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## MBR TURTLE HATCHERY BLOG

[www.melinabeachturtles.wordpress.com](http://www.melinabeachturtles.wordpress.com)

## CONSERVATION NEWS

[thefigtreeforum.blogspot.com](http://thefigtreeforum.blogspot.com)

## FROM STUDENTS TO STAFF!

"You guys do work experience? Awesome!" said Karen Bongrain of the Canadian International School of Hong Kong (CDNISHK), following her trip with EFT to Langkawi in 2009.

Although she was only 14 at the time, Karen meant what she said and within just a few weeks she began organising the trip with her friends Sophie Youtz, from CDNISHK and the Langkawi trip, and Betty Henderson of Kiangsu-Chekiang College.

During their two week stay Karen, Sophie and Betty shadowed EFT Biologists on the Canford School trip to Tioman Island. They integrated well with both the students and teachers, enthusiastically participated in all the activities and didn't even moan when asked to organise the library!



L-R: Karen, Betty and Sophie with EFT Biologist Jen

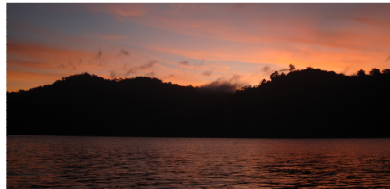
*"EFT has certainly helped me decide what I would want to be doing when I grow older. Thank you EFT for making my summer the most memorable, fun and educational!"* – Karen Bongrain

*"This was not my first work experience, but it was the one I enjoyed most... Setting an example for the students must've been the hardest part."* – Sophie Youtz

We very much hope to see all three of them again soon.

## NEW TRIPS FOR A NEW YEAR

2010 has been a blast for us at Ecofieldtrips. We had a bunch of great new staff, our Ipoh program took off with a bang! We at Ecofieldtrips are not the types who sit on their laurels. For year 2011, students can look forward to more adventures with us.



Hornbill watching at sunrise at Belum/Temengor Rainforest

Our **new Singapore & Ipoh trip** promises a fun-filled 10 days which bring you from the ethnic enclaves of Singapore, to the caves and Orang Asli village of Ipoh, to the exhilaration of white-water rafting on the Kinta River and abseiling through the canopy of the forest.

For nature-lovers, you would love our new **10-day Langkawi, Belum & Ipoh** trip as we bring you zooming through the canopy of the ancient rainforest of Langkawi, snorkelling in the turquoise water of Pulau Payar Marine Park, hornbill watching and elephant spotting in the submerged valley of Belum/Temengor rainforest, and bird watching in the Kuala Gula mangrove reserve.



Students at play on Melina Beach!

For those of us who like to slow down and smell the roses, our **Tioman Lite 4+1** trip is tailored just for you. This new 5-day trip allows you to choose two out of three possible activity days (coral reef, rainforest or rocky seashore) and leave one day free on Melina Beach. It amazes us what innovative games and elaborate sandcastles the students come up with when they unplug from their iPods. This trip is ideal for young students, and Melina Beach's natural boundaries make it easy for teachers to supervise and control these lively little ones.

## UNDERWATER GHOST TOWN



Bleached coral is stony white| Photo © Armando Jenik 2009 / Marine Photobank

The worst coral bleaching event in recorded history has affected reefs worldwide in 2010, with Tioman Island sited as one of the most seriously hit areas.

Corals and some anemones have a special symbiotic relationship with algae known as zooxanthellae (zoox), which come in an array of beautiful colours. These zoox use sunlight to photosynthesise and provide their hosts with the energy they need to grow.

However, in temperatures as little as 1°C above normal, zoox begin to produce toxins. When this happens, coral kicks them out. Bleached corals and anemones are transparent or white, and if the water temperature doesn't return to normal within a few weeks, they will die.

Luckily, the sea is already cooling down and Tioman's reefs are already recovering. To help them along the way, the Tioman Marine Park Authority has closed some of the worst affected sites to all visitors until the end of October.

## CAREERS AT EFT

Do you love nature, hiking and snorkelling? Are you adventurous and outgoing? Are you just bursting to show the wonders of nature to the people around you? If you are, Ecofieldtrips wants you!

If you are a graduate in Biology, Geography or a related field, a confident swimmer, and would like an amazing opportunity to launch your career, this is the job for you. If you are currently a student interested in any of the above fields, we welcome you to join us for a work experience.

Intrigued? Email Bridget with a copy of your CV and a cover letter right away!

