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# MOMENTS



## THE TALK OF THE TOWN

**The Sape Songstress's Solo Art Debut**

**Ultra Sally**

Sports & Sponsorship

**Bonsai-Vaganza**

The Sarawak Open Returns

**Siong How Exclusive**

New Retailer

**Terrace & Iced**

New Cafe & Bar

# EDITOR'S *letter*

Dear readers,

The spectacular artworks featured in this issue are by Alena Murang, the *sape* songstress who has given voice to Sarawak on a global stage.

Recently on March 18, the multi-talented Alena launched her first solo art show titled Colours Of The Highlands. It comprised over 50 pieces, spread across four categories, and done over a span of 10 years.

The show opened at Hoan Gallery, La Promenade Mall, to much fanfare.

At the premiere, the guestbook read of a diverse group of art lovers, Government officials, captains of industries and local artists.

A stream of people came to the gallery an hour before opening at 7pm. Among them were media personalities including HitzFM's RJ Lanny, RTM's Steadey talkshow crew, social media stars Artsy Daphy and members of the band At Adau.

Also present were Sarawak Artist Society president David Chew, Indonesian artist Nia Latiff, Ng Paik San, Sebastian Jong and more.

Alena made a second appearance on April 13 for an intimate evening gathering with her family, friends and acquaintances.

As of press time, over 70% of the pieces have been sold, exceeding Alena and Hoan Gallery's expectations.

Her show has electrified the local art scene, proving that artists have a bright future, and that locals do love art when the subject matter is localised and relatable.

In Colours of the Highlands, Alena 's painted *engkabangs*, *arits* and *tepu*; created hidden patterns of *sape*'s pentatonic scale; used ashes from a burnt down longhouse; and included recordings of 'lost' folk songs as an accompaniment to The Storyteller, her large six-foot wide masterpiece.

Alena's art, just like her music, gives us pride. She's popular, not just because she is gifted with a beautiful voice or a painter's eye, but because there is soul in her works. We recognise the passion she imbues in her works. We feel proud of her, and indeed, she makes us proud of our unique culture.

Hock Seng Lee, La Promenade Mall and Hoan Gallery couldn't have had a better start to the year. We look forward to more collaborations with Alena, and we are also proud owners of two of her artworks from Colours of the Highlands.

This is the Art issue and we hope it inspires you. 

Sincerely,

  
SHINJI



# SOLO:

For the duration of the exhibition, Hoan Gallery became Alena Murang's Gallery. Over 50 pieces of Alena's work adorned the walls, roughly separated into portraits, arits, abstracts, and flora & fauna. As of press time, over 70% of the artworks have been sold, including collectors as far as Spain.

# CONTENTS

## HAPPENINGS

# 06

### *6/ Raya Property Showcase Featuring New Tenants*

New Tenants From Home Section Highlighted

### *7/ Colours of Joy: Hari Raya Colouring Contest at La Promenade Mall*

Unleashing Children's Inner Artists

# 10

### *New Night Run Format*

La Promenade's Running Club Gets Bigger & Better

# 12

### *HSL Continues Sponsorship For Top Ultramarathoner Sally Yap*

The 2022 Asia Trail Master Second Place Winner is Representing Malaysia At Global Events

# 14

### *This Year's Bonsai & Suiseki Championship Will Be Even Bigger*

For The Second Year In A Row, La Promenade Mall Hosts The Region's Largest Bonsai Show

## COVER STORY

# 16

### *16/ Alena Murang's Colours Of The Highlands*

by SARAH LOIS DORAI

### *20/ The Artist In Her Own Words*

Alena Murang Sits Down With Hoan Gallery's Yu Ji & Hoan Kee Huang To Speak About Her Art

## ON THE COVER



## ART

— Alena Murang and Pu' Ayam (*Dear One*) — one the most popular portraits from her solo art exhibition.

## LA PROMENADE MALL

# 30

### *A New Safety Video For The Benefit Of All*

Filmed With TV Host & In-House Staff

# 34

### *Sok's Best Electrical Store Is Coming To La Promenade*

The Home Grown Franchise Is Going Upmarket

# 36

### *La Promenade Mall Will Become A Food Paradise*

New Cafe And Bar On The Way

## THROWBACK

# 38

### *The Herald Before Living Moments*

Throwback To HSL's Original Newsletter



# WEEKDAY LUNCH

11.30AM  
-2.30PM

## RM19.90



**Meat options:**

- A** Chicken   **B** Lamb   **C** Premium Beef

**Soup options:**

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La Promenade  
MALL

**NO PORK, NO LARD**



# Raya

## PROPERTY SHOWCASE

# Raya Property Showcase Featuring New Tenants

## New Tenants From Home Section Highlighted

**H**ock Seng Lee's property sales team held a Raya Property Showcase at La Promenade Mall over the recent festive holiday.

Invited to join the showcase were the mall's new and upcoming tenants, including Siong How Exclusive, The Bath Shop and Oppein.

There were freebies offered for both home buyers as well as to those who purchased from the new tenants.

Siong How's booth proved to be highly popular. The retailer sold large numbers of washers and dryers, plus a wide range of other home appliances.

Kuching Food Heaven also participated in the showcase, offering lucky draws and vouchers from its advertisers.

Meanwhile, HSL's property team reported continueing strong interests for landed housing, particularly, Samariang Aman 3.

The team also provided guided tours into the 200acre La Promenade gated community, the largest of its kind in Sarawak and Sabah. 🏡



- BUILDING:** Visitors looking at a model of Precinct Grande, the latest within La Promenade.
- FUN:** Visitors during a buggy ride inside the 200acre gated community.
- SIONG HOW:** The new retailer's booth was one of the most popular.



**HAPPY:** The kids joyfully turned a blank canvas into a vibrant masterpiece.

# Colours of Joy: Hari Raya Colouring Contest at La Promenade Mall

## Unleashing Children's Inner Artists

**L**a Promenade Mall was buzzing with excitement over the Raya Holidays, as it hosted colouring contest for children between 7 and 12 years old.

The event attracted 255 participants, who were eager to show their artistic talents. The participants were divided into two categories: Category A for children between seven and nine years old, while category B was for 10-12.

HSL sales team had a blast judging these mini masters. These kids have mastered the art of fun, brushstrokes and creativity. No wonder the judges had such a good time deciding whose masterpiece deserves the champion title.

The event was a success, and organisers are already planning for next year's competition. Congratulations to all winners of the competition. They went home with amazing prizes: RM500 + hamper and trophy for the



**CREATIVE:** The little girl cherished her drawing with creativity.

winner, RM300 + hamper and trophy for the second place, and RM200 + hamper and trophy for the third place for both categories. Their talent and hard work truly paid off! 🏆

1st



2nd



**1<sup>ST</sup> | JARRELL CHONG YAN SHEN**

Jarrel won the colouring contest with his creative ketupat and love-shaped hot air balloon.

—

**2<sup>ND</sup> | BETTY LAU ZI NING**

Betty's out-of-this-world colouring skills, with a vibrant sky, surely impressed the judges.

—

**3<sup>RD</sup> | DARRICK HO ZHE YU**

Darrick Ho's vibrant colouring skills shone through with a beautiful gradient sky, cheerful birds, and blooming flowers.

