

THE NEW EURASIAN

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JULY – SEPTEMBER 2010

The Olympic Spirit

Eurasian sporting heroes,
past and present

PLUS

SINGLE MINDED

A new project gives hope to disadvantaged lone parents

IN THE FRAME

How one film-maker would write the Eurasian story

YOUNG AT HEART

Active Ager Ruby Ng is an inspiration to young and old alike

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

Meet the new team



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Travis Woodford, one of Singapore's Youth Olympic Games squad

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Lynn Desker

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Francesca Eber

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Burton Westerhout

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President's *message*

I am honoured to have been elected President of the Eurasian Association and will do my utmost to safeguard the wellbeing and interest of members, and of the Eurasian community in Singapore.

I have been involved with the EA for 18 years, and I am aware of what we have achieved so far and what still needs to be done.

Our priorities include educational advancement, welfare assistance and community bonding. I will work together with the management committee to further these interests.

The EA's focus all through these years has been to seek opportunities, capitalise on situations offered, and muster the support of as many people as possible. As we reach out to our community, we hope more people will come forward and answer the call for help. There is a place for anyone who wishes to contribute their time to the Eurasian Association.

Our vision is to create a strong, vibrant Eurasian community; a cohesive, self-reliant community that looks forward to the future while celebrating our cultural heritage. We are striving to increase membership to bring the community closer, to bring a sense of belonging, and to increase our profile with regard to the other communities in Singapore.

We are pleased with the progress we have made in education and welfare, but there is still much to be done for our community to improve the standards of Eurasians in Singapore. We need more volunteers and Eurasian youths and young professionals to step forward to help us.

The next two years will be challenging for the EA, especially with regard to education, family support services and community bonding.

To assist us, we will be getting a chief executive officer, the cost of which will be partly underwritten by the government. This will insure that we will have help to run the EA more professionally. Fiscal management is very important now that corporate governance measures for charities are in force. We must make sure that our money is spent wisely and responsibly so that the balance in our books is explainable.

May I ask you all to kindly complete and return the enclosed form so that we can update our members' details? This will enable us to provide a more efficient service to you all.

Let us build a better and stronger EA and never lose sight of our cultural heritage.



William (Bill) Jansen,
President



AGM *report*

Some 80 members attended the EA Annual General Meeting 2010 on 30 April to elect the members of the new management committee and to vote on 19 new resolutions proposed for the rules of the EA. They included the appointment of two vice presidents instead of one, the removal of lifetime terms for trustees, the increase in the number of trustees and the provision of more than one patron.

All the resolutions were passed with the exception of Resolution 2.7.17 ("to simplify the eligibility criteria for appointment as Patron(s)"). While most members accepted the allowance of more than one patron, many voiced concern from the floor that the amendment allowed for a non-Eurasian patron.

The resolution went to a vote via a show of hands, with 43 in favour of passing the new amendment and 38 against. As this represented only 53 per cent of the members present, short of the two-thirds necessary to pass the motion, Resolution 2.7.17 was not adopted.

The new management committee was sworn in, outgoing president Edward D'Silva was thanked for his service to the association, and new EA President William Jansen delivered his acceptance speech. The evening ended with a buffet dinner at Quentin's restaurant.



Susan de Silva explains the new resolutions to members at the AGM



Left to right: Lynn Desker, Geoffrey da Silva, Yvonne Pereira and Burton Westerhout

Thanks for *a job well done*

The EA's new management committee has put on record its thanks to the outgoing team, which has provided an invaluable service to the Eurasian Association and the wider Eurasian community during its years of office from 2008 to 2010.

The new committee says that its predecessors worked to benefit the lives of Eurasians in Singapore, and to take the Eurasian Association to a higher status.

