

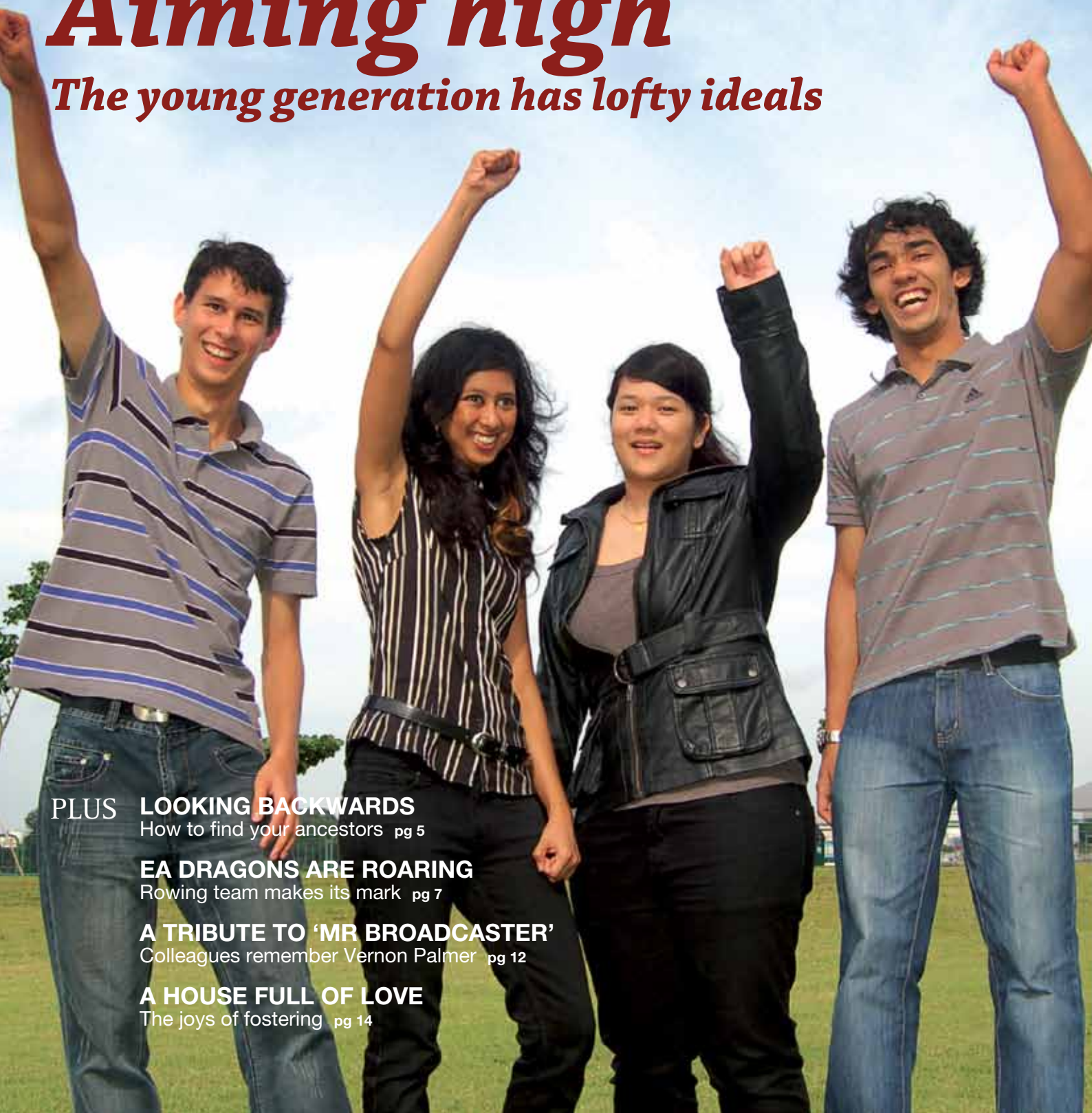
THE NEW EURASIAN

www.eurasians.org.sg

JANUARY – MARCH 2010

Aiming high

The young generation has lofty ideals



PLUS

LOOKING BACKWARDS

How to find your ancestors pg 5

EA DRAGONS ARE ROARING

Rowing team makes its mark pg 7

A TRIBUTE TO 'MR BROADCASTER'

Colleagues remember Vernon Palmer pg 12

A HOUSE FULL OF LOVE

The joys of fostering pg 14

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President's message

SO: it's goodbye not just to another year, but also to another decade. A decade that, happily, didn't begin as forecast with the world's computers crashing at the turn of the millennium but that, alas, ended with one of the worst economic crises in living memory.

While the economy is improving, we are still not out of the woods; but we have every reason to look forward to the association's 100th anniversary with hope and enthusiasm. And as we turn our thoughts to the usual, personal New Year's resolutions, we should perhaps also think consciously in terms of helping the wider society by striving to regain the standing and high profile that the Eurasian community once enjoyed.

As we enter the decade that will lead to our centenary, now is a good time for us to reflect on how much we have achieved so far and how we can best progress to ensure that we play a valuable role in the future. As Singapore's social framework continues to evolve, we must ensure that what we do is relevant to the changing times. We should encourage younger members back into the fold by engaging them in activities that are relevant to them. And while the older generation has the task of grooming the next generation for leadership roles, we must acknowledge that young Eurasians will have a different outlook to life and their own ways of crossing new frontiers.

A decent society is one with compassion and as long as there are people in our community who need our support, we shall give it. We are currently working on new projects to improve our Education and Family Support Services. In addition to our Merit Bursary Awards, we will be introducing a new scholarship award for a promising polytechnic graduate who has been accepted into one of our universities. And we shall continue our donation appeal, both within and outside the Eurasian community, in order to increase community solidarity through helping fellow Eurasians.

We want the youth of tomorrow not only to excel in their career and take pride in their achievements, but also to participate fully – and act as ambassadors – in their chosen field, be it politics, business, education, the arts or sport.

In order to make our community more vibrant and cohesive, we should set ourselves challenging but achievable goals for our 100th anniversary by which we can measure our success:

- tangible improvements in educational achievements;
- improved standards of living;
- excellence in our business, cultural and social life.

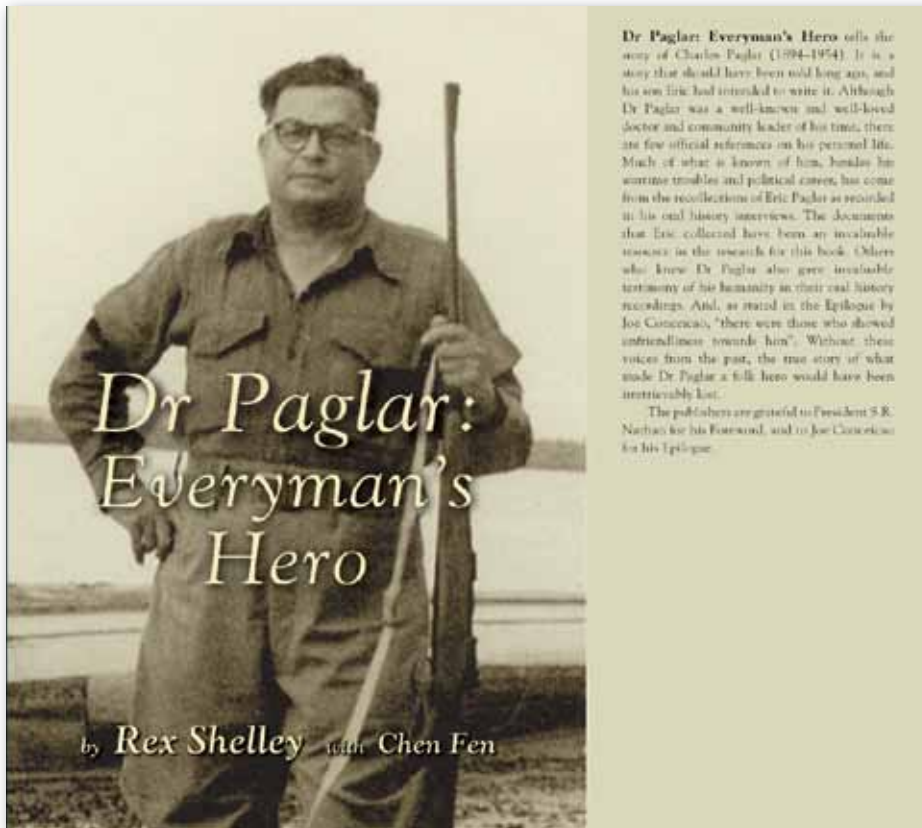
In this issue, our cover story features four young Eurasians, who are already showing great potential. Here they talk about their plans for the future and what being Eurasian means for them. Eurasians – and Singaporeans – could ask for no better role model than Vernon Palmer, 'Mr Broadcaster', who sadly passed away recently. We pay tribute to him in this issue. We show the good work we're doing – and the fun we have along the way – and, with your help, aim to have even more and better things to report in the future.