3rd



1st



2nd



3rd



**1<sup>ST</sup> | JAYDEN CHONG YAN EN**

Jayden's festive lamps symbolised Hari Raya with colourful creativity, and a heartwarming message of sharing ketupat.

—

**2<sup>ND</sup> | HANNIE ANG**

Hannie's traditional house design and cute HSL logo, her purple-ish sky sets the perfect mood of a happy journey back to hometown.

—

**3<sup>RD</sup> | ALICE TIN NING**

Alice's colouring contest entry is patriotically red-iculous, showcasing her national pride with a vibrant hibiscus, a cute cat, and a hornbill.



# WHAT WE DO



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TT3 Commercial Centre, Jalan  
Canna, Kuching.



**COMMUNITY:** The La Promenade Running Club includes 3km and 6km routes, all within the safe confines of the gated community.

# New Night Run Format

**La Promenade's Running Club Gets Bigger & Better**

**S**tarting June, La Promenade's Running Club is headed for a refresh.

We're making it more consistent by working with one of our main tenants, Sweat Factory, to ensure the runs are never cancelled due to the weather.

La Promenade's Running Club will shift to the second and third Fridays of every month. It will start with registration and warm-ups at Sweat Factory at 6.30pm, followed by 3km and 6km runs within La Promenade.

The event remains free for all. From time to time, there will also be goodies for frequent runners.

In the event of rain, which caused cancellations of the outdoor run in the past, La Promenade Running Club will continue within Sweat Factory.

This will ensure the community event will be held on second and third Fridays always.

“ The refreshed format is even better. We'll no longer cancel due to rain. I'm glad to tie up with Sweat Factory. Their fitness instructors are some of the best in Sarawak. ”

— Anthony Lee  
Run Club's Head Marshal



**NEW:** The refreshed format includes free gym sessions and warm ups at Sweat Factory on L4 of the mall.

Seasoned marathoner Anthony Lee will continue to head the club.

“This Hock Seng Lee supported running club began in Sept 2022. It was an immediate hit. For the first few weeks, we almost had 150 runners every weekend,” Lee said.

“The refreshed format is even better. We'll no longer cancel due to rain. I'm glad to tie up with Sweat Factory. Their fitness instructors are some of the best in Sarawak.”

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Helping Hands Penan

# Empowering women to help themselves

*For the Penan, by the Penan*



## How We Help

- Handicraft weaving and marketing
- Education sponsorship
- Operation milk powder
- Water and solar light project

## About Us

Helping Hands Penan is a charity that helps the people help themselves. We focus on education, health care and living environments within the community.

Follow us



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Helpinghands Penan Kuching

# HSL Continues Sponsorship For Top Ultramarathoner Sally Yap

The 2022 Asia Trail Master Second Place Winner is Representing Malaysia At Global Events

**H**ock Seng Lee (HSL) has announced its sponsorship of ultra-athlete Sally Yap — the 2022 Asia Trail Master second place winner — enabling her to enter international championships, including two in Europe this year.

This is HSL's second consecutive year sponsoring Yap.

Yap has a busy year lined up, including entering qualifiers for the World Mountain & Trail Championship in Innsbruck, Austria.

Yap also hopes to qualify for the Ultra-Trail du Mont-Blanc, regarded as the most competitive trail ultramarathon in the world.

"Without generous sponsors like HSL, I will not be able to take part in these international events. HSL began sponsoring me in 2022, just before the Philippines' Mount Apo Sky Race, and I'm thankful for the financial support," Yap said.

"The sponsorship means a lot as ultramarathoning is a niche sport in Malaysia. I'm training hard to ensure every event I go to bring me good results, so that I qualify for bigger events."

To achieve her dreams, Yap follows a punishing fitness schedule.

The Chinese-Bidayuh athlete trains nearly every day: consistently running over 100km between Mon and Fri and completes 2,000 meters of elevation training on weekends.



**CHAMP:** Sally Yap during a media conference at HSL Tower after winning second place at the 2022 Asia Trail Master Champion.

The training enables Yap to compete with Asia's elites.

At a recent ultra trail marathon event in Thailand, Yap completed a 112km route with 5,698m of elevation, in just 23 hours and 39 minutes.

The Kuching lass also competed at the Borneo Ultra Trail Marathon in Sabah, finishing second place with a time of 22 hours and 15 minutes for the 108km course.

Besides ultramarathoning, Yap won third at Penang's Komtar Tower Climb earlier this year, scaling 68 floors in 11 minutes 53 seconds.



**TOUGH:** Sally Yap during a recent ultra trail event in Thailand. The longest race she's participated in was 100 miles, equivalent to 160km.

Photo credit Sally Yap's Facebook

At the more recent 2023 Miri Marathon, Yap won third place with a time of 3 hours 36 minutes for the full 42km. She was the fastest Malaysian in her category.


"I speak on behalf of HSL when I say Yap's achievements are amazing," corporate communications manager Sophia Ong said.

"She's truly deserving of this company's support. She's an inspiration to us all. Yap's a great example of consistency being the critical driver for success. We're fans and follow her events virtually."

As a sponsored athlete, Yap will participate in HSL's upcoming events.

"Over the next few months, I will free conduct motivational talks and fitness clinics at La Promenade Mall. All these events are for me to contribute back to society," Yap said.

"HSL does a lot of community events. Last year, they organised the Fitness Weekend, which included a half marathon. They also did fun runs like the year-end School Holiday Night Run. I participated in all of them."

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“

Over the next few months, I will conduct free motivational talks and fitness clinics at La Promenade Mall. All these events are for me to contribute back to society,

”

— Sally Yap

# This Year's Bonsai & Suiseki Championship Will Be Even Bigger

For The Second Year In A Row, La Promenade Mall Hosts The Region's Largest Bonsai Show

**L**

*La Promenade Mall will once again host the Sarawak Open — Bonsai & Suiseki Championship, which this year will be on July 20-29.*

The Sarawak Bonsai Association (SBA) is promising an even larger show than 2022's, which was already the largest at the time.

"Every year, we aim to be better. On behalf of SBA members, we are glad HSL is just as ambitious as we are. When we asked to make it bigger, HSL immediately responded, yes," SBA president Johnson Jong said, referring to Hock Seng Lee.

"A bigger event means more trees, more variety, more categories, more participants, more demos, more competitions. This year's Sarawak Open will definitely be the best. The public is in for a super treat."

To accommodate a larger show, 2023's championship was shifted to July, allowing local bonsai enthusiasts more time to cultivate their plants.

"Changing it to mid year also means trees will be in full bloom. Usually, right after the monsoon season, the bonsais may not be at their best," Jong said.

Organising chairman Hayes Teo said there would be four grand awards and 18 categories.

Participating plants would be coming from as far as Sabah.

"Last year, we had plants from Miri, and this year, I'm just so happy that there will be plants from Sabah as well. The plant owners will be driving all the way from Sabah to Kuching for the Sarawak Open."



**BEAUTIFUL:** The 2022 Best In Show winner from last year's Sarawak Open.

HSL executive director Tony Yu expressed delight, adding La Promenade was the perfect venue.

