

# THE neweurasian

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JAN - MAR 2020

*Love  
and  
Strong Bonds*



Wish List 2020 • FSS Christmas Lunch Like Never Before • Meet Phyllis Perreau

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Off to a good start! EA President Alexius Pereira (seated 5th from left) at the EA New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance with (from left) Doris The, The Ban Khi, Dorothy Tessensohn, Annie Pereira, Lester Low and Christian Eber (both guys behind the President), Yvonne Pereira, Irene Quek and Patricia Leung.

Dear fellow members of the EA

In 2019, we celebrated our Association's 100th Anniversary with a flurry of events showcasing our heritage, culture and the strength of our community. Key highlights included our Eurasian Festival in July and of course the opening of our revamped Eurasian Heritage Gallery in September.

I would like to thank the members who represented EA at the SAFTEA (Selangor and Federal Territory EA) events in Kuala Lumpur, and all those who celebrated the late Rex Shelley's literary achievements at the Singapore Writers Festival. These were great instances of EA reaching out.

Congratulations to EA Patron Mr Herman R. Hochstadt on receiving the NUS Distinguished Alumni award, and Quentin Pereira on the opening of a Quentin's branch in Sentosa. Well deserved!

As we begin a new decade and EA's next 100 years, our first TNE issue in 2020 covers key stories that fall in with EA's three pillars: Family Support Services, Education, and Community Development.

This issue showcases events that took place during our festive season, including

celebrating it with the less privileged in our community, and highlighting Eurasian youth like Shawn Dillon Siew and Ethan Pinto who have done us proud.

Once again, I would like to invite Eurasians of all ages to step forward to volunteer with EA in our many programmes. And, as always, do feel free to share your ideas with us on how we can better contribute to the community. Let us work together in reaching EA's bicentennial in 2119!

If you haven't already done so, please do visit the Eurasian Heritage Gallery – and invite all your friends! It's just the place to know more about our unique community.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Management Committee, Board of Trustees and donors, Secretariat and not forgetting our numerous volunteers for their support and dedication to EA.

Wishing everyone an amazing year!

  
Dr Alexius Pereira

**ON THE COVER**

The Schoolings have every reason to be proud, and make us proud to be Eurasian. Parents May and Colin have raised a wonderful son, Joseph – an Olympic champion who is not only gracious but also a good sportsman, taking on with a sense of commitment all the challenges that come with competitive swimming. Read what Colin and Joseph have to say on how Eurasians can forge ahead, on Page 12. PHOTOGRAPHED BY SANDRA GALISTAN

AN OPUS CREATIVE

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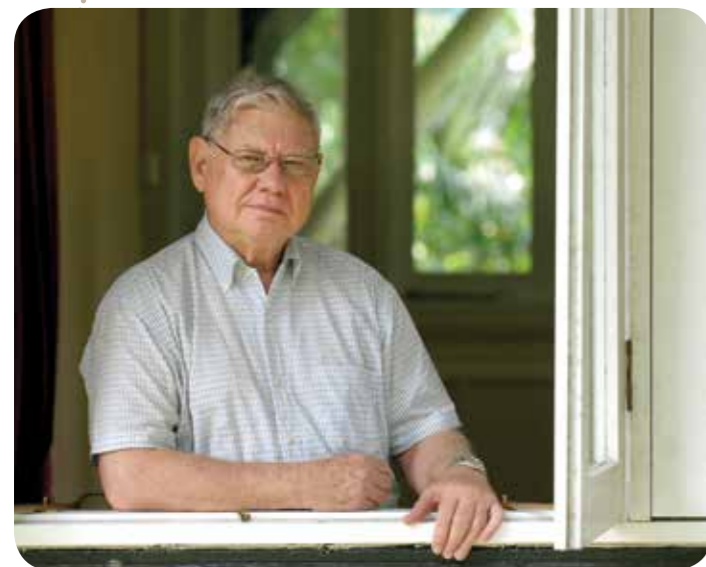
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## Congratulations!

To Herman Hochstadt, recipient of the NUS Distinguished Alumni Service Award.

The Eurasian Association Singapore would like to congratulate our Patron, Mr Herman Hochstadt on receiving the NUS Distinguished Alumni Service Award in November 2019.

Mr Hochstadt is a former top civil servant who worked in various government ministries. A leader in the corporate world, he subsequently became Singapore's high commissioner to a number of African countries.

The Distinguished Alumni Service Awards were conferred on six outstanding NUS alumni. Ms Indranee Rajah, Minister with the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Finance and Education, was one of these six NUS alumni who have distinguished themselves

and made an impact in their respective fields. They have rendered excellent and sustained service to NUS, its predecessor institutions and the community.

## EA member? Enjoy a guided tour and a gift!

In celebration of our centenary last year, the EA organised complimentary guided tours for its members from October to December. EA members also showed their membership card to redeem a free limited edition ceramic coaster, which highlights the 'Eurasian tile' designed by Andre D'Rozario and is featured in the Eurasian Heritage Gallery.

Now here's a piece of good news! The redemption period for this beautiful coaster when you visit the Gallery has been extended to 31 March 2020, so don't miss this offer. See you soon!

See the back page of this magazine for more information on our Gallery.



EA docent Petrina Edema explaining the exhibits to fellow EA members at the Eurasian Heritage Gallery.

Redemption period for this beautiful coaster has been extended to 31 March 2020



## PROMOTING OUR CULTURE through vibrant dance performances

The EA Dance Troupe gave audiences a glimpse into our culture by performing folk dances at People's Association's One Community Fiesta at both the Serangoon Community Club and Hougang Community Club, and at EA's FSS Centenary Christmas Party held at Grand Waterfront Copthorne Hotel. FSS families were happy to see the vibrant dancers decked out in the traditional Portuguese Eurasian dance costume.



Left: The EA Dance Troupe dancing the popular Jinkli Nona at Serangoon Community Club on 8 December 2019. Right: Moving to the rhythmic beat of the Ritmico Ensemble with Mark de Souza on vibraphone, his wife on trumpet and their two sons on percussion.



## SINGAPORE WRITERS FESTIVAL 2019

### Honouring Rex Shelley

Singapore Writers Festival honoured author Rex Shelley as the Literary Pioneer for 2019. The Arts House also held an exhibition on the life of the late Mr Shelley, best known for his award-winning quartet of stories, which includes *The Shrimp People*. Titled *The Gentle Observer*, the exhibition delved into his life as author, father and Singapore Eurasian, covering aspects such as his literary influences, love for Japanese culture, music, silk painting and favourite food, among other interests.

The last chapter of the exhibition booklet titled *Why He Wrote* outlines Shelley's belief that it was vital for these stories to be told as part of Singapore's historical narrative, especially for Eurasians. For example, the story of Bahau (mentioned in *People of the Pear Tree*) may be familiar to Eurasians, but Shelley wanted not just Eurasians but all Singaporeans to know and understand it. One of his aims for writing these books was to put on record the Eurasian community's way of life and their way of thinking.

Ms Sim Ann, Senior Minister of State for Communications and Information (centre), son of Rex Shelley Mike Shelley (top), and EA's Heritage Chairperson Julia D'Silva (2nd from right) at the opening of *The Gentle Observer* exhibition at the Arts House.



EA MEN'S SOCCER

# August-December Games

Committee Members: Christopher Pereira and Lyle Cordeiro (Convenor)  
Assisted by Gerard Goh from the Secretariat



Proud to hold the Singapore flag up high at the SAFTEA match.



Left: SAFTEA Centennial Football Tournament Players. Right: EA Men's Soccer team played against the Singapore Exchange (SGX) team at Hougang Stadium on 31 October 2019.

EA vs Singapore Cricket Club (SCC) Pads	1 - 3	Loss
SAFTEA Centennial Football Tournament: EA Singapore Team 2 vs Penang EA	0 - 3	Loss
SAFTEA Centennial Football Tournament: EA Singapore Team 1 vs SAFTEA	1 - 1	Loss
SAFTEA Centennial Football Tournament: EA Singapore Team 1 vs EA Singapore Team 2	0 - 0	Draw
Team Zero	0 - 7	Loss
MnM FC	2 - 4	Loss
Singapore Exchange (SGX)	1 - 3	Loss
Essex	1 - 1	Draw
Grace Independent Baptist Church (GIBC)	3 - 2	Win
Lakmana FC	2 - 2	Draw



EA Men's Soccer team after a friendly game against Singapore Cricket Club (SCC) Pads at the Padang on 27 November 2019.



Left: EA Men's Soccer team played against the Essex team at Catholic Junior College on 6 October 2019. Right: EA Men's Soccer team played against Grace Independent Baptist Church (GIBC) at Bedok South Secondary School on 28 September 2019 and won the game with a score of 3 to 2.

## Lyle Cordeiro on the SAFTEA Football Tournament

EA Men's Soccer Team Singapore took part in the **Selangor and Federal Territory Eurasian Association (SAFTEA)** Football Tournament in Kuala Lumpur in November 2019.

In Game 1, our Soccer Team 2 was eliminated by Penang EA in a 3 to 0 score line. In Game 2, our Soccer Team 1 drew a score of 1 to 1 against SAFTEA but was eliminated during penalty shootouts. Penang EA went home with the Trophy when they defeated SAFTEA in the finals.

Here, Men's Soccer Team member Lyle Cordeiro talks about his experience at the SAFTEA Football Tournament.



Lyle Cordeiro (in black jersey) and Sanford Webb.

*In three words, Lyle, how would you describe our EA Men's Soccer Team's experience during this SAFTEA Tournament?*

**Bonding, community-building, camaraderie.**

*What was the camaraderie like playing with other Eurasian teams?*

**Our members have already been encouraged by the overwhelming number of Eurasian males (veterans and youth) coming together to form our EA men's soccer squad to represent Singapore Eurasians in Singapore. It was even more encouraging and exhilarating for us to be further joined by our brethren from two Malaysian states. The tournament was played in the spirit of brotherhood, yet at a competitive standard.**

*Besides the tournament, what did you guys get up to?*

**Other than attending the Match Day and Fellowship Dinner as a community, the 29 players and accompanying 27 supporters of mostly family members spent much of the weekend enjoying great food and entertainment in the Brickfields area. There was a lot of similar bonding during our trip together between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. I would comfortably say that the Singapore delegation was the most vocal and assertive during the SAFTEA Centennial Football Tournament formalities.**

*Are you looking to expand our current soccer team? If so, what are the requirements and when are the practices?*

**We now have 89 players registered, of which 66 are moderate-to-very active, playing regularly together weekly and bi-weekly during friendly matches.**

*What are the EA Men's Soccer Team's goals for 2020?*

**Our initiative continues to grow and we endeavour to start building our youth sub-squad. This year, we aim to organise training sessions among the squad even when there are no friendly games scheduled. Included in our bucket list is securing a home ground.**



BALUT

# IN IT TO WIN IT – 2019 ROUNDUP

**In-House Balut**

The 7th Round of the In-House Balut Tournament was held on 11 September. The champion was Deborah Branson with 640 points.

The 8th and Final Round was played on 9 October. The tournament stretched from March till October and the winners were determined by their Best Six Rounds' Scores out of Eight Rounds' Scores. The October Champion was Therese Thompson with 627 points.

**The Year-End results are as follows:**

2019 Top Winners:	
Champion: Philip Cordeiro	3,730 points
2nd: Joyce Cordeiro	3,701 points
3rd: Peter Rodrigues	3,698 points
4th: Therese Thompson	3,643 points
5th: Patrick Ng	3,603 points
Hi Individual Score (Single Game):	
1st: Deborah Branson	156 points
2nd: Patrick Fernando	155 points
3rd: Philip Cordeiro	153 points
Hi Individual Aggregate (Single Game):	
1st: Peter Rodrigues	708 points
2nd: Philip Cordeiro	681 points
3rd: Joyce Cordeiro	678 points

**35th Chivas Regal 2019 Inter-Club Balut Competition**

The 5th Round was hosted by Singapore Indian Association on 18 September. Nineteen teams (76 players) from six clubs participated in this competition which saw EA Team 1 and Team 2 in 10th and 11th positions respectively.

The 6th and Final Round was hosted by Tanglin Club on 16 October. Twenty-one teams (84 players) from six clubs took part. EA Team 1 was placed in 16th position with 2,223 points, and EA Team 2 was placed in 20th position with 2,151 points. EA's Philip Cordeiro from Team 1 was awarded the High Straight Spot Prize.

The 2019 Overall Champion Team was SIA Team 2 with 2,526 points.



**Interport Balut Competition**

The 39th Interport Balut Competition was hosted by The Kinabalu Club in East Malaysia on 24 November. Thirty teams participated in the competition. Therese Thompson, S. K. John, Hyacinth D'Silva and Rita Sammy from Miri Balut Club represented EA as a team in the competition. The champion team was from Singapore Indian Association with 3,321 points while EA's team was placed in 18th position with 2,983 points.



From left: S. K. John, Hyacinth D'Silva, Yvonne Pereira, Rita Sammy and Therese Thompson.



PERFORMING ARTS CHAPTER



Saturday 26 October 2019 was the last PAC concert for the year – but don't fret, there will be more to come in 2020! Organised by Yvonne Pereira and Mel Ferdinands, the concerts are held three times a year to bring more fellow Eurasians and their friends together.

At this last concert for 2019, attendees were entertained by Muzik Line, Wild West from Indonesia, The De Cotta Brothers, and Rani & Mel. DJ Judeson Pereira set the ball rolling with these musicians and welcomed Eurasian actors Sofia Dendroff and Jason Godfrey from hit TV show, KIN. They joined performers on stage to sing that fave, *Take Me Home, Country Road*.



SPECIAL EVENTS

# CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES



The annual Christmas Light-Up Dinner & Dance on 7 December put everyone in a festive mood. From the time the Christmas lights came on at 7pm – when voices filled the air at the Eurasian Community House – to the last dance at 11.30pm, it was clear the partygoers

were having a good time. Guests enjoyed dancing to Muzik Line, which played all their favorite tunes. What better way to spread Yuletide cheer and of course work off the calories after that delectable spread of Eurasian Christmas dishes prepared by Quentin's Restaurant!



Clockwise from top: Filling the open foyer of the Eurasian Community House with voices singing well-loved Christmas carols. Perfect season to spend with friends and family. Fun and games at the party.

# A great party with Santa!



It's nice to see children's faces light up at Christmas! At the Eurasian Community House, there were happy faces aplenty when children of all races from the four self-help groups got together for the annual Children's Christmas Treat. Joining in the fun with the Eurasian community, our special guests between the ages of three to ten had a fantastic time, which was made more enjoyable with performances by The Amazing ToyBox and the antics of balloon sculptor Russell Oliveiro.

Music, games, and activities that included balloon sculpting spread the Christmas message of love and goodwill. To celebrate this season of giving too, Santa and his pretty Santarina (Percy Shepherdson and Tammy Desker) stood patiently by the fireplace, armed with great gifts and ready to wish one and all a Very Merry Christmas!

The Children's Christmas Treat Sub-Committee would like to thank Focus Network Agency for the chocolates, Quentin Pereira for the popcorn and all volunteers who helped to make this event a success.



Happy faces at the Children's Christmas Treat!

SPECIAL EVENTS

# HAPPY 2020!



Those at the party caught the dancing fever as soon as the lively music came on.

It was a glamorous evening, complete with twinkling stars, at Orchard Hotel Ballroom on 31 December. The occasion? EA's annual New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance, which saw members of the Eurasian community and their friends dressed to the nines for the Glitz & Glam theme.

Emcee Christian Eber got the crowds enthused right from the start. Complementing the festivities were Muzik Line, DJ Bernard Jeremiah and special guest band Wildebeats. These musically talented Eurasian youths were a welcome addition to usher in the new year. Speaking of which, Percy Shepherdson channelled Father Time perfectly!

For foodies, one of the highlights of the evening was the sumptuous international buffet spread that came with free flow of beer, wine and soft drinks. For those who like a game

of chance, there was an opportunity for each guest at five lucky tables to win big money, courtesy of Father Time Percy who donated the Big Sweep tickets. We hope that at least some of them were visited by Lady Luck! Besides the lucky 50, ten guests took home a wealth of prizes, thanks to our sponsors and donors. The top three prizes of fantastic tour packages were donated by Mr Glenn de Souza of Choice Hotels Asia-Pacific, Thailand.

When the clock struck twelve, 500 gold, silver and midnight-blue balloons tumbled down from the ceiling, showering guests singing the traditional Auld Lang Syne, while others did the conga, hokey pokey and what have you. Great fun!

*The organising committee would like to thank all sponsors and guests who helped make the New Year's Eve D&D such a success.*



# WISH LIST 2020

What do you wish for the Eurasian Community this year and beyond?

The Eurasian community was always known to produce scholars, administrators, musicians, politicians, technocrats and high-performance athletes in various sports when I was growing up. I pray that this trend of our community making outstanding contributions to the nation will not cease. Most of all, I wish for love and strong bonds among us always!

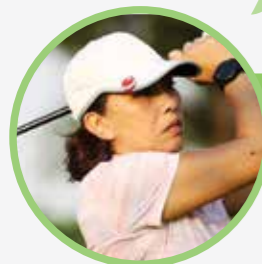
– COLIN SCHOOLING, DIRECTOR, THE SCHOOLING COMPANY

## The Schoolings



My hope for 2020 is that Eurasians will have more to contribute to Singapore, bring out the best in others, and be able to share ourselves so as to touch the lives of those in need. – JOSEPH SCHOOLING, 2016 OLYMPICS GOLD MEDALLIST

It is heartening to see that our small community has continued to be vibrant and relevant in multiracial Singapore. It is, however, important that all Eurasians continue to be afforded the opportunities that have made it possible for us to rise and thrive. To this end perhaps all of us who have enjoyed some measure of success in our own lives should give some thought to how we can ensure that no one within our community is left behind.



**Claressa Monteiro**  
Music and Creative Director, 89.3 Money FM

Now that we have passed the 100-year mark, let's focus on accomplishing greater things by our bicentennial! I look forward to seeing our Eurasian youth stepping forward and contributing more, not only within our community but also as potential National Community Leaders so we can continue the efforts and legacies of our Eurasian pioneers such as John Le Cain, George Bogaars, Joe Conceicao and Alfred Fox, among others.



**Edward D'Silva** JP PBM BBM  
Senior Advisor at SAA Architects Pte Ltd

Eurasians of the future will be more recognised as a race in Singapore and around the world when we have more achievements in the area of sports, the arts, culinary, politics, entertainment and much more.

**Kenneth Francisco**  
Executive Chef/Owner of PinkSalt  
by Faveur Food Concepts



The world is 'getting smaller' with the advent of modern technology and travel. There will be more mixed marriages, especially where Europe meets Asia. Eurasians have always been a bridge across the races. Though we are a small group on the national scale, we can be a formidable force to help communities understand and respect each other. We only need to realise our special place in society. Have a great 2020!

**Lanette De Conceicao**  
Homemaker

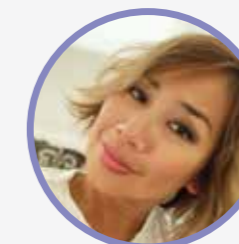


I hope for the Eurasian community to look forward to new blood! The world is getting smaller, more integrated, and with more mixed marriages, our bloodline will become even more diverse, with new cultures and personalities. It's essentially what being Eurasian is all about – unity through diversity. I hope we become a special beacon for the ever more important message of acceptance.

GOLD 905 has quite a few Eurasians helming the airwaves! Besides myself on LIVE! with Mike (Kasem), Vernetta and Gurmit (Singh), there's Catherine Robert, Mr X and of course Brian Richmond. And with Mike, an American married to a Singaporean, there'll likely be a future Eurasian!

Best wishes and love to all!

**Vernetta Lopez**  
Mediacorp GOLD 905 DJ



Yo sperah nus sa komunidadadi sempri fikah alegri kung saudi, abrasah tudu sorti di jenti Eurasianu, tudu sorti di jenti Singapura. Yo sperah nus sa krengkrensa beng predeh mas di olotu sa istoria kung kultura, gadrah olotu sa aboh-dizaboh sa ardansa pra futura.

I hope our community will continue to remain joyful and healthy, welcoming everyone who is Eurasian, and everyone who is Singaporean. I also hope that new generations of Eurasians will continue to learn more about their history and culture, and preserve the inheritance and stories of their grandparents and great-grandparents for the future.



**Kevin Martens Wong**  
Founder/Director, Kodrah Kristang  
kodrah.kristang.com

I envision that Eurasians will not be considered 'Others' as we have grown into an emerging race with our own rich history that helped to build Singapore.



**Veron Ann Lincoln**  
State Registered Nurse



Singapore Recreation Club & The Eurasian Association

# CRYSTAL CUP GAMES BOWLING TOURNAMENT

EA is looking for 10 to 20 players to join our team!  
Tournament Date: 1 March 2020 - 2pm

Interested individuals can contact  
**Hazel Soe** at [hazel@eurasians.org](mailto:hazel@eurasians.org)  
to register and to find out more details.

## FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

### FSS Christmas Lunch like never before!



2019 being EA's Centennial Year, Christmas FSS Lunch called for something extra special. FSS Sub-Committee member Misha Monteiro was tasked with finding a hotel that could host a lunch that would not cost more than one held at the ECH. Thanks to skilful negotiating on his part, Misha delivered. And what an event it turned out to be! Besides the first-time swish venue of Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, there was live music by the Music Men, lively emceeing by Paul Rodrigues dressed as Santa's Elf, and a generous flow of drinks, courtesy of Straits Wine Company.

The sumptuous lunch was followed by games with the promise of prizes, and a Lucky Draw. First Prize: A two-night staycation at Ramada by Wyndham Singapore at Zhongshan Park, courtesy

of Mr Glenn de Souza, CEO of KosMopolitan Hospitality Co Ltd. What a treat! Plus every guest got at least one prize, and every registered family received a \$150 hamper right at their doorstep.

FSS Chairman Edmund Rodrigues thanked everyone for the success of this FSS Christmas Lunch: Organising Chairperson Ms Christine Pereira for seeing to every detail; Misha for securing the hotel and its services, and gifts from sponsors; executive case worker Ram for a job well done, and everyone within and without the FSS committee. Said Edmund: "FSS Team 2019 was an extraordinary team! Now to look forward to 2020, the first year of EA's road to its Bicentennial with renewed vigour, and to carry out a full agenda with the support of this dedicated committee."



FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

# We are FSS



Family Support Services (FSS) provides assistance and guidance to Eurasians from underprivileged backgrounds, especially the elderly and families at risk. The welfare branch of the Eurasian Association, FSS is the brainchild of EA's former president, the late Bryan Davenport. Mr Davenport placed utmost importance on serving the community and the underprivileged among them, especially those experiencing financial difficulties.

Through various programmes and funds, the FSS helps the Eurasian community manage life's difficult and unforeseen circumstances. FSS initiatives aim to build self-confidence in beneficiaries so they can overcome such obstacles. Friends of the FSS, who are volunteers, deliver monthly food rations and basic necessities to identified homes.

Here, two volunteers, Ms Christine Pereira and Mr Misha Monteiro, tell us how their FSS journey began and what their responsibilities are.



**When did you start volunteering with the FSS team and what motivated you to join them?**

**CHRISTINE:** I started volunteering in 2010, took a break in 2015, but returned in 2017 when FSS came under the very capable chairmanship of Edmund Rodrigues. I retired from the workforce in 2010 and was looking at various charities where I could lend a helping hand, and what better organisation than our EA!

**MISHA:** I joined FSS in 2016 shortly after Edmund Rodrigues assumed the FSS Chair. I attended his first committee meeting after receiving an email from him and our case worker Ram explaining the purpose of the FSS and its goals to support the less fortunate in our community. Until then, I was not even aware that the EA participated in social welfare. I am happy to say I have been actively involved in FSS ever since that first meeting.

**Describe a memorable experience as a volunteer.**

**CHRISTINE:** Every time our FSS clients have a smile on their faces during the events and lunches that we organise for them!

**MISHA:** There have been many but the very first meeting calls for a special mention. Despite me being the youngest one present, Edmund was open and keen to listen to my suggestion of overhauling our Befrienders Programme to bring it more in line with other Voluntary Welfare Organisations (VWOs). I was given the task of writing a White Paper outlining the general purpose of the Befrienders, its specific context to our community and the feasibility of several programmes of reform. After a process of consultation and research, I am glad my final proposal was accepted and adopted by the committee. It is now in the hands of a more experienced committee member, namely Martha Fernandez, to implement it.

That journey of contributing to the policy of our FSS held invaluable learning points and was an experience not many

young people would have had available to them. To me, the FSS under Edmund is an endeavour where youth and their ideas are encouraged and fostered in our objective to build a growing, ever more capable FSS focused on delivering the best support for the underprivileged in our community. With our framework of rendering all possible aid on the basis of 'need not want', the FSS works tirelessly to achieve its motto, No One Left Behind.

**What have you learned about the underprivileged in our Eurasian community since joining FSS?**

**CHRISTINE:** To be honest, there are more underprivileged Eurasians than we think. And the reason we are unable to reach out and assist all of them is because they are hesitant to come forward, not wanting others to know about their plight. I would personally like to tell everyone in need who comes forward that our FSS team will treat them with utmost respect and dignity, and will handle every situation with confidentiality.

**MISHA:** The circumstances facing the underprivileged are generally diverse and unique in each individual case. And while no one wants to find themselves in need, circumstances are sometimes beyond their control. That's why it's so important that everyone in the community bands together. It's also vital that the organisation responsible for administering support does so with the long-term goal of helping each beneficiary of aid to work towards being self-reliant wherever possible.

Another thing I have learned in my time with the FSS is that many individuals from other communities are unaware that there are Eurasians in need. The misconception that all members of our community are well off is pervasive. So, even more so now, Eurasians need to band together to show support for our underprivileged lest they be forgotten by the wider society.



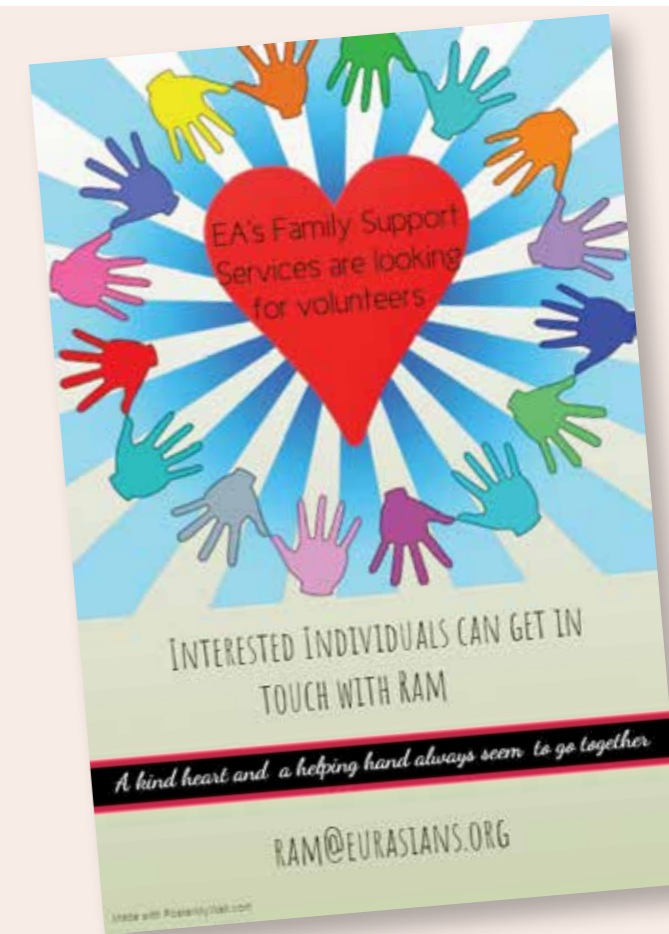
**What are your goals for our FSS team for 2020?**

**CHRISTINE:** My personal goal is to contribute effectively to the Befrienders Programme. We hope to recruit more volunteers to fulfil its intent, whereby we will increase visits to our FSS clients, spend more quality time with them and basically be a friend to them. We are presently working on a surprise item in tandem with the Befrienders Programme, which will be revealed in the April-June issue of *The New Eurasian*!

**MISHA:** Ever since Ed took the Chair and assembled his team, FSS has embarked on a phased programme of reform and expansion to better meet the changing needs of our community. It's my great honour to be a part of that journey.

In 2020, I see the FSS focusing its energies on more, new initiatives and the formal roll-out of a new sustainable Befrienders group. In addition to supplementing our community outreach with new ideas and working harder than ever before in community building, the FSS will also become more accountable to our donors, supporters and beneficiaries of aid. The implementation of Protocols for our Case Review (CARE) Team has been my most recent goal. It will ensure an equitable and universal standard of care, regardless of who sits on the committee.

Moving forward, under Ed's leadership, I'd like to say that I am honoured to be a part of an invigorated team which takes its charge of delivering the best possible support to our community with utmost seriousness. I hope that in future more members of our community give their time and energy to our cause. We are a small community, but we have a history of punching above our weight. Social welfare can and should be an example of that.



## BRINGING FESTIVE CHEER!

Quite a number of the less financially privileged Eurasian community live in one or two-room rental HDB flats. Unfortunately, most of these homes badly need a makeover, such as painting and a good scrub. The reason the tenants of these flats are unable to carry out home improvements is that they may be physically unable or lack financial resources.

Thankfully, three Eurasian families and individuals living in these rental flats enjoyed a home makeover when volunteers from Malay Muslim Organisation, Jamiyah Halfway House, extended a helping hand to the Eurasian Association. The beneficiaries, whose names were submitted to EA in October and nominated soon after, got their home spruced up in time for Christmas.

After renovations, it was time to hand over the flat to the grateful tenants. The handover ceremony on 21 December was graced by Mr Amrin Amin, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Home Affairs and Health. Also present were committee members of Jamiyah Halfway House, the volunteers who worked on the improvements, and members of the Community Development Council.

The handover to Mr Victor Louis De Foe (pictured) had a decidedly Eurasian touch. FSS Chairperson Edmund Rodrigues and case worker Mr Ram were accompanied by a young Santa and a choir led by Ms Melanie Smith. With Mr Gerry Pereira on the guitar, the group sang a lovely medley of songs, much to everyone's delight.

The boys from Jamiyah Halfway House did a marvellous job of transforming the flat. Walls were repainted a pleasant sky blue and adorned with framed pictures and a wall clock. Clutter was cleared, floors were cleaned and plumbing and drainage pipes were polished until they shone!

In addition to enjoying these home improvements, this particular tenant was asked to make one request, and his wish for a microwave oven was promptly granted.

In the words of the tenant: "The flat looks very much like a condo now! I am very proud and happy." One could really feel his happiness and deep gratitude. It was a truly happy start to the festive season. Thank you, Jamiyah Halfway House!

EDUCATION

# Project Ray of Hope

The annual Project Ray of Hope ceremony on 30 November was a little more special this time of year. Held at the Eurasian Community House, the usual formal ceremony was transformed into a festive occasion when parents and students gathered for a day of fun, games and a delicious meal provided by Delizio Catering.

Popular and Bata vouchers were a welcome gift. Funded by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, they went to less privileged students to help defray education costs. Presenting the vouchers to more than 80 students was Mr Derek Scully, member of the EA Education Sub-Committee.



Left: Students showing their artwork for Chingay Tiles. Below: Enjoying the Heritage Trail in the Eurasian Heritage Gallery.



Left: Volunteer Samantha Santa Maria teaching them the Jinkli Nona. Below from left: GOH Mr Derek Scully, member of the EA Education Sub-Committee, with students from Primary, Secondary and Tertiary levels.



# Code in the Community 2.0 Launch

An eight-year-old Eurasian boy found his passion of coding after attending classes to learn the Scratch coding language. The Code in the Community graduation ceremony was held on Saturday, 4 January where Aiden McEwan, a 2019 ECF award winner, was recognised as one of the outstanding students of Google's Code in the Community 2.0.

**Congratulations on your achievements, Aiden!**



Captions



# Coming up during the March Holidays: Fun with Forensics!

Put on your lab coats and come join us for a fun-filled hands-on session as Junior Forensic Scientists! Explore the intriguing world of forensic science as you immerse in various activities and get to hear from practising Forensic Scientists about what they really do.

**Date: 18 March 2020**  
**Time: 10 am - 1 pm**  
**Venue: Eurasian Community House**

**To register, email [natalie@eurasians.org](mailto:natalie@eurasians.org)**



# Shawn Dillon Siew

Shawn Dillon Siew, a Eurasian-Chinese, was diagnosed with autism 16 years ago when he was slightly more than three years old. Now almost 20, he indulges in hobbies such as football (he is a fan of Manchester United) and music (he's learning a few musical instruments). Shawn has not let autism get in his way at all. He recently won four awards: Outstanding Trainee in General Vocation & Office Skills (Middle); Outstanding Award in Mathematics (Functional); Outstanding Trainee in Baking (Intermediate); and Best in Information Technology (IT). We quizzed him about his accomplishments and motivation.

**Shawn, you have won multiple awards. Congratulations! Tell us, what do you plan next?**

I want to continue studying in Pathlight School for three more years in the Vocational Track Senior Years Programme and earn a NITEC (National ITE\* Certificate) or WSQ (Workforce Skills Qualifications). I worked very hard to qualify for the Vocational Track Senior Years programme and made every effort to check my work, and I was blessed with these four awards.

**What is people's main misunderstanding of you and autism?**

Many people have wondered why I do not speak Mandarin even though my dad is Chinese. I get very frustrated because I cannot speak the language. People often forget that people with autism may struggle with learning a language as well,

\* Institute of Technical Education

which is a secondary deficit. The primary deficits of autism are communication and social deficits.

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?**

I hope to be working in an autism-friendly worksite that Pathlight School eventually posts me to. I want to earn an income. I also hope to receive support from job coaches so that I will not be stressed out by my work and have meltdowns.

**Do you have any words of encouragement to share with other Eurasian youth who may have learning difficulties?**

My favourite quote is "God doesn't require us to succeed, he only requires that you try," by Saint Mother Teresa. It is important to never give up and to keep trying!

## YOUTH

# Join us and make a difference!\*

We are looking to extend our diverse Youth Sub-Committee and would love for you to join us!

The EA Youth Committee is made up of a passionate and energetic group of young Eurasians committed to helping our Eurasian youth realise their fullest potential and aspirations. Through our activities, we seek to build a pool of young Eurasians with a sense of purpose to serve the community.

Last year, EA Youth organised a series of exciting activities. These included educational and career development workshops such as Find Your Ikigai SG, and a dialogue on careers in the technology sector. There were opportunities for youth to give back to various meaningful causes, one of which was our Youth Gives Back event at the Eurasian Festival to reach out to children with chronic illnesses (in partnership with Club Rainbow). The team also organised meaningful social events and talks, including the second edition of World Mental Health Awareness Day at the EA.

The EA Youth Committee continues to organise a variety of events, starting off with a youth dialogue and networking session with Eurasian MP Mr Christopher de Souza on 1 February 2020 (2.30pm-5pm) at the Singapore Recreation Club. Besides engaging with Chris, there will be opportunities for our youth to mingle with young working professionals from different industries.

EA Youth Chairman Christopher Gordon encourages Eurasian youth from all backgrounds to step forward and connect with EA

Youth. He says: "We have something for everyone, whether you are a tertiary student or a young working professional, whether you are interested to volunteer, acquire new knowledge or grow leadership skills. Throughout 2020, we will be launching many exciting programmes – dialogues with national leaders, career talks on entrepreneurship, volunteering opportunities, social events and even the chance to film and produce digital content and videos related to the Eurasian community."

Jared Bateman, a regular participant of EA Youth's activities over the past year, says it has built his confidence and leadership skills tremendously. He is now a community leader with EA Youth, driving purposeful projects to benefit the community. "As a beneficiary of the young Eurasian leadership programme, I have developed my leadership skills as well as confidence. When presented with the opportunity to utilise the skills set honed from the programme, I seized it without hesitation.

"As part of my development, I helped to lead, plan and execute a Young Conversation Scientists Programme (with Conservation International) to bring the message of environmental conservation to Eurasian schoolchildren. It has been a meaningful experience where I have been able to put my leadership skills to the test. This opportunity has allowed me to further develop myself as a Eurasian leader and give back to the community."

\* Page 21 has the details - Calling All Eurasian Youth

# Ethan's Love for Soccer

Ethan Henry Pinto is a Singapore Sports School Student and National Footballer who is currently preparing for the Asian Football Confederation in Hong Kong. We ask him about his journey and love of the game.



**Nathan, tell us... when did you begin playing football?**

I was introduced to football and was taught to play the game at the tender age of five by my older brother Antonio. He brought me along to play with his friends almost every day. My supportive parents enrolled me in a private football academy when they saw my intense interest in the sport. My whole family loves football.

**Which football player did you look up to before you started playing professionally?**

When I was young, I used to enjoy watching Cristiano Ronaldo and Messi, and tried to copy whatever they did on the pitch. But these past two years, the person I have come to respect and look up to is my sports school coach, ex-national player Isa Halim. He is always motivating and pushing us during training and in games. I lost the drive to play competitive football in early 2018. This changed when Isa took over the coaching of our sports school team. He made me realise my full playing potential.

**What are some pros and cons about playing football in Singapore?**

It's a great time to be a youth footballer in Singapore as I believe our country is trying to push our standards to a higher level and more resources will be poured in to groom the youths.

The challenging part is balancing full-time training with studies. In the national setup, we are required to train at least six times a week as a team. Because I am in Sports School, it is slightly easier to manage both, as our school's environment is more suited to student athletes, and classes are customised especially during tournament season.

**Which overseas team do you aspire to play for?**

For me, the ultimate dream is to play for any club in Europe, but if I had a choice it would be Liverpool. I am a big fan!

**What advice would you give other young Eurasians who are keen to play professionally?**

Train and work hard on the field. Always give your best in a game. Never lose hope.

**What's it like balancing football training, studying and being a youth in Singapore?**

It's tough at times, having to be in a competitive mindset almost 11 months in a year. I am involved in both international and local competitions during this period, so I need to put in extra effort to catch up in the classroom. As with all team sports, we need to constantly train together, almost every day, to gel as a unit which in turn affects our own social life. For the sake of football, we often sacrifice spending time with friends, taking holidays with family and just living like a normal teenager. But all this becomes worth it when I get a chance to represent Singapore.

**Where do you see yourself professionally in five years?**

Within these five years, I will work very hard – improving my ability on the pitch, building myself up physically and mentally – to earn a call-up from the Singapore U22 squad or our senior national team. I hope to complete my studies and NS, so as to be free for trials overseas if and when the opportunity arises.

**EA has its own football team. Would you like to share some words of encouragement with them?**

All in, the EA team mates look great. I have been following them on Facebook, my father has a few friends in the team. I would say it's the true spirit of football, bringing everyone together and having fun no matter the age or skill set. I sincerely hope to join them in a kickabout one day if they would have me.



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- ▶ **APRIL 2020**  
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## Calling All Eurasian YOUTH!



Passionate about issues related to the environment and sustainability?

Looking for a platform to make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate?

Good with words and have a flair for storytelling?

Keen on furthering your leadership and mentorship skills?

If this sounds like YOU, come join the Eurasian Association's youth team! We have many meaningful projects that you could participate in.

Contact Vini @ 6447 1578 (ext 212) or email: [vinitha@eurasians.org](mailto:vinitha@eurasians.org) to find out more.

## EURASIAN COMMUNITY FUND AWARDS 2020



Applications for ECF 2020 are open from now till 30 April 2020!

Find out more about the ECF award ceremony on our website and download the forms to apply:

<https://www.eurasians.org.sg/education/awards-and-scholarships/>

Contact Natalie @ 6447 1578 (ext 205) or email: [natalie@eurasians.org](mailto:natalie@eurasians.org) for more information

OUR STORIES

# Meet Phyllis Perreau, she turns 101 this year



At the Eurasian Festival on 27 July 2019, the Eurasian community was curious to know who the elegant woman on stage with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong was. When told that she was 100, they could hardly believe it. She looked amazing for her age!

Phyllis Clara Perreau was born on 18 October 1919 in Sri Aman (formerly Simanggang), Sarawak, East Malaysia. Her parents Martin and Gertrude Nanang were native Ibans – her father was one of the first Ibans to be ordained as an Anglican Minister.



When she turned 10, Phyllis boarded and was educated at St Mary's Anglican School in Kuching. She showed academic excellence and could have become a doctor except that it would have burdened the family financially. She decided to become a nurse instead. She jokes that she had admired a nurse in her white crisp uniform and wanted to look as smart as she did.

At 17, Phyllis was selected to train at Kuching General Hospital, but the English missionaries suggested that she be sent to Singapore to undergo formal training at St Andrew's Mission Hospital. The rest, as they say, is history.



Clockwise from top: Phyllis as a young nurse at Middleton Hospital, 1941; Matron Phyllis at St John's Home for Elderly Persons, 1999. Sharing the stage with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the Eurasian Festival, 2019.

## 74 years of experience in the medical industry

Phyllis did her training at St Andrews Mission Hospital from 1936 to 1939. On graduating, she joined Middleton Hospital, now known as the Communicable Disease Centre. Her career was interrupted when the war broke out in 1942. Hospital staff were given a form of severance allowance before they all dispersed. Phyllis, having also procured her midwifery licence during training, delivered babies in the kampungs to bring in an income. When the war ended, she resumed her nursing at Middleton Hospital before retiring at the age of 55 in 1974.

Phyllis took on various casual jobs at off-site dispensaries till a job offer at St John's Home for Elderly Persons presented itself in 1979. She became their Matron until 2002, when she turned 83. After chalking up 66 years of service as a paid healthcare professional, she became a volunteer with the Home Life Sub-Committee in 2002 and the Home's Management Committee from 2004 to 2010. These appointments added another eight years to make up a total of 74 years in the medical industry.

Phyllis recalls her early days at Middleton Hospital when epidemics such as diphtheria and cholera broke out, and vaccines were not readily available. She remembers diphtheria patients, mainly children, having to undergo emergency tracheotomy. She also recalls how quickly bedpans filled up during the cholera outbreak and how fast they had to be replaced because patients were being admitted non-stop. Typhoid, polio, smallpox, chickenpox and dysentery would often break out at the same time.

Whilst memories of those difficult times remain, she experienced immeasurable joy and satisfaction seeing her patients recover, sometimes even after only two intravenous injections. Faced with limited resources, the staff had to work very hard.

In the early days, treatment was limited. Mortality rates were high despite Penicillin being available for smallpox. Phyllis is happy that advances in science and research have made possible a wide range of vaccines and antibiotics today.

These medical advances – together with education on the causes and prevention of diseases, the encouragement of good hygiene practices and healthier drinking water – reduced sickness and increased life expectancy. Phyllis adds that a person's life expectancy is so much better now than during her time.

For anyone aspiring to be in the medical industry, Phyllis advises them to stay focused and work hard. Be confident. Do not turn down opportunities that come your way. Be honest in your work and considerate of others. And be the best you possibly can.

## Love and marriage

Phyllis was brought up in a Christian home. Her father was an ordained Anglican Minister after all, and coming from a strict Christian family, it was expected that she regularly attend church, that being St Andrew's Cathedral. She met her husband-to-be,



Phyllis with her colleagues at Middleton Hospital in the 1960s. Insets: Her Nursing Registration Certificate 1951.



With best friend and colleague, Olga Koh.



Phyllis and Chamberlain on their wedding day on 31 January 1942 at St Andrew's Cathedral.



Chamberlain, Phyllis and her sister Rose at a dance, 1955.



Matron Phyllis with some of the residents at St John's Home, 1999.



ABOVE Phyllis and her family carers. (Front row L-R): her sister Etheria Nanang, and her daughters Olivia Shivaraman and Evelyn Champion. (Back row, L-R) Phyllis' granddaughter-in-law Dr Camilla Wong, Phyllis' daughter Linda Green and grandson Errol Champion. LEFT Phyllis with her daughters and their spouses, 2014. Front row: Zacharia Champion (deceased). Back row: Olivia and Shiva; David and Linda Green, and Evelyn Champion.



Phyllis with nieces, Eleanor Ballard (left) and Marion Woodworth, 2009.



Daniel Chamberlain Perreau, at the Cathedral, where he was a server. They dated for a while, became engaged in 1940 and married on 31 January 1942. During their wedding service at the Cathedral, there was a Japanese bombing sortie on Singapore but fortunately the Cathedral was not hit.

## Adapting to the Eurasian way of life

**SOCIALISING** Phyllis was introduced to his siblings and his many Eurasian friends, like Charles and Mary Richards, who welcomed her into their fold. This being the 1940s, like all women then, Phyllis was reserved at first but learned to mingle comfortably with both sexes. She soon came out of her shell.

**COOKING** Eurasians always pride themselves on their culinary skills. Chamberlain made a very smooth sambal belachan, crushing chillies with gusto. He taught Phyllis to make delicious blancmange and bread pudding using stale bread slices, milk and raisins. During a radio interview in 1985, Phyllis credited him for introducing her to different Eurasian and European foods.

**DANCING** Chamberlain was a good dancer and he taught her the waltz and foxtrot. They often went to the Singapore Recreation Club where they danced and socialised.

**SPORT** Eurasians enjoy camaraderie in sport. Phyllis never really engaged in any form of sport, but she supported Chamberlain who was not only an athlete and golfer, but also a keen marksman. She would accompany him to the rifle range whenever there were competitions. His shooting skills took him to the jungles of Mandai and Seletar where there were *kluang* (flying foxes) and he would usually bring one or two home. Phyllis remembers making Devil Curry with flying fox meat.

**ENTERTAINING** Entertaining friends in the home was a big thing, which Phyllis grew accustomed to. There was always lots of sumptuous food served buffet style with lots to drink – beer, punch and so on. The evening always ended with a jam session. Someone with a guitar or ukelele would entertain.

## What does she see for Eurasians in the year ahead?

“Our presence in Singapore might diminish, but our traditions will still live on through our religion, foods, sport and music. Despite intermarriage with other ethnic groups and the influence of their customs, our Eurasian traditions are maintained and are readily embraced in turn by those we marry. Eurasians should continue to work hard, contribute to society, be proud of themselves and ensure they hold their place in Singapore.”

# Farleigh's Game



Farleigh Clarke (5th from left) at the 1973 SEAP Games.



Farleigh's father Andrew Clarke (circled)

Farleigh Clarke comes from a pedigree of hockey stalwarts; his father Andrew and Uncle Gerard were among the who's who sportsmen in the Eurasian Association (EA) and Singapore Recreation Club (SRC). Andrew joined the SRC in 1937 and despite the Japanese Occupation went on to represent the Club in both soccer and hockey, growing these two sports communities locally. Gerard was still a member of the SRC at the age of 99.

It was this environment and the avid hockey programmes at St Joseph's Institution (SJI) that propelled Farleigh, described by newspapers as the "dashing forward" and "hockey maestro", to national acclaim. He played for inter-school leagues, under-23 tournaments and the SRC. But it was during National Service, where he played for SAFSA, that he could dedicate all his time and effort to fully-immersive hockey training. Those two years would hone his sportsmanship to an international level.

Throughout the 1960s and '70s, the name Farleigh Clarke became synonymous with Singapore hockey. He was admired for his tenacity – he would enter the field in a crisp clean uniform and be the last to leave the pitch, his uniform completely soiled.

Named Singapore's All-time Best Eleven by The Straits Times, Farleigh represented Singapore in four SEA Games (SEAP Games

then), winning Gold in 1973 as the Most Valuable Player of that season. All other SEA Games forays netted a silver for Team Singapore, with Farleigh on the team.

Farleigh represented Singapore in the Asian Games, MHF Razak Cup Tournament and various international matches against Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, India, Belgium and France, to name a few. Sports journalists marvelled at his deft stickwork that played with angles and deflections to score goals. They would also lament that, to date, Team Singapore has yet to produce a similar talent in local hockey.

Farleigh has not hung his boots up yet; he still tours and represents Singapore in veteran leagues. These days, he is a hockey coach, actively following his father's footsteps and grooming the young generation of Singapore's hockey talent in junior colleges, primary schools, and secondary schools such as CHIJ St Teresa's Convent and his alma mater SJI.

Passionately believing that the key to Team Singapore's hockey excellence lies in committed resources provided to young hockey players, Farleigh can be found on hockey pitches around the island motivating and inspiring the next generation of Singapore's hockey gold medallists. – Margaret D'Cruz



Far left: Farleigh (in red), then 60, battling it out with Mr Choi Keung Kook, 54, from South Korea at the International Masters Hockey Classic. TNP PICTURES: JONATHAN CHOO

Left: Coach Farleigh with Cantonment Secondary School Hockey Team.



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