

THE NEW EURASIAN

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JANUARY – MARCH 2014



The work-life balance

Three Eurasians explain how they
strive to achieve it

PLUS

TIMOTHY DE SOUZA

receives The Public Service Star

STUDYING SUCCESS

The EA's three new award winners

GET SET, GO!

Eurasians bring sporting honours

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President's Message

It is amazing how quickly 2013 has passed and we are now into the New Year. While much has been achieved by the EA over the course of the previous year – we have increased the outreach of our education programmes to assist more than 400 young Eurasians in their studies, continue to help an average of 115 individuals per month with our Family Support Services and have introduced a number of new programmes to support active ageing – there still remains much more that we can and would like to do.

As a small community, our greatest challenge remains getting enough volunteers to help us run our community programmes. I am therefore very appreciative of the many volunteers who currently give their precious time to help the EA and the Eurasian community. Competing demands on time is one of the personal challenges many volunteers face. In previous issues we covered the topic of volunteerism and featured a number of volunteers who shared their experiences and the sacrifices they made to spend time on helping the community. In this issue, we discuss the issue of work-life balance; something all of us aspire to but which is often difficult to achieve. A few Eurasians share with us their experience in juggling time to manage career, family responsibilities and other personal goals.

On the subject of volunteers, we are very pleased that EA trustee Timothy de Souza has been awarded the prestigious Public Service Star award 2013. It is a well deserved award for Tim, who has been a tremendous leadership force in the EA for more than 20 years and an inspiration to many of us who serve in the EA. On a personal front, it was Tim who first got me involved in the EA

and encouraged me to serve the community. Working with Tim in the formative years of transforming the EA to a self-help group was very satisfying and I continue to enjoy the benefit of his invaluable guidance and advice to this day. As a trustee of the EA, Tim continues to serve the community and take an active interest in the needs and betterment of Eurasians in Singapore.

It is also heartening how the spirit of community service that Tim and his wife Patricia have embodied has been passed down to their son Christopher de Souza, who serves the Singapore community as a Member of Parliament. Chris has also recently established two new education awards, in honour of Pat's and Tim's parents, to assist Eurasian students who displayed selflessness in contributing to the community or nation and students who excelled in their chosen field despite personal challenges. In this issue, we cover the get-together that Pat, Tim and Chris had with the recipients of the awards in November last year.

We closed the year with the traditional series of events to celebrate the Christmas season – our joint Christmas tree light up with the Singapore Recreation Club; the Children's Christmas Treat, which included children from other self-help groups, the Christmas party for FSS clients, which was supported by volunteers from St Anthony's Canossian Convent; and the Social Circle Christmas dinner and dance. Last but not least, we ended the year with the annual EA New Year's Eve ball at the Concorde Hotel, where more than 200 Eurasians and friends had a very enjoyable time getting 2014 off to a good start.



While all these events marked the year-end festivities for the Eurasian community, they were also important occasions for us to bring the community together. As a small community, we often do not have much opportunity to meet in our daily lives and as a result the strength of our community will weaken over time. This is of particular concern for the EA and we will continue to foster opportunities and events to bring the community together, to strengthen our ties and our bonds.

As we move into 2014, I ask all Eurasians to please support the EA by participating in our events or volunteering to help in our community programmes. It is only by having a strong community and working together that we can ensure a brighter future for the Eurasian community in Singapore.

On behalf of our management committee, I look forward to your continued support and wish you a very happy and fulfilling New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benett Theseira'. The signature is stylized and written over a white background.

Benett Theseira
President



Timothy de Souza receives his award from President Tony Tan

Timothy de Souza is Awarded the Public Service Star

EA trustee Timothy de Souza has been awarded The Public Service Star award 2013 for his work with the association. The prestigious award is given to those who have rendered valuable public service to the people of Singapore or who have distinguished themselves in the field of arts and letters, sports, the sciences, business, the professions or the labour movement

Timothy de Souza's participation in the EA spans almost 25 years. In 1988, he was the assistant honorary secretary and he became President in 1991, a post he held for nine years.

The period of his presidency was a milestone decade for the EA. Timothy led the transition of the association from a largely social club to a self-help group (SHG) for the Singapore Eurasians. EA trustee Barry Desker says: "Timothy de Souza played a key role in reviving The Eurasian Association and adapting the EA to the dynamic needs of a changing, independent Singapore. Critical from this perspective was that the EA should not focus on nostalgic memories but should meet the challenges of the present.

The award of the Public Service Star is a fitting tribute to Tim's contribution not just to the Eurasian community but to the wider Singapore society."

Oscar Oliveiro, an EA trustee from 1992, says: "He is a thinker and a man with a vision. He is always concerned about the needs of our Eurasian community and thus education and welfare come foremost in his mind. I am very happy and pleased that Tim's dedication, hard work and efforts have been given recognition with his award. I am sure many Eurasians in the community also share this moment of pride and happiness for Tim. We wish him and his family our warmest congratulations and are indeed very proud of his achievement."

This 10-year transition to an SHG involved tremendous effort. Gerald Minjoot, President of the EA from 2005 to 2006 says: "Working with Timothy has always resulted in a positive outcome for the EA. The significance of this award will be much appreciated by the members of the Eurasian community."

Besides the core programmes of education advancement and social assistance for the lesser privileged, the EA's heritage and culture was promoted through the National Day participation and the EA Dance Troupe. "I particularly remember that even as the President of the EA, Timothy volunteered to be part of the supporting dancers for the National Day Parade back then," says Edmund Rodrigues, a committee member

Quentin's Culinary Triumphs

Chef Quentin Pereira, whose restaurant Quentin's at the ECH serves up Eurasian fare to appreciative diners in both the Eurasian community and the general public, has been recognised in a national competition

Quentin Pereira reached the finals of the recent Epicurean Star Award, organised by the Restaurant Association of Singapore, which celebrates the milestone achievements of both individuals and establishments in the nation's food and beverage industry.

Quentin was competing in the Asian Restaurant Casual Dining category, and each restaurant had to undergo three selection rounds before being nominated for the finals. The competition included anonymous tastings, after which 12 judges visited the restaurant on two separate occasions to assess the restaurant concept, food menu and service quality.

Quentin says: "We were competing against a restaurant in a hotel at Changi Airport and to emerge as a finalist was a huge achievement for Quentin's. I feel proud to have come this far with Eurasian cuisine."

And his achievements don't end there. Quentin was recently selected as a resident chef in the Asian Masters event organised by Poulouse Associates, a Singapore F&B consultancy firm, and Sphere Exhibits events company. During its 90-minute *Sunday Times* workshop, Quentin showed more than 60 guests how to prepare two quintessentially Eurasian dishes: curry captain, made with US turkey breast and bacon, fried and infused in special rempah; and curry debal made with US chicken, bacon bones and chicken cocktails, fried and infused in special rempah.



Quentin Pereira demonstrates the delights of Eurasian cooking

"Being a part of the Asian Masters was a captivating experience," he says. I was able to network with many other chefs and also gained the opportunity to share my knowledge with those who attended the workshop. I enjoyed myself tremendously."

in the early 1990s and frequent participant at the NDP. “He was there every week and never once mentioned what a heavy commitment it was. He believed in leading through example. Congratulations to Tim on being conferred the award. What he and his gracious wife, Pat, and his family have given to the community is hope.”