During the management committee's two-year term, the association saw highlights such as:

- Chingay 2009
- Eurasiana – A Musical Tribute
- The EA's 90th anniversary celebrations

- Padang earthquake relief
- The setting up of the Toastmasters Club
- A Jingkli Nona music video
- Themed Sunday brunches
- The establishment of the Mentoring Young Leaders Network
- Annual National Day, Christmas and New Year celebrations

On behalf of the Eurasian Association, the incoming committee would like to thank the previous team for its service: Edward D'Silva; Barry Pereira; Harry Pereira; Lynn Desker; Christine Clunies-Ross; Carla Barker; Zaf Coelho; Humphrey de Conceicao; Christian Eber; Yvonne Pereira; Geoffrey da Silva; Burton Westerhout.

Members also paid special tribute to outgoing president Edward D'Silva, who served as

president from 2008 to 2010 and as vice-president from 2006 to 2008.

Mr D'Silva's most memorable contribution to the Eurasian Association has been the Eurasian Community House, which is now an iconic landmark in Singapore.

He took on the task of managing and overseeing the project of setting up the ECH after Randall Snodgrass suffered a stroke and had to drop out.

Using his experience as an architect, his talents in driving projects forward, and his wide circle of public and private contacts, Edward was part of the team that gave the Eurasian community a permanent base, a home in Katong of which the Eurasian community can be proud.

Meet *the team*

Introducing the new management committee

William (Bill) Jansen, President

A retired lawyer, Bill worked for 38 years in litigation and commercial practice, specialising in contract, sale of goods, insurance, admiralty, banking and building contract work.

At the EA, he served as honorary secretary in 1992 and again from 1994 to 1996. From 1999 to 2009 he chaired the EA Legal Advisory Panel.

Benett Theseira, Vice-President

Benett heads the private equity real estate investment business for the Pacific Star Group in Asia. He started his career with the Ministry of Law in Singapore before moving to CapitaLand, where he became chief corporate and investment officer of its service apartment arm.

Benett has served on the EA management committee in various capacities including honorary treasurer and honorary secretary from 1995-1999. He currently chairs the EA Corporate Communications Sub-committee.

Jason Dendroff, Honorary Secretary

Jason is currently an adjunct lecturer at Nanyang Polytechnic for Diploma in Business Management – Law of Contract. A lawyer by practice, he has also been involved in volunteer work for the Pasir Ris and Cheng San town councils. He served on the EA Legal Advisory Panel between 2009 and 2010.

Lynn Desker, Honorary Treasurer

Lynn has served as the EA's honorary treasurer since 2009. She is currently the organisation & workforce development manager at Micron Semiconductor Asia.

Carla Barker, Committee Member

Carla chaired the EA's Legal Advisory Panel in the 1990s and came on board as a management committee member in 2008. She is a lawyer at KhattarWong.

Geoffrey da Silva, Committee Member

A senior lecturer in the School of Business at Temasek Polytechnic, Geoffrey is serving his fourth term as the chair of the EA Education Sub-committee.

Francesca Eber, Committee Member

Previously serving the EA as a volunteer in the Family Support Services, Francesca is a self-employed trainer and coach with 32 years' experience.

She currently chairs the EA Family Support Services Sub-committee.

Yvonne Pereira, Committee Member

Currently serving her second term as a management committee member, Yvonne previously chaired the EA's Silver Circle and was an ad-hoc member of the Women's Wing from 2008 to 2010.

She was also a member of the EA's Song & Dance Troupe for more than 10 years and a member of the Kristang Cultural Troupe under the Siglap South CC up until 2008. She has chaired the Community Bonding Sub-committee, and currently chairs the EA Social Section Sub-committee. A sports enthusiast, Yvonne has also served on a number of national sports committees.

Vincent Schoon, Committee Member

Vincent has been involved in management consultancy for more than 10 years. Before his present appointment with Machwüth Team International, where he now heads its Asia operations, Vincent was a senior consultant/trainer with Mercuri International Management.

He was also a panellist in the Community Dialogue Session held at the EA in March.

Burton Westerhout, Committee Member

A procurement and logistics specialist for most of his professional career, Burton has served the EA in numerous capacities over the last 20 years and was on the project team that developed the ECH.

After a three-year stint working overseas, he returned in 2006 and has since worked as an EA volunteer and was a member of the Finance Advisory Panel in 2008. He was co-opted on to the management committee in October 2009.



