

STAR METRO INFO BASE

PERAK LOCAL COUNCILS

IPOH CITY	05-208 3333/3262
TAIPING MUNICIPAL	05-808 0777
MANJUNG MUNICIPAL	05-689 8891/33
GERIK DISTRICT	05-791 2305
TELUK INTAN MUNICIPAL	05-621 5504
KERIAN DISTRICT	05-716 1228
PENKALAN HULU DISTRICT	04-477 8148
BATU GAJAH DISTRICT	05-363 2024/2020
KAMPAR DISTRICT	05-467 1020/1030
KUALA KANGSAR DISTRICT	05-776 1010
LENGGONG DISTRICT	05-767 7207/307
PERAK TENGAH DISTRICT	05-371 2014
SELAMA DISTRICT	05-839 2021/4201
TAPAH DISTRICT	05-401 1326/2329
TANJUNG MALIM DISTRICT	05-449 3410/420

POLICE

PERAK POLICE HQ	05-245 1222
IPOH	05-245 1500
BATU GAJAH	05-362 9222
KAMPAR	05-465 2222
PERAK TENGAH	05-371 2222
MANJUNG	05-689 9222
KUALA KANGSAR	05-776 2222
SUNGGAI SIPUT	05-598 2222
TAIPING	05-829 1222
KERIAN	05-721 5222
GERIK	05-791 2222
PENKALAN HULU	04-477 8222
TAPAH	05-401 1222
SLIM RIVER	05-452 8222
HILIR PERAK & TELUK INTAN	05-629 9222
TANJUNG MALIM	05-452 8222

USEFUL CONTACTS

PERAK IMMIGRATION DEPT	05-501 7100
PERAK CUSTOMS DEPT	05-527 3667
TENAGA NASIONAL BHD	05-208 8000
PERAK WATER BOARD	05-255 1155
PERAK MACC	05-526 7000
RAJA PERMAISURI BAINUN HOSPITAL	05-208 5000
BOMBA	05-547 4444/994
STATE SECRETARIAT	05-253 1957
MUZIUM DARUL RIDZUAN	05-2410 0448
IPOH TOURIST INFO CTR	05-2559 962/2772
AIRPORT	05-318 8202
REGISTRATION DEPT	05-528 8806/07/08
HOSPITAL BAHAGIA	05-533 2333

BATU GAJAH

HOSPITAL	05-366 3333
REGISTRATION DEPT	05-366 1904
WATER DEPT	05-366 5566

SUNGGAI SIPUT (U)

HOSPITAL	05-598 3333
REGISTRATION DEPT	05-598 4844
WATER DEPT	05-598 3077

LUMUT

TOURISM INFO CTR	05-683 4057
MANJUNG HOSPITAL	05-689 6600
PANGKOR AIRPORT	05-685 2594
MANJUNG REGISTRATION DEPT	05-688 3261
BERUAS MUSEUM	05-674 0160

KAMPAR

HOSPITAL	05-465 3333
REGISTRATION DEPT	05-466 1773

TAPAH

HOSPITAL	05-401 1333
SLIM RIVER HOSPITAL	05-452 6333
BTG PADANG REGISTRATION DEPT	05-401 1361
WATER DEPT	05-401 1352
TELUK INTAN HOSPITAL	05-621 3333
PASIR SALAK MUSEUM	05-631 1462
HILIR PERAK REGISTRATION DEPT	05-622 1197



Ong (second from right) handing over a traditional Chinese outfit to Bortor (third from left) at the Ipoh Chin Woo Athletic Association Chinese New Year open house. Looking on are (from left) wushu master Tan Chooi Eng, Muller, Kaufman and Ooi.

Trio get first-hand experience

Swiss lion dancers who performed in Ipoh will promote the cultural event abroad



By **AMANDA YEAP**
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JUST three days into Chinese New Year, Swiss nationals Martin Bortor, Roger Muller and Corinne Kaufman have got their plates full performing the lion dance.

The three wushu practitioners flew into Ipoh to experience the festive season in Malaysia.

They joined the Ipoh Chinese Chin Woo Athletic Association's troupe to perform seven to nine lion dance shows a day.

Bortor, Muller and Kaufman train in wushu and lion dancing at the Swiss Chin Woo Athletic Association in their home country.

"Back in Switzerland, we were used to doing one show a day. So when we arrived in Ipoh to experience lion dancing during Chinese New Year, we thought it would be around three to four shows.

"On the first day, our last show was at 1am at a club, and our next show on the second day started at 6am.

"Although we are not used to sleeping late and waking up early to perform so many shows in a day, the lion dance experience here is definitely better than we expected." 30-year-old Bortor told *MetroPerak* during the association's Chinese New Year open house at its Jalan Hussein premises.

Relating their experience, Kaufman, 25, who is Bortor's girlfriend, said they were nervous about meeting some Malaysians who spoke languages alien to them.

"Understanding them was a bit of a task, and sometimes we had to guess by their hand gestures.

"Some of them also asked us to pose for photos with them. As our training master told us not to worry, we smiled and gave our best.

"It is also better for us to learn the Chinese culture during their largest occasion of the year," he said.

Thirty-eight-year-old Muller,



The Ipoh Chinese Chin Woo Athletic Association members performing the dragon dance during the open house.

who is Bortor's best friend, said he would appreciate the chance to visit Malaysia again during Chinese New Year if the opportunity arose.

"I've had such a good experience here. I want to learn more and get better at lion dancing so I can bring this part of Chinese culture back to Switzerland," he said.

The three were among 40 to 50 performers from the association who performed their nifty moves before MCA secretary-general Datuk Seri Ong Ka Chuan, who attended the open house with his family.

In his speech, Ong said it was an eye-opener that Europeans came to Ipoh to practise lion dancing.

"With people like them, I believe the quest to promote Chinese culture does not only fall into the hands of our community, but also on Westerners who share the same passion.

"As Chin Woo Associations around the world play an important role in this, I hope Ipoh Chin Woo will continue its good work in letting the Chinese culture continue to flourish," he said.

During the open house, the association's long-time sponsor Yap Booi Lek donated RM20,000 to association president Datuk Ooi Foh Sing for their cultural activities.



Lion dancers handing out mandarin oranges to Ong (second from right) during the open house.