## STUDENT QUOTE OF THE YEAR!!

*"It's supposed to be low tide now, but it's raining so I guess it will be a bit late..."*

- An IB student planning their seashore survey!

## BIOLOGY MEETS ADVENTURE

All you young aspiring David Attenboroughs and Jacques Cousteaus, your dream is about to come true. From 2011 onwards, Ecofieldtrips is offering the option of kayaking in Kinta Nature Park in Ipoh and sailing in Tioman Island.

Kinta Nature Park is home to 130 species of birds and is one of the largest heronries in Malaysia. Kayaking on the lake offers an up-close and personal experience to the diverse wildlife of the park. This program is suitable for students Grade 10 and above. Higher level fieldtrips may also incorporate freshwater surveys and bird diversity surveys.



Kayaking means we can get close to wildlife without causing any disturbance!

For trips to Tioman Island, students can soon look forward to the option of sailing to Tulai Island for the snorkelling day! All students will have the opportunity to steer, navigate, trim and even learn to repair a sail under the guidance of Ecofieldtrips Managing Director, Bridget Hedderman. Bridget has 35 years of sailing experience under her belt and is currently pursuing a Yacht Master sailing qualification.

Now who said biologists can't be adventurers too?

## CONGRATS & THANKS TO DSKL!

Upon return from a trip to Tioman, the Deutsche Schule Kuala Lumpur students-turned-conservationists raised funds for the Melina Beach Turtle Hatchery. Let's hear what they said:



*"Our plan was to save the baby turtles... We handed out flyers, and everybody donated. We were all surprised when we heard that we made MYR 528. We are glad to help. Hope the turtles are safe."  
- Farah, DSKL*

A big thank you to DSKL from the turtles of Tioman Island!

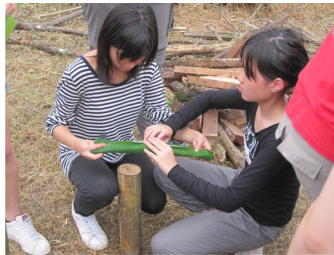
## EFT DOES CAS



Guests from Bahagia Hospital having afternoon tea, fun and games with EFT.

EFT is now offering an extensive CAS programme for IB trips to The Roots education centre in Perak.

The new programme introduces the themes of Creativity, Action and Service, so students will engage in exciting and challenging activities to prepare them for the CAS programme.



Students from ISFHK preparing their dinner - Rice cooked in bamboo!!

Students will camp overnight at Kinta Nature Park and construct their own hide to observe the local wildlife. They will do a challenging trek up to an Orang Asli village where they will meet the tribal community and engage in a cultural exchange. Finally, as a service to the community the students spend an afternoon entertaining patients from the local old people's home.

ISFHK were the first school to take part in this programme in June this year and the students all overcame personal challenges to have a rewarding experience.

## FAIRVIEW JOINS THE EFT FAMILY!



Students particularly loved exploring the subterranean river!

July 2010 saw the first ever EFT trip with Fairview International School, Malaysia. MYP groups from both Penang and KL joined us for a four day 'Culture and Conservation' trip at The Roots, Ipoh. We look forward to working together again in the future!

**Jamie Fitzgerald** graduated in 2009 from University College Cork in Ireland, where he studied genetics. This university is the very same that EFT company director Bridget attended! Joining the EFT team at the beginning of this year, he has been an instant hit with the groups! His superb academic background makes him a fantastic addition to any high level survey trip, and his flamboyant sense of humour means that the younger groups have a blast. Scientist he may be, but Jamie has impressed all at EFT with his artistic ability; he has developed a new turtle colouring book, complete with original artwork and text. This will be on sale at Melina Beach very soon, with the hope to raise funds for turtle conservation on Tioman Island. Future aspirations are to work in conservation genetics, which involves analysing and preserving the gene pools of threatened species.



## THEY CAME, THEY SAW, THEY CONQUERED...

...And they're coming back for more! Year 7 students from Alice Smith School KL got their hands (very) dirty on their first trip with Ecofieldtrips to The Roots in June. Fun was had by all planting mangrove saplings knee-deep in mud, crawling through caves and learning the hard way about iodine stains from giant millipedes!



Years 7s planting mangrove saplings

Year 6 has since decided to visit Sedili with EFT. Kids will try everything from mending fishing nets to cooking Malay desserts, whilst A-level Biologists are planning on carrying out ecology studies in the diverse habitats of Perak.