He has left behind a legacy – his architectural proficiency and prowess together with his project management skills.

The EA has been brought a few notches up to a higher level as a result of his presidency. He leaves behind an EA which is sturdier, more dignified, and of a higher stature.



*Former President
Edward D'Silva*

STEPPING *forward*



Julia with her dance students

The ECH's new tenant aims to get members up and moving

The Eurasian Community House has a new tenant, The Julia Dance Company, which now resides on the fourth floor and offers dance classes to EA members and the public.

Julia Sheikh-Lyson, its energetic founder, has worked as a performer, teacher and choreographer for more than 15 years in London and Paris, and danced professionally in Europe, Australia and the Middle East.

Upon her return to Singapore, she showcased *100 Years of Flight* celebrations at Changi Airport and has appeared on television in dance and fitness programmes.

"I specialise in most forms of modern and cultural dance including bellydancing, salsa, flamenco, Bollywood, hip-hop, sensual dance, jazz-funk and contemporary dance," she says.

Taking a studio in the ECH was "a natural decision". She explains: "My roots are in Eurasian and Indian heritage. I've done several events for the Indian community such as TV shows, and it's now time to concentrate on the Eurasian aspects of my heritage."

Despite her vast experience, Eurasian and Portuguese dance are currently not part of her repertoire – but they are on her agenda.

"I'm very excited at the prospect of having the opportunity to provide a venue for this dance to flourish at the EA," she says.

EA members will receive a 15 per cent discount on classes and special free dance workshops will be conducted for children of EA members. For further information, contact Julia at 9855 6783.

Speaking volumes



Children perform at the storytelling workshop

Telling tales was perfectly acceptable when youngsters took part in a reading workshop

The Mighty Lions and Mighty Eagles teamed up to learn the joys of storytelling.

The two teams of youngsters were taking part in an arts enrichment holiday programme, a joint collaboration between the four self-help groups and Deborah de Souza, founder of speech and drama school Arts in Motion.

Some two dozen primary 3 and 4 schoolchildren from low-income families learned presentation skills such as standing confidently, breathing correctly and the importance of eye contact with the audience.

The event was held at Onepeople.sg and culminated in a performance for family and friends. Geoffrey da Silva, who chairs the EA's Education Sub-committee, presented certificates of participation to all the children.

News in brief

New appointment for Timothy de Souza



Former EA president and trustee Timothy de Souza has been appointed a member of the Presidential Council of Minority Rights, following the end of EA patron Herman Hochstadt's three-year term.

The council was established in 1970 to scrutinise Parliament Bills to ensure that proposed laws do not discriminate against any race, religion or community.

PLEASE...

take time to complete and mail the enclosed membership update form. This will enable us to provide you with a more efficient service.

Joint Tuition Awards

The Joint Tuition Awards is an annual ceremony for students who have done well in their PSLE, N-levels and O-levels after taking part in the Collaborative Tuition Programme run by the self-help groups.

When the CTP centres were first launched in 2002, there were only 14 of them. Today, there are 65 centres island-wide, making tuition affordable and convenient for students.

The JTA ceremony this year will be held on 31 July at Nanyang Polytechnic Auditorium, where 10 Eurasian students will receive awards for their academic achievements.

Striving for success

A good education can be the key to achieving a fulfilling career and enjoying a better understanding of life. Now there is even more help available to set ambitious students on their way

A strong foundation

Two major Singaporean charities are pouring aid into education and welfare services for disadvantaged Eurasians following discussions with the EA management.

Temasek Cares Education Bursary

Temasek Cares, a charitable organisation established by investment group Temasek Holdings in 2009, will donate more than \$50,000 to the EA to benefit 45 needy primary school students.

The one-year sponsorship will cover tuition fees, transport vouchers, meal vouchers and uniforms. The EA submitted a proposal to Temasek Cares at the end of April and gave a presentation to the Temasek Cares Board in late May.

Temasek Cares has also pledged to contribute financial assistance towards needy Eurasian

single parents in collaboration with the EA and other self-help groups.