Happy New Year!



Edward D'Silva
President,
The Eurasian Association
1 January 2010





An illust

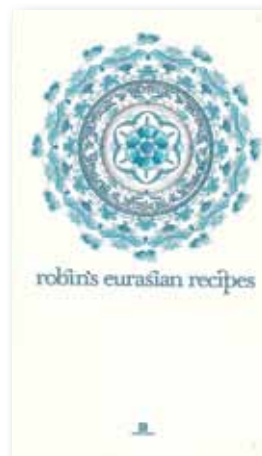
Dr Charles Paglar was one the Eurasian community's most well-known and well-loved characters. His story has now been told in a new biography by fellow Eurasian, Rex Shelley

DR Charles Joseph Pemberton Paglar (1 September 1894 - 9 December 1954), medical doctor, politician and humanitarian, was one of Singapore's most colourful Eurasian characters.

This month sees the publication of his biography written, fittingly, by the most famous chronicler of the nation's Eurasian life, the late Rex Shelley, who completed Paglar: Everyman's Hero, in collaboration with Chen Fen, shortly before his death last year.

Dr Paglar was born in Batu Gajah, a mining town in Perak, and is believed to be the illegitimate son of an English planter from Wigan in northern England and a local Indian woman, and originally bore

Shared tastes of father and son



ROBIN's Eurasian Recipes is as much a loving tribute by a son to his father as a compilation of recipes.

Robin Pereira, taught to cook by his mother and forced by circumstances to prepare the family meals, became passionate about cooking and passed on his love of food to his children. Now his son Quentin Pereira, executive chef of Quentin's Eurasian restaurant, has produced this cookery book to keep alive the famous Eurasian dishes, whose recipes are often guarded as family secrets.

The classic blue and white cover comprises a picture of a doily, a requisite of traditional Eurasian dining tables. And

the design is composed of the ingredients used in the recipes.

Fans of traditional Eurasian cuisine will be delighted to find favourites such as pang susie, beef semore and prawn bostador. The recipes are divided into sections and there are ribbons to bookmark the pages, a glossary, and pages for notes.

And in a further move to bring Eurasian food to a wider audience, Quentin recently held his first-ever Eurasian cooking class at his restaurant at the ECH. The class attracted some 20 students, male and female, young and old, Eurasian and non-Eurasian.

Chef Quentin, who has whipped up



Wok a treat: Quentin Pereira cooks up a storm

meals for ambassadors and diplomats and has featured in both local and international media, demonstrated how to cook four Eurasian staples: meaty cutlet, patchri; curry devil; and prawn bostador. His witty banter entertained the students as he taught them the culinary skills that are traditionally passed down through the generations. The students even tried their hand at shaping the meaty cutlets. After the workshop, they moved on to the best part – sampling the wonderful dishes.

Robin's Eurasian Recipes is published by Epigram Books and is available at major bookstores (price \$20) and at Quentin's Eurasian Restaurant (\$19.90).

rious life of service

his father's family name: Pemberton. He was raised by adoptive parents, and took their name, Paglar, after spending his early years in an orphanage in Penang.

The young Charles enjoyed a loving family life with his new parents in Malacca. Academic and sporty, he passed the examinations that should have given him a scholarship to study at the UK's prestigious Oxford or Cambridge universities.

At the time he was due to study in the UK, however, the scholarship was abolished and, instead, he studied medicine in Singapore.

The First World War interrupted Dr Paglar's studies, and he served as a volunteer in the Ambulance Company attached to the British Military Hospital on Pulau Belakang Mati (formerly Sentosa).

He was awarded the General Service Medal in 1919, the first of many honours he received for his social and humanitarian service to Singapore.

On graduating, he worked for the government medical service, but it was

not easy for local doctors to gain promotion under colonial rule.

There will be older citizens who remember the free medical treatment given willingly, the open house kept by the Paglar family where anybody in need of a good meal was welcome to come and eat

But now, a decade after qualifying, he was at last able to take up further studies in the UK, and it was at this time that he sought out the Pembertons to learn more of his ancestry. Alas, in the class-conscious Britain of that time, the Pembertons in Wigan were not keen to accept this foreigner – and particularly one

who had been born 'on the wrong side of the blanket'. Years later, when his own daughter sought out the relatives, and Dr Paglar was a leading figure in Singapore, the Pembertons welcomed her.

As Rex Shelley commented: "Acknowledgement by the Pembertons would not have mattered so much then. But the initial rejection would have hurt even as it taught him a lesson on kindness and charity towards people regardless of their colour or creed."

After studying in both Edinburgh and Paris, Dr Paglar returned in 1927 to Singapore, where he set up his own clinic in Joo Chiat before expanding to Coleman Street. By this time, he was beginning to build up an excellent reputation.

He was now mixing with the great and the good, and became a friend of, and personal physician to, the Sultan of Johor, who later conferred upon him the title of Dato. He lived the life of a bon viveur while continuing to offer medical help to the poor and needy.

The sultan's independent stance, however, did not go down well with the colonial authorities who viewed both him and Dr Paglar with suspicion. At one point Dr Paglar was even suspended from practising, although later had the ban overturned.

But if Dr Paglar was a controversial figure for his colonial masters before the war, events during the war made him, in their eyes, a traitor. When Singapore fell to the Japanese, he was forced by his new masters to become president of the Syonan Eurasian Welfare Association.

He was also responsible for those who had been relocated to the inhospitable Bahau agricultural settlement in Negri Sembilan. Many Eurasians, believing incorrectly that Dr Paglar had been in favour of the move, blamed him for it.

But worse was to follow. After the war, when Singapore was again under British rule, he was imprisoned and tried for treason for collaborating with the Japanese. The charges were not proved and were dropped in 1946.

After that, he continued to serve the people, becoming the patron or president of 50 organisations. He set up a Tamil school for children in the Wing Loong Road area and contributed to a mosque for villagers in Punggol. He also served on the Singapore Legislative Council.

There will older citizens who remember the free medical treatment given willingly, the open house kept by the Paglar family where anybody in need of a good meal was welcome to come and eat – and the humour with which Charles Paglar viewed life's vicissitudes.

The book will be available in major bookstores, price \$30.

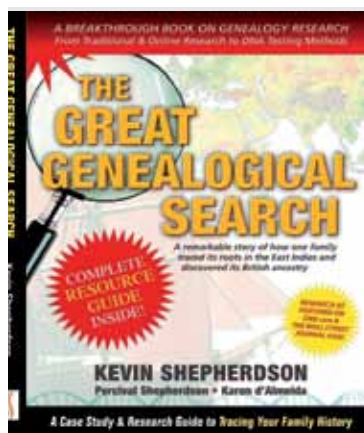
Discovering who we are

AT some stage we all wonder who our ancestors were and how they contributed to shaping us into the people we are today. Now, you can help discover your family line with a new book. The *Great Genealogical Search* is written by Eurasians for Eurasians and leads you through the different methods of research that you should know to discover your family history.

