

Editorial Team

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Ecofieldtrips History & Growth



Ecofieldtrips was set up in 1997 to coincide with the International Year of the Reef by Bridget Hedderman who is a biologist and educator. EFT offers good quality biology and geography field trips to schools, clubs and societies. The company has grown substantially over the years with schools from UK, Ireland, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Bangladesh signing up for trips. There is also an increasing number of local and international schools in Singapore booking annual trips.

EFT continues to grow and develop, adding new destinations and developing new trips to meet the requirements of schools and the curriculum. Our aim is to introduce fieldwork in a fun and interesting way under the guidance of professional biologists; to reinforce what is being taught in the classroom, increase students' awareness of conservation issues and hopefully instill lifelong positive attitudes to the protection and conservation of our environment.



Henry Park Primary School (Singapore) visits Sarawak!

On the 7th of November 2005, 86 Henry Park Primary School students boarded a plane from Singapore to Kuching, Sarawak to embark on a five-day field trip. Students were to learn about the unique culture of Sarawak and at the same time, share some of their own.

Students were welcomed warmly with ethnic performances at the Sarawak Cultural Village and shown the various local activities that happen daily. Being divided into three major Sarawak indigenous groups-Iban, Bidayuh and Melanau-the students spent the day discovering their new cultural identities.

Students had a fresh start on the second day as they headed to Bako National Park. Together with our biologists and local guides who are equipped with a wealth of information, students learned all about the flora and fauna of the rainforest.

The next day, EFT arranged a visit to Kuching's Semenggoh Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre, where students could get up close and personal with the 'Man of the Forest'. Students were thrilled to watch the great apes in their natural habitat.



The highlight of the trip was a stay at the Iban longhouse, where students travelled up river via longboat and upon arrival had a game of soccer with the local boys! Both students and Ibans put up performances and students even got to dress up in traditional Iban costume!



Students were based at Damai Rainforest, which provided a breath of fresh air for the students with its lovely scenic view of the sea, wonderful forest, seashore and a team-building course.



EFT marks out Snorkel Trail in Tioman

To help Paya Beach look after their wonderful house reef, EFT embarked on a reef project on the 14th of October 2005 at the resort in Tioman. Leading the trip was Bridget Hedderman, biologist and director of EFT, and field expert Subaraj Rajathurai. The project was aimed at increasing awareness of reef ecosystems and how to take care of reefs.

Read more about the article written by Cheryl Fan in the Jan-Feb issue of World Environment magazine.

Tanglin Trust 6th Form Ecology Fieldtrip



Students carrying out surveys on the rocky beaches of Sedili

On the 28th – 29th February 2006, 6th form biology students from Tanglin Trust School went to Sedili Besar with EFT to undertake a two-day ecology fieldtrip. The wonderful rocky seashore and coastal mangrove that has been thoroughly researched and explored by EFT staff offers tremendous scope for more in-depth survey work. The journey to Sedili is a pleasantly short one and a half hours from Johor Bahru. Our very own Nurse Jen accompanied TTS as their school nurse, along with Jonathan Avon, Head of Science and Dr. Andrea Brigitta. Biologists Bridget and Sek Chuan accompanied on the trip, as well as Cheryl Fan who took some fabulous photos of the group at work and play!



EFT Director is a Finalist in Entrepreneur of the Year 2005!

At the recent British Business Awards 2005, Ecofieldtrips moved up a notch as its director, Bridget Hedderman, was congratulated for becoming a finalist in the category of Entrepreneur of the Year, amongst tough competition. We hereby send our best wishes to Bridget and hope she'll continue to take EFT to greater heights!

“Don't judge a person's success by how much he has, but rather how he stands up after a fall.”

EFT explores new field trip location in Juara Lagoon

Towards the end of 2005, Bridget met John Amos who has been working exclusively with United World College since he opened his first resort Juara Lagoon in Tioman island. He and the EFT team will be working closely to develop inspiring programmes for students staying in Juara. The advantages of staying in Juara are that it is exclusively for school groups and no other tourists stay there. We are very excited about the possibilities that can be explored by using such a resort. It is hoped that with the cooperation of John Amos, we will be able to provide more facilities such as laboratories and a resource library for student groups.



LIMELIGHT New Staff!

Helen Brunt- British Anthropologist/Biologist from Sabah where she is involved in various conservation projects particularly marine conservation and she works with the Bajau people

Angie Seow- Singaporean Life Science Graduate from NUS; keen diver, educator and conservationist

Jenny Hulton Smith- Australian State Registered nurse, brings a wealth of experience to EFT from her many years as school nurse with Tanglin Trust School

Gertjan Verlinde- Gertjan is doing a 6-month graduation work placement with EFT. Bridget met him in Seychelles Oct 2005 when he was working as a volunteer on the Seychelles Whale Shark Monitoring Project.

Fabrice Marcellin- Sales and Marketing Manager for Europe



Visit to first Swiss School, College Alpin International Beausoleil

In January 2006 Bridget visited schools in Switzerland and France to give presentations on EFT. It was a surreal feeling talking about the tropics when snow was piling up outside the windows. We are looking forward to seeing students from the French Alps on the reefs of Tioman Island in the next year.

Turtle-saving effort at Melina Beach, Tioman



Peter Witzigmann doing his part for turtle conservation

Peter Witzigmann, owner of Melina Beach, has been buying turtle eggs picked up by locals for double the market price. He then brings the eggs to his beach for safe monitoring until they hatch. EFT has recognised Peter's noble efforts, and has been bringing students from Paya Beach Resort over to Melina for Peter's presentations and sharing sessions on turtle conservation. We hope that this effort can be sustained with your kind donations. Check out www.tioman-melinabeach.com

NEWSFLASH!!!

Cheryl's new EFT company introduction CD will soon be distributed all over the world!