

Shangri-La Tanjung Aru gives year-end joy to children

Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort and Spa recently hosted a massive party for underprivileged children, an event held annually at the resort. 77 children were invited from a number of charity homes, including Bukit Harapan, Seri Mengasih Centre, Taman Didikan Kanak-Kanak Kurang Upaya Sembulan, Sabah Cheshire Home, Rumah Kanak-Kanak Kota Kinabalu and the Sabah Thalassaemia Society.

The children were treated to a high-tea buffet consisting of a spread of delicious snacks and dishes, spending the entire afternoon participating in various fun activities, such as face painting, balloon sculpting, making Christmas ornaments, decorating giant cup cakes, and games such as statue dancing and musical chairs.

Several clowns and cartoon mascots were also on-hand to provide endless entertainment. An inflatable castle and mini-tent were set up for the kids' photos, with girls dressed in princess tiaras and wands and the boys in cowboy hats and top hats that were handed out as gifts.

The party culminated as it does every year, with a breath-taking Christmas tree-lighting ceremony that simultaneously illuminates all of the decorative lights in the resort. Santa Claus, assisted by his Santarinas, elves and resident manager Philip Dewar, handed out a present to each child. The event ended with Christmas carols sung by the resort's staff.

Ornaments handmade by children of the Seri Mengasih Centre are on sale at the Borneo Lobby, with each piece representing a donation made to the charity home valued from RM30 to RM50. Proceeds go to funding the Seri Mengasih Centre's residents, contributing to the purchase of supplies for its residents and to the centre's maintenance.