The book is an account of the real-life experience of the Shepherdson family in Singapore, recently featured on CNN.com (www.cnn.com/2009/TECH/11/09/dna.families) and in *The Sunday Times*. It's like reading a detective novel – while learning how to undertake genealogical research at the same time.

Follow the Shepherdsons on their 20-year quest through church records, the Internet and DNA tests, and consider:

- What would you do if a stranger suddenly handed you a will written by a potential ancestor of yours?
- Would you travel across the world to an unfamiliar country to meet a stranger you met online who offers to help you search your roots?



- How would you feel if you could suddenly unlock 700 years of family history and discovered you have royal connections?
- What would you do if you had the opportunity to be reunited with relatives you never knew you had?
- If, after that reunion, what would you do if somebody challenged you on the authenticity of your research?

To find out what the Shepherdsons did and to obtain your complete resource guide, place your order for *The Great Genealogical Search* from the EA at only \$22.40 (usual price \$24.90). For more details or to place an order, please contact our education/heritage executive Jacqueline Peeris, tel: 6447 1578 or email: Jacqueline@eurasians.org. For further information on the book, visit: www.greatgenealogicalsearch.com.

Collective effort

When neighbouring Sumatra was hit by disaster, community-spirited Singaporeans rushed to help



Sorting...



Packing...

ROCKED by two powerful earthquakes, the city of Padang, Indonesia, was devastated. Schools and homes were reduced to rubble, with many dead and many more left homeless.

The urgent appeal for food, medical supplies and other essential items from the Padang's mayor, His Excellency Dr H Fauzi Bahar, did not go in vain. Along with other charitable organisations and private individuals in Singapore, the EA, which has a strong background in organising collection drives for disaster-hit areas,

came forward to render assistance to the stricken province.

From 3 to 11 October, the EA offered its multi-purpose hall – the size of a basketball court – as a collection and packing centre for donations. Following appeals in the EA e-newsletter and through word-of-mouth, donations of food rations, blankets, first-aid kits, wheelchairs and water purification machines came streaming in from hospitals and corporate donors such as Temasek Holdings and AirQua Sano.

EA members and their friends joined hands with volunteers from Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Northlight Secondary School, mosques and youth groups to work tirelessly for hours on end separating, labelling and packing items for consignment to Padang. Andy and Monica Wong arranged for Rachman Goutama, who owns his own transport company, to transport the goods from EA to the airbase.

But even after toiling to dispatch the



Nearly there...



Loading...



On the way!

supplies, the helpers played down their efforts. Volunteer and secondary school teacher Bell Loh commented modestly: "We didn't do much."

And teacher Christopher Chee from Northlight School said his pupils had benefited from the experience. He said they had showed character in choosing to help and "it was a wonderful opportunity for our students to repay the many kindness they themselves have received from individuals and organisations".

As a small token of appreciation from the EA, a number of the volunteers were invited to the EA's Oktoberfest Sunday lunch for a taste of Eurasian hospitality.

Check out the EA on Facebook

The EA is now on Facebook. Visit Eurasians.org.sg to learn how you can be an EA Facebook volunteer.

Calling all advertisers!

If you would like to advertise your goods or services in The New Eurasian, please contact Christian Eber at eber.christian@gmail.com. Attractive rates and discounts are available for members.

Preserving our heritage



EA president Edward D'Silva (centre right) makes a point to Professor Tommy Koh, sitting opposite

EA and National Heritage Board officials met to discuss a collaboration to highlight the EA's in-house exhibitions, The Eurasian Showcase and WWII – The Eurasian Story.

The lunch at Quentin's Restaurant was attended by National Heritage Board chairman Tommy Koh and CEO Michael Koh plus EA patron Herman Hochstadt, trustees Joe Conceicao and Gerry De Silva, and other EA officials involved with the project. The guests were also given a tour of the exhibitions.

EA Dragons breath fire and water

Eurasian rowing team are newly crowned champions

IN less than four years, the EA Dragons – the association’s own dragon boat team – has risen from zero to hero. The hastily formed team that was thrust together in 2006 are now a force to be reckoned with, winning gold in their event at the recent 27th Singapore River Regatta 2009.

Besides achieving glory for the Eurasian Association, the team, co-captained by Clifford LeCaine and Bianca Hoeden (who was also Miss Eurasian 2009) has also brought ‘gold’ to the lives of many small children at an orphanage in northern Thailand. Its rowing efforts in the March ’09 race carnival raised more than \$3,000 for the kids, which has gone towards building them a new dormitory.

The idea for the rowing team came from Gerry de Silva, who, as the then president of the EA, pledged to gain a higher profile for the Eurasian community by involving them in the wider community. And what better platform than through sports, where



Stroke of genius..?

in the past, Eurasians have excelled – proudly representing the nation in many earlier Olympics, SEAP and ASEAN games? The young (and not-so young) team of some 20 rowers showed that the sporting spirit is still alive and strong.

Gerry exemplified the Eurasian spirit by training hard with the mixed team and rowed in the team’s inaugural 2006 race. Undaunted by being the last boat to finish then, the team redoubled their efforts and trained hard over the next few years – and their perseverance has paid off handsomely. From being last place in the Singapore River Regatta 2006, to winners in the same category in November 2009 is testimony to that sporting spirit.

The Dragons are starting a second team for novice dragon boat rowers. Training sessions take place on Sunday afternoons. To sign up or for more information, contact captain Clifford LeCaine, tel: 9450 3076, or email: clifford@templar.com.sg

Renewing ancestral ties

SINGAPORE’S small Portuguese community of some 150 people marked the opening of the country’s own embassy in Cecil Street on 22 September with a welcoming cocktail party, and acknowledged the Eurasian community’s ancestral links to Portugal by inviting a group from the EA to join them in the celebrations.

The ambassador, HE Antonio Faria e Maya, is resident in Bangkok and a chargé d’affaires, Jaime Leitão, is based in Singapore.

Some 50 guests attended the party at Trader’s Hotel and spent an enjoyable evening chatting over drinks and canapés. The embassy hopes to develop more activities with the EA in the future.

Learn Portuguese! Vamos aprender portuguese

(A journey of conversational classes based on the culture, history, music, food & wine and mood of Portugal)

Venue:	The Eurasian Association 139 Ceylon Road, Singapore 429744
Lessons:	Total of 10 lessons
Frequency:	Every Wednesday
Time:	8pm – 10pm (2 hours per session)
Starting date:	27 January 2010
Class size:	10-15 people
Course fee:	\$355 per person

Burton joins the team

HAVING served the Eurasian Association for the last 20 years in various capacities, and as a procurement and logistics specialist for most of his professional career, Burton Westerhout has a wealth of experience to bring to his new position as a co-opted member of the EA management committee.

Burton is passionate about the Eurasians playing their part in Singapore society. “We were almost fading away as a community,” he said and his passion for the community has made him a major player in the revival of the association and the Eurasian community.

He was part of the committee, serving as treasurer, that rallied support to turn things around for the better in 1989. The joint efforts were rewarded as the association grew both in numbers and resources over the ensuing years.

In 2000-2003 he was part of the project team tasked with the development of the ECH in Ceylon Rd and served as vice president before he left for a three-year overseas work assignment in 2003.

On his return, he worked as a volunteer in the association and was appointed to the Finance Advisory Panel in 2008. He was co-opted into the Management Committee in October. He is also involved in an orphanage project in Thailand, to which EA volunteers contribute.

Idol thoughts

SINGAPORE Idol finalist Mae Sta Maria, who progressed through to the top seven in the recent TV show, has had a long association with the EA. She was picked at age 12 to sing the soundtrack song on the video produced in 1994 to commemorate the Eurasian Association’s 75th Anniversary; this was shown at the gala dinner, which was attended by the then Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong as the guest of honour.

Having been living in Australia for many years, Mae’s now back home in Singapore. Look out for how she’s doing after her Idol success in the next issue of *The New Eurasian*.

Bridging the gap

FOR toddlers who haven't had the chance to learn enough to ensure a flying start at primary school, a bridging course can bring them up to the level of their new classmates.