Timothy also supported the Dance Troupe and was ever keen to forge new tie-ups for the troupe for greater cultural promotion. Valerie Scully, who set up the first EA Dance Troupe in 1991, says: “He organised the first ever Heritage Day at the Singapore Museum, bringing Eurasians from all over the island to celebrate. The many fund-raising projects, dinner gatherings, dance performances and golf tournaments raised the coffers of the EA to a healthy level. He was very much a people’s President and always cared and stood up for his committee members and volunteers. I congratulate him on behalf of all of us in the Kristang Cultural Troupe on being conferred the award.”

Timothy has continued to work for the EA as a trustee. “He has been proactively working with each EA President over the years, constantly contributing to its growth. It’s a well deserved award for Tim for his tireless contributions and commitments. I believe that the award has led to the growing

awareness of the Eurasian community in our multiracial society,” says Edward De Silva, EA President from 2008 to 2010.

“Being able to go on that journey with like-minded Eurasians was a great experience and privilege”

Bill Jansen, EA President from 2010 to 2012, says: “Working with Tim for so many years, I have found that by leading the EA as President, and later as a trustee, he has his finger on the pulse of the EA and the Eurasian community. My heartiest congratulations to him on a well deserved award.

Timothy, himself, says of The Public Service Star award: “This award means a lot to me as it is also recognition for the community, which has helped make this vision come true. Being able to go on that journey with like-minded Eurasians was a great experience and privilege.

“I hope that the EA will grow from strength to strength in reaching out to the needs of the community. I believe education will



Timothy with wife Patricia, children and grandchildren

still remain one of the strongest pillars in helping the Eurasians. I think we should not forget to look after those people who are less privileged, too, because if the Eurasians do not help the Eurasians then who will? All in all, I wish for the EA to remain relevant to the community at all times.”

Married to Patricia, with a daughter, Vanessa, son, Christopher, and four granddaughters, Timothy continues to be passionate and enthusiastic about the EA. He also remains keenly involved in the People’s Association as a board member and has been a member for the Presidential Council of Minority Rights for five years: a true star of public service in Singapore.

Out on *the Tiles*



Gathering for a fun lunch and activities

Members of Artsy Craftsy, Mahjong Therapy and Read@EA got Christmas celebrations off to an early start at the ECH on 16 November with a lunch and mahjong competition.

The event, which included the singing of Christmas carols, was coordinated by Nancy Fobrogo, who presented a programme that began with a lunch prepared by Quentin’s plus seasoned cooks Philomena Nonis, Helen Joseph and Joyce Cordeiro. Dorothy Tessensohn presented her popular sugee cake.

A random exchange of beautifully wrapped gifts took place before everyone dispersed to



Mahjong winner Helen Joseph with Yvonne Pereira (left) and Nancy Fobrogo

participate in fun activities such as chikee, origami and carom before moving on to the main highlight – the mahjong competition.

Yvonne Pereira graciously accepted the role of competition judge over Esther Edwards, Helen Joseph and Pearlyn Velge, who were challenged by experienced player, Dorothy. Yvonne briefed the ladies on rules and expected behaviour. Soon after, there was plenty of humorous banter.

Helen Joseph’s cool head saw her emerging as victor, but she then dispensed with her calm demeanour – and danced her way to receive the miniature mahjong trophy.

The EA Launches *New Membership Cards*

The Eurasian Association launched its new membership card in January.

Members enjoy a discount on all EA facilities and receive *The NewEurasian* magazine each quarter to keep them up to date with the EA’s news. There are many other benefits that you can look out for on the EA website.

It’s still not too late to renew your membership. Those with Ordinary Membership, which has a one-year term, can renew it for another year at a cost of \$12 or convert to Life Membership, which is a one-time payment at \$60.

Please contact Cecilia Sim, tel: 6447 1578 or email cecilia@eurasians.org if you need further information.

Rolling Home

The eight-month EA balut tournament saw its finale in October as players battled to chalk up high scores in the hope of taking away the year's top prize, getting down to business after a meal provided by Quentin's restaurant.

And there were surprises in score as Philomena Nonis scored enough to overtake Zoe Lazaroo, the top player after the last round, and snatch the annual top prize. Lady Luck was truly on Philomena's side, as she also clocked up the month's best scores, becoming also 'Champion of the Month of October'.



Balut section convenor Yvonne Pereira says: "Members would like to extend their most appreciative thanks to Mrs Evelyn Rodrigues, Mr and Mrs Quentin Pereira and Mr and Mrs Philip Cordeiro for their kind sponsorship of cash donations and prizes for the year."

The final results were:

2103 In-House Balut Champion
– Philomena Nonis (3,631 points)
2nd – Zoe Lazaroo (3,605 points)
3rd – Yvonne Pereira (3,519 points)
4th – Aloysius Fernandez (3,490 points)
5th – Maureen Gutterson (3,485)

Other Prize Winners:

High Aggregate (Single Game):
1st – Rita Ignatius (711 points)
2nd – Philomena Nonis (673 points)

High Score (Single Game):
1st – Derrick Filmer (148 points)
2nd – Nancy Fobrogo (144 points)

The Secrets of Balut

Would you like to join the EA's balut section? Here's a basic guide to the rules.

A balut game comprises a maximum of four players per table for any competition. At each turn, the player has three attempts to throw five dice and get them to fall in various categories (which are listed in columns on the player's score card):

Straights: A run of consecutive die, e.g.



Full house: Three of one die, two of another, e.g.



Choice: A simple totting up of the face value of the die.

Balut: Five die, all the same, e.g.



So, for example, if on your first throw there are two 6s, you would put those aside and hope to

throw another one or more on the second or third throw. If you had a 2, 3, 4 and 5 during a throw, you would keep those and hope to get a 1 or 6 on the remaining throws to make a straight.

If you don't make a score in any of the categories, you have to put an X in one of the score columns and can no longer score points in that category. The winner of the balut game is the individual with the highest score calculated across all columns – and the prize winner for the evening. The person with the highest accumulative score over six of the eight rounds is the In-house Balut Champion.

Elvis Lives!

The final book in Denyse Tessensohn's *Elvis in Katong* trilogy was launched recently at the Eurasian Community House

Elvis Presley may never physically have set foot in Singapore, but for Denyse Tessensohn and her peers the King of Rock 'n' Roll was as much a part of Katong as he was of Memphis, Liverpool and the rest of the global teenage world enthralled by his heady, revolutionary new music.

So what better motif for a nostalgic trip to those carefree days of the 1950s and '60s than Elvis in Katong?

Launching the third of her Elvis trilogy, *Elvis Forever in Katong*, at the ECH recently, Denyse said the memories are "something that all middle-class Singaporeans who are above 50 will remember and enjoy".

The first book gives her personal views on distinguished people and places that are part of the broad landscape she refers to as 'Singapore Eurasiana'. The second and third books explore Singapore's collective memories

of being Eurasian. The book includes both her own personal memories and contributions from fellow Eurasians.

