

Mixing knowledge with fun, TRUMS-style

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KOTA KINABALU: Despite their tiny size, ants play a vital role in the ecosystem by keeping the environment clean through their large colonies.

What they lack in size, they make up for in sheer numbers; and ants are known for their big appetites due to their diligence in feeding on organic waste including dead animals, their presence are essential to the well-being of the habitats in which they live. They also help with nutrient cycle, soil enrichment, control pests and pollinate plants and aid them in seed dispersal.

Among the numerous ant species are Carpenter ants, which make nests in dead or diseased wood, considerably accelerate the decomposition process of timber, leaving a trail of fungi and bacteria in their wake which help break down lignin and cellulose on larger surfaces.

These are some of the enlightening discoveries shared between members at the 'Coffee, Books and Wildlife' Book Club Session organised by TRUMS (Tourism Club UMS) on Saturday night.

With over 100 book collections on nature and wildlife, the lively book club event was joined by 14 avid book and nature lovers at the programme which was headed by Project Leader, Isyarah Hussin.



Book lovers and nature lovers unite! Join the TRUMS book club gathering every Tuesday, Shavez (right).

"In our second event, it's been both an enriching and fun-filled experience for many members who meet fellow book and nature lovers to share their favourite past time together," she said.

Isyarah noted the main objective of the Coffee, Books and Wildlife initiative is to nurture reading culture among the members of the public and to spur further knowledge of Borneo's priceless wildlife.

Among those who attended the event include Dr. Tini Mohtar, The head of the Tourism Department of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Founder of 1StopBorneo Wildlife, Shavez Cheema.

TRUMS utilised the private wildlife library of book collection of local wildlife NGO 1StopBorneoWildlife for the programme which was held on Tuesday, with participants allowed to select the reading material of their choice.

"Readers who finished their books after 40 minutes then joined a round table discussion to share what they've learnt from their chosen materials," said Isyarah, and encouraged the public to join the book-reading sessions held every Tuesday starting at 7pm.

Public can stay tuned on TRUMS Club and 1StopBorneo Wildlife Facebook pages for more future book clubs and other nature related activities.