The Ministry of Education's latest Bridging Programme was conducted at the end of last year. Nearly 300 children took part and attended one of 15 host schools, which were evenly spread out geographically for the convenience of the students.

For 2009, the self-help groups expanded the programme to reach out to more pre-school children from lower-income families, who had not attended pre-school education or who still needed to brush up on the skills needed for primary school.

The Bridging Programme Graduation Day was held on 18 December. It was a fun-filled occasion where the students performed group items for their parents. There was also an exhibition displaying the students' work from the four-week course.

Basil and Rosalinda Pereira heard about the programme when the PAP kindergarten

that their six-year-old daughter, Chrislyn, attends recommended that she take part.

Chrislyn attended a programme in Toa Payoh for three hours each morning for four weeks. "Chrislyn was happy, pleased, curious and excited to go for the programme," say her parents. "The children learned drawing and colouring, as well as reading and writing. On the last day of lessons, the children also cleaned the classroom. Chrislyn was excited about all the activities."

The Pereiras say their daughter is now more interested in learning and has improved in drawing and colouring. "The programme has increased Chrislyn's interest and curiosity in wanting to learn more. She now asks plenty of questions about facts and general knowledge.

"This programme is good for any child going to attend Primary One the following year. It prepares them for what to expect and how to handle it."

And what does Chrislyn think? "I liked drawing and colouring, and learning about the environment and how not to destroy nature," she says.

Merit bursary awards

THE Eurasian Association's Merit Bursary Awards are given to hardworking, deserving students worthy of being supported in their higher education. If you would like to be considered for the 2010 awards, application forms can be obtained from the EA Secretariat office. For more information, contact Jacqueline Peiris (education executive), tel: 6447 1578, email: jacqueline@eurasians.org. Applications close 31 March 2010.



Confident kids enjoy their graduation day

Advice for the advisors

THE EA's young mentors received some valuable advice for themselves when they invited Speaker of Parliament Abdullah Tarmugi for an informal dialogue at the ECH in November. It was the first time the association's Mentoring Young Leaders Network (MYLN) had organised such an event.

Sybil Rocha, who chairs the MYLN, said: "Mr Tarmugi shared his valuable insight into the importance of awaking the Eurasian consciousness and the significant role of youths as future leaders of the community. There was a lively discussion and candid question-and-answer session. We touched on a wide variety of topics including how to nurture achievers to be leaders of the community as well as ways to assist the less fortunate. We also discussed how racial harmony could be maintained in spite of cultural differences."



Abdullah Tarmugi, pictured with EA president Edward D'Silva and MYLN members, receives a token of appreciation for sharing his invaluable advice

School rays

THE Opportunity Fund is targeted at school children from low-income families, and is disbursed in the form of vouchers, which are to be used for education-related programmes or materials such as textbooks, assessment books or school shoes.

Financed by the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS), the funds are disbursed by the self-help groups.

Last year, the EA organised two disbursements. The first, at the beginning of the year, was called Project Ray of Hope and saw 104 students receiving vouchers at a ceremony at the ECH. At the second, a total of 119 students – 33 from primary, 43 from secondary and 43 from tertiary levels – received Popular and BATA vouchers, to help prepare for the 2010 school year.

Building invaluable experience

Crystal Tan, recent winner of the EA's Top Eurasian University Student award, went to India to help refurbish a classroom into a library – and reports on how she learned plenty of life's lessons herself



Crystal Tan, centre, and team enjoy a colourful experience



Fresh food from the market

PROJECT Smiles was a youth expedition project funded by the National Youth Council and we were there for two weeks to help a primary school in Kadabahalli village in Bangalore, India.

Our team comprised 14 members, most of whom are undergraduates from Nanyang Technological University, and the trip was organised and led by me and my partner, Sangeetha Annadoray. Before the trip, most of us were strangers to each other but through several meetings and bonding activities, we grew into a strong and focused team. Everyone was determined to give their all to fulfil our motto: 'Bringing a million smiles, a million miles away'.

The purpose of our trip was to refurbish a classroom into a library-cum-playroom for the students, which included painting the room, carpentry to assemble tables and shelves as well as buying books, educational games and sports equipment.

We also conducted activities in subjects

such as science, English and art. And we organised games and a few lessons on disaster relief, in which the students were taught what to do in times of flash floods or earthquakes, which are very real hazards.

For the majority of us, it was our first time in India and the language barrier was the biggest problem, as we could not understand the locals and students. However, as the days went by, we learnt to communicate with them via signalling and body language. This was a good learning experience for all of us, including the Indians in our group, as the language spoken there was Kannda, not Tamil.

One thing which amazed us was the beautiful scenery – absolutely clear blue skies, huge rocks and boulders and greenery – during our three-hour journeys to the city.

We all had new experiences. These included shopping for groceries at the weekend market in the village, learning carpentry skills such as operating an electric saw and assembling planks into tables and shelves and, most of all, living a simple village life, where there were no tables or chairs, no fans or water heaters and no flushing system.

At times, there were water shortages, when the water pumps were not working, or no power supply, and we had to resort to lighting candles and kerosene lamps. This made everyone stronger and more resilient – and more appreciative of the things we enjoy back home.

We also introduced a daily 'home team' of four and everyone took turns. The home team was responsible for preparing all the meals of the day, and cleaning the house, thoroughly.

This allowed us to experience the responsibilities of a homemaker and everybody was eager to ensure that the house was a pleasant place to return to after a day's work and that there was good food too.

Despite everyone feeling drained and exhausted at the end of the day, the team felt a growing sense of satisfaction as the inauguration day of the library drew closer. It was a much-celebrated event, which both the villagers and the team had been anticipating. We even made the headlines in the local news.

From this trip, I've learnt that no child should be deprived of access to knowledge or the opportunity to learn, whatever his or her financial background. Even though the school in the village was a government school, it was not granted much monetary help. This made us all realise how far Singapore has progressed.

And living in a village with only basic necessities was a nice change from our technologically controlled environment here in Singapore.

I am currently in the third year of my undergraduate study in Chemistry and Biological Chemistry in NTU. I plan to further my studies to get a Masters degree and hopefully a PhD. I would encourage our youths to participate in such expeditions; and I would love to lead more expeditions as it is truly an enriching and eye-opening experience.

Exchange of views

A GROUP of young Koreans, keen to learn about multi-ethnicity and racial harmony in Singapore, visited Eurasian Community House on 14 October as the first of a number of meetings with representative groups on the island. The visitors – students between 18 and 24 – were here on an exchange programme organised by the National Youth Council and its counterpart in Korea.

Crispin Rodrigues, a member of the Eurasian Association's youth wing, gave the visitors a short presentation on the Eurasian community and the role played by the EA, and they were then given a tour around the Eurasian heritage museum.

A bright future



(From left): Lesley Ho, Andrew Welford, Rudy Freeling and Adrienne de Souza

Four young Eurasians discuss their career plans, their values – and the roles they would like to play in society

SINGAPORE'S older generation, who remember the hardships of an earlier era before determination and hard work turned Singapore into a world-class city, probably think young people these days have it easy.

While life is undoubtedly a lot more comfortable now, Singapore is by its very nature imbued with a pioneering spirit. We talked to four Eurasians at the start of their careers and discover that the next generation is equally determined to carry that spirit forward. Well-educated, articulate and mature, they show every indication that 21st century Singapore will be safe in their hands.

Teacher Adrienne de Souza shows poise far beyond her 23 years. Student Rudy Freeling, 22, has endured personal loss and setbacks; his father died five years ago and both his mother and brother suffer chronic health problems making it difficult for them to work full-time. Environmentally conscious Lesley Ho, 17, has inherited the Eurasian love of food and intends to make a career from it. Sporty Andrew Welford, 20, combines studying with coaching football.

What stage are you at in your career?

ADRIENNE: I'm currently teaching the General Paper and Biology at Catholic Junior College.

RUDY: I am currently studying full time at James Cook University for a Bachelor of Psychology degree.

LESLEY: I am pursuing my Nitec certificate in Culinary Skills (Western) at ITE College West and have been selected to attend a four-month overseas attachment at the Paul Bocuse Institut in France in May.