Elvis Forever in Katong has 64 topics, 59 photos and illustrations and 23 interesting recipes. It covers unknown Eurasian history, anecdotes, Singapore nostalgia – and will make you laugh out loud many times. It captures the true flavour of Eurasians in Singapore that will not be found in history books.

The book was launched by Sheila De Costa, President of the Eurasian Association of Selangor and the Federal Territories, and the event was attended by Malaysian Eurasian author Joan Marbeck, to whom the book is dedicated.

Denyse's next projects are to continue with Eurasian research and to attempt a 'Eurasian' novel, which will involve hunting, and a play concerning Dr Charles Paglar. She would be



Denyse Tessensohn (right) with Sheila De Costa

very grateful if anyone who has photographs or information that might be helpful would contact her at elvisinkatong@gmail.com.

Elvis Forever in Katong is on sale at the ECH, priced \$30.00. Contact Jacqueline Peeris, tel: 6447 1578 or email jacqueline@eurasians.org for more details.

Being Eurasian: *What does it Mean?*

How to promote a sense of identity in Eurasians and get them more involved in the community was the subject of a recent dialogue at the ECH

A blog post on whether Eurasians were 'The Almost Forgotten Race' generated an animated debate in the social media. Nicole Kessler, author of the blog *The Ugliness of Beauty*, was prompted to post the article after several encounters with fellow Singaporeans who did not seem to be aware of the history and heritage of Eurasians in Singapore. Nicole's post attracted almost 100 responses from Eurasian and other Singaporeans.

The EA then decided to organise a dialogue session on the Eurasian identity and invited Nicole to participate.

About 20 members of the community took part in a lively discussion, including a number of the EA's management committee members, young adults who are part of the EA's youth

networking group, as well as several new Eurasians, some of whom were at their first EA event.

What is our Identity?

Angelina Fernandez, chair of the EA's Corporate Communications Sub-Committee, said: "Here are some ideas for the group to think about: what exactly is the heritage that we want to preserve? Is it good to preserve the Eurasian identity or should we just identify ourselves as Singaporeans?"

Graham Gerard Ong-Webb, who chairs the Youth Committee, pointed out: "Often, it's a challenge to pin down the definition of Eurasian. Two ways to strengthen the Eurasian identity would be to commemorate Eurasian achievements. A community must be proud of its heroes. As for attracting youth, we should tap into social media and perhaps organise a blogging workshop to tap into their interests."

Attracting New Members

EA President Benett Theseira said: "I think we should focus on specific activities that will encourage Eurasians to come forward. We should draw on their adaptable nature and create programmes that best suits their interests."

Jamie-Lee Frankland Moro, one of the youth participants and a new Eurasian, suggested:

"One way to attract youth for activities organised by EA would be to tap into schools. The EA should reach out to schools and create programmes that allow students to get Community Involvement points. This would create awareness among Eurasian youth about the EA. They would be keen to learn more about our culture and heritage."

Looking Ahead to the Next Generation

Vincent Schoon, the EA's 1st Vice President, said the EA should offer support to its members: "Being Eurasian means being mixed. This mixed upbringing allows us to be adaptable, flexible and inclusive. Let's use all these positive qualities and be proud of our mixed identity. Let's celebrate Eurasians who came up from a difficult situation and provide them with as much support as we can."

Nicolette Pereira, another young Eurasian, agreed that it was important for Eurasians to value their identity. "I think preserving the Eurasian identity is a must as we need to pass on our Eurasian way of living to our future generations. They must be given an opportunity to relive these memories as well."

Nicole Kessler said: "Things will only change when people make the first step to change something. With globalisation, it will be very easy to forget your roots and heritage."

Teeing Off to 2014

The EA Golf Society has already put together a calendar of events for the first half of the year. Check out the EA website and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/eagolf.org>) or contact Daniel Chong at daniel@eurasians.org for further information.

February 2014

Overseas Golf Game
9 & 10 February 2014
Bintan Lagoon Resort

March 2014

ISCG Tournament (1st Game)
11 March 2014
Orchid Country Club

June 2014

Eurasian Association
Charity Golf Game



The EA Dragons turn Vikings for the day

Oktoberfest – *Viking Style*

Viking style was the order of the day at the ECH this year when it celebrated the annual Oktoberfest on 6 October.

The hall was adorned with bunting and décor from Erdinger beer; trestle tables were dressed in blue and white with hand-drawn Viking placemats, and there was rollicking good food from Quentin's restaurant plus plenty of liquid amber to quench the thirst of the 100-plus guests.

Organised by the EA Dragons this year, the entertainment started at the door with Viking fun photos complete with Viking props. Beer-drinking contests came with a

twist – and the maidens shamed some of the burlier guests! Not to be outdone, the men redeemed themselves in the kartoffel (potato) race – to the delight of the roaring crowd.

Emcee Janelle ramped up the pace with her Viking quiz, and some clever little Viking kids walked off with dining vouchers donated by Quentin's. The EA Dragons donated more than 30 prizes, including the top prize of a \$500 travel voucher, which was won by Ms Byrne.

Everyone received a tote bag with a specially designed Oktoberfest emblem by InkStitch, and took home a chocolate favour, courtesy of Chocolate Graphics. 'Til next year... Skål!

Shining a Light on Friendship



The annual joint Singapore Recreation Club & EA Christmas Light Up was held at the ECH this year on 6 Dec.

EA President Benett Theseira lit the tree with SRC President Dr Johnny Goh and each hung a red and blue bauble on the tree representing unity (the SRC colours are red, gold and blue and the EA's blue and gold). Benett and SRC Games Control Board Chairman, Terence Shepherdson, gave speeches that reflected on the strong relations between the two organisations.

Guests were treated to carol singing by Janelle Stewart, Oliver Stewart and Gerard Danker and the festivities also included a Eurasian buffet by Quentin's, games organised by the SRC and musical performances by Tropical Kats, Jerry Murad and Ivor Lesslar.

Song and Dance



The Social Circle's annual Christmas dinner and dance started in traditional Eurasian style with the 'Jinkli Nona', led to eating and drinking, games, lucky draw prizes donated by Quentin and Kristine Pereira and Social Circle members, the singing of Christmas carols – and, of course, dancing throughout the evening.



Lucky ticket winner Dolly Valberg with her prize



Lawrence Kam wins a Christmas hamper

A Katong Christmas

More than 80 children aged from two to 10 from the four self-help groups enjoyed an afternoon of entertainment and Christmas treats at the ECH at the EA's annual Children's Christmas Treat.

Meanwhile, the grown-ups were being entertained at the Family Christmas Carnival, where they ate a range of Eurasian and halal food, listened to music by Gerard Danker and won prizes on the tombola.



Guests listen attentively to the quiz questions



Social Circle Committee members



Santa and Santarina



A skit by the ToyBox performers



Rapt attention from the tiny guests at the Children's Christmas Treat



Christopher de Souza (right) with his parents Mr and Mrs Timothy de Souza (left) and the award recipients

The Gift of Education

Two new education awards will help to create opportunities for deserving Eurasian students

Mr Christopher de Souza has provided two awards as part of the EA's education assistance programmes, naming them after his grandparents.

At a recent ceremony, the Mr Allen Reynold Patrick & Mrs Beryl Constance O'Hara Award was awarded to two students who had displayed diligence and selflessness in the service of community or the nation.

