has recruits from Malaysia, Britain, France, Denmark, U.S. and Uruguay. Late applications to mvmqueries@yahoo.com
+ Muzium Negara Open House **Thursday October 1** at 12 noon
+ MVM is co-curating an exhibition on traditional games called Jom Main at Muzium Negara **October 10-25**
+ Focus **Thursday Oct 15** on Malaysian shipwrecks and ceramic cargo.
+ Peranakan Association Launch **Saturday Oct 31** at Muzium Negara Auditorium. Exhibits, bazaar and cultural show.

Dear MVM Members,

Welcome back to all those volunteers who have been away, and a big thank you to all those volunteers who have been working so hard at Muzium Negara.

In July, Zahara, See Ting and I had a meeting with the new **Director of Muzium Negara, Mr Karamul**. He is extremely supportive and enthusiastic of the MVM, and believes we need to expand our role. Many ideas have been proposed - working alongside Curators in the Repository, daily guiding, helping out at the information counter, and working alongside Curators for special exhibitions.

We also now have an **Internet connection** in the MVM Room, and we will hold our meetings in the newly-decorated Multi-Purpose Room.

Muzium Negara is in the process of developing a **'Discovery Room'** which will be used for school children. The room will open in November and will be a valuable addition to the schools programme.

A new exhibition **'Traditional Games in Malaysia'** will be held from October 10-25 in the Central Hall of Muzium Negara and MVM volunteers are already working with the Curators on ideas. We need volunteer guides and other contributions.

Our **two training programmes** for 2009 are just starting up. Angela and Zahara are running the Tuesday sessions and Diane, Wong and Soo Said Chyn are running the Saturday sessions. We have a good turnout, but there are still a few spots available if you know anyone who is interested. **Remember any member of the MVM can also attend the talks on a Tuesday or a Saturday**, and we have an exciting line up of speakers this year.

Kiew is spending this academic year studying for a Masters at Leicester University in the UK. We wish her good luck and success. On a personal note I would like to **thank her for her generosity of spirit, knowledge, guidance help, patience and support**.

We will keep you updated about all these new developments in this newsletter and on the blog. If you have had any ideas over the summer which you think might work with the MVM, please do share them.

Chrissy Lioe, MVM President.

rumah terbuka
aidilfitri

* Jamuan Raya
* Persembahan Band
* Pertunjukan & Pertandingan Fesyen
* Cabutan Raya

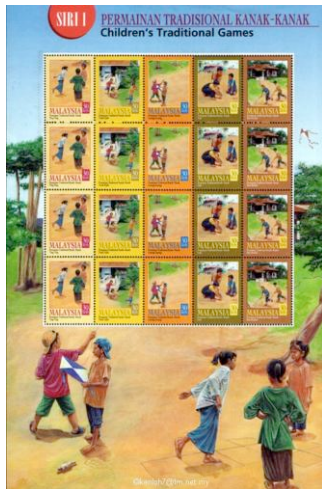
Pada: 1 Oktober 2009
Masa: 12 tgh hari
Tempat: Dataran Muzium Negara

Wajiris
Muzium Negara
Kementerian Perancangan Komuniti dan Kebudayaan Malaysia, Jalan Damansara, 50566 Kuala Lumpur
Tel: 03-2267 1448 / 03-2267 1520 Fax: 03-2267 1071

Muzium Negara invites all MVM Volunteers to its Open House at the museum on October 1 at 12 noon



Pos Malaysia released a set of stamps to celebrate children's traditional games on 24 June 2000.



Any old Milo tins taking up shelf space at home? Or condensed milk?



JOM MAIN –LETS PLAY!

Muzium Negara is holding a Special Exhibition in the Central Hall entitled **Jom Main (Lets Play)** from 10th - 25th October and has asked the MVM to get involved.

+++++++THIS IS A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR THE MVM TO SHINE, PLEASE VOLUNTEER FOR THIS IMPORTANT EVENT ++++++

A number of volunteers are already working with the Curators on the planning and design of the exhibition. But we need **everyone** to volunteer to help. This is a great opportunity for the MVM to show off its skills.

Extra training will be given to guide the exhibition effectively and you will be given time to learn the games that will be demonstrated. There will be games like Batu Seremban/Five Stones, Baling Tin/Hitting Tin Cans, Xiangqi/Chinese Chess, Ting Ting/Hopscotch. There will be a reading corner where children can listen to traditional stories, nursery rhymes and songs. There will be a dressing up box and skipping ropes and we are planning to get all the children to contribute to creating the biggest rubber band ball. An area outside will also be designated for outdoor games like kite making, Tempurung & Tali/Coconut shells.

Each day we will need 3 volunteers guiding and demonstrating games from 10am to 1pm. Please email chrissy_lie@hotmail.com as soon as possible as we need to organize the guiding and demo schedules.

JOM MAIN – We need you and we need your stuff!

