

THE LIVING MEMORIAL

The Newsletter of the AIF Malaya Nursing Scholarship Trust

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Our student for 2014, Nur Liyana Binte Abdul Rahim



Liyana before this year's Anzac Day march with Cheryle Poultney, the scholarship's wonderful student liaison person.

Back in February, Liyana (who is from Singapore) wrote to Margot Stretch AM, Board and Student Liaison Committee member, expressing her excitement about coming to study at Curtin University:

Good Morning Margot,

I am indeed very pleased to have met you and the committee last Wednesday.

First and foremost, I am very honored to be awarded this very prestigious award - AIF Malayan Nursing Scholarship. That immense excitement when I got to know I was selected was beyond words.

I have settled in very very well into my surroundings. I am so glad that Cheryle was there to pick me up from the airport and quickly settle in. Learning new things and

meeting new people everyday is always what I look forward to.

I would love to excel in my studies and at the same time be able to reach out to others in need. I love doing volunteer work even when I was back in Singapore. Engaging myself with different kinds of volunteer work definitely gives me a whole invaluable experience. It gives me a sense of satisfaction when I see the smile on their faces.

I have signed up with Curtin Volunteers and am looking forward to joining the events that they will be organising.

Thank you for the warm welcome. ...

Warmest Regards,

Nur Liyana Binte Abdul Rahim

From Perth's Anzac Day March, 2014



With Mrs Anne Leach OAM, FNM, returned nursing sister from WW2 and Honorary Life Member of the Australian Red Cross.



Liyana and the Red Cross contingent in the 2014 Anzac Day march.

Curtin Volunteers – Liyana visits the Western Australian desert

Back in May Liyana was part of a group of five young volunteers who headed into the outback. She wrote of that experience for our newsletter:

This is the story of my first outback volunteer experience. It was supposed to be a science weekend and Katampul Busy Bee where we would organise some science related activities for the youth at Leonora. I was definitely looking forward to interacting with these young people. However, we were advised that the itinerary for this trip had to be changed due to some issues. Even though it was changed, it did not dampen my spirits a single bit as we began our journey; complete strangers getting to know each other. I was excited to get to know the rest of the volunteers.

In total, there were five of us. It was led by Liz who has been on volunteer trips to Leonora for close on ten times. I was impressed and moved at the amount of dedication she puts in for this cause. The other three were just as new as me: Marco is from Germany, Meejeong is from Korean and lastly Tracy, who is Australian. I was really looking forward to this trip because this was going to be the first ever outback volunteer trip I had made. Plus, it is with

people who are from different countries with different backgrounds and experiences. We departed from Perth at 4 p.m. and arrived at Leinster airport around 5.15 p.m. Tracy who was the designated driver for this trip drove us to the SPQ village (mine camp) for us to spend the night.



Checking termite traps at Gwalia.

After a comfortable night over at the mine camp, we headed out to Gwalia in our bright orange Curtin Volunteer t-shirts for some volunteering action. We helped out with restoration and conservation works at the abandoned houses and buildings in the old town site. We dusted and cleaned the quaint cottages that were built out of corrugated iron, timber and whitewashed hessian with care. We did termite checks around each and every cottage to ensure that the termites are not eating the timber.

We then paid a visit to Chrissy and Pete where we helped them with weeding. It was heart-warming to see genuine and loving people in Leonora like Chrissy and Pete. This loving couple have made a portion of their humble home into a refuge shelter for the wildlife. They made me realise that age is not a factor in making a change in this world, not only to humans but to animals too. I was moved to tears. We were fortunate enough to be able to get up close with the animals including being able to carry a joey, enjoy a cup of tea over at their place and they even shared beautiful stories about their lives. Chrissy is also an

amazing artist whose painting comes to life on pieces of rock while Pete carves wood to make pieces of art.



Liyana makes friends with the local wildlife at Leonora.

We continued on with some dusting and helping out at Hoover House (designed and built by Herbert Hoover - the 31st President of the USA - when he was first mine manager of the Gwalia mine) on the third day, after which we headed to the hospital in Leonora to pay a visit to the only two permanent residents there. We had a rollicking good time talking and playing dominoes with them.