The Mr Carlisle E.W. & Mrs Helena Josephine de Souza Award was awarded to a student who had displayed her determination and optimism in prevailing over difficulties and had eventually succeeded in her chosen career field.

Christopher says that despite adversity, his grandparents worked hard to contribute to both their family and society. He said his parents then passed on these values to his sister and himself. He recalls his grandparents as giving people and hopes the awards will encourage the Eurasian recipients to continue giving of themselves to the community and country.

Christopher, and his parents – Timothy and Patricia de Souza – met the recipients at the EA in November.

The EA's education selection panel selected three exemplary recipients for the inaugural award, based on their academic perseverance and dedication to community service. Here, they tell us what their award means to them.

Artiqah Bte Mohd Raqib Al-Shah

Artiqah, 19, the eldest of seven children, is currently pursuing a Health Sciences (Nursing) Diploma at Ngee Ann Polytechnic.



Tell us about your nursing journey.

Nursing is a profession that provides one with great job satisfaction. For me, nursing is about providing the best care needed for patients. It makes me very happy when they express their thanks. As a nurse, I believe that one needs certain qualities to progress: patience, perseverance and the strength to face obstacles.

What is it like to grow up as a part of a large family?

The house is always lively and happy. There is not a single moment of loneliness. Usually my parents are working and come back late; during this time I tutor my siblings and try to deal with the household chores.

How has the Mr Allen Reynold Patrick & Mrs Beryl Constance O'Hara Award helped you?

The award has assisted me to complete my course in 2014 without any financial burdens for my parents.

Mary Ann Peters

Mary Ann, 19, is an undergraduate at the National University of Singapore, pursuing an arts degree in the Faculty of Arts and Social Science. She plans to major in Political Science in order to build a career in international relations.



Tell us more about yourself.

I come from a big family; I have seven older siblings. I like playing softball and watching theatrical plays. I also volunteer at The Rainbow Centre, a school for educating children with special needs, during my school holidays. It's all about showing them the attention and care that they require.

How do you juggle studies and community service?

During the school semester, I try to volunteer at the SPCA. During the holidays, I work part-time and volunteer at The Rainbow Centre. I arrange my schedules so as to honour my commitments.

How has the Mr Allen Reynold Patrick & Mrs Beryl Constance O'Hara Award helped you?

I didn't have to worry about my dad paying off my school loans. I also have a brother at the university, who is studying with a scholarship. We try our best to ease the school fees for my parents.

Kimberly Veronica Ong

Kimberly, 18, is pursuing Western Culinary Arts at ITE College West.



What are your favourite experiences of being a chef?

Being a chef is a fun and tiring job. My most memorable experience is when I learnt how to bake. I had a hard time perfecting the quiche lorraine; I failed during my first attempt but I did not give up. Being a chef is all about practicing.

What are your plans for the future?

I am working on furthering my studies and increasing my knowledge about food. I am also considering being a chef in the Navy. I want to travel around the world, and learn about food that originates from diverse cultures and lifestyles. My ambition is to open my own restaurant.

How has the Mr Carlisle E.W. & Mrs Helena Josephine De Souza Award helped you?

The award has motivated me to study hard and has been a tremendous aid to supporting my daily educational expenses.



Carl Dutta with his family and management committee members at the Project Ray of Hope ceremony

Containing Good Ideas

Carl Timothy Dutta is not only an exceptional student, but is now also an aspiring businessman

Budding entrepreneur, student Carl Timothy Dutta, was one of the speakers at the Project Ray of Hope ceremony held at the EA in November. The event is held to disburse Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) funds to alleviate the cost of education. More than 100 students received Popular bookstore and Bata vouchers and their day began with a reading workshop organised by the National Library Board.

Carl, 18, who attends ITE College West, is pursuing his Higher Nitec in Business Studies.

He juggled several responsibilities during his school years, working for four years as a student counsellor while also taking taekwondo. Recently, he was appointed president of The Green Club at his college; the club is active in promoting environment-friendly initiatives within the school.

He says these activities have helped him “to build resilience and instil leadership qualities”.

In addition, Carl is one of the exemplary students in the institute’s Director’s List, which recognises outstanding students within the faculty. He was also recently accorded the College West silver service star award.

In addition, he was presented with a Certificate of Achievement from Edmund Rodrigues, member of the EA Education Committee at the Project Ray of Hope Ceremony. Carl says: “Such awards always motivate me and I’m more determined to work even harder to pursue my dreams.”

In August, he was also among the top three prize winners in the #startable competition organised by Nanyang Technological Technopreneurship Center to enhance the entrepreneurship skills of ITE students. The winners are awarded a grant to start their business.

Carl’s concept came to him when he was sharing potato crisps with friends and realised they were struggling to fit their hands into the narrow container. He decided that a slidable tray would not only provide easy access to the crisps but would also be more hygienic.

“We must learn skills to go with the flow of emerging trends”

Training sessions were provided by NTU faculty members and business experts. The students were taught how to collect feedback on their product’s design, cost, safety and feasibility – and how to convince the crisps manufacturer to purchase their concept.

“The competition has made me more confident and better prepared for the business industry,” says Carl. “Entrepreneurs should not stop at dreaming; they must act on their dreams. We must learn skills to go with the flow of emerging trends and believe in our potential.

“Remember to create value and not only revenue. The innovation must make a difference in people’s lives,” he adds.

EA Education Schemes 2014

The EA has a number of education grants to encourage Eurasian children to aim high

One of the Eurasian Association's three pillars is Education and it supports students through numerous awards, bursaries and scholarships for Primary, Secondary and Tertiary levels. Below is a table of EA Education Schemes 2014 and the application period.