ANDREW: I'm currently studying for a diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering at Singapore Polytechnic.

What are your plans for the future and how are you going to achieve them?

ADRIENNE: My aspiration is to be a great teacher and to reach a level where I can make the maximum possible impact on education. And to get there, I'll put in immeasurable amounts of hard work,

determination, perseverance, energy, passion and prayer.

RUDY: I intend to study as best as I am able to, in order to obtain good grades. I have roughly plotted out a path for myself where I'll apply to Duke-NUS for a graduate entry into medicine. Should this fail, I'll continue with my Masters in Psychology.

LESLEY: One day, I would like to open my own restaurant. I would capitalise on my roots and create a niche market for Eurasian/Peranakan food.

ANDREW: I aspire to have two degrees, in Electrical Engineering and Sports Science. What I'll become out of it? I'll leave that to fate.

Have you always been aware that you're Eurasian? Is your family life tied up with the Eurasian culture?

ADRIENNE: When I was young, my parents would speak to each other in Kristang when they didn't want me to

know what they were talking about – but I've since picked up enough key words to figure out the gist of what they say. I still hear it spoken, sporadically, in my family.

When it comes to food, Christmas and New Year's meals have always featured Eurasian fare. I must confess I don't enjoy spicy food (so no Christmas devil's curry for me, thanks). I'm, for the most part, a Kristang Eurasian, so because my family is Roman Catholic, we also celebrate Christmas as a religious, rather than just a festive occasion.

RUDY: From a very young age, I have known that I was considered a Eurasian in Singapore's society. But there aren't strong roots to the Eurasian culture in my family. I guess this could be attributed to the different cultures of my parents.

LESLEY: My Eurasian roots were evident as a child. My maternal grandparents, my mother and her siblings spoke Kristang, cooked Eurasian food – and have very sociable characters. I

Andrew, Lesley, Rudy and Adrienne have grand plans for the future





Lesley Ho would like to see more eco-friendly shopping malls



Teacher Adrienne has high ambitions



Psychology student Rudy and engineering student Andrew find plenty of common ground

interact with other Eurasian friends; we share our experiences as we learn more about our heritage, traditions and pastimes.

ANDREW: I felt it was very obvious since I was young when I noticed my dad looking different from the rest of the crowd. But I wasn't much informed of my background till late primary school age.

What does being Eurasian mean to you?

ADRIENNE: It means I have a rich cultural heritage to be proud of.

RUDY: Since the Eurasian community is relatively a minority, I have come to terms that not all Singaporeans are aware of us in modern Singapore. I guess that the main emphasis of being a Eurasian means that I embrace both cultures of my parents equally and also mingle with other like-minded Eurasians.

LESLEY: Being Eurasian helps me forge a closer knit with my 'extended family', having just learnt the genealogy of my maternal grandfather.

ANDREW: The most notable Eurasian culture is the food, especially during the festive season. My mum's known for her curry devil, chap chye and pie-making abilities. My family are Catholics, so we celebrate festivities such as Christmas, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

What are your hobbies?

ADRIENNE: I made a resolution at the beginning of last year, to go out with friends at least once every weekend, and to spend my holidays travelling. So far, I've been pretty good at keeping it! I'm also currently taking drum lessons at the Eurasian Association and help out with Debate Association (Singapore); I enjoy going for walks and runs.

RUDY: With my busy study schedule, I don't have much time to play sports or enjoy hobbies. But I have been playing tennis since the age of 13 and that's what I enjoy most. I played tennis in secondary school and then represented my polytechnic. So I don't want to give it up.

LESLEY: I enjoy listening to music, watching movies, cycling, cooking and baking. I usually cook a meal or replicate what I learnt at class for my family to eat at home. My family support and motivate me – and sample my cooking!

ANDREW: My hobbies are running and soccer and I believe these have played a role in making me who I am now. When

I was in ITE, I did most of my hobbies as co-curriculum activities and I felt it stretched me as a person and, eventually, I got assimilated into the sports community. The standard ITE had for their sports was excellent. I am able to use the knowledge and experiences acquired to work as a part-time assistant soccer coach every weekend.

How do you see your life in five, and 10 years' time? What is the highest level you aspire to?

ADRIENNE: In five years, I hope that I'd have learnt enough to be an excellent teacher. In 10 years, I'd have done things in education that I'm proud of – students who've benefited from my teaching, in aspects that go beyond academic achievement. I'd have a family. I'd be in a position where I'd have the luxury to check off more and more items on my list of places I'd like to see and things I'd like to do.

I aspire to make the maximum possible impact on education. Great teachers make a huge impact. But the wider, more far-reaching impacts, in my opinion, still come from the top – in schools, principals; in the Ministry, directors and the Director-General for Education.

RUDY: My long-term goal is to find a secure job where I can provide a significant contribution to the firm – maybe even opening a firm if I were to venture into organisational psychology. Learning is an ongoing process and I intend to continue upgrading myself.

LESLEY: With God's grace and perseverance, I hope to be an executive chef in five years and hope to run my own café in 10 years' time.

ANDREW: In five years, I'll finish National Service! In 10 years? Work overseas? Maybe study there as well? But I'll definitely try to study and work at the same time if possible, whether locally or overseas.

Do you want to play a public role in Singapore – either as a representative of your profession or in the community?

ADRIENNE: Yes, definitely – in whatever way I can.

RUDY: If possible, I would most willingly assist Eurasian students especially, to strive and excel in education, while also working in Singapore either as a qualified

psychologist or a medical professional.

LESLEY: I would be honoured to play a public role as a representative of my profession for the Eurasian community. As my forte will be culinary, I would like to be able to present our unique culinary fare.

ANDREW: After gathering experience locally or overseas, I would be interested in doing public service, either in education or sports.

What are the most important things life has taught you so far?

ADRIENNE: Two things: Dream big, live and love life with a passion.

RUDY: Life is what we make it out to be; nothing is fixed in stone. Striving for something and having the determination not to give up will pay off some day.

And – there are always kind souls around who will help a deserving cause.

LESLEY: That we have to face our trials and tribulations head on and that our true friends are our family.

ANDREW: What I learnt from my ITE lecturers was not to take things for granted and never burn bridges. Be humble and ethical in your decisions and actions. And no matter how smart, intelligent or talented you are, the real world requires teamwork.

My philosophy is not to judge or discriminate against people; try to reach a common ground with the people you meet. I learned this from the kindness and humility found in my family and neighbourhood friends.

What improvements would you like to see in Singapore in the next 10 years?

ADRIENNE: I want to see Singaporeans, especially young people, truly live their lives, and not merely exist. And I'd like to hear people speak English well, please.

RUDY: Singaporeans are beginning to develop an open-minded attitude towards others and I hope that we can strengthen the bonds between the various ethnic groups here. With this, I believe that the Eurasian community can continue to grow and have a greater impact as a distinct and clear ethnic culture in Singapore's society.

And although I am aware of the abundant assistance for financially challenged Singaporeans, I would like to see an increase in such programmes because there will never be enough, especially for students.

LESLEY: More eco-friendly malls.

The voice of a nation

Friends pay tribute to broadcaster Vernon Palmer, who died in November aged 84



The sociable broadcaster at an event in his younger days



Vernon Palmer was a wonderful raconteur

TO a generation of post-war Singaporeans, keeping up with the news on the radio or TV, listening to quiz show *Double Your Money* or following the Malaysia Cup in its glory days, there is just one name that comes to mind: Vernon Palmer.

His son, Michael Palmer MP, has spoken publicly and movingly about his father, who died of pneumonia after a long illness. We asked some of his former media colleagues about the man who was dubbed 'Mr Broadcaster'.

They reveal a man whose affable on-air persona was every bit as genuine in private, and whose wry wit went hand in hand with the highest standards of professional integrity.

Friend Joan Chee said Mr Palmer's broadcasting life had spanned an important part of Singapore's modern history: observing the Japanese surrender; the Malayan Communist leader Chin Peng; and then the men who themselves were to write the next chapter of Singapore's history after World War Two.