"La Promenade is best known for its landscaping. Inside La Promenade, we have tree-lined boulevards with over 1,500 trees of various species. We have a landscape team of almost 30 people.


"HSL supports the Sarawak Open because it is inline with our flagship property's signature element. We are proud to be associated with such a beautiful and environmentally friendly event. It's so great to see growing interests and genuine appreciation for greens from the community," Yu said.

Judging the championship will be a mix of specialists from the Malaysia Bonsai and Suiseki Society (MBSS) and the Sarawak association.

The word "Bon-sai" is a Japanese loanword from Chinese, translated meaning "planted in a small container". This art form is derived from an ancient Chinese horticultural practice since the Tang dynasty, part of which was then redeveloped under the influence of Japanese Zen.

It has been around for over a thousand years.

"Suiseki" is a Japanese term meaning "water stone". Suiseki is a generic term for naturally shaped stone or rocks collected and appreciated for aesthetic qualities.

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**MINI:** Decorations such as figurines add to the illusion of old, giant trees.





# Alena Murang's Colours Of The Highlands

By SARAH LOIS DORAI

Kelabit filmmaker and children's book publisher

W

*hen I think of the Kelabit people, often the first images that come to mind are black and white photographs of a native person set against the backdrop of a longhouse or the jungle.*

This is perhaps because those were the only visual references that connected me, as a Kelabit, to my past, from which I drew my identity and inspiration. But the thing about black and white, it also gives the notion of something frozen in time, and for so long our culture has been just that: frozen in time.

**COLOURS:** Dusk at the highlands of Bario, where Alena's father's family is from.

*Continues next page*

*From previous page*

This collection of artworks by Alena Murang, *Colours of the Highlands*, successfully breaks past the time barrier that surrounds indigenous imagery and allows us to look at Kelabit culture with fresh eyes. Her collection forces us to deconstruct our traditional perception of cultural preservation and reconstructs it into a world of cultural revival. Revival, unlike preservation, usually involves the introduction of something new into the mixture, which Alena has masterfully done through her playful use of colour. The images stir up a feeling that our culture is not dead and lying in a case well preserved like a mummy on display, but rather a living and breathing thing, still evolving, still growing just like the ancient spirals, or arit, whose lines are always connected and continuous.

It is worth noting the use of colour is not foreign to Kelabit craftsmanship. Often you will find striking reds and a splash of blue and yellow amongst other colours in their beadwork, or painted into carvings of the *sape* and casings of *parangs*. Alena cleverly uses the mix medium of charcoal and acrylic colour in her portraiture that spotlights traditional craftsmanship that have been passed down through generations. And while our elders may no longer be with us, their stories remain alive through these cultural artefacts that have now become popular symbols of our culture, weaved into modern day fashion as a statement of identity.

Alena's abstracts, while at first glance may seem so far off from what is considered to be typically



Kelabit, with a closer look is very much evident of her years of close study of heritage through interactions with her elders and the larger community as well as her own lived experiences. Her choice of colours are nods to our people's deep connection to our land and nature. Her strokes show a sense of movement, almost in diaspora, giving an impression of how we as a people have migrated from the highlands into cities all over the world, yet remain

deeply connected to our land, culture and each other.

Her collection rightly paints the Kelabit highlands for what it truly is: a people full of colour. And in them, holds a wealth of artistic depth and a thousand memories, giving us an insight into the past while simultaneously having the present state of our cultural evolution stare right back at us, in full technicolour. **LM**



*About the writer*

## Sarah Lois Dorai

A Malaysian filmmaker and children's book publisher whose Kelabit heritage has greatly influenced her choice of work to amplify indigenous narratives and is convinced that films are not only tools for entertainment but have the power to heal.

**OPENING:** The launch ceremony of *Colours of the Highlands* at Hoan Gallery.

**INSTA:** Alena's art are widely shared on social media.



### ◀ Where Are You Going?, 2017 **SOLD**

Acrylic and collage on wood  
60.5cm x 40.6cm, with frame  
RM3,000

# The Artist In Her Own Words

**Alena Murang Sits Down With Hoan Gallery's Yu Ji & Hoan Kee Huang To Speak About Her Art**

**Q:** *How do you feel about your art show?*

**A:** When I first walked in here, I was like, wow, I mean, there are works I've been working on for so long in my small studio in KL, and then seeing them up on the gallery walls, in their frames, it was quite overwhelming actually.

**Q:** *When did preparations for this show begin?*

**A:** This show has been about a year in the making, I think from when the gallery first contacted me, but the pieces in the show itself, I think, the earliest piece is from 2013. Most of the works are from the last three years.

**Q:** *When did you start painting?*

**A:** As a child I always really enjoyed painting and drawing, as most children do, but that continued into my life as a teenager. I remembered drawing landscapes of Santubong with my crayons.

My mother is very into the arts. She really encouraged it. My father used to paint batik when he was a student. So they both really encouraged me with painting. I did SPM Art as well as an extra subject. But I have to say, I felt like I was not very good. I was not well versed in different medium, or in, you know, doing portraits or abstracts, I just really enjoyed it.

**Q:** *There's so much diversity for your first art show — portraits, arit, abstracts, flora and fauna — how did you come up with so many paintings?*

**A:** I was quite worried that most of the art pieces looked quite different. But, again, most of the work have been over three years.

Much of the abstract work was painted during lockdown, from 2020 up until 2022, and I think for me the abstract work was very much an expression of something that I cannot explain.

And then, with the arit, or the swirls, it's something that I have been very drawn to for many years. You can see it on my album covers, on some of the merchandise as well. The arit is a design that was originally Kelabit, I have seen it in old black and white photos, it was carved into rocks, and it was carved into wooden panels in the longhouse, and you'll see some of those swirls on tattooed women. For me I was wondering, gosh, why do we as Kelabit people no longer use these designs?

So I thought, if we were to still use this design today, what would it look like, what colours would it be in, based on the medium that we have today. I'm not a wood craver so how do I put that into paintings, so that's why you see these very colourful arit.

The other question I asked myself was what are these swirls, are they movement of the clouds, movement of the wind, movement of the water, and so these are somethings I explored in the arit pieces.

**Q:** *Tell us about one of your first arit paintings — A Universe of Prayers. Those with a keen eye will notice a little girl in it.*

**A:** The black and white arit was the first one that I painted. I guess for me, it was two parts. One was exploring what the design is — for me to learn more about the design, and what my ancestors craved out — I had to repeat

**ORIGIN:** A old photograph showing an 'arit' carved into wooden panels of a longhouse.



**INTERPRETATION:** Alena's 'arit' pieces are all colourful. The painter asked herself how her ancestors would have painted the arits if they had colour.

▲  
**Earth Water, 2023**

—  
Acrylic on canvas  
76.2cm x 76.2cm  
RM7,000

**A Universe of Prayers, 2022** **SOLD**

—  
Acrylic & charcoal from the longhouse, on canvas  
84.4cm x 59.6cm  
RM6,000  
▼

**Earth & Sand, 2022** ▶

—  
Acrylic on canvas  
Diameter: 40mm  
RM2,300



what they did, so that I can understand their designs.

While I was doing it, it was quite meditative, it was very special, I felt like, I wanted to put this very small figure inside it, to show the immenseness of the design, the thoughts that were going through my head.