EDUCATION SCHEME	LEVEL	DESCRIPTION	QUANTUM	INCOME CRITERIA	APPLICATION PERIOD
Eurasian Community Fund [ECF] Education Awards	Primary, Secondary, Tertiary	A one-time monetary reward to students to encourage them to continue to work hard.	\$100 – \$300	GHI ≤ \$2700, or PCI ≤ \$700 *Income criteria are only for Bursary Awards, excluding Merit, Excellence and Distinction Awards	Apply by 30th June 2014
Project Ray Of Hope	Primary, Secondary, Tertiary	Disbursement of Popular and Bata vouchers to purchase educational items to prepare for the next academic year.	\$250 – \$350	GHI ≤ \$2,700, or PCI ≤ \$700	Apply by 30th June 2014
Temasek Cares Education Bursary	Primary	Covering school fees, books, uniforms, transport and meals for one academic year, to encourage Primary students.	\$1,200 for one academic year	GHI range: \$2,500 – \$2,700, or PCI range: \$625 – \$750 *For students not under MOE FAS	Apply by 28th February 2014
Coral De Cruz Memorial Fund	Secondary	Covering school fees, books, uniforms and transport for one academic year, to encourage Secondary students.	\$1,200 for one academic year	GHI range: \$2,500 – \$2,700, or PCI range: \$625 – \$750 *For students not under MOE FAS	Apply by 28th February 2014
Tan Chin Tuan Education Award	Secondary	Covering school fees, books, uniforms and transport for one academic year, to encourage Secondary students.	\$1,200 for one academic year	GHI range: \$2,500 – \$2,700, or PCI range: \$625 – \$750 *For students not under MOE FAS	Apply by 28th February 2014
Merit Bursary Award	ITE & Polytechnic (NP, NYP, RP, SP, TP)	Covering the full cost of tuition and book stipend for the full duration of the course, to defray the high cost of tertiary education.	ITE: \$3,500/yr for a two-year course Poly: \$5,500/yr for a three-year course	GHI ≤ \$3,000, or PCI ≤ \$850	Apply by 31st March 2014
EA University Scholarship (for Polytechnic graduate)	University (NUS, NTU, SMU, UniSIM, SIT, SUTD)	Covering the full cost of tuition and book stipend for a three-year course, to defray the high cost of university education.	Cap: \$10,000 per year for a three-year course	GHI ≤ \$3,000, or PCI ≤ \$850	Apply by 31st March 2014
Oscar George da Silva University Scholarship (for JC graduate)	University (NUS, NTU, SMU, UniSIM, SIT, SUTD)	Covering the full cost of tuition and book stipend for a three-year course, to defray the high cost of university education.	Cap: \$10,000 per academic year for a three-year course	GHI ≤ \$3,000, or PCI ≤ \$850	Apply by 31st March 2014
Mr Carlisle E.W. & Mrs Helena Josephine de Souza Award	Tertiary	To be awarded to a student who has shown determination and optimism in prevailing over difficulties and who has eventually excelled in his or her chosen field.	\$2,500	GHI ≤ \$3,000, or PCI ≤ \$850	Apply by 31st March 2014
Mr Allen Reynold Patrick & Mrs Beryl Constance O'Hara Award	Tertiary	To be awarded to a student who has shown diligence and selflessness in the service of community or the nation.	\$2,500	Nil	Apply by 31st March 2014
C O Donough Sports Scholarship	Secondary or Tertiary student taking a sports course	Covering tuition fees, books and uniforms for the duration of the course for students taking sports courses at: 1. Singapore Sports School 2. Republic Polytechnic 3. Nanyang Polytechnic	\$3,500 per year (Poly) (three-year course) \$6,500 per year (Spore Sports School) (four-year course)	GHI ≤ \$4,500 or PCI ≤ \$1,500	Apply by 31st March 2014
Minnie Leicester-D'Rozario Award (for Literature in English at O-levels)	Sec 4 O-level student	A one-time award for a Eurasian student who attained A1 for Literature in English at the Secondary 4 O-level examination.	\$1,000	Nil	Apply by 31st March 2014
Reading Prize for Pre-Schoolers	Pre-School children aged 5-6	A one-time prize to encourage parents to read with their children, preparing them for Primary One. Children will be assessed at a reading contest during the year-end education ceremony.	\$50 per child	GHI ≤ \$2,700, or PCI ≤ \$700	Apply by 30th June 2014

NOTE: GHI=Gross Household Income; PCI=Per Capita Income

To apply, please contact Jacqueline Peeris, tel: 6447 1578 or email jacqueline@eurasians.org. You can also obtain application forms from the Secretariat office at level 3 of The Eurasian Association, 139 Ceylon Road, Singapore 429744.

FINDING A *Balance*

In recent years, the notion that we can ‘have it all’ – interesting career, family life, and plenty of time for leisure – has led to the more sober realisation that with new technology we are cramming more than ever into already busy lives. *The NewEurasian* looks at ways towards achieving equilibrium in our lives and talks to three Eurasians who are making efforts to get the balance right



Not only are more of us working, but we are working longer hours. Almost a third of workers in Singapore (31 per cent) report that they have to sacrifice sleep to fit in personal and work commitments, either by waking up too early or burning the midnight oil. For 31 per cent of workers, shorter commuting distances would give them more time to spend with their families as well as to catch up on extra shut eye, while 27 per cent would like to see greater flexibility regarding their work location.

These are some of the key findings of a global survey conducted in September 2012 by Regus, the world's largest provider of flexible workplaces, based on interviews with more than 24,000 businesspeople from 90-plus countries.

What is a work-life balance?

The fundamental changes in the working world have forced us to address the phrase 'work-life balance'.

“The notion of women in the household and men as breadwinners is becoming less sustainable”

For many of us, the term means striking a healthy balance between participating in our careers and spending quality time with our loved ones. In essence, the concept can be attributed to how an individual juggles his or her personal and work responsibilities. The government and many organisations have realised that it's a challenge for people to manage multiple responsibilities successfully. The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) has a dedicated page (<http://www.mom.gov.sg/employment-practices/work-life-harmony/Pages/work-life-strategies.aspx>), set aside for employers and employees on how they can achieve harmony between their work and personal lives. Visit this site for useful resources such as the Work-Life Tool Kit.

Flexible work arrangements

One key area that is always associated with work-life balance is flexible work arrangements.

With today's high technology, nobody is limited to working during the allocated working hours. Work has become an 'on-the-go' routine for most of us. It is management's responsibility to ensure that employees are provided with ample time to complete their tasks efficiently.

Instead of working from the office, for example, employees could be provided with a work-from-home option on certain days. Managements could also opt to be flexible with the start and end times of the working day. Some organisations might believe that employees would misuse these flexible arrangements, but competent managers should soon be able to root out lazy workers. And on the plus side, they could find that they are more easily able to retain good employees who work better with flexible arrangements. To date, there are no official figures showing how many organisations actively learn about and implement work-life balance strategies.

As Regus regional director, John Henderson says: "The benefits are not just for workers, and firms can also improve productivity and retention by introducing flexible working." Creating an environment for work-life balance enables employees to feel motivated, strive for their organisation and present their best work.

Those sinking under the weight of having too much to do might find the following websites give helpful new perspectives: 'Improve Your Life: What 10 Things Should You Do Every Day To Improve Your Life?', <http://www.bakadesuyo.com/2012/05/what-10-things-should-you-do-every-day-to-imp/> and 'Stuff Mom Never Told You: Unbalancing Work-Life Balance', <http://leanin.org/news-inspiration/stuff-mom-never-told-you-unbalancing-work-life-balance/>

Work-Life Balance – Expectations v Reality

The NewEurasian talks to three people at different phases in their life about their thoughts on the work-life balance.



The Academic

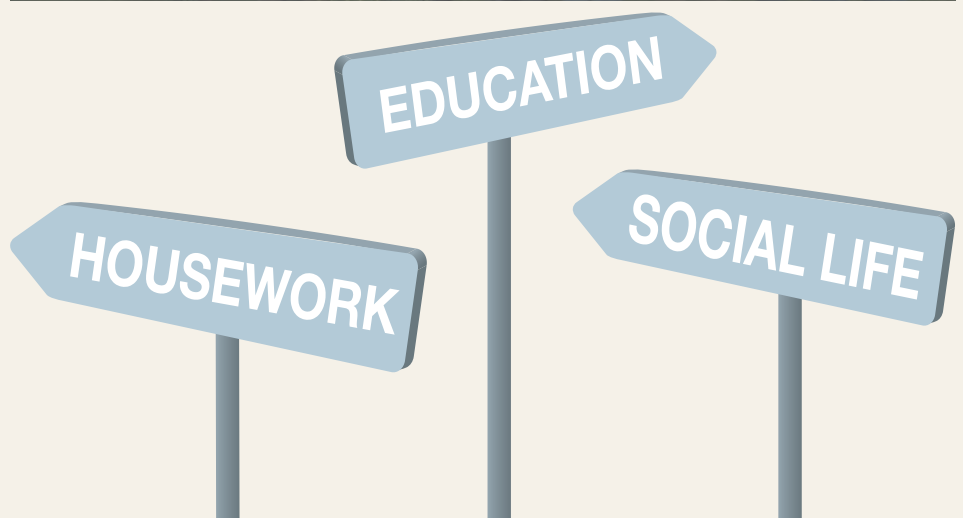
Shane Pereira, 34, is a full-time teaching assistant at the National University of Singapore (NUS) Department of Sociology, and is currently completing a PhD with King's College, London. Over the last two years, he has also taught at Republic Polytechnic as well as King's College. In addition, he has been a café server, bartender and a part-time magazine reporter. He has been married to Kirstin for two years and they have an 11-month-old daughter, Katie.