The Tan Chin Tuan Foundation

The Tan Chin Tuan foundation, which was established by late banker and philanthropist Tan Sri (Dr) Chin Tuan in 1976, will donate \$32,000 to needy polytechnic, ITE and secondary students for one year.

In addition, the foundation will also donate \$18,000 to the EA's Family Support Services. The Eurasian Association delivered a presentation to Tan Chin Tuan in February.

Polytechnic and ITE students will be given priority for this disbursement as the foundation believes that there are many avenues available for primary and secondary school students to seek aid, but fewer available for polytechnic and ITE students.

A chance to benefit from a university education

A new EA scholarship aims to help deserving students who wish to extend their education

The EA has created a new scholarship to assist students to continue their education at university.

The EA University Scholarship for Polytechnic Graduates is available for deserving Eurasian students who have completed a full-time, three-year local polytechnic diploma and wish to pursue an approved undergraduate degree course at one of the three local universities.

To apply, you need to:

- Be a Singapore citizen,
- Have at least one parent who is Eurasian
- Have either a household income below \$1,500 (or a per capita income below \$450)

Application forms can be obtained from the EA Secretariat office (139 Ceylon Rd, Level 3).

For more information, please contact Jacqueline at 6447 1578 or via email: jacqueline@eurasians.org.

Annual ECF Education Awards 2010



Last year's ECF Education Awards ceremony

It's time for the EA to hand out its grants to outstanding students

Each year, the EA disburses bursaries, study grants, and Distinction or Excellence awards to approximately 200 students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievements.

The Eurasian Community Fund Education Awards were first introduced in 1996 to give recognition to academic excellence among Eurasian students.

You are eligible to apply if:

- You are a Singaporean citizen
- You are a permanent resident
- At least one of your parents is Eurasian
- You are a primary, secondary, junior college, polytechnic, ITE or university student

Application forms can be downloaded from the Eurasian Association website (www.eurasians.org.sg) or obtained in person at the EA Secretariat office, at the ECH, 139 Ceylon Road. The closing date for all applications is Friday 13 August 2010.

Contact education executive Jacqueline Peeris at 6447 1578 or jacqueline@eurasians.org

Eurasians in Sport: *a proud history*

As Singapore hosts the inaugural Youth Olympic Games, we take a look at Eurasians' contribution to the nation's sporting success. We talk to one of our brightest young sporting hopes, look back at our sporting history - and learn what it takes to keep thousands of young Olympians fed healthily for a couple of weeks



Travis Woodford is never too far away from his bike

Riding *high*

Travis Woodford, one of Singapore's most promising young cyclists, is in training for the inaugural Youth Olympic Games this August

At a time when most of Singapore is blissfully tucked up in bed asleep – and even the birds have yet to begin their dawn chorus – teenager Travis Woodford is up and alert.

Seventeen-year-old Travis is one of Singapore's top young athletes, who is hoping that the rigorous discipline of his daily training schedule will bring success in this year's Youth Olympic Games in Singapore this August.

He was 10 when his father, Daryl, bought him a mountain bike. The same year, he took part in his first competitive cycle racing event – the International Mountain Biking Competition held at Sentosa.

The following year, when Daryl took Travis and younger brother, Aidan, to train with the Triathlon Association of Singapore (TAS), the brothers became pioneer triathletes in the TAS-Ironkids training scheme.

It did not take Travis long to realise that cycling was not merely a hobby but a vocation. And he has devoted all his energies into competing as one of a new generation of endurance sportsman, specialising in road cycling (time trials and road races) triathlons, duathlons, open-water swimming, middle-distance running and cross-country running.

In the last 18 months, he has represented Singapore on more than a dozen occasions.

And he has now been picked to compete in two events in the Youth Olympics: the road 3km individual time trial, where he will be up against 32 of the world's finest cyclists in his age group, and as part of the team in the boys' road race.

He says he is the only Eurasian competing in an individual event and hopes the Eurasian community will be rooting for him. And his mother hopes that he might find a sponsor to ease the burden of the cost of his training

So what is it about cycling that made him choose a life of relentless discipline? "I just enjoy it," he says simply. "I love being out on my bike – and I enjoy perfecting the techniques of cornering at speed."