**Q: What about The Storyteller?**

**A:** The Storyteller is a narrative of our oral traditions and how our oral traditions as Kelabit people only exists through song or stories. A lot of these oral traditions actually

*Continues on Pg. 24*





▲  
**The  
Storyteller,  
2017** SOLD

Acrylic, chalk and charcoal  
on canvas + audio  
228.6cm x 101.8cm  
RM 25,000





“

The oral traditions of the Kelabit are fast fading in the face of modernity. The knowledge that exists in stories is largely expressed in songs and chants, and in no written form. Today, only a handful of Kelabit elders remember the songs. These storytellers have a strong connection to the land and to all the elements within.

”

— *Alena Murang*

The Storyteller, a self portrait facing *Tepu' Sinda' Balan*, is representative of the different generations. This art piece includes an audio recording of the artist receiving songs from her elders, from *Tepu' Midang*, *Tepu' Doo' Ayu*, *Tepu' Ira* and others.



**POPULAR:** Most of Kuching's media turned out for Alena's preview before the opening of the show.

## The Storyteller II, 2022 **SOLD**

—  
Acrylic and longhouse charcoal on canvas  
59.4cm x 84cm  
RM5,000

*From Pg. 21*

skipped my father's generation for many reasons.

My father's generation were the first to go to school, they went to boarding schools, they spent a lot

less time with their parents, there was a lot more emphasis on getting a formal education, rather than learning these stories.

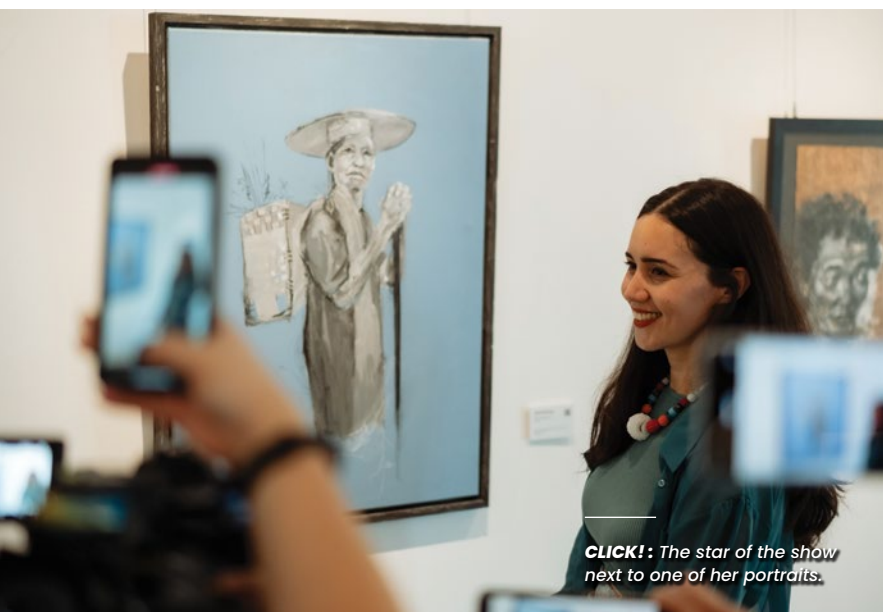
So we always say my father's generation is the survival generation, whereas my generation is the revival generation. So this picture reflects the passing of those oral traditions from older to younger generation. It comes with audio, the audio that you'll hear are recordings of myself learning from different elders. They are my own personal voice notes from my phone that we stitched together to really show the meaning of this piece.

**Q:** *Where has The Storyteller been exhibited before?*

**A:** This piece has been exhibited first in the Galeri Petronas and then the Rainforest Fringe Festival.

**Q:** *Why sell it now? Isn't it very precious to you?*

**A:** This piece is a very special piece and I would love it to go somewhere more people can appreciate it — like the museum.



**CLICK!:** The star of the show next to one of her portraits.





**PUBLIC:** Visitors writing messages to Alena on Post-it notes.

### Bua' Telal, 2023

Chalk paint and acrylic on paper  
20cm x 20cm,  
with frame  
RM1,200



### Dabai, 2023

Chalk paint and acrylic on paper  
29.5cm x 35cm,  
with frame  
RM1,200



### Cousins, 2022 SOLD

Acrylic, pastel and goldleaf on canvas  
30cm x 30cm  
RM1,500



### Terung Dayak, 2023

Acrylic on paper  
27cm x 31.5cm,  
with frame  
RM1,200



**HOAN:** The gallery is on L3 of the mall.

**SOLD** Rise II, 2020 ▶

Acrylic, ink, goldleaf and  
longhouse charcoal on paper  
38.6cm x 49cm  
RM2,500



**SOLD** A Glimpse of the Mountain, 2022 ▶

Acrylic, ink, goldleaf and  
pastel on paper  
41.8cm x 59.4cm  
RM2,000



Cloudy Night, 2020 ▶

Acrylic, watercolour, ink,  
pastel and longhouse  
charcoal on paper  
29.6cm x 42cm  
RM2,800



▲ The Joy of Flight, 2022

Acrylic, pastel and  
collage on canvas  
30.5cm x 60.9cm  
RM2,200

**Q:** *Coming back your abstracts, you edited videos of fire, agriculture, interspersed with your art. Can you explain?*

**A:** Well, I see social media as another platform to tell stories. Social media can't just be promos, getting people to come to the art show, I also wanted to tell stories. Without using words, what can we do? I wanted to show, really down to earth videos of kampungs, not too perfectly shot or anything, videos that show colours, colours of the fire, colour of the purple rice, and then how they translate into paintings, even though it's not literally about that painting. It's my collective lived experience of the highlands that's reflected in all these paintings, it's not just one incident that makes a painting.



**ARTIST:** Local painter and art teacher Angelina Bong shaking hands with Alena.



**SEDARIR:** Hock Seng Lee purchased this piece, and it will be next displayed in a showhouse in La Promenade's Precinct Grande.

**Q:** *You used charcoal in some of your pieces, but not just any charcoal. Their origins, tell us.*

**A:** Some of my pieces used charcoal from a burnt down longhouse, and that longhouse was actually my father's longhouse, which was burnt down in April 2018. When it burnt down, I wasn't around, and I felt very sad, I mean nobody was hurt or anything, which was great, but a longhouse is so much a part of our identity, because of the communal living, how we are as a community, our shared resources, how we build a longhouse together, it is very much a part of who we are.

I messaged my uncle, 'Can you save for me a piece of the charcoal? I want it for some artwork.' He gave me a huge box of charcoal.

I didn't know what to do with it for a very long time. The charcoal is used a lot in my abstract pieces. I think there is an expression of hope.

The last painting I did for this exhibition called The Sedarir. Sedarir is actually a genre of a song, and this sedarir, I learnt in 2015, it's an old kelabit song, from the times of warfare.



**LOVE:** Alena with her childhood nanny on opening night.

The song is sung by the whole kampung when villagers are coming back to the kampung after the war and their kampung has been destroyed.

This song is to give 'semangat' to the young men to rebuild their longhouse.

**Q:** *The portraits, are they all of people you know?*

**A:** All of the portraits are of people I know, each one of them, they kind of left an impression on me. Some of them have a deep story, some of them don't, I just really loved the moment I saw them. I have drawn a lot of the Kelabit grandmothers, grand aunts. You know, they have seen so much transition, they have been through so much hardship in their lives, and yet they are most loving, most caring people you'll meet. They especially love our generation of grandchildren, they treat us with so much joy and happiness. I really feel a lot of love from them.



▲ **My Favourite Colour is Pink, 2023** **SOLD**

—  
Acrylic, ink, gold leaf and longhouse charcoal on paper  
38.6cm x 49cm  
RM2,500



**Q:** *Is it hard to be an artist in Malaysia?*

**A:** - Yes I think it's difficult to be an artist anywhere, to be honest. Maybe it's easier in some places, but in general, it's difficult.

**Q:** *How do you feel about starting your art career in a gallery in Sarawak?*

**A:** I mean, for me, Sarawak has a very special place in my heart. Starting a solo exhibition in Hoan Gallery is very meaningful to me actually. I don't think we've ever, in my time in Sarawak, I don't think we've ever really had a gallery like this in Sarawak, I think it's very well curated, and there's a lot of thought and attention that goes into it.

I'm very grateful actually to be here. I hope many other artists as well have an opportunity to be here. 📍



—  
**ALENA  
MURANG'S  
INTERVIEW**

▲  
**Pu' Ayam  
(Dear One),  
2022** **SOLD**

—  
Acrylic, charcoal,  
pastel on canvas  
61.1cm x 91.6cm  
RM7,000



—  
**COLORS  
OF THE  
HIGHLANDS**

Digital Catalogue



▲  
**5AM Good Morning, 2022** **SOLD**

—  
Acrylic and pastel on paper  
59.4cm x 41.9cm  
RM4,000

# A New Safety Video For The Benefit Of All

Filmed With TV Host & In-House Staff

**T**he task was to make a safety video for HSL Tower & La Promenade Mall. The instruction was to film it featuring all in-house staff.

"First things first, I came up with a script," recalls safety and health manager Charles Lee, "and then we asked a friend of HSL, Vanessa Mering,



who has been in our past promotional videos, for her feedback. She edited the draft, and encouraged me to be the 'host' in the video with her."


The duo scouted for scene locations within the office and the mall, met up with videographers, and rehearsed their dialogues.

"I was a little nervous. Speaking to the camera takes practise. Vanessa is a pro. She reads the news every day, and she made it look so easy from the very first rehearsal with me. I couldn't have done it without her help."

Filming took about three days for the roughly five-minute video. Day one was on the presenters, day two involved staff and the evacuation scenes, and day three were shots around the building, including aerial views for shots like assembly areas.

"It felt like everybody had a good time. We got the accounts department to be our extras in the evacuation scenes," Lee said.

The video is now played for all HSL's new staff, visitors who utilise the tower's multi-purpose hall, and for mall tenants.

"The key thing about safety and emergencies is to be well prepared. Our building is equipped with all the latest features, but what's more crucial is for everyone to know best-practises, and the only way to achieve this is, practise makes perfect." 



1. **FAMOUS:** TV personality Vanessa Mering with HSL's Charles Lee presenting the safety video for HSL Tower and La Promenade Mall.

2. **SCREENGRAB:** A section of the video showing the assembly point.

3. **ORDERLY:** The key to safety during emergencies is practise.



**HSL TOWER SAFETY VIDEO**  
Scan to Play Video

# V.I.P

VISTA INDUSTRIAL PARK



## OPEN FOR SALE

Semi-Detached  
Light Industrial

UNDER  
CONSTRUCTION

 MUARA TABUAN, JALAN SETIA RAJA



HOCK SENG LEE BERHAD  
197901000733 (45556-X)

### 082 385 055

[hsl.com.my](http://hsl.com.my)



@hslcn





hsl.com.my | f @hslcn

1 HSL Tower, Lorong La Promenade 2, Kuching-Samarahan Expressway, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia.



# PRECINCT GRONDE

## la Promenade

📍 Newest phase within La Promenade, Kota Samarahan

Two & three storeys, duplex and bungalows

Walled-up area from **3,911sqft**

**5,064sqft**

Masterplanner and green specialist  
**David Ong Architect**

Bungalow architect  
**MNSC architects**

Landscape architect  
**INTODESIGN Lab**

Designed as **a township within a park**

**Double gated and guarded**

**Open space** is twice the industry norm at 17%

**High-end clubhouse** with saltwater pool, gym, multi-purpose spaces



*LIVING*: Designed for best space usage.



*BED*: Resting quarters have premium features like large windows.



*BEAUTIFUL*: Modern and handsome architecture.



# V.I.P

VISTA INDUSTRIAL PARK

📍 Muara Tabuan, neighbouring Sama Jaya High Tech Park, Kuching

Two-storey light industrial lot, Semi-D and detached

Floor areas between

**3,053sqft — 5,658sqft**

Land sizes from

**13.84pts — 32.37pts**

**Central kitchen, warehousing, workshop, office, retail and showroom suitable**

**Earlier phases fully sold out**

**100% take-up rate** for Rent To Own



For all sales enquiries, please contact

082 385 055



ART: Designer Bungalow is HSL's most modern house ever.



ENJOY: The clubhouse features a large swimming pool.



PLAYSCAPE: Playground + landscape.



# Samariang Aman 3

Jalan Sultan Tengah, Petra Jaya

Continuation of **HSL's best-selling** original Samariang Aman & 2

**Our biggest development ever**

Double-storey, terrace and Semi-D

Walled-up area from **1,590sqft — 1,884sqft**

Once completed, township's open space will **total 31 acres**



LARGE: Designed with large openings, heavy vehicle friendly and highly convertible.



GARDEN - A 3.3acre central park.





**CONCEPT:** *Siong How Exclusive at La Promenade Mall will be a concept store featuring some of the best electrical and household brand names.*

# Swk's Best Electrical Store Is Coming To La Promenade

The Home Grown Franchise Is Going Upmarket

**A** *high end Siong How Exclusive, the first for the brand, will open at La Promenade Mall mid this year.*

It will be the Sarawakian electrical franchise's 14th outlet, and the beginning of their new "Siong How Exclusive" branding.

At over 20,000sqft, Siong How Exclusive will occupy nearly half of the mall's level three.

"Siong How Exclusive will add significantly to the mall's Home section, which also has Mr DIY, The Bath Shop and Hoan Gallery," Hock Seng Lee (HSL) executive director Tony Yu.

"Siong How is already the largest electrical and home appliance store in Sarawak, and we are especially pleased they're building a new premium outlet at La Promenade. Like Siong How, HSL is also a Sarawak based company, and we also did our first premium houses at La Promenade."

Siong How Exclusive will feature brands including Samsung, LG, Panasonic, Electrolux, Midea, Haier, Faber and Alpha.

Brands like Samsung and Electrolux will create special concept stores within Siong How Exclusive at La Promenade.

"Retail has changed a lot in the last few years. Physical stores must offer services and hands-on demonstrations," said Siong How Exclusive managing director Lo Kok How.



"Making decisions like which aircon to purchase, which TV size, trying out new features or just having a sales person explain to you warrantee coverage makes buying more stress-free."

