

WHISPERS of BINSULUK

Exhibition by Members of Sabah Art Group 6th April 2011

Introduced by Datuk Karim Bujang

A group of members of the Sabah Art Society (PSVS) spent a weekend at Binsuluk Nature Resort where they concentrated on sketching and painting, away from the distractions of everyday living.

Datuk Karim began his introduction by explaining the background to Binsuluk and how he bought it with the idea of having a place where he could do something for his constituents in the area. Over a period of time the place grew and activities for various elements of the community began to proliferate. In addition, he has worked to ensure that the nearby peatswamp forest remains intact and not turned over to oil palm. Some of the peat had been badly damaged some years ago when fires during a long drought burned for weeks. As well as the various plants and trees which grow in such conditions, the many groups of *Nepenthes* (pitcher plants), some of which are natural hybrids, there is also a small colony of proboscis monkeys. Work is in hand to have the area declared a Class 1 Forest Reserve.

When The Sabah Society had an outing to Binsuluk in 2008, guided by Tony Lamb and Dale Williams, we were very impressed with what we saw there. It would be absolutely wonderful to have this area declared a Class 1 Reserve – which means that it would remain for future generations.

Back to art: Datuk Karim commended the dedication shown by the participants in the group, the effort put into the works and the constant attention to detail.

Charles Mawan then presented a slide show of the weekend's activities. It was evident that everyone was having a great time, including the children who participated fully and presented their work for the exhibition. This revived memories of their own children's paintings by some of the people attending! The presentation ended with Christianne Goonting reading the poem she wrote – her painting in words.



Datuk Karim Bujang



Christianne Goonting

The social part of the evening then commenced and we all enjoyed the refreshments very kindly supplied by the artists.

The paintings will remain in the Secretariat for about 4 weeks and will then be transferred to The Hyatt Hotel lobby where they can be enjoyed for a further month. We thank the Hyatt hotel for its continuing support of the Society's art exhibitions.