"As a person interested in history, it is my deep regret that we never got down to getting an informal chat with him on video," she said.

George Favacho recalls growing up and enjoying listening to local radio broadcasters when Vernon Palmer was one of only a few local voices among a majority of British expats.

His radio quiz show *Double Your Money* was perhaps his trademark. "He excelled in making this the most popular radio programme with his wit and wonderful sense of timing."

He said that as a programme scheduler, Mr Palmer had a responsible and difficult task trying to please the varied interests of Channel 5 and 8.

Mr Favacho – who befriended Mr Palmer and his wife, Norma, and went on holidays with them, added: "Vernon helped me get the *Talentine* series off on TV back in the late sixties. He willingly appeared in the Christmas edition in the role of Santa Claus!"

"His tales about the hauntings in the old radio building were fascinating: a grand piano playing by itself after midnight, and footsteps of Japanese soldiers"

"Broadcasting was undoubtedly the centre of Vernon's life," says Lucy Leong, who first met him in the early 1960s when she entered broadcasting as a 'rookie' when Vernon was the English Programme Organiser. She says he left his mark on almost every aspect of the business: engineering when he first started; presentation and programming; administration; and finally setting up the training school.

"He put us through the mill to rid us of the 'lahs' and 'eh'os' and to speak proper Queen's English", she recalls.

"He was strict – making us repeat these nonsensical lines to improve our vowels and consonants: 'How now brown cow; why do you feel so sad? How now brown cow; you must be gay and glad'. We would be giggling at these speech lessons, but Vernon would keep a straight face – until the day someone said 'Moo.'"

Over the years, he had entertained colleagues with countless jokes and stories

of his life's experiences. "His tales about the hauntings in the old radio building were fascinating: a grand piano playing by itself after midnight, and footsteps of Japanese soldiers marching along the corridors of the recording studio in the middle of the night," says Ms Leong.

Robert Chua, who went on to pioneer Hong Kong's first terrestrial TV station in 1967, recalls that in his time producers required a university degree, and he was a college graduate, yet Mr Palmer had fought against the policy to back him.

"He should be recognised not just by the Eurasian community but also by all fellow Singaporeans (especially Chinese) and the television industry for his passion and devotion in pioneering our TV industry."

For Sandra Buenaventura, it was Mr Palmer's integrity combined with a sense of humour that informs her memories. She says: "Vernon Palmer was a good mentor who taught all novices about being professional and ethical in broadcasting."

"When Vernon was around, there was never a dull moment," says Cecilia Tan. "He was one of my big bosses when I joined the station in 1974. Over the years, we developed a bond because we would laugh at the way broadcasting has evolved in Singapore."

"I shall certainly miss the 'Father of Broadcasting' when we have our get-togethers but, like Vernon always used to say, 'The show must go on!'"

Ms Leong adds that in spite of ailing health in the last two years, Mr Palmer kept up his friendships with colleagues and would turn up in his wheelchair for get-togethers. "A small group of us were invited for a lovely afternoon tea at Vernon's house in mid November. As we left, we kissed him on the cheek and said goodbye. Little did we know it would be for the last time."



The centre of attention at his 80th birthday party

Keeping our city safe

SINGAPORE enjoys a reputation as one of the safest cities in the world – and Lionel De Souza intends that it should stay that way.

He has just earned, for the second successive time, the Most Outstanding Crime Ambassador Award by the National Crime Prevention Council. Lionel keeps the public on their toes by conducting talks, organising exhibitions and road shows to educate them about good crime prevention practices.

He says he is the only Eurasian to receive this prestigious award, and his



Lionel De Souza (left) is presented with his plaque by Eric Low Siak Meng, BBM(L), vice chairman of the National Crime Prevention Council, for educating the public on crime prevention

commitment to the cause was honoured at a ceremony held at the Immigration Checkpoints Authority auditorium on 3 October. He received a plaque, and also a challenge shield that he will keep until the next award presentation.

The gory side of gangland



Joining a gang is a one-way street to nowhere

IF you're struggling at school or stuck in a boring job, joining a gang may seem the height of cool.

But a group of youngsters was left in no doubt that exciting fictional stories of the Triads or Mafia are anything but in real life. The students, together with their parents, had been invited to a talk in November given by crime ambassador Lionel de Souza, which was organised by New Leaf, part of the EA's youth wing.

Lionel, an expert on secret societies – and especially Chinese secret societies since 1965 – spared no details in showing the squalid side of gang membership. As EA member Zaf Coelho, who helped organise the event, pointed out: "The key message which was delivered was that joining gangs is just as good as signing one's death warrant."

Lionel opened with a shocking video about the dangers of joining secret societies and the dire consequences of joining gangs – complete with gruesome scenes of gangland murders.

And if that were not deterrent enough, he explained the only marginally better option of getting caught by the police first. Singapore's laws dealing with gang members, have 'bite' he told the group. Under the law, gang members can be detained for long periods in prison without trial and there are severe consequences for those arrested for rioting or causing grievous hurt with a dangerous weapon.

As a police officer for more than 25 years – including a number of years' service in the elite Special Investigation Section, which deals with high-profile crimes such as murders, kidnapping for ransom and major armed robberies – Lionel knows plenty about Singapore's underworld. And he offered tips to parents and signs to look out for to detect if their sons or daughters were involved in gangs.

But the message was not all negative. He advised the audience that if they knew of anyone who wanted to leave a gang but did not know how to do so, they could contact him for help in strict confidence.

The video was provided by Singapore

Ageless appeal



Yvonne Pereira is young at heart

YVONNE PEREIRA and Lionel de Souza have proved that age is no bar to achievement, and their zest for life earned them a nomination for an Active Agers Award.

The annual awards from the Council for Third Age recognise senior citizens who, by example, encourage their peers to live actively. Five are selected as Active Agers of the Year to act as role models based on their ability to live fully according to the six dimensions of wellness: social, intellectual, physical, vocational, emotional and spiritual.

Both Lionel, 66, and Yvonne, 62, have always lived full lives, being active in both community service and in social activities.

Lionel, who speaks Hokkien and Teochew in addition to English and Malay, is an active volunteer in Hougang constituency, being a member of Hougang PAP branch and of numerous organisations and committees.

Yvonne, an avid sportswoman, was heavily involved with hockey and softball organisations in the 1970s and '80s. Having served in the Singapore Recreation Club for 41 years, she also keeps busy with her volunteer work in the EA, where she has served for more than 15 years.

Senior members who would like to be considered for the 2010 award are invited to submit their details to Sugiman Rahmat, tel: 6447 1578 or e-mail sugiman@eurasians.org.

Police Force and The National Crime Prevention Council. The latter also sponsored the door gifts for the participants, who we trust, left the meeting determined to stick rigidly to life's straight and narrow – and safer – path.

Love to share



Susanna Daniels



Three of Susanna and Gerard's four children: they all treat the foster children like their own siblings

It takes a special kind of person to take on the full-time responsibility of other people's children. Madam Susanna Daniels is one such caring foster mum

FOR most parents, four children are more than enough to cope with. Not so for Madam Susanna Daniels, 43. In addition to her own brood aged 18, 16, 11 and six, Madam Daniels fosters three children – a nine-year old boy and girl, and a two-year old girl.

In 2000, the full-time homemaker, who hails from Namibia and has lived in Singapore for the past 18 years, was bored at home and was “looking for something meaningful to do”. It was when she chanced upon an article in the *Straits Times* about the fostering scheme run by the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS), she realised that she had her answer. She believed that she had what it took to give a loving home to other children who needed it. She and her husband, Eurasian Gerard Nonis, applied to MCYS to become foster parents and since then, they have not looked back.

Of course, seven children make the family's five-room flat in Woodlands a noisy place to be – but as the couple both come from big families, they cheerfully admit that they “like the noise”. Madam Daniels also finds it a source of amusement when the whole family goes out together and the Chinese foster children receive bemused looks from passersby. Sometimes people even stop and ask her if they are her grandchildren.