“ Retail has changed a lot in the last few years. Physical stores must offer services and hands-on demonstrations. ”

— **Lo Kok How**

*Siong How Exclusive Managing Director*

"This is why a lot of technology brands including Apple insist on having physical stores: for hands-on demos, for after-sales service."

As a tenant of HSL's mall, Siong How will be part of the developer's upcoming sales events, from festive season promos to showhouses.

The brand has already taken part in a HSL Raya Property Fair, and is currently in talks for September and December property launches. **M**



SIONG HOW *exclusive*

# NOW OPEN

 L3



**012 868 8453 | 082 365 941**

La Promenade  
MALL



**ARTIST IMPRESSION:** Designs for Terrace are complete. The cafe will be on the mall's ground floor.

# La Promenade Mall Will Become A Food Paradise

## New Cafe And Bar On The Way

**L**a Promenade Mall's current tenancy mix is to a large part the result of Covid-19. Most plans were jettisoned in mid-2020, including medical and co-working spaces.

Efforts were then redirected to simpler needs like having a supermarket and food establishments.

This redirection has served us well: all restaurants that opened with the mall in late 2020 remain open and many are thriving. (*Authentic Chicken Rice and NOMS are never not full during lunch time.*)

Late last year, the HSL Group even started its own restaurant: Foo Man Ting, a high-end Chinese restaurant, which has earned a reputation as one of the best in town.

Next up, we're planning an affordable eatery called Terrace.

Terrace is the name of HSL's own staff canteen on level five of our office. Terrace

serves a rotating menu of delicious local meals every day to our own staff at affordable prices.


We've now decided to expand Terrace to the mall's ground floor, and this new Terrace will be opened to the public, from breakfast to supper time. We're beyond excited about this.

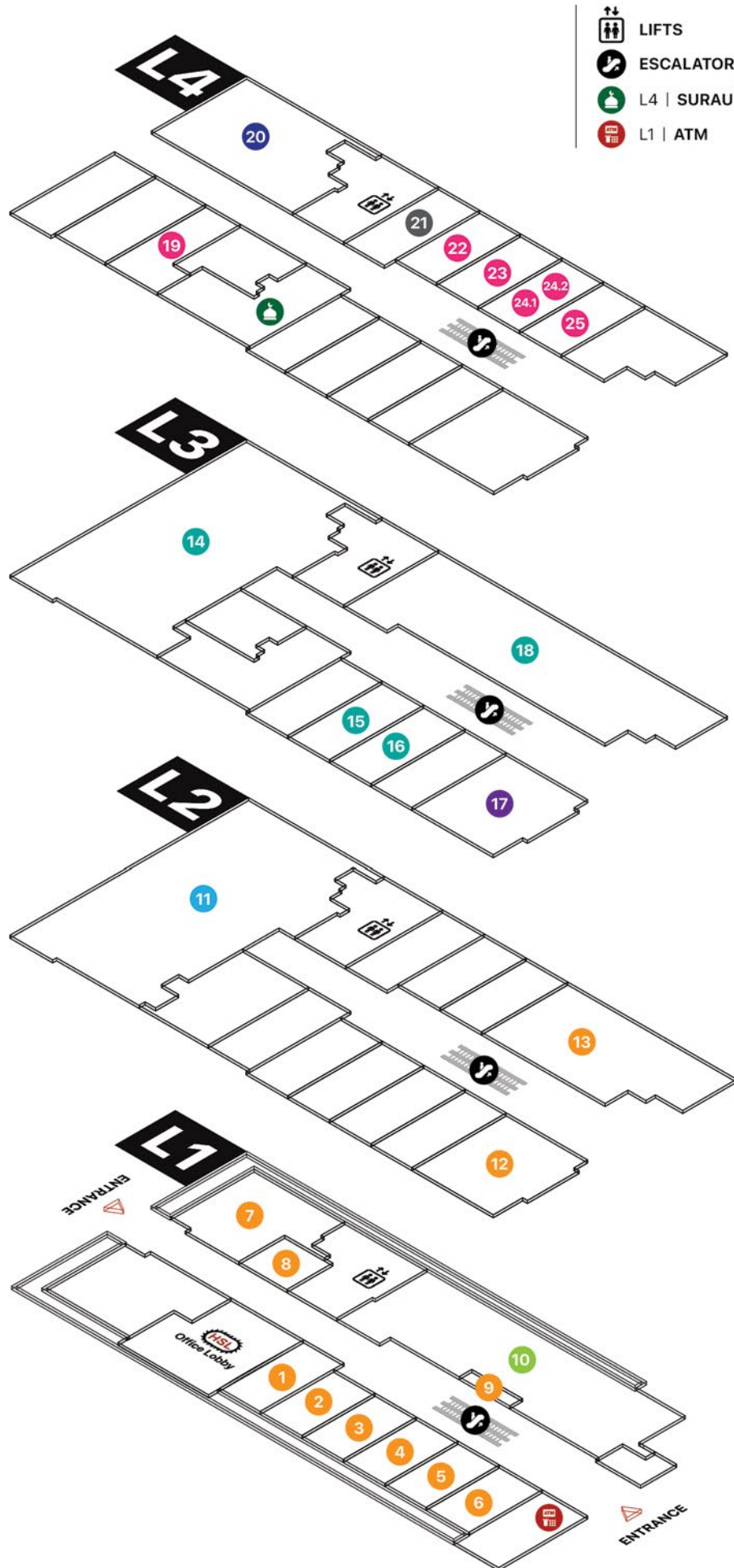
The Terrace crew is already busy creating a menu of favourites like Nasi Briyani, fish and beef curries, wok fried staples, not forgetting healthy & light offerings like kueh tiaw soup and soft boiled eggs with toasts.

We're also delighted to announce that a new bar will open soon. Designed to be intimate, iced bar will serve cocktail classics, a range of whiskies, gin, wine and imported bottled beers.

Iced will be staffed by just two bartenders — Clare & Aloysius — serving a maximum of 25 patrons at any one time. Think hole-in-the-wall Japanese bar, not over crowded space; gentle mood lighting, no flashing lights to be seen a mile away.

"One of the greatest benefits of La Promenade Mall is that it is lease-only, thereby, ensuring we have better tenancy mix. We always pick and chose carefully which tenants are most suitable for La Promenade," corporate communications manager Sophia Ong said.

"We can make sure none of our tenants' businesses clash. We can also guarantee customers variety. I think most of us at Hock Seng Lee are really pleased with the tenants we have put together. One of our main aims is to be one of the best food malls in Kuching." 