He is deadly serious about his ambitions – he has even opted to postpone his schooling for two years to continue his training. His training schedule for the Olympics starts before dawn to spend two hours on race simulation training. He might catch up with



An early-morning training session at Kallang

a bit of sleep before going for gym training with his coach and a further two-hour cycling session in the afternoon.

And he is aware that his success is very much a family effort. "I have the best parents in the world," he says. "My dad spends ages researching training venues and coaches, which has allowed me to train with some of the world's top international coaches for triathlon and cycling, and my mum is always there supporting me. They have backed me all the way so that I can do this."

"I have the best parents in the world. My dad spends ages researching training venues and coaches and my mum is always there supporting me"

"One of the highlights of my career so far was being part of the world's best triathlon team – team TBB – for a year when I trained with the world champions and was coached by the world-renowned triathlon coach, Brett Sutton. I learnt very much what it's like to live and to train like a true professional."

Travis was the only Singaporean selected by the coach to be a development athlete on the team, and joined in the team's training camps in Subic Bay in the Philippines and Leysin in Switzerland. It was during that time that he honed the positive sporting attributes that are needed for a competitive sporting career.

And while in Switzerland, he was overjoyed to witness part of the Tour de France race.

Is younger brother Aidan envious of his success? "Not at all," he smiles. "Aidan does his own thing, and he is really supportive of me; he never fails to be there cheering me on during my local races." And Travis has praise, too, for St Patrick's School, which has backed his plans for a two-year break from his studies.

Doesn't he ever get lonely, pedalling by himself for hours on end? "No – I'm used to it," he says, a little surprised at the question. "And there are always people to meet when I'm competing."

And he isn't alienated from normal teenage concerns and sometimes listens to heavy metal music while he's training.

What is his goal for the Youth Olympics? "Cycling is not well known as a sport in Singapore and I will be up against people from France and Italy where the sport is huge," he says. "So if I come in the top 10, I will feel I have really achieved something."

Doesn't he dream of winning the Gold? "Of course!" he says and his face lights up. "But then reality kicks in!"

And with a smile, this admirable – and immensely likable – teenager lifts his bike on to the roof rack of the family car and his dad drives him home for a quick rest before the training starts all over again.

Feeding *the five thousand*

When the Youth Olympic Games opens in Singapore in August, thousands of hopeful young athletes will be hungry for victory – and hungry, too, for delicious and healthy food to sustain them throughout the event. That's where Kenneth Francisco comes in

Kenneth Francisco spends much of his time thinking about food. Vast amounts of it. And in the space of less than two weeks, he will oversee the preparation of enough food to feed one person for more than 260 years.

Kenneth has been appointed head of F&B and culinary operations for the forthcoming Youth Olympic Games, where he will be responsible for ensuring that the 5,500 athletes and trainers, plus a further 2,500 YOG employees, are provided with nutritious meals three times a day throughout the event.

Organising vast quantities food is, well, the bread and butter of his job. Kenneth has more than 25 years' culinary experience, during which time his work has taken him around the world, engaging in food promotions in places such as Malaysia, the Philippines, Australia, Greece, Italy and more.

His previous experience as executive chef and F&B director in prestigious members' clubs such as The Tanglin Club and the Swiss Club in Singapore has given him many privileged opportunities to cook for high-profile diners such President SR Nathan and Mrs Nathan, and he has also taken part in many cooking competitions representing Singapore.

He obtained the position of overseeing the catering for the YOG simply by e-mailing his application to the organisers. "I was offered the job by phone, based on my experience of spearheading the Oktoberfest for 8,000 people at the Swiss Club in 2007," he says.

"Gathering information based on previous games and with my experience of planning international menus, we formed a working group with the appointed caterers; and with assistance from the Singapore Sports Council nutrition team we went through 16 versions of the menus over a period of five months."



