

KADAZANDUSUN CHAIR AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Some of the greatest fears of people whose children leave the village to study elsewhere are that the young people will have trouble adjusting to their new environment and may fall into bad company. Over the past few years, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jacqueline Pugh-Kitingan, holder of the Kadazandusun Chair, and her husband Laurentius Kitingan from the Kadazandusun community of Tambunan, have become “Auntie” and “Uncle” to dozens of students from the interior who are studying at various colleges and universities in Kota Kinabalu. They have regular fellowship with the students at their home, and usually meet with them for Sunday lunch (Plates 1 and 2).

Recently, a group of 25 secondary school students from Kudat stayed overnight after attending a course at the Outward Bound School in Kinarut. The girls managed to fit in sleeping on mattresses on the floor, while the boys camped in tents in the yard. The students found it a great camping adventure, continuing on from their exciting outdoor experiences at OBS. They enjoyed the dinner where they met up with many of the Rungus college students studying in Kota Kinabalu (Plate 3).



Plate 1: Sunday lunch with Rungus and Ranau Dusun college students



Plate 2: Celebrating the 18th birthday of Larence (centre right in black shirt)



Plate 3: Dinner time for secondary school students from Kudat, meeting up with friends and staying overnight at the home of Laurentius and Jacqueline Kitingan