# MALL DIRECTORY

- LIFTS
- ESCALATOR
- L4 | SURAU NEW
- L1 | ATM

## L4

### FITNESS

- 20 Sweat Factory

### OFFICE

- 21 S K Ling & Tan Advocates

### CHARITY

- 19 Sarawak Women For Women Society
- 22 Training Hub by Hope Place
- 23 Bodhi Counselling Centre
- 24.1 Kuching Apple Talent Development and Welfare of Special Needs
- 24.2 Sarawak AIDS Concern Society
- 25 Helping Hands Penan

## L3

### ART

- 17 Hoan Gallery

### HOME IMPROVEMENT

- 14 Siong How Exclusive NEW
- 15 Oppenin COMING SOON
- 16 The Bath Shop
- 18 Mr. DIY

## L2

### FOOD & BEVERAGES

- 12 Shang Pot
- 13 Foo Man Ting

### ENTERTAINMENT

- 11 K11 Karaoke & Entertainment COMING SOON

## L1

### FOOD & BEVERAGES

- 1 Black Bean Coffee & Tea
- 2 Authentic Chicken Rice
- 3 Noms
- 4 Sugarbun
- 5 Rice King
- 6 Terrace COMING SOON
- 7 Zoro
- 8 Iced COMING SOON
- 9 Ding Tea

### RETAIL

- 10 Choice Supermarket

# The Herald Before Living Moments

Throwback To HSL's Original Newsletter

**E**VERY issue of Living Moments, we end with a throwback to Hock Seng Lee's original newsletter. The Herald began in 1996 and was for in-house circulation.

Edited by Sonja Gan, the then HSL corporate affairs director, the newsletter is a treasure trove of memories and milestones.

This edition's #throwback is to the sixth issue, published in May/June 1997. These articles bring back sweet memories.



## THE HSL HERALD

May/June 1997

For HSL Staff Only

Issue 6

### Your Newsletter

First we wish our Dayak friends a very happy Gawai and trust it is an enjoyable time for being with family and friends as they "balk kampung".

This issue we highlight HSCB's sky rocketing success as our new mammoth projects grab the spotlight and the attention of the nation shop man.

Other stock highlights: HSEB's inaugural public AGM held in Shanghai and climbing Mt. Kinabalu and more...

Our regular New Faces and Training News columns appear as usual.

On another matter, while it's true that we all have schedules to keep, duties to perform, also keep in mind of your JCI commitments and deadlines. Because the later you are the later we are...

### COMPUTER NEWS

#### The Word Concept Virus

This is one tough virus to eradicate. The only way to rid this annoying menace is to check all files on all computers, and all floppy diskettes at the same time. This is in fact a mammoth task considering we have over 40 computers, thousands of files, and countless floppy diskettes here and there and nowhere... As long as one Concept virus still exist undetected in a MS Word file on a diskette that was missed in the 'crack-down' an outbreak is only waiting to happen.

The Concept virus is actually a Word macro designed to act like a virus. Normal computer viruses cannot be "seen". To see the Concept virus, go to Tools->Macro and you can see a bunch of macros: AAAZAO, AAZF5, FileSaveAs, and Payload. And after you see them DELETE them! Or get your files scanned.

For your information, our policy of insisting than all foreign floppy disks and computers entering the HSLB LAN be subjected to a virus scan has already stopped a number of viruses. So please co-operate in this matter because once a dangerous virus enters our LAN undetected it can cause irreparable damage.

It's our responsibility, by working together, to see that this does not happen.

## Conquering Kinabalu

BY JENNIFER TANG

Around the Gawai Dayak holidays, I joined the youth group from Ming Onn Methodist Church of Bintulu making a real adventurous trip to Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. What is the adventure? Climbing Mount Kinabalu, the highest peak in South East Asia (4,101m/13,453 ft).



Low's Peak Mt. Kinabalu's summit.

My only preparation before the trip was several jogging and badminton sessions. This is just a minor preparation compare to the ones that the Bintulu group have had - early morning jog, small hill climbing and climbing. For someone who haven't been through too much hardship, this journey up to the summit of Mount Kinabalu really did impose a great impact on me.

my legs quite an effort to climb up those stairs. I was out of breath through the first 30 minutes up the trail and I was panting and gasping for breath already. I was even regretting every second along the way and I wondered why I spent money flying to Sabah all the way to suffer like this.

We started out from Kota Kinabalu town around 9:00 am in the morning of 31 May 1997 on 2 yellow school buses. It took us around an hour time to reach Mount Kinabalu Park, which is at 5,000 ft level. After registration and unloading our luggage there, bringing on an overnight change of clothing in our backpacks, we went up the buses again and they took us up to another 1,000 ft. From there, (which is the exact starting point), we started our journey (on foot).

Anyway, not wanting to give up halfway and not wanting to waste the money and effort and forfeiting the whole point of coming to Sabah, I grit my teeth, gear up my motivation (with tremendous effort), spur on my will and continue the climb. Along the way, we met those climbers on their way down and they encouraged us. After enduring a long five and a half hours, I finally reach my first destination - Laban Rata (11,000 ft).

The trail consists mostly of man-made stairs. Most parts of the slope is steep and it took



We had a dinner which cost only 15.00 per person of meat and vegetables but the rice was a bit uncooked (to talk about an unforgettable meal). Actually, everyone was too tired to gobble down any food but for the sake of storing up energy, we force ourselves to finish our food. That night, some of us from the group started having heat stroke and severe headache (I was one of them) and anticipating myself to withdraw from the final climb already). Good thing that we have enough supply of medication. Lights were out at 8:00 p.m. but I wasn't able to sleep a wink...

What happened next? Read the concluding chapter of this personal story of endurance and perseverance in the next, 1 year anniversary, issue of The HSL Herald...

### Social Scene



Toss another wing on the barbie... There were no lack of volunteer bbq cooks.



Picnicking Rule #105: If you splash water at people they will splash back. The girls get dose with water from (usually) Desmond Chia, and off-camera to the right, Augustine Law.

### Training News

HSL continues to provide lots of career development opportunities for staff. Our newer clerks were treated to a course on Teamwork and Positive Attitudes recently run by our Personnel Manager Wong Ing Tung.

**Grapevine**

We hear wedding bells are in the air for a lovely lady in lucky guy? HH will be after an exclusive photo of the big...

And is romance in the air for our famous sultry-voiced of the Admin team is said to be keen.

The Yli family gained a new member with the birth of C... 22 April 1997. Following in his Dad's proportions, Ad... massive 4.33 kgs.



## Picnic at Sungai Cina (Matang Family Park)

**M**atang Family park proved a delightful venue for HSL's latest social event on Sunday 25 May 1997.

Over 40 HSL staff, including Kalleng and immediate family members converge (about 8:30 am, 25 May, 1997, Sunday) at the vicinity of Sugar Bun, Satok and set off for Matang Family Park for a day of BBQ/Picnic.

Upon arrival, those coming to the park for the first time took the opportunity to walk around and admire the tranquil natural beauty and relaxing atmosphere. Swimming and enthusiasts set off to dip in the cool mountain stream. Some could not

Those who stayed on till the afternoon participated in games such as the "Joining Game", "Sign Guessing Game", "Ding-Dong Game" and various "Walking/Dancing Style Game". Prizes were given away. Also kids were enjoying themselves at the kiddy park.

It appears all the participants had a fun filled day and the outing came to an end at about 3:30 pm.

Let's say thank you here to those involved in getting ready all the goodies together, namely Yew Ming, Jenny, Ing Tung, Chin Moi, Jamie, Siaw and relaxing atmosphere. Swimming and enthusiasts set off to dip in the cool mountain stream. Some could not



Some of the picnicers poses for a snap on the rocky bank of Sungai Cina. Back row (l-r): Lee Ting Liong, Wong Ing Tung, Lee Chin Moi and son, Poh Siaw Chin, Jamie Wong. Seated (l-r): Felicia Lim, Ang Poh Choo, Adrienne Liaw, Wong Song Ling

resist the urge to splashed water at colleagues, and this prompted the latter to join in the water-splashing "fight".

At the meantime, volunteers started to barbecue steak, chicken wings and sweet corn for the crowd. Side dishes include sandwiches, tit-bits, fruit, etc. There were more than enough for everone. The Social Club and their assistants put in a terrific effort to concoct a delicious barbecue and piles

of other scrumptious edibles. It was a great occasion to meet spouses and children and get an insight into our colleague's lives outside the office, in the barbecuing.

It was nice to escape the office environment and enjoy the great outdoors. Looking at and being around greenery is said to be very therapeutic and relaxing. With our hectic work we need as much of that as possible. Cheers!

**Editor: Sonja Gan**  
**Graphics/Layout: Stephen Tan**  
**This Issue's Article Contributors:**  
 Jennifer Tang, Susan Yii, Jamie Wong, and all photographers

the Personnel Dept - who is the day - stay tuned...  
 operator? - one charming member  
 ee Sing and Sonja's baby boy on en Yii Yang Jun weighed in at a

## LOOK WHO'S TALKING NOW?

BY SUSAN YII

**S**itting at the back, or the front depending on your point of view, Susan Yii observes just about everything, here she writes a snippet of what goes on at Lot 1006, first floor, Accounting section .....

"Hello! woo lui siew bo? Your account is long overdue, could you arrange for some \$\$\$ as soon as possible?" Guess who talking? He is our credit controller for HSLM, Desmond Chia.

The whole world knows he is friendly, nice, good tempered, hard-working and of course 'handsome'. When it comes to work, he is very responsible and careful. Well, well, some tips for the girls - the only child of the family! Wow!!

Hardworking, careful & patient, our Tan Mei Ling, who is taking care of Zinxian Heavy Machineries Service's account as well as helping Desmond in HSLM & HSLH. Together with Mei Ling is Song Ling who always thinks of a more efficient & faster way of doing her work. Not forgetting our young, tough (and naughty) Amy Tang, Jennifer's younger sister, who has just joined our HSLM family. She is working directly under big brother Desmond's supervision.

"Hello, Hello, David, may I know how much per ton for the logs delivered to So & So?" Our Amy Lim is in-charge of all the shipping companies and Hutten Marine's accounts. She is technically good at English. She always performs her tasks well and on time. She now has a new assistant, Chua, who has just been transferred from HSLB's administrative department. Welcome!!!

"Oh no!!!!!! My honey (BMW) was kissed by a fierce monster (Bus) and it was his fault, what should I do now?"

### HSLB first AGM

**H**ock Seng Lee Berhad's first publicly held Shareholders' Annual General Meeting (AGM), at the Deer and Lady Suite at Riverside Majestic Hotel on 19 May 1997, was carried out smoothly to everyone's relief.

The Chairman of the meeting, Executive Chairman Dennis Yii addressed the crowd of shareholders on the nine resolutions as disclosed in the Notice of Annual General Meeting - all resolutions were passed.

Thanks to Jennifer and Chin Moi who stayed on guard at the registration table to ensure that only the genuine shareholders or proxies were allowed to enter. Many thanks, too to our Administration Manager, Ing Tung and our Administrative Officer, Tay who managed to organise the backdrop at short notice. The environmentally conscious team recycled the backdrop from the Annual Dinner held in January this year. Before the AGM commenced everyone chipped in to cut, paste and stick the backdrop on the wall. The effect turned out perfect.

The directors expressed their thanks to those who were involved in the whole preparation process of the AGM from the compiling and despatching of Annual Report and Notice of AGM to the actual event itself.

All these we did for the first time and we did them well.

Managing Director Paul Yu, and Director Idris Bin Buang, and on the left by Company Secretary/F.C. Chieng Yew Ming and Director Yu Chee Liang. Present but not in the pic were Directors Yii Chee Sing, Lau Kieng Yieing and Company Secretary Shirley Yu. Not present were Directors Yii Chee Hau and Hasmi Bin Hassan

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wailed the policy holder. "First of all, ....." she replies. Who else could it be but our insurance expert (the infamous) Ms.Ho, who is always confident, helpful, "soft" (! Ed.) and always get her things done. She is assisted by her sweet, slim and pretty Ms Ang. Ms Ang is friendly and willing to learn. So, if you want to buy insurance, you know who to look for. OK!

"Oh Miss, I'm really broke, could you lend me some money for my son's milk powder please?" wailed a potential customer. "Sure, as long as you repay us with a low interest rate of ... hee! hee!" Here's our Ms. Wong Mee Hie who is taking care of HSL Credit's account as well as preparing all the relevant documents like HP agreements. She is helpful and good at Microsoft Word.

"Hello, I would like to know more about your ongoing projects. How much.....? Whereabouts.....? Payment.....? Loan.....? Sales & Purchases Agreement.....? Ten - O." ask the potential house-owners. Our new Ms Tiong is now taking care of HSL Realty accounts as well as the sales of HSL "houses". If you want more information, please ICM 53.

These staff are all precious to HSL. They have been working very hard and are committed to their work. We hope they will continue to keep up their good work as nothing can be done perfectly without team work. I am sure the management will appreciate and continue to support them.

## NEW FACES

Joining the ever increasing ranks of HSL office staff (about 80 strong) are the following personnel:

### NEW STAFF

- Wong Ming He
- Lim Yee Hing
- Wong Mei Hing
- Chen Siaw Lin
- Wong Siew Hui
- Lim Yee Hing
- Wong Siew Hui
- Lim Yee Hing
- Wong Siew Hui

### POSITION, COMPANY

- Service Manager, Hock Seng Lee Machinery
- Senior Quantity Surveyor, Hock Seng Lee Berhad
- Assistant Accountant, Hock Seng Lee Realty
- General Clerk, Hock Seng Lee Berhad
- Account Clerk, Hock Seng Lee Berhad (rejoin)
- General Clerk, Hock Seng Lee Machinery
- General Clerk, Hock Seng Lee Berhad
- General Clerk, Hock Seng Lee Berhad
- Office Assistant, Hock Seng Lee Berhad

Our congratulations to the following people who have successfully completed their three months probation and have been confirmed as permanent staff:

### CONFIRMED STAFF

- Wong Ming He
- Lim Yee Hing
- Wong Mei Hing

### POSITION, COMPANY

- General Clerk, Personnel and Admin. Dept., HSLB
- Sales Executive, Poh Yong Tiles Sdn. Bhd.
- Sales Executive, Poh Yong Tiles Sdn. Bhd.

## Badminton Games

For staff who are keen at badminton they are welcomed to play at : Stampark Recreation Club (Court No.1) 6:00 - 8:00 pm Sundays. The court is booked until August 3 1997.

# WE'RE BUILDING YOUR FUTURE TODAY.



@lapromenademall



@hslcn

LA PROMENADE MALL

Daily 9:30am - 9:30pm

HSL HQ

Mon-Fri 8:30am - 5:30pm

Sat 8:30am - 12:30pm

+6082 502 299

HSL SALES GALLERY

Daily 10am - 5pm

+6082 385 055

+6013 836 5566