Shane describes the work-life balance as juggling one's priorities in terms of work, personal responsibilities, leisure and family time. He says to call it a 'work-life' balance is a false dichotomy as it puts the onus on the individual to find the balance between two sets of priorities. "In fact there are a lot more than just two spheres, and our choices to find a balance are limited to our circumstances," he says.

Currently Shane's daily routine is to find time to teach, mark, prepare a lesson plan and work on his thesis. He finds it a supreme challenge as he would also like to spend time with his family.



Shane Pereira (third from left) on a sociology field trip to religious places in Sussex, UK



Shane and his wife are sociable individuals. Their lifestyles used to revolve around travelling, partying and catching up with friends. However, they had to give up on that lifestyle to focus their energy and resources on their new daughter. They still try and make time to go out together and take turns to meet up with friends while the other takes care of the baby. "I am lucky as my mother is able to take care of Katie when my wife and I are busy," says Shane.

He believes that the structure of working conditions does need to change. From his personal experience, he thinks that structural support for men would help. "Even though women are given maternity leave, the realities of the workplace are such that taking too much leave can be detrimental to long-term career prospects," he says. His solution would be to divide childcare between both parents. The traditional notion of women in the household and men as breadwinners is becoming a less sustainable value in Singapore. "I am grateful that my head of department is understanding about childcare issues. I am able to take time off from work during emergencies with Katie; however there are not many jobs that allow such flexibility."



The Trade Fair and Conference Executive

Carrie de Souza, 25, comes from a family of five. She works in a trade fair and conference company and enjoys travelling. For Carrie, the work-life balance is a balance between her family, career, ambition, health and leisure. Carrie has summed up her view on work-life balance in two sentences: "It's important to be happy and also serious. Loving your life is what keeps one going through the day."

Just as for everyone else, juggling different responsibilities is a challenge. However, she has certain strategies she uses to achieve a balance. If she realises that she has an increasing number of deadlines to meet, she tries to step into the office at least an hour earlier so as to leave on time. This method has assisted her to increase productivity throughout the day as she knows that she will be able to complete her tasks and leave on time. After work, she spends quality time with her family, fiancé or friends. She adds: "If I have no plans, I usually cook. Cooking is a form of therapy and it's very effective for me. It encourages the creative person in me

after long and stressful days". Having such strategies in place, Carrie is able to be efficient at both home and work.

She admits, however, that she sometimes finds that there is simply 'not enough time'. Carrie's fiancé is French and she was learning the language in order to communicate with his family. Unfortunately, she had to stop her classes because of other commitments. Nevertheless, she says: "We cannot always give the excuse of being busy. I work in a fast-paced and busy environment and have learnt how to prioritise and balance varying responsibilities."

“Cooking is a form of therapy and it's very effective for me”

Carrie's view is that both employers and employees play a significant role in achieving the work-life balance. She feels that employers should focus on creating high-quality working environments to keep employees happy and retain them. She thinks that employees should also open up to learning about other cultures and workplace practices in an increasingly cosmopolitan Singapore.



The Student

Nicolette Pereira, 20, is a first-year student at the National Institute of Education (NIE). She has been a facilitator for the past three years, engaging primary to university students in community service camps and programmes, which often include visiting the homes of the elderly. She teaches tuition during the weekends and also tries to keep fit by running twice a week. She is currently working towards her first marathon in May.

Despite her youth, Nicolette has already learnt the importance of good time management and the need to draw a line between work and personal life. "Both young people and adults require social interaction as well as time for ourselves to be renewed and recharged," she says.

She also believes in old fashioned 'to-do' lists – but also believes that one should know that they have the right to refuse a task that would overwhelm their workload. "It's all about planning our time and scheduling well. As cliché as it sounds, work-life balance is about finding the peace amid the chaos around us," she says.



Carrie de Souza (2nd from right) with her fiancé and sisters in the south of France



Nicolette Pereira (front right) and her family



Bundles of Happiness

The EA's annual gift of Christmas hampers for its FSS clients shows volunteerism at its best



Every year, EA's annual Christmas hamper packing day is an important logistical operation.

Ten volunteers turned up on 17 December to pack more than 80 hampers chock full of celebratory seasonal foods that were distributed to disadvantaged families a few days later.

Funds for the hampers are raised from the community and well wishers and are not part of the regular monthly food ration budget. Many thanks to the generous donors who continually support the hamper fund-raising year after year.

Food items were purchased at the best price possible to maximise the value of the gifts. The hampers included cookies, coffee, corn flakes, sparkling juice, chicken ham, Quentin restaurant's salted cod fish

pickle among numerous other items. The EA's heartfelt thanks go to The Royals company, which donated 100 bottles of biscuits, and to DHL, which supplied the boxes.

"The letters of thanks that the EA gets from the families makes us realise how special this programme is for many. With rising food prices it is imperative that the FSS team continues to work and develop relationships with food companies and organisations that are willing and able to help us provide healthy rations to our needy families," says Francesca Eber, who chairs the FSS Committee.

If you can help make a difference to needy Eurasians by donating or volunteering, please contact Ram Jaganathan, tel: 6447 1578 or email ram@eurasians.org for more information.



Santa's little helpers - friends of the FSS



FSS recipients

A Warm Tropical Christmas

Laughter, song, food, games and prizes – the FSS Christmas party was a fun-filled event

There was Christmas cheer all round when 120 clients and volunteers attended the annual Christmas party arranged by the FSS team.

Francesca Eber, who chairs the FSS Committee gave a welcome speech and emphasised the efforts made by the EA to support families and bring cheer to the Christmas holidays. Many thanks went to the FSS team and volunteers, St Anthony's Canossian Convent, Yvonne Pereira and the other members of the EA's management and secretariat for helping to provide another wonderful event for FSS clients.

Emcee Paul Rodrigues got the proceedings off to an entertaining start with witty jokes that had the audience rocking on their seats with laughter. Guests also enjoyed a modern dance

item performed by girls from St Anthony's Canossian Secondary School.

The afternoon continued with music provided by the band TruBlue and Edmund Rodriguez made his way to the piano to lead the guests in singing Christmas carols.

The highlight was the Christmas lunch catered by Quentin's, washed down with a glass of wine.

