

1. Dear Sau San,

We have lost another Kirkbyite. Moira Lee Siew San (4th batch 1954-56) passed away peacefully at her house in Canning Garden, Ipoh this morning (Wednesday 8 March). She was 80 years old. Moira was Lat's English teacher. She was a dear friend to me and my wife and we will miss her. My wife and I shall leave for Ipoh to pay our last respects. I shall convey condolences to the bereaved family on behalf of all Kirkbyites especially those from the 4th batch.

I would appreciate it very much if you could include this message in the obituary column.

Many thanks and kind regards,  
Zainal Arshad

2. Another demise, as Chong Lay observed.

With very warm regards,  
RAMA

**R.I.P. Moira Lee Siew San (MRS MOIRA HEW) – 54-56 – 9-3-2017**

Yesterday just after 7 pm, Chong Lay (58-59) dropped me an email to inform of “Another demise”. Did you hear of the demise of Moira Hew in Ipoh? She was in the 1954 – 1956 batch, together with Zainal Arshad and Kathleen Carruthers.

I immediately called Goh Lay Poh (54-56) to verify this sad news. Lay Poh confirmed and mentioned that Zainal Arshad had gone to Ipoh to pay his respects.

Then at nearly midnight Oi Pi Tek (53-55) sent me this: <http://www.nst.com.my/node/218837>

The news of the demise of Moira Hew (Lee Siew San - 54-56) came as a shock to me. It came in the wake of another death 33 days ago on 4-2-2017 of another Kirkbyite, Chiam Tah Wen (54-56), from the same batch as Moira Hew's.

I had been in touch with Moira off and on. Only about two months ago I had spoken to her. She would have been 81 years old on 17-6-2017. She had not been able to attend any of our Kirkby Reunion mainly because she claimed her husband was old and found it difficult to attend. Her husband, Hew Chai Kee, is 87 years old.

AT 6.40 pm I called and spoke to her husband conveying our condolences.

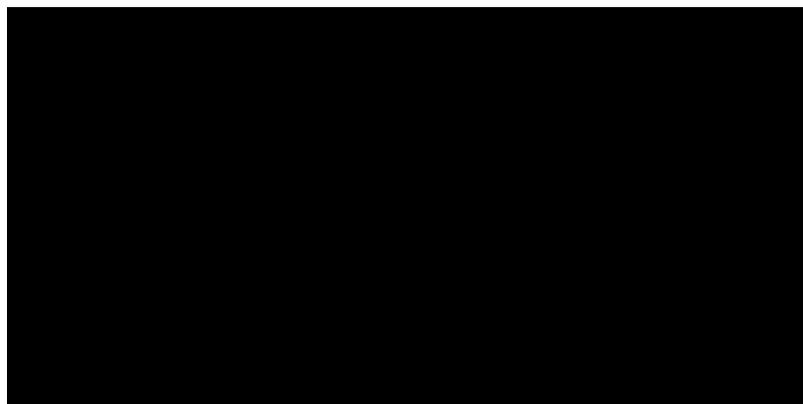
She leaves behind three children and four grandchildren.

Lat, the cartoonist, immortalized Moira in his comic books. He was her student for two years way back in 1962 and 1963 and this bond has been maintained all these years.

Funeral service will be held on Saturday at 1.00 pm at at the church in Jalan Dato Lau Pak Khuan, Ipoh Garden. Her cortege will proceed to the Kek Look Seah Crematorium in Bercham for cremation.

Her death has been well covered by the NST and the Star:

[Cane-wielding teacher in Lat's comics dies - Nation | The Star Online](#)



**Cane-wielding teacher in Lat's comics dies -  
Nation | The Star Online**

IPOH: Lee Siew San, who was the inspiration for Mrs Hew, the cane-wielding schoolteacher with butterfly-rimmed g...

Unfortunately none of the reports mentioned that she was a Kirkby-trained teacher. That is a pity!

In sorrow,  
RAMA

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**Lat pays tribute to late teacher Mrs Hew of 'Kampung Boy' fame**

Nuradzimmah Daim

[New Straits Times](#) 9 March 2017

IPOH: It was a bittersweet reunion of sorts as Malaysia's beloved cartoonist, Lat, met up with the family of his late teacher, Lee Siew San today.

The reunion took place at the Catholic Church Of Our Mother Of Perpetual Help, in Taman Canning, where the wake is being held.

Lee passed away yesterday. She was 80.

Lee, better known as Mrs Hew, had served as the inspiration for one of the central characters in Lat's famous 'Kampung Boy' series. With her unmistakable beehive hairdo and cats-eye spectacles, she was portrayed in the series as the strict disciplinarian teacher with a heart of gold.

Her influence extended far beyond the scope of the Kampung Boy series, as her family was flooded with messages of condolence from those who knew her.

Netizens also shared the family's grief via comments on social media.

Lat, whose real name is Datuk Mohd Nor Khalid, spent time with Lee's family members, sharing his memories of her with her husband Hew Chai Kee, 87, and the couple's children. Sharing his recollections of his wife, Hew said they had a policy of not interfering when either of them were disciplining their kids.

The couple's three children, Cyril, Belinda and Alvin, also relived memories of their mother's strict brand of parenting.

Cyril, 49, said he was a pupil at St Michael's Institution, the same school his mother taught English at. He said he could hear his mother's voice from the other classroom whenever she taught.

"I used to tell my friends, 'That's my mother'," smiled Cyril, 49.

Cyril said their mother treated all her children the same, whether it was a scolding or when they were being spoilt.

"As for the disciplining part, there were three canes at home, all of different sizes. The thinnest had a rubber band wrapped around its edge.

"She used to ask which one should she use when disciplining us. She taught us to think wisely when making decisions in life," he said.

He said the children were lucky as their parents had instilled them with positive philosophies on life.

"My mother used to tell us to love what we do and do what we love, which we remember until today," he said.

Lee's funeral service will be held this Saturday at the Catholic Church Of Our Mother Of Perpetual Help, Taman Canning from 1pm.