



Panaga Outpost Pages Seria, Brunei Darussalam

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Issue 11 2017: Dec/Jan



EXPATRIATE SUPPORT NETWORK

Welcome to Outpost

About Outpost Seria

Outpost is an information hub for expatriate families in all stages of their posting.

We provide services such as:

- › Meet and Greet for Newcomers
- › Networking Events including coffee mornings and boat trips
- › Workshops such as CV Writing, First Aid, How to prepare your move, Wildlife in Panaga, Third culture kids
- › Weekly conversational English and Malay classes

...and much more.

Don't forget to check our Facebook page –Outpost Seria, Brunei– for up to date information.



Dear "POP" readers,

Welcome to the final issue of POP for 2017! This issue will also cover January, so make sure to look carefully so you don't miss anything that will happen in the new year.

November has been a busy month for many us! In the "snapshots" section of this issue we will have a look back at some of the fantastic events that were arranged in our community this past few weeks.

November also - sadly - was the last month for two of our team-members working for Outpost. On behalf of the Outpost Brunei-Seria team I want to say a big thank you to our fantastic Focal Point Myrte Dijkman and our lovely IT member Spandana Chivukula. Thank you for your hard work!

As usual, if you have any recommendations, ideas or events you want to share with the rest of the POP readers, don't hesitate to send an email to: outpostbrunei@shell.com

Finally I want to say an early Happy Holidays to everyone in the Panaga community!

Kind regards,

*Annika Cederberg on behalf of
the Shell Outpost Brunei-Seria team.*

Contact us:

Tel: +673 337 4927

Email: outpostbrunei@shell.com

URL: <http://seria.globaloutpostservices.com>

or: www.panagaclub.com/outpost

Facebook Group: Outpost Seria, Brunei

Or come visit!

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 9 - 11 am

Please note: **The Office will be closed during the school holidays, Dec 15th - Jan 8th.**

Address:

Outpost Brunei - Seria
F12 Lapanpuluh A1
Panaga KB 3534

Meet & Greet Corner

Hello Panaga People

Titi Owoyemi
Meet & Greet Coordinator



Just like that, the last month of 2017 is upon us. December has rolled by, and with it, all the Christmas festivities that bring so much excitement to those celebrating.

The first term of school is also winding down and as the holidays approach, whether you're staying here or going away, do remember to always stay safe.

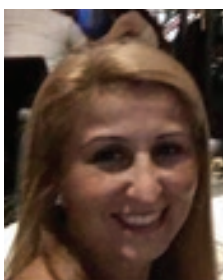
This bumper edition, we will be highlighting our Meet & Greet team members on duty for December 2017 & January 2018, and they are: Sultan, Omo, Mirian, Mas, Jessica, Christina, and Forum. These ladies will be kindly welcoming our new arrivals during those months.

As always, do not forget that your friendly, Outpost team is on hand to offer support and local information to help you when needed, so pop into our offices during our working hours or send us an email. We are always happy to hear from you!

Happy Holidays!

Titi Owoyemi
Meet & Greet Coordinator

Meet & Greet team members : December/January



Sultan



Mirian



Jessica



Mas



Forum



Christina



Omo

Outpost Miri

Outpost goes to Miri

On November 2nd representatives from Outpost Brunei-Seria drove over the border to visit our colleagues in the Outpost Miri team! Thamine, Snehal and Mas had a great time catching up and sharing ideas with the welcoming and committed Miri Team. Not only did they have a great day in Malaysia, but together they discussed ways for our two teams to collaborate even closer in the future and enjoy the benefits of having another team so close by.

Thank you Team Outpost Miri for hosting us!



Cultural Awareness

Brunei Cultural Awareness workshop

On November 2nd Outpost together with Head of HR services, Hjh. Zaiton Hj. Mohd Daud hosted a workshop introducing newcomers in the Bruneian culture. This workshop will be a recurring event in the Outpost calendar, planned to take place on a quarterly basis.

The Objective of the workshop is to increase understanding and awareness on the etiquette, customs and traditions of the Bruneian and as well to know more the different ethnic groups live in Brunei Darussalam.

The workshop also include the do and don'ts when dealing with formal and informal meet and greet including the best way to communicate with the local. A better understanding when facing with cultural challenges/shock for first comer to Brunei and an opportunity to enhance cultural sensitivity and competence at the workplace.

Outpost wants to thank Hjh Zaiton for sharing this valuable information.

Be sure to keep an eye open in the upcoming newsletters and on our Facebook page if you are interested in the next session, in the first quarter of next year.



Year End Calendar

Community Calendar

Sunday 3rd of December

Sunday 10th of December

Saturday 9th of December

Santa's Grotto

Jungle Tots Christmas party

**Progressive Dinner Party
by Brunei Brits Club**

More information can be found
on the following pages and
on our Facebook page



Holiday Opening Hours

Reminder

In December the Outpost opening hours will be a bit different and our language courses will take a short break over the holidays, to return for a fresh start in January.

Outpost office

will be closed during the school holidays, 15th December until 8th of January, with the exception of the Wednesdays during this period, when the office will be open for Settling in sessions. This is however depending on Team member availability, so keep an eye on the Facebook page for further updates.

Malay and English classes

will follow the Outpost closure schedule. The last Malay class will take place on 12th December. The last English class will take place on 11th December, English for amahs - on 15th December.

Spanish classes

will finish on 6th & 7th December and will restart after the school holidays.

Happy Holidays from the Outpost team!



Story: Guest room renovation

Renovated guest room @ 49 The journey to a new look

Writer's Introduction

Hello!

My name is Miranda Horchler, a wife and mother of 3 children. I have a professional background in Aviation. Passionate about Interior Decor and Fashion, I also love food and travel.

After spending nine months in Brunei with a rather turbulent settling in process, I had started feeling bored of a rather slow-paced lifestyle, compared to our previous postings. One day, a dear friend of mine, Firi, came up to me and said 'would you like to take part in a competition aimed at re-decorating the guest room at 49'? I leaped and said yes! - didn't even bother to ask about the details. As time went, I was briefed on the expectations and deadline of the project. We immediately formed a team and named it Style My Space. The story continues.....

Team Style My Space

Style My Space, a group of four dynamic ladies with completely different backgrounds was born:



Emilia Tang
An avid Artist



Firi Kamson
A Creative Writer



Miranda Horchler
Aviation professional and
Interior Decor enthusiast



Marloes Stogborg
A Travel Book Author
and Photographer

Initial Phase

After visiting the guest room requiring a face lift (as seen below), it was obvious that we had to do a lot of brainstorming in order to come up with a perfect proposal for the presentation.

We worked on designing and creating a new space based on a Mid-Century Modern design style which was deemed suitable for BSP's top corporate guests. At a presentation event that took place in May, 2017, Style My Space was chosen amongst 4 other teams as the winner of the competition.

Story: Guest room renovation

Transformation Phase

The following months were characterized by furniture sourcing, repainting and remodeling. This led to many back and forth trips within and out of the country. Furthermore, to add a unique and personal touch to the room, landmarks in Brunei (the new bridge and Kampong Ayer in Bandar) were photographed and hand painted respectively by Marloes and Emilia to serve as wall art.

It was quite a daunting process and due to the limited choice of home furnishings locally, it took longer than expected to put together every piece of the puzzle. That notwithstanding, by end of October we still managed to deliver what is today the New Modern guest room @ 49, at an inaugural ceremony presided over by Ceri.



Before photo of the guest room

Wall art custom made for the project



Story: Guest room renovation



It is worth noting that most of the furnishing were sourced from Thompson in Bandar, SSF in Miri, Cinnamon in Kuala Belait, Frame Shop in Seria and a few pieces from Ikea Kuala Lumpur.

Story: Guest room renovation



Feedback was definitely positive as can be seen in photos
“Well done, ladies! What a transformation!” Ceri, 2017.

Looking Back

Working on the project alongside fulfilling our duties as parents at our respective homes was quite a challenging task. There were days when we wondered if it was actually a good idea to have taken on the project. On the other hand, we learned a lot from each other; developed a stronger team spirit and resilience which helped us in achieving our goal.

Thank you Ceri for trusting us and allowing us to explore our hidden talents in a fun way. This might be the beginning of a future career path for some of us. To our families and friends, thank you for your support and encouragement throughout the journey.

“Brunei is a place where one tends to develop their talents due to lack of distractions”

Anonymous.

I Hope this inspires someone.
Happy Holidays!!

Miranda Horchler
For Style My Space

Snapshots

St Andrew's ball

Organized by the Kuala Belait Scottish Community



Snapshots



Snapshots

Outpost Farewell lunch

On November 21st the Outpost team gathered to say goodbye to our Focal Point Myrte Dijkman and IT member Spandana Chivukula, both who now have worked their final month in Outpost. We know we will see you around and will get to enjoy your company in other settings, but even so:

**Thank you Myrte and Spandana for your hard work
and good luck with your future endeavors!**



Upcoming Events

Introducing: Living in Panaga-sessions

COVERING:

- › PANAGA MEDICAL CENTRE
- › SECURITY ON CAMP
- › ROAD SAFETY



FIRST SESSION 16th OF JANUARY 2018

8.30 – 10.00am

Sessions will be held quarterly. Recent new joiners will receive an invite from BSP HR Services. A waiting list will be created for current Panaga residents who would like to join the meeting.



Notice Board

Settling in Sessions

These informal information mornings are held every Wednesday morning, from 9:30 until 11:00, at the Outpost office. They are designed to answer any questions regarding relocating to Brunei and settling into the community.

Please register at outpostbrunei@shell.com



Be a Guest Speaker at Outpost

Do you want to share your experience of setting up an on-line business? Do you want to help other expats build a portable career? Do you want to inspire others to follow their passions? Be our guest speaker!

Outpost is searching for guest speakers who could tell their stories of becoming an expat-preneur!



If you would like to be a guest speaker or know someone that would be interested in speaking with us, please contact outpostbrunei@shell.com or Ksenia Odintsova at ksenia.odintsova@gmail.com.

Notice board

Cooking classes Coming soon!

Look out for more information on our newest Outpost series: Cooking classes!

At Outpost we always try to renew ourselves and come up with new events and activities for the Panaga community! Do you have any good ideas you want to share? Contact us at outpostbrunei@shell.com

We at Outpost have extended our opening hours!
Visit us on Monday, Wednesday - Friday, 9 - 11 am
Please note: each Tuesday the office will be open for courses only.

Study or Work Space

Dear POP readers,

Are you currently working from home? Do you need a quiet working space away from your house? Which kind of requirements should it meet: Location? Working hours? Internet?

Outpost Seria would like to understand if there is a need for a designated study or work space. Currently the Outpost office is open for you on Friday mornings to come and work or study undisturbed.

Please, send you replies to Outpost Seria at outpostbrunei@shell.com or to Ksenia Odintsova at ksenia.odintsova@gmail.com.



Notice Board

ENGLISH for AMAHS

Hosted by Alvin

**Friday evenings
7.30-9.30pm**

Panaga Club, Annex Room



**No need to register. Just sign in with the
security at the main entrance to the club**

Notice Board

English Classes



**DO YOU SPEAK
ENGLISH?**

Hosted by Alvin



Mondays, 10.00 - 11.00 am
Outpost office, Lapanpuluh 1 (A-B)

Register via outpostbrunei@shell.com

Sponsored by Outpost

Notice Board

SPANISH CLASSES

Hosted by Carla and Yumaira



Wednesdays & Thursdays, 8.00 - 9.15am

Outpost office, Lapanpuluh 1 A-B



Register via outpostbrunei@shell.com

**Please indicate whether you are a beginner or
already have some experience in learning Spanish**

sponsored by Outpost

Notice Board

Malay Lessons



Date: Tuesdays

Time: 9:30-10:30 BEGINNER level
10:30-11:30 INTERMEDIATE level

Place: Outpost Office, Lapanpuluh 1 (A-B)

Instructor: Adriana

Register via outpostbrunei@shell.com

Sponsored by Outpost

Notice Board

Reminder from Panaga Club:

Please make sure that infants and toddlers wear swim-nappies when using the Panaga swimming pool.



Is there something you would like to learn with Outpost?
Email us! outpostbrunei@shell.com



Volunteering in and around Brunei

Dear POP readers,

We would like to ask you to share your volunteering experiences in Brunei and the nearby countries: Where have you volunteered since moving here? How did you like it? Would you advise it to other expats?

Help your fellow expats find a good cause to support! Please send you replies to Outpost Seria at outpostbrunei@shell.com or to Ksenia Odintsova at ksenia.odintsova@gmail.com.

Public Holiday Calendar

Brunei 2017

Date	Weekday	Holiday Name	Holiday Type
Jan 2	Monday in lieu of Sun 1st	New Year's Day	
Jan 30	Monday in lieu of Sat 26th	Chinese New Year	1st day of lunar month
Feb 23	Thursday	National Day	Independence from the UK in 1984
Apr 24	Monday	Isra and Mi'raj	The Prophet's Night Journey and Ascension
May 29*	Monday in lieu of Sat 27th	Ramadan begins	
May 31	Wednesday	Royal Brunei Armed Forces Day	RBAF formed 1961
Jun 12*	Monday	Nuzul Al-Quraan	Revelation of the Quran
Jun 26*	Monday	Hari Raya Aidil Fitri	End of Ramadan
Jun 27*	Tuesday	Hari Raya Aidil Fitri	
Jun 28*	Wednesday	Hari Raya Aidil Fitri	
Jul 17	Monday in lieu of sat 15th	H.M. Sultan's Birthday	Commemorates the birthday of Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah in 1946
Sep 1*	Friday	Hari Raya Aidil Adha	Festival of the Sacrifice
Sep 22	Friday	Al-Hijra	Islamic New Year 1439
Oct 5th	Thursday	Golden Jubilee	of Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah's accession to the throne
Dec 1	Friday	Maulud	Prophet Muhammad SAW's Birthday
Dec 25	Monday	Christmas Day	

* date may vary due to the lunar calendar

Emergency Contact Numbers

Emergency Contact Numbers

Ambulance: 991

Fire Brigade: 995

Police: 993

Medical Emergency Hot-line 337 2200

Panaga Health Emergency: 337 2999

Panaga Health Appointment: 337 2306

Removal of Pests: 872 3006

Shell Security (Emergency): 337 2999

24 hours Security 337 4292

or 337 4296



why not hang these on your
fridge for easy access?

Panaga Health Centre Information

Panaga Health Centre

Out Patient Department

Service hours

Monday to Thursday 7.00 am - 12.00 pm
1.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Friday 7.00 am - 12.00 pm
2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Registration to see doctor

Monday to Thursday 7.00 am - 9.00 am
9.30 am - 11.00 am
1.00 pm - 3.00 pm

Friday 7.00 am - 11.30 am
2.00 pm - 3.30 pm

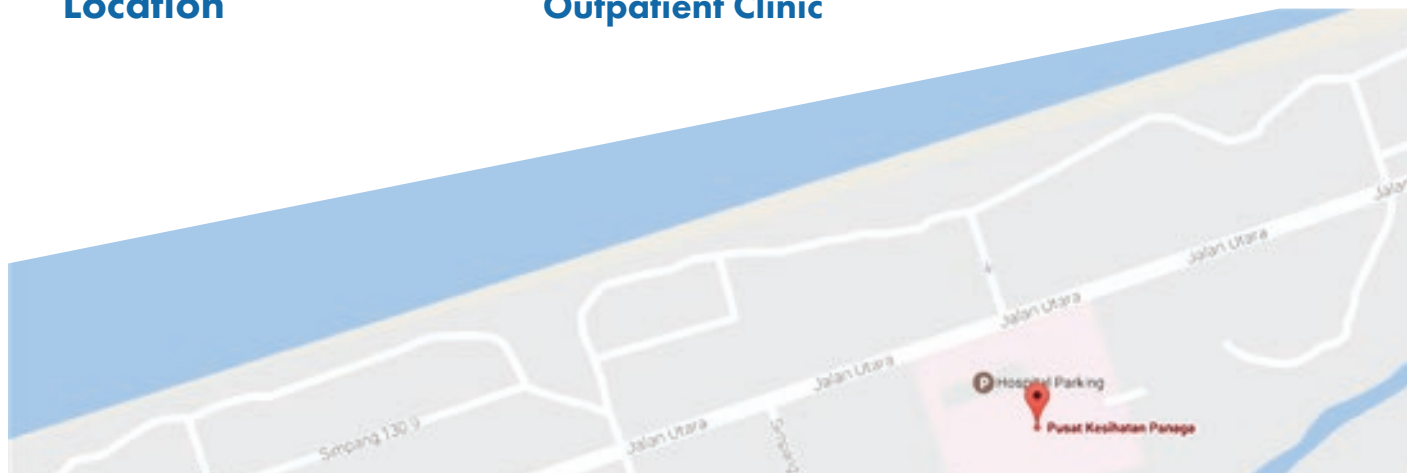
EXTENDED HOURS CLINIC

Monday to Friday 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm

Location **Medical Emergency Response Unit**

Saturdays 9.00 am to 10.00 am

Location **Outpatient Clinic**



Outpost Seria Team 2017



To be announced
Focal Point



Kerry Smillie
Secretary



Christina Suglia
Treasurer



Snehal Tiwari
Relocations Advisor



Titi Owoyemi
Meet and Greet
Coordinator



Ksenia Odintsova
Career Development
Advisor



Thamine M. Kilbride
Public Relations



**Mas Azny Suhana
Mohamad**
Event Coordinator



Annika Cederberg
POP Editor



Cyrielle Sosso
Project Manager



Alvin Machia
Webmaster



Mr. Outpost
Online Promoter