In order to prepare for the JOM MAIN special exhibition, we need to recreate the genuine feel of some of the traditional games that will be showcased.

We need you to collect your used:

+ **Metal Bottle Tops** (from Beer, Coke, Soy Sauce etc.)

+ **Tin Cans** (Soup Cans, Condensed Milk Cans, Baby Formula Cans, Milo Cans etc.) These need to be washed and labels removed (unless you have any genuinely old tin cans like the one in the photo that can be put on display).

Leave your contributions in the MVM Room and please don't send in any aluminum cans, like Sprite/7UP cans

Also, if anyone has any of the following items and would be willing to lend them for the duration of the exhibition please contact Chrissy on chrissy_lie@hotmail.com

+ Childrens furniture: Rattan Chair(s) or Stools

+ Old Story books telling traditional childrens stories/nursery rhymes/folktales etc., these can be in Malay or English.

We need all these items by Tuesday October 6th.



New Arrivals in the Library

- 1: History of Malaysia : A Children's Encyclopedia. – Tunku Halim. 2009 (959.5 HAL) (*Illustrated children's history*)
- 2: My Life As Emperor. – Su Tong. 2006 (895 TON) (*Court intrigue*)
- 3: A Quiet Violence. View from a Bangladesh village. – B. Hartmann and J.K. Boyce. 1990 (305.89 HAR) (*Americans take the reader to a Bangladesh village where they lived*)
- 4: The Hamilton case. – Michelle de Kreser. 2004 (895 KRE) (*Ceylon in 1930's. Set amid tea plantations, corruption and the back wash of empire, this is a world teetering on the edge of chaos*)
- 5: The Malayan Trilogy. – Anthony Burgess. 1996 (895 BUR) (*This famous comedy dissects with brilliant wit the racial and social prejudices of post-war Malaya*)

Renate Balnuitraite

GUIDING DUTIES

(All scheduled for 11 am)

- 29 Sep: Nathalie B
- 1 Oct: Valerie
- 3 Oct: Lee Choo Sim & Colin Choo
- 6 Oct: Alison
- 8 Oct: Fauziah
- 10 Oct: Cze Yan & Shirley Yee
- 13 Oct: Pam
- 15 Oct: Teiko Sato
- 17 Oct: Luis Silva & Kim Kyung Hyun
- 20 Oct: Sarah Boucaut
- 22 Oct: Alexandra Ph
- 24 Oct: Vera Chia & Wong Wah Chai
- 27 Oct: Marie-Do & Nathalie B
- 29 Oct: Lorien
- 31 Oct: Kat & Young Sio Hui
- 3 Nov: TBC
- 5 Nov: TBC
- 7 Nov: Lee Choo Sim & Colin Choo
- 10 Nov 11am: TBC
- 12 Nov 11am: TBC
- 14 Nov: Kat & Wong Kam Chuen
- 17 Nov: TBC
- 19 Nov: TBC
- 21 Nov: Luis Silva & Samuel Lim & Maharani (Malay) & Soo Said Chyn (Mandarin)
- 24 Nov: TBC
- 26 Nov: TBC
- 28 Nov: Vera Chia & Shirley Yee & Mariana (Malay) & Ang Swee Hong (Mandarin)

There are Japanese tours on Thursdays at 10am. French tours are available on Thursday mornings from 9-12 noon and there is a volunteer on library duty every Tuesday morning

MVM Research by Sarah Boucaut

In the Borneo display cabinet of the Malay World gallery are two cannon: a miniature bronze cannon, and a long tubular cannon with decorations. In 1511 Antonio Pigafetta, Magellan's chronicler, reported 56 brass and 6 iron cannons in the Sultan's fort towers. One source claims that Javanese metal craft experts were imported into Brunei by Sultan Bolkiah (1473-1521) and these craftsmen were responsible for developing a metalwork industry in Borneo. Further reading suggests Turks may have been responsible for this knowledge transfer at an earlier point of time. However, historical reports indicate European visitors sometimes found cannon on display at palaces but that the local communities had little apparent knowledge of a cannon's operation. An alternative source suggests South East Asian rulers were intrigued by European armour, and sought it as gifts from visiting European vessels. Small cannons may have been gifts to the rulers, and indirectly these small cannon developed a prestige within SEA communities. In due course, the cannon were locally reproduced, using an amalgam of any available metals, melted down to cast new cannon. The Naga cannon found in the Malay World Gallery shows typical Bruneian motifs. The miniature cannon also found in the same display cabinet had multiple purposes: they were used as a form of currency, dowry, tribute payments to Chiefs or Sultans, and in lieu of assets in penalty settlements.

For the intellectually curious, further reading can be found in the Muzium Negara Library and online.

"Meriam Dalam Sejarah Dan Kebudayaan Melayu Nusantara" by Othman bin Mohd. Yatim

www.bruneitimes.com,

<http://shipwrecks.com/Cannon%20Information.htm>

http://www.bronzecannons.net/cannon_journal.html