She admits that when a family adopts a beloved foster child, the process of letting go can be painful, and that this is one of the most difficult aspects of fostering. In fact, soon her youngest foster child is to leave the family to live with her new adoptive parents. “This, is a sad experience for the

whole family, as our children, who treat the foster children as their siblings, have grown attached to the child”, she says.

But she accepts that the bittersweet moments of letting go of a child to move on to an adoptive family is all part of the “fulfilling” life that she has chosen to lead. And she hopes that her happy experience will inspire more people to come forward to volunteer. There are far more children needing to be cared for than there are foster families ready to give them a home. And Madam Daniels urges anyone who

loves children and is thinking of fostering to “just go ahead and follow your heart”.

If you want to know more about how you can contribute, call MCYS at 6354 8799 or visit: www.mcys.gov.sg/fostering

Healthy outlook



The pressure's on...

WITH the need to fast for 10 hours beforehand and the promise of a Quentin's breakfast afterwards, it's not surprising that patients turned up as early as 8am for the National Kidney Foundation's annual check-up at the ECH.

The occasion was a joint venture between the EA's Women's Wing and FSS committees, Secretariat and NKF, and the NKF's medical staff provided patients with a variety of health checks.

Participants were then served a hearty breakfast by Quentin's restaurant and the quarterly Thrift Shop was also open.

Fostering figures

- The youngest child fostered was less than **5** days old
- The age of the oldest child in foster care is **18**
- The youngest current foster parent is **31** years old
- The longest-serving foster parent has put in **32** years' service
- The oldest current foster parent is **70** years old
- There are currently **195** foster families
- There are currently **325** foster children in Singapore
- The fostering scheme in Singapore started in **1956**
- More than **5,000** children have benefited from the fostering scheme

Information from MCYS. Figures as at end October 2009

In step with the President



President SR Nathan meets the dancers



Putting on a show

PRESIDENT SR NATHAN was the special guest at the unveiling of a Portuguese folk dance DVD at Eurasian Community House on 29 October. To commemorate the occasion, the EA's Performing Arts Chapter, who starred in the video made a few months earlier at Marine Parade Promenade, gave a Portuguese folk dance presentation before the event concluded with a tea buffet.

PAC chairman Humphrey de Conceicao presented Mr Nathan with a copy of the DVD in appreciation of his continuous support of the cultural preservation of the Eurasian heritage.

The joys of Germany

ON 25 OCTOBER the EA enjoyed a bit of Bavarian charm with the monthly Sunday lunch taking on the theme of Germany's most famous beer festival.

In addition to the traditional Eurasian fare, guests tucked into German fare of sauerkraut and sausages, donated by Martin Spykerman of Brazil Churrascario Restaurant, and downed mugs of Erdinger. For this event, the EA played host to some very special guests, exemplary volunteers who had dedicated their time and energy to sort and pack relief items for the Padang earthquake victims, and gave them a taste of Eurasian hospitality.

A popular highlight of EA's Oktoberfest is the beer-drinking contest, in which guys and gals compete to be the first to finish a mug of Erdinger. Shawn-Paul Lopez was the first of the boys and Lorraine Bligh beat the rest of the ladies hands down. Each winner received an Erdinger set as their prize.



Padang relief volunteers enjoy Eurasian hospitality

Packed full of goodness

VOLUNTEERISM is alive and well in the EA, as 18 big-hearted ladies – and two gentlemen – arrived at the Eurasian Community House on 17 November to pack Christmas hampers for Family Support Services (FSS) clients. These would later be delivered to clients' homes in time for their festive celebrations. Kim Tan from Prestige Laundry assisted the EA in sourcing the 10 food items for each of the hampers, which were valued at \$30 each. The volunteers quickly got down to lining the baskets and packing the 10 items,

The volunteers were speedily organised into the various tasks of cutting, packing and wrapping. The end result? Nearly 200 artistically packed hampers chock-full of goodies such as biscuits, corned beef, tuna and a bottle of sparkling wine, and tied with a ribbon. A simple gesture, but one guaranteed to bring a little Christmas joy into the hearts of the recipients.

After their hard work the volunteers sat down at Quentin's Eurasian Restaurant and bonded over a well-deserved lunch prepared by executive chef Quentin.

FSS always needs volunteers to deliver rations and befriend clients. For more details, please contact FSS executives J Ramakrishnan (Ram) and Florence (Flo) Adriano, tel: 6447 1578 or e-mail fss@eurasians.org



A job well done – volunteers with the packed hampers

Finding security in Onraet Road

The three letters **ISD** strike fear into the hearts of those who mean harm to Singapore. EA members find out (a few of) the secrets behind the domestic security agency that looks into threats to Singapore's internal security

SINGAPORE is famed for going about its business in a calm and orderly way – but it doesn't just happen by accident.

In December, members of the EA visited the Internal Security Department Heritage Centre in Onraet Road, a two-storey building set in large grounds, to learn how one of the government's most famous security divisions operates.

Their tour was part of a security education and outreach programme launched by the ISD a few years ago to groups such as teachers, government officers and grassroots leaders to make them aware of the security threats facing the country today.

Their guide – 72-year-old Joe, who has worked with the ISD for more than 30 years – must know a secret or two. He explained that the ISD was set up in 1948 to prevent espionage and to guard against the very real threats caused by Communist insurgents and the racial and religious tensions of the time. Since then, there has been plenty to keep the organisation busy behind the scenes.

The group relived famous cases of security threats, including the hijacking in



The ISD Heritage Centre in Onraet Road in the Mount Pleasant area

1991 when four Pakistanis took over flight SQ117 at Changi. The hostages survived the ordeal; the hijackers did not. Also highlighted was a reconnaissance of the Yishun MRT station by the JI in 2001, a plot that was foiled before lives were lost.

The group learned about the various threats still prevalent in our multi racial and cultural society in Singapore. ISD officials stress that maintaining the freedom of religious groups to practice while being sensitive to the other ethnic and religious

groups remains a delicate balance and is a top priority.

EA member Christian Eber, who took the tour, said: "It was fascinating, but disturbing, too. I was left both with the feeling of how fragile the fabric of our society really is but was also reassured to know that we were in such good hands. And we must remember that the various different religious and cultural events that we celebrate each year in Singapore should serve to bring us together, not divide us."

Kampong nostalgia



Supper on a stick



Fishing games

DRESSED IN sarongs and kebayas, complete with clogs, EA members and guests took a trip down memory lane to enjoy Balik Kampong Night at Quentin's restaurant.

Nostalgic drinks reminiscent of the good old days, such as the famous East Coast Road jelly drink and bandung, were served to welcome guests. And Devi Rajaratnam, the lady who used to sell the jelly drink (and who is now in a wheelchair) made a special appearance to prepare it.

The event, held on 10 October and organised by the Silver Circle, featured hearty, traditional cuisine – nasi lemak, kangkong; otak otak; fried selar kuning and satay. For dessert, guests tucked into kueh salat, kueh koh swee and ice cream potong. Mmm...

Chato and Qamal, who comprise D'Highlights band, entertained with a repertoire of old-time favourites as guests got on their feet to joget the night away. In the breaks came some 'chap teh' and 'fishing' games along with a quiz on bygone days in Katong and the East Coast.

Jelly days

THE jelly drink, a favourite with people needing a thirst-quencher on the East Coast, is not actually a local recipe. It was Devi Rajaratnam's father, Govindasamy, who first started marketing the drink – having learned how to make it from a Japanese acquaintance.

The family used to park their pushcart in a lane at the junction of Joo Chiat Road and East Coast Road just in front of the SA Majid store. And Govindasamy was as particular about the cart as he was about its contents. He polished it every day, to impress customers with its immaculate appearance.

Community Dialogue Session

The future of the Eurasian community in 21st century Singapore

The EA plans to hold a community dialogue session, “town hall” style, at our Multi-Purpose Hall which will focus on topics important to our community. The dialogue, moderated by Mr Warren Fernandez, aims to set new goals and objectives for our community for the next 10 years. This will ultimately lead to the rejuvenation of our community.

