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Editorial

Kopivosian! August is a month of celebration and remembrance. This year, Malaysia enters its 50th year of independence on August 31. A Golden Jubilee celebrated by the whole nation at its grandest level. It is a time when the lines between race, age and gender are blurred and we only identify ourselves as proud Malaysians. To see Malaysia come this far is astounding but even more exciting are the prospects of the future.

But as we celebrate our independence, let us not forget the sacrifices made in making our nation what it is today. During World War II, many Australian and British servicemen fought alongside our local patriots to fight invading forces. One of the biggest scars in our history is none other than the infamous Sandakan Death March, where allied Australian and British servicemen were forced to march from Sandakan to Ranau between January to June 1945. Conditions were horrendous and in the end, only 6 men survived the march. Every year, relatives and friends of the Prisoners of War (POWs) who were in march come to Sabah to commemorate their bravery during the Sandakan Memorial Day on August 15 (p.4). I had the honour of meeting Lynette Silver and Tham Yau Kong recently: Two key figures in keeping the history of the Sandakan Death March alive, lest we forget. For those interested in retracing the steps of the POW's or would like more information on the Sandakan Death March, visit <http://www.sandakan-deathmarch.com>



With Tham Yau Kong and Lynette Silver

Think you're tough enough? Then check out the TM 21st Mt. Kinabalu International Climbathon which takes place on August 25 and 26 (p.4). Dubbed the World's Toughest Mountain Race, watch the top mountain runners make their up and down Mt. Kinabalu in under 3 hours – an amazing feat considering most of us take two days to complete the trek! Also happening this month is the Annual Borneo Orchid Show and Menara Tun Mustapha BASE Jump. Refer to our Calendar of Events for a full listing of what's happening in Sabah this month.

From poignant memorial services to colourful parades, come and experience it all here in Sabah. It will be a holiday like no other!

Melissa Leong
Editor