Kenneth Francisco has an Olympian task ahead

Kenneth will be responsible for breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets, each with some 60 different selections, including Singapore's famous hawker food and a 'live' station. Any Eurasian fare? "Currently, no – but I'm still working on it," he says.

He has been tasked with making the food more interesting than in previous games and also needs to take into account special dietary needs such as halal, kosher, gluten-free and vegan menus.

He will have caterers under his supervision and 700 staff, but will also have the help of Singapore Airport Terminal Services, which will provide pre-prepared meals.

Feast facts

During the Youth Olympic Games:

450,000 meals will be served and 900 tons of food will be consumed.

The meals will include:

- 210 tons of chicken, beef and seafood
- 120 tons of vegetables
- 150 tons of fresh fruit
- 350,000 eggs
- 1,800,000 litres of Coca Cola
- 1,400 tons of ice



A Proud *track record*

Eurasians have featured prominently in sport – as players, coaches and organisers. Here we pay tribute to some of the nation's most celebrated names



Fred de Souza, Marksman (1918 – 1964)

Frederick Benjamin de Souza was one of Singapore's most successful marksmen, who won gold medals in the Southeast Asian Peninsular Games and the Asian Games of 1961 and 1962. During the war, he was captured by the Japanese and was a prisoner-of-war until Singapore was liberated.

Percy Pennefather, Hockey (1923 – 1975)

A member of one of Singapore's most well-known sporting families, Percy Pennefather was part of Singapore's 1956 Olympic hockey team that finished eighth. He was national coach for the pre-Olympic tournament in 1967 and became president of the Singapore Hockey Association in 1972.



Mary Klass, Track and Field (1935 – present)

Part of the largest Olympic contingent that Singapore has sent to the Olympics, Mary was 16 when she won her first medal in a Singapore Amateur Athletics Association relay. The celebrated athlete was one of only two Singaporean women to attend the 45-strong team at the Melbourne Games.



Annabel Pennefather, Hockey (1948 – present)

After spending more than 25 years practising law, and a former vice-president of the Law Society of Singapore, Annabel Pennefather proceeded to devote her life to sports promotion and administration and has held numerous executive positions.



EW Barker, Former Minister for Law, Singapore (1920 – 2001)

Singapore's Minister for Law from 1964 to 1988, Edmund William Barker contributed to the development of sporting talent in Singapore. A top athlete during his days at Raffles Institution and Raffles College, he played cricket, soccer, hockey, rugby and athletics.

Roland Schoon, Hockey (1928 to present)

Roland Schoon played half back in the 1956 Olympic Hockey Team. Eurasians made up the majority of the team: Burdett Coutts, Michael Wright, Douglas Hay and Osbert Rozario were other members and the team was coached by sporting legend Noel Hay.



Douglas Nonis, Hockey (1937 – present)

Douglas Nonis, a household name in the 1960s, was part of the Malaysia team during the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo. He then became a coach, notably for Singapore's hockey squad for South-east Asian Games in Jakarta in 1979.

Lloyd Valberg, High Jump (1922 – 1984)

Lloyd Valberg was Singapore's first and only representative in the 1948 Olympic Games and qualified for the high jump final in that event, where he eventually came in fourteenth. He was also captain and flag bearer for Singapore during the first Asian Games in 1951.

Rudy Mosbergen, Hockey (1929 – present)

Rudy Mosbergen was another member of Singapore's 1956 Olympic hockey team. He won 60 national caps in his career. He became the principal of Raffles Junior College from 1982 to 1987, and was inducted into the Singapore Olympic Academy Roll of Honour in 2004.



Patrick Zehnder, Coach (1937 to present)

Patrick Zehnder had a rare gift for sporting early sporting talent. In an illustrious career, he is best known for training Asian Games gold medallist Chee Swee Lee, becoming the first Singaporean to produce an Asian Games track champion.

Go(a)lden *oldies*

Singaporean football fans now follow the English Premier League and other European teams. But in the glory days of the Malaysia Cup in the 1970s and '80s, football stars were home grown. And some of the best were Eurasian. *Peter Rodrigues* talks to some famous names

Eric Paine was one of Singapore's most famous goalkeepers, considered by many to be one of the finest Singapore has ever produced.