The guest danced and had fun with games. The afternoon ended with tea, pineapple tarts and sugee cake made by Mr Cedric Pereira. A lucky draw was held and eight prizes were given away. Some fortunate diners also got to take the Christmas centre pieces to decorate their homes.



Clockwise from top: Francesca Eber; Helen Joseph; the lucky draw prizes

Top Swimmer Defers National Service to train for Olympics

Joseph Schooling, holder of five national swimming records, is hoping to do Singapore proud in Brazil

Joseph Schooling, Singapore's teenage swimming star, has been given permission by the Government to defer his national service to train for the Rio Olympics.

The 18-year-old Eurasian, who studies at Bolles School in Florida in the United States, says: "I was very relieved and happy being deferred from NS. I've crossed that hurdle and now I can focus on my preparations. Knowing that Singapore is behind me drives me to train even harder to do my country proud."

Joseph undergoes a punishing training schedule in pursuit of sporting success. He wakes at 4.45am daily to start his first training session at 5.25am. After two hours of training, he attends school. His afternoon training session begins at 3pm and usually lasts for three to four hours, after which he has to revise and complete his homework for the following day.

He says that eventually he wants to build a career in Singapore that will help the nation's sports industry reach greater heights and is considering working in sports management, marketing, finance – or even psychology.



Joseph Schooling is hoping for Olympic success in 2016



Joseph at the FINA 2013 in Barcelona, Spain

Photos by Simone Castrovillari

Just for Kicks

Promising mixed martial arts competitor Stephen Langdown is beginning to show his fighting spirit

Eurasian Stephen Langdown was not only the youngest Singaporean to compete in the ONE Fighting Championship (ONE FC) at its Total Domination match held in October – he also emerged victorious in his first competitive fight. We quiz him on his love of the sport.

Firstly, tell us a more about yourself.

I am 21 years old and completed my O-levels in 2009. I served in the Singapore Police Force during my National Service. When I am not training, I enjoy gaming either on my computer or PS3.

How did you get into ONE FC?

I got contacted by the scouts when they spotted my photos and videos on social media. The email was unexpected and I was extremely excited. It helped me to train harder in the gym. The match day arrived very quickly. It was a crazy experience and there was so much



Stephen Langdown tastes victory

“It was a crazy experience and there was so much adrenaline”

adrenaline. As I was walking to the cage, I reminded myself of each minute of training that I had done in the past two years. I wanted to make the most of the opportunity. Now, I am back in the gym training hard. Hopefully, I'll get offered a fight soon.



Just for kicks - Stephen in training

Describe the most intense moment.

The most intense moment is when you are standing across the cage from your opponent before the fight begins. After that, you concentrate on the match and don't remember much at all. It's a huge adrenaline rush.

What is your advice for young people who'd like to take up MMA?

Train hard and find a gym with an excellent coach and dedicated training partners. Always look out for good opportunities. When a good fight comes along, grab it if you are ready.

Write from the **Start**



Keanu Fonseca and his family



Keanu Fonseca

Keanu Fonseca is building up a store of personal memories through his blog and hopes his musings will inspire others



Like many people in these social networking times, Eurasian Keanu Fonseca started a blog to record his life and day-to-day thoughts, such as a desire for a state-of-the-art computer. But this little member of the blogosphere is just seven years old.

A pupil at St. Gabriel's Primary School, Keanu says he embarked on a blog to showcase his life, achievements and to be an inspiration to others. Already he is aiming high, with dreams of delivering newborn babies. The eldest of four siblings, he says: "I want to help people and bring babies into this world as they are very special."

Keanu was elated when his baby sister was born on his birthday

He does get a little parental help, of course. His dad, Wayne, helped Keanu to set up the blog and his mum, Taryn, assists with the content. They motivate him by organising events that provide an opportunity for him to blend his creativity and entrepreneurship skills. Taryn says: "He is able to note down his success as well as track his goals, such as raising money for his dream laptop."

Keanu says his favourite post is *Bringing Home My Baby Sister*. He wished for his baby sister Savannah to be born on the same birthday as him – and was elated when it became true.

When asked about his plans for the blog, he says we can expect more posts on his outdoor adventures, Manchester United football team, music, art and craft. You can join Keanu on his adventures at <http://keanufonseca.com/>

Water **Whizzes**



Mark Leong competing in the U-17 Slalom Waterski division and (inset) Paul Fong

Talented water-skier Mark Leong is bringing home honours for Singapore in international competitions

Teenager water-skier Mark Leong beat his own personal record to snatch a silver medal at the Asian Junior Championships in Jakarta in September when he competed in the Under-17 Slalom Waterski division. The following day, he competed in the Men's Open category at the Asian Waterski Championships and secured the eighth spot.

“It is a high-pressure sport – one fall or missed buoy will end the game”

Mark explains what the competition involves: "In water-ski slalom, the objective is to clear all six buoys along the slalom course while being pulled by a ski boat at 58kph at successively shorter rope lengths. The Men's Open category usually begins with 58kph at 18.25 metres. The shorter the length of the rope, the better you are performing." In winning his silver medal, Mark achieved a personal best of clearing two buoys with a 14-metre line.

The 15-year-old Eurasian, a pupil at Anglo Chinese School (Barker Road), started wakeboarding in Primary 4, but now focuses on slalom skiing. His priority for next year, however, is to focus on his GCE O-levels.

One of the people behind Mark's success is his coach, Paul Fong. A former member of the Singapore National Waterski Team and twice winner of the Asian Championships, Paul currently serves as the President of the Asian Waterski and Wakeboard Confederation.

He ensured that Mark trained intensively for the recent competition. He says: "Competitive waterskiing takes a lot of hard work both on and off the water. It is a high-pressure sport because one fall or missed buoy will end the game."

Paul already has big plans for Mark's future. Currently, he is preparing him for the 2014 Asian Beach Games in Phuket, Thailand. And if waterskiing is included in the 2015 South East Asian (SEA) Games in Singapore, he will encourage Mark to participate.

If you're interested in taking up waterskiing, visit the Singapore Waterski & Wakeboard Federation at www.swwf.org.sg

Guiding Us Through the Past



Michael Hogan conducts a tour at the Asian Civilisations Museum

For the past four years, Michael Hogan has been a volunteer museum docent at the National Museum and Asian Civilisations Museum. *The NewEurasian* asks him what his work entails and why he enjoys it

How did you get started as a volunteer?

I was attending one of the tours at the National Museum and was encouraged by one of the guides to volunteer my time as docent. Up 'til then, I had not volunteered for anything and it was a time in life when I felt the need to make a contribution to society. I submitted my application and was enrolled into the training course the following year.

Tell us more about the training programme.

You have to sign up for the training course via its email, museumvolsingapore@gmail.com. Those selected will be informed

“You must inspire others with a good story about Singapore”

and successful applicants will be put through an interview selection process. The training is intensive and takes place on 10 consecutive weekends with lessons conducted about history. The trainees will also be coached on how to conduct a tour. They will be required to conduct three trial tours and assessed based on them. The final tour will be conducted to the public.

What is your own background?

I was born and bred in Singapore. My father's side is Irish-Eurasian and mother's side is Portuguese-Chinese-German Eurasian. Due to my mixed heritage, I have been often mistaken for a Spanish, Dutch, Indonesian and even Pakistani.

