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MediaTitle	The Star
Date	05 Nov 2015
Section	Nation
Page No	14



Thousands throng durian party in Melbourne

MELBOURNE: The largest durian party at the city's Queen Victoria Market (QVM) attracted some 5,000 people.

Organised by property developer SP Setia Bhd and aptly named *Makan Makan*, there were throngs of people who came not only to enjoy the delicious delicacy, but to experience the Malaysian culture in a multi-cultural gathering yesterday.

Aside from durians, there were also fruits such as berries to cool down the heat after eating durians and also from the recent warm weather.

"We wanted to do this to get everyone together in a happy environment and recall when we were younger back home and enjoying the fruit with family and friends.

"Eating durians in a big market atmosphere is very nostalgic and brings back the good old memories of growing up in Malaysia," said S P Setia Melbourne CEO Choong Kai Wai.

This was a successful one-time only event for the first night market in QVM. Those who helped make the eat-out possible include the Malaysian Student's Council in Australia, the Australasian Association of Melbourne University and Malaysian students studying here.

Also present were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman and Malaysia's High Commissioner to Australia Datuk Zainal Abidin Ahmad.



Yummy delight: Over 5,000 were seen feasting on the delicacy during the multicultural gathering at the Queen Victoria Market.