He can still remember the events of 1967 that launched his international career. "A British coach saw my potential and drafted me in into the national team while I was still representing the youth team," he recalls. A year later he became a full international.

During the 1977 pre-World Cup, the typical routine was to get up by 5.30am at Jalan Besar stadium dormitory and sing the national anthem before the training session. Sessions would be from 6am to 9am, and lasted for six weeks.

The tournament was to produce a golden moment. "We reached the finals and I was voted goalkeeper of the tournament. Malaysia were considered to be the pre-tournament favourites but ended up losing to Singapore, he says. He added that the whole team celebrated later after the match as the 'better' team had lost."

He credits coach Choo Seng Quee for Singapore's 1-0 victory over Malaysia. Choo convinced the goalkeeper to tell himself: "I am unbeatable except when facing penalties."

"Uncle Choo used psychology and brainwashing tactics in his speeches and talks," he adds. "I felt I was willing to die for my country, after listening to Uncle Choo."

Eric retired from the national soccer team in 1978. He served in the SAF as an army officer and retired in 1994. He has recently taken up a new appointment as an operations manager in Ping Yi Secondary School.

Brian De Rozario also represented Singapore's soccer team in goal. His playing career began in 1971 in the Singapore youth team, where he was spotted by Jeffrey Low and Choo Seng Quee. "Uncle Choo always said 'Eurasians are good and stylish goalkeepers,'" he says.

Representing the national team presented its challenges. "The national team had four goalies: Eric Paine, Lee Bee Seng, Lim Chiew Peng and myself. There was always competition to get one of the two goalkeeper places in the final team of 16 players for the Malaysia Cup games," he recalls.

He can still remember the 1972 Malaysia Cup match with Selangor and facing their

top striker Mokhtar Dahari. "Dahari used power crosses by the byline. My chest hurt after stopping his shots!" says Brian.

In 1970, striker Brian Batchelor was another member of the youth squad. He represented the team in Bangkok that year and in the Asian youth soccer tournament in Tehran the following year. He would later join the national soccer team in 1973, playing in the Malaysia Cup and Southeast Asian Peninsular Games tournaments.

During the 1975 Malaysia Cup match against Terengganu, Singapore had a fragile 3-2 lead. "I later came on as a substitute and scored the fourth goal, and created the chance for Dollah Kassim to score the fifth goal", he recalls.

"It was an era of strong interest in local football teams", says Brian. "People really gave the Kallang Stadium the roar – 60,000 of them. Those were the good old days."

He laments the current shortage of Eurasian children getting involved with soccer. "Parents want children to focus on studies," he says. And he believes that the decline in soccer interest is also influenced by parents. "Let the children decide. Parents want to choose what sports they like for their children; and they may not be suitable for their children," he asserts.

And he's not ready to hang his own boots up, either. He still acts as a soccer coach at St Gabriel's school.



"People really gave the Kallang roar – all 60,000 of them"

Debatable points

Being passionate about her beliefs has put Michelle Tessensohn on the road to public speaking success



Michelle Tessensohn delivers a rousing speech

Michelle Tessensohn has been in the EA's Toastmasters Club for less than a year but has already won second place representing the association in an area competition in Singapore.

She admits that she looked on the competition more as a chance to get in some practice. "They had some very well-prepared speakers and they looked so confident and smartly turned out that I was sure they would do much better than me," she says.

"I honestly just thought this would be a good opportunity for me to hone my speaking skills and speak about matters that meant a lot to me, and give people something to think about."

She explains: "In my prepared speech, I spoke about the importance of living in a heart-centered way and expressing compassion and care for others, including animals."

"I also spoke about how the way we are living now is not in balance, as can be evidenced by the huge natural and ecological imbalances

of the planet, and how it is necessary for us to re-evaluate how we live our lives so we can contribute in a positive way to the future of our planet and all living beings."

She prepared by gathering information from documentaries and also had help from some of the more experienced members of Toastmasters and the club's president.

"They spent hours coaching me, helping me perfect my speech and