How do you juggle your different responsibilities?

It has been almost 30 years since I started work in the manufacturing industry. I volunteer at the museums mostly on Saturdays and find time to go sailing during Sundays. Volunteering is not too difficult; we get to conduct a tour at least once a month on a Saturday or Sunday. If you are travelling unexpectedly due to work commitments, you will be able to find a replacement as everyone is very helpful.

What skills do you need to be an effective tour guide and educator?

There are some important qualities that a museum volunteer needs. You should be driven by a deep fascination about our history and how it relates to current times. You must also be a motivated individual and inspire others with a good story about Singapore. Always aim to enrich visitors with awareness of Singapore's past and present. Ensure that they walk out of the tour with a better understanding of why we are Singaporeans and are proud of it.

Kristang Corner

Kristang, South-east Asian Eurasian's own language, is in danger of dying out. Here and in future issues of *The NewEurasian*, we're featuring some basic phrases to help keep the language alive



Kristang	English Pronouncement	Meaning
bòs sabē papiä kristang	Bos sa-bay pa-piah kristang	Do you know how to speak kristang
ki böš sa nõmi	Ke bos sir noi-me	What is your name?
yo sa nõmi xxxxxxxx	Yeo sa noi me	My name is xxxxxxxx
eli to-du ta bai kē kazā mintu	Ale-lee to-do ter-bye ka-za min-tu	He too is going to the wedding party
ki- bānda	Ke- ban-da	Which / Where
ke- sorti	Ke sort - t	What kind?
ki-ora	Ke- or-ra	What time?
ja ku-mi	Ja kumi	Have you eaten?
ēli	Ali- le	He / she / they / them
yö	Yo	Me / I
nũs	Nose	We / all of us

If you know Kristang and would like to contribute, contact Revathhi at tel: 6447 1578; email: revathhi@eurasians.org

Tiger Tale

Eurasian David Miller is enjoying what most new authors only dream of – a bestselling debut novel. *Year of the Tiger*, which is based on historical facts, is currently on Kinokuniya's Top 10 International Best Sellers List. Here, he talks to *The New Eurasian*

How do you feel about *Year of the Tiger* being on Kinokuniya's Top 10 International Best Sellers List for a year?

It's a huge compliment to know that both books have been received positively; not just by Singaporeans but also by an international audience.

How did you become a writer?

My writing career started in the late '80s as a journalist with *The Straits Times*. I wrote a few commercial books and it took me only a month to pen *Year of the Tiger*. Initially, it was an experiment to see if I could do it. I put the manuscript away for two years before finally deciding to publish it with a grant from the Media Development Authority (MDA). My second novel, *Advent*, took six months to write.

What's your inspiration for the story?

Year of the Tiger was conceived by chance in early 2010. I was talking to a friend about a recent archaeological dig at the Padang in which gas masks from World War II were found. From there, our conversation moved to germ warfare and the mystery of Yamashita's Gold – the multi-billion dollar treasure looted across South-east Asia by the Imperial Japanese Army. The spectre of H1N1 virus was still fresh back then. Brewing these thoughts in my head, the storyline for the novel fell into place.

How would you describe your latest novel?

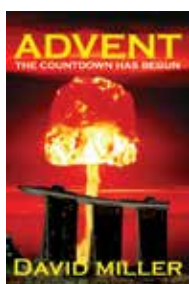
In *Advent*, a terrorist group smuggles components for a nuclear device into Singapore. An American task force is lured in and destroyed when the weapon is detonated on a desolate patch of land near Changi Naval Base. And just like *Year of the Tiger*, *Advent* has a sinister twist. My novels are somewhat controversial given their political and religious overtones and they need to be read with an open mind.

What can our readers expect in the near future?

I am working on my third and final part of the book series. It will take longer as the storyline is intricate and much research has to be done.

What's your message for the budding Eurasian author?

I would like to see more novels written by and about Eurasians in Singapore. Write about



what you know well; write about what fires your passion. But even good fiction requires an enormous amount of planning and research to make it believable. Don't be intimidated by the blank page for there is a story in us all.

Do you have any particular 'Eurasian' experiences you can tell us about?

Years ago, I interviewed Halford Boudewyn, a fellow Eurasian, and he related how he played a part in spying for the British during the Occupation years; how tough those times were; how the Japanese tried to exploit racial fault lines and the quiet resistance mounted in some quarters of the community.



David Miller is enjoying international success

“There is a story in us all and you are the only one who can tell it”

He spoke about the *agar-agar* press where ink on jelly was used as a crude copying device to print contraband flyers informing the people of the Allied victories overseas and giving them hope. I'm sure there are many other gripping accounts out there which may be lost forever. So if one of your readers has a compelling true-life story to tell, do drop me an email through my website www.dmbbooks.org.

In Tune with the Environment

Lady Earth songwriter and singer, 22-year-old Christiane Mikaela, talks about her love affair with music

Singapore's Eco Music Challenge, organised by the National Environment Agency to inspire people to work towards a cleaner and greener Singapore, was the perfect opportunity for Christiane Mikaela to showcase her unique voice and express appreciation for Singapore's environment. The challenge saw her scoop third prize in the competition.

The student, who is currently pursuing her psychology major at James Cook University and hopes to become a clinical psychologist, says her song's title of *Lady Earth* encapsulates the message of the song itself: that the earth should be treated like a lady. She says: "It's challenging to write non-cheesy songs that support a cause."

Participating in the Eco Music Challenge 2013 enabled Christiane to gain knowledge from key industry players.

She began singing at the age of three, and by six had already written her first song. By her teenage years, she had begun experimenting with a myriad of genres such as folk, swing, blues and jazz to create her songs.

Christiane says her family all have something to contribute to her singing career. "My uncle always gives me marketing advice from the perspective of a businessman. My aunt is an English teacher and she tells me how my diction or lyrics can be clearer. Sahanyee, my other aunt, is always my pillar of strength; she helps me to de-stress and reminds me to eat during performance days." Her father, she says, is her number one fan – and shares her music video with everyone he knows.

“It's challenging to write non-cheesy songs that support a cause”



COLOURFUL CELEBRATIONS IN BLACK AND WHITE

The 230 guests at the Concorde Hotel ballroom were dressed to the nines for the EA's annual year-end bash.

They enjoyed cocktails at the EA's elegantly themed black and white New Year's Eve Ball before Yvonne Pereira, the EA's 2nd Vice President, officially got the evening rolling with a warm welcome. An international buffet followed, with musical entertainment by Janelle Danker, DJ Bernard Jeremiah, Gerard Danker & MSG and Indonesia's 'Everly Brothers', Fauzi & Fauzan. Emcees Michelle Tessensohn and Charlene Lee kept up the party pace.

Thanks to generous sponsors, especially Best Western Hotels & Resorts, 21 winners walked away with fabulous prizes from the lucky draw, including holidays to Phuket and Bangkok, a Samsung phone and Tangs vouchers.

As midnight neared, Old Father Time (aka Paul Rodrigues) signalled that 2013 was at a close. The jubilant crowd ushered in the New Year – and in true Eurasian style continued dancing into the small hours.