Under the broad topic of “The Future of Eurasians in 21st Century Singapore”, items on the agenda include:

1. Identity
2. New Eurasian Culture
3. Community Bonding
4. Leadership, Roles and Responsibilities within Society
5. The Next 10 Years – Rejuvenation & Outreach

We would like to invite members to attend the dialogue and have a say in the future of the community.

Date : Saturday, 6 March 2010
Time : 2.30pm to 4.30pm
Venue : Eurasian Community House, Level 2, Multi-Purpose Hall



As seating is limited for this dialogue session, we would greatly appreciate if you could RSVP by 28 February 2010 to Patch Tan at patch@eurasians.org or call 6447 1578.

For the Love of the Game Save Our Sport

Our aim: To attract more Eurasian youngsters into sport during the year of the Youth Olympic Games 2010

Your first contribution: To participate in the EA Sport Dialogue

----- **WHEN:** 20 March 2010 at 2:00pm -----

----- **WHERE:** Eurasian Community House -----

----- **WHO will be there?** -----

Speakers include:

Mr. Chris de Souza	(MP – Holland-Bukit Timah)
Dr. Bervyn Lee	(Senior Director, Sports Pathways Development, SSC)
Mr. Kiran Kumar Gosain	(Principal, Xishan Primary School)
Dr. Nick Aplin	(Associate Professor, Physical Education & Sports Science (PESS))

----- **DISCOVER more about:** -----

- The Eurasian sports legacy
- The potential for successfully combining sport and study in schools
- Developing the club and community scene for Eurasians in sport

----- **JOIN IN THE DIALOGUE**
and contribute your thoughts and wishes -----

Register your attendance on the reply slip and be one of the first to receive a copy of “To The Finishing Line” – a book that features Eurasian Olympian Mary Klass.

Reply Slip

The first twenty participants to register will each receive a copy autographed by the author.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact number: _____

Area of Interest in Dialogue session: School sport/Community sport/Elite sport (circle one)

Detach and return to Eurasian Community House #03-00, 139 Ceylon Road, Singapore 429744

Spreading the joy of C



Christmas is the season to be jolly, and Eurasians made sure that the joy was spread. Events were staged for the disadvantaged, young and old, for young professionals - who wanted to celebrate the season of goodwill. These were the main events



Bowing to pressure – couples get tied up in party games



You, me and a Christmas tree – dancers get into the festive spirit

Silver belles

THE Silver Circle's Christmas dinner and dance was held a full two weeks before the big day – but that just meant that guests could get the festive season rolling early.

Chef Quentin Pereira did the culinary honours and the band MSG got virtually every guest up on the floor dancing. Party games included making up as many words as possible from the word 'Christmas' – guests at one table managed 44 – and women decorated their male partners' heads with as many red Christmas bows as possible. The festivities ended with the carol Felis Navidad.

Yuletide magic

CHRISTMAS decorations to set the mood, Christmas carols to sing and a host of party games made a fun evening for the some 60 people who attended the Christmas Magic BBQ organised by the EA Women's Wing at ECH.

Crozzroads had the crowd dancing to its repertoire of classic rock, contemporary and rock 'n' roll songs. Party games such as adult musical chairs and suck and blow provided entertainment in the breaks and there were plenty of prizes in addition to a tombola and raffle. Quentin's provided the culinary feast.



Turning on the heat at Christmas time

Santa comes to town

THE Family Support Services (FSS) Christmas lunch exemplified the blending of traditional Christmas festivities with Eurasian joie de vivre.

The party, themed 'It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas' and held on Sunday 22 November, saw some 130 clients comprising mainly seniors and young families making their way to the Eurasian Community House.

Performers including Terence Castillo, songstress Marina Xavier and rocker Dixie Ferdinands took the stage, hosted by Jude Paul. In between the performances and dancing, not one but two Santa Clauses (bearing a striking resemblance to Patrick Zehnder and Warren Consigliere) handed out presents to the delighted children.



A spellbound child comes face to face with Santa



It's never too soon to get into the spirit of Christmas

Christmas

read as far as possible.
and just about anybody



Christmas chill



Cool... hanging out over Ben & Jerry's ice cream

PROFESSIONAL young Eurasians let their hair down at Christmas to network over an informal gathering, which included dinner at Marché at VivoCity and Ben & Jerry's ice cream.

The members of the Mentoring Young Leaders Network (MYLN) welcomed new members and promised to "bring the EA to all young Eurasian professionals in Singapore". So keep a lookout for its next gathering – coming soon somewhere near you!



The more the merrier



Cat woman

Colourful assignment

MORE than two dozen children under EA's Family Support Services wing enjoyed a fun-filled day at the recent Colourful Christmas Carnival held at Dhoby Ghaut Green Amphitheatre. The event, coordinated by PR Flare, was organised to bring cheer to young beneficiaries from all ethnic groups.

And after an evening show, guests received a Big Gift Pack comprising a haversack, assignment books and stationery to equip them for the new school year. For more information on FSS programmes, please contact FSS executives J Ramakrishnan (Ram) and Florence (Flo) Adriano, tel: 6447 1578 or e-mail fss@eurasians.org



A wheely good prize

LIVE guppy fishing, a bouncy castle, face painting, tattoos and carnival games plus Canadian Pizza, King's ice cream, candy

Riding high

floss and popcorn ensured a day of fun for 150 children at the ECH. Games master, Natasha D'Silva and assistant, Shane Roberts, together with balloon makers Russell and Moses, kept the children entertained.

Guests at the Annual Children's Christmas included children from the different self-help groups as well as 20 of the EA's Family Support Services children and their families. The guest of honour was MP Chan Soo Sen. There were presents and prizes – and four lucky children left the party with a new bicycle for Christmas.



Sale of the season



Going fishing

THE Family Christmas Carnival, set up four years ago to involve families in the Children's Christmas Treat event, saw a tremendous turnout this year.

Organised by the Women's Wing Committee, it attracted no few than 15 stalls, which were rented out to entrepreneurs selling Christmas fare. There was a delicious array of Eurasian food and other goodies plus special edition wines to sample and buy.

Fabian and Tracy, Gerard Danker, Singapore Idol finalist Kyle Ganapathy, the Santa Babes plus MP Chan Soo Sen encouraged the crowd to sing along and dance. Many of the visitors went home

with goodies from the tombola run by Joan Pereira and Lucille Marcus, with lucky draw prizes donated by Quentin's, Atos Wellness and Women's Wing committee members.



Sing-along with the Santa Babes

Masquerading at the ball



WHAT could be more glamorous than a masked ball to welcome in 2010? The Eurasian Association's New Year's Eve Masquerade Soirée took place in a packed Shangri-La hotel ballroom festooned with masks and feathers.

Many guests conformed to the dress code by arriving incognito behind beautiful masks – and the ball's committee members also did a brisk trade at reception selling their own handmade creations. During cocktail hour, guests could be photographed professionally in their finery. An international buffet provide the feast and the dance floor was packed with revellers.

The event was organised by the Women's Wing and guest of honour was MP Christopher de Souza.

MC Brian Lune, DJ Bernard Jeremiah and the band La ChicaGo provided the entertainment together with the PAC dancers. Sponsors donated 70 prizes for the evening's festivities, including trips to Phuket and Bali courtesy of Glen D'Souza, a carpet from Eastern Carpets, meals from the Indochine Group, JBL speakers from Harman International plus other goodies from Mimolette, F J Benjamin, Shangri-La and more.

Then it was time for the countdown as Father Time was escorted out by Miss Eurasian 2009, Bianca Hoeden, and Miss Eurasian 2010, Vanessa Garnell took over her mantle. The crowd sang Auld Lang Syne – and there was mulligatawny soup for those who stayed into the wee hours.

Special thanks to the organising committee: Christine Clunies-Ross, Stephaine Holland, Charlene Lee, Kimberly Gordon, Peter Rodrigues, Lorraine Ess-Sim, Harry Pereira, Maureen Westerhout and the secretariat.

