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## MALACCA'S HERITAGE

The little nonya's home turf

## YARRA VALLEY VACATION

Discover Victoria's heart and soul

## USHERING IN THE YEAR OF THE TIGER

Celebrate Chinese New  
Year with abundant feasting;  
special menus inside

# Bali *Ahoy!*

Picturesque Bali exudes a charming mystique that has endeared her to locals and visitors alike. But for us to forever enjoy her abundant flora and fauna, a conservation movement is underway to safeguard her natural treasures and ensure her legacy lives on.

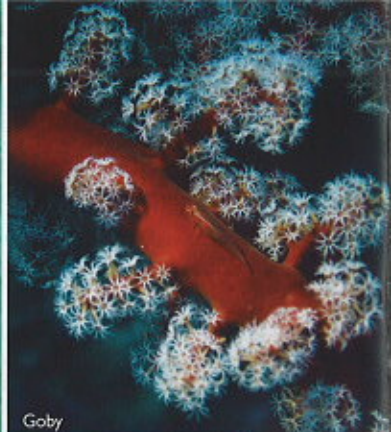
**By Abigail Alling, President PCRF and Orla Doherty, Managing Director PCRF.**

Two treasures lie in the northwest corner of Bali. Nestled within the Bali Barat National Park lies Menjangan Resort, named after an indigenous deer with a long neck and large ears. This inspiring venture has been working closely with the National Park authorities and local communities to both sustain and enhance the diversity of the surrounding forest. Just opposite lies Menjangan Island, also named after the deer because each year they make a migration across the channel in order to cull the weak from the herd. The narrow island stretches nearly three kilometres in length and is graced by four temples to which the Balinese come to make offerings of flowers, incense and prayers — an exquisitely beautiful practice and a reflection of the sacredness the people of Bali hold for what they believe was a stopping point for their Majapahit ancestors as they fled from Java in the fourteenth century.

It is in this monsoonal savannah forest of Bali that PCRF was invited to help further a long-term interest to protect the coral reef surrounding the island and set up a “no-take” fishing zone. The Menjangan reef is considered the most spectacular of the Balinese reef systems and like many reefs in Indonesia it is under threat from dynamite fishing, over-fishing, pollution and global warming. It is home to some of the most exciting jewels of Indonesia’s underwater realm: from the miniature pygmy seahorse and ghost pipefish to the more substantial hawksbill turtle and black-tip reef shark. The island is small, but underwater, the reef feels



Puffer Fish



Goby



Diver Michel

enormous, with walls smothered in seafans and sponges, long slopes tapering off into the deep blue and shallow reef flats bursting with hard corals. One of the most mesmerising sights is a large population of garden eels that live on the southwest side of the island. As the water flows up and over the sandy bottom, these eels emerge, swaying gently while they face the current to enjoy a meal as they filter out passing plankton.

Starting in March 2010, we will commence a long-term programme that will be a cornerstone of marine conservation education in the region. Because the success of this initiative requires accurate and up-to-date information about the ecology of the reef and its change over time, we will be working with scientists and other NGOs to continue scientific studies of this reef. The data will be used as part of an overall community conservation and education outreach programme to provide information about what threatens the corals and fish as well as to provide alternative choices for future management of the reef’s health.

Menjangan Resort has the capacity to house students and other working groups, so it is a place that’s also suitable for skill-based training such as reef observation and fisheries management, dive training, and options for alternative technologies such as waste management. We look forward to collaborating with other marine conservation programmes in Southeast Asia and encourage a collaboration and network for scientists to come and work at Menjangan as we take this next step.

*Come join us in Menjangan, <http://www.menjanganresort.com> and continue to follow PCRF at [www.pcrf.org](http://www.pcrf.org)*

Menjangan Island