Curtin Volunteer friends atop Mount Leonora.

We had so much fun star gazing, bonding over late night conversations and card games, hiking up Mount Leonora and sightseeing at Malcolm Dam. I am really looking forward to more

volunteering experiences in Perth. I have gained not only friends but also precious life experiences that I really treasure. This is the reason why I love reaching out to people and doing volunteer work. I channel inspiration from things that I have gained and the people that I came across on the various volunteer work that I have done. I enjoy doing everything with so much love in my heart that I would never want to do it any other way.

An update from past scholarship recipient, Jamaliah Binti Salleh

Jamaliah studied at Curtin in 2009 and 2010 and has gone from strength to strength since returning home to Malaysia. She writes of her experiences to Board member Professor Robin Watts AM:

Dear Professor Watts,

I am pleased to give my feedback of being a recipient of the AIF Malaya Nursing Scholarship. After completing my study at Curtin, by December 2010 I had begun working in the Ministry of Health, Malaysia Headquarters. The department is Training Management. The specific division I work in is the Curriculum Development Unit.

My administrative role is as a Senior Assistant Secretary who coordinates the curriculum development for allied health service courses at advanced diploma level. Examples of programs that are under my care are oncology nursing, palliative care, and public health nursing. Indeed, the palliative module which I especially took at Curtin is applicable and beneficial to my present role.

I am currently studying part time for a Master in Education (Curriculum and Pedagogy) at the Malaysia National University. I began my studies in Feb 2013 and am expecting to complete my course by Feb 2015. My academic and personal life experiences during the two years of the AIF Scholarship were the most sweet and meaningful moments in my life. The opportunities and experiences gained have greatly added to my strength. This is due to the learning experiences which sharpened my higher order thinking skills. These are vital to

the performance of my current role as a curriculum development coordinator where I have to deal with various stakeholders at a national level. As for my current study, the skills gained in writing assignments and the practice of critical thinking at Curtin has helped my current study efforts, especially as a part time student. Hence, my only enemy in studying now is managing my time.

Currently nurses' education in Malaysia extends to diploma level (only 20 % at baccalaureate level and a very small number are graduates or reach doctoral levels). Indeed, only a handful of students have the opportunity to study in an established institution abroad. As one of the recipient of the AIF Scholarship, and in my current administrative roles, I have shared my experiences and done my small part in making suggestions for policy development. For example, I am involved in preparing the proposal to develop the baccalaureate degree for public health nurses to be run by the local universities commencing this year.

Being cared for in my academic and personal life by mentors is an unforgettable experience. I always share this with my family and friends and encourage them to treat others well too. On the other hand, I am aware that in the past three years there has been no candidate sent from Malaysia and part of the reason is that candidates have not met the English requirements. I have spoken to the Malaysian Nursing Board and my superiors in Training Management to put more effort into recruiting the right candidate to study nursing at Curtin.

I was promoted to a senior grade in my admin role in April 2011 and am currently awaiting the result for the next grade promotion which is due by the end of February 2014. I do believe that my achievement is heightened by the opportunity to study at Curtin as the AIF Malaya Nursing Scholarship recipient. I am really grateful for the opportunity given.

Thank you.

*Most warm regards,
JAMALIAH SALLEH*

*Senior Assistant Secretary
Ministry of Health Malaysia
Training Management Division
Training Program Development Unit*

Our Helpers

We would never be able to achieve our aims without extensive community assistance.

Our helpers include:

- The Australian Red Cross who provides us with all our administrative and secretarial support.
- The Ministries of Health in Malaysia and Singapore who choose and support our scholarship holders.
- Curtin University who provide us with specially tailored educational courses for our nursing scholarship holders.
- Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and its High Commissioners in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore who give us essential support.
- State Trustees, who administer our funds.
- Our honorary auditor, Mr Joe O'Brien.
- Our donors.

Our Donors

We gratefully acknowledge recent donors:

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We are indebted to all our donors who keep the *Living Memorial* alive. *Our contact details are:*

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If you would like to make a bequest or donation to the AIF Nursing Scholarship Trust, please ask us for a brochure or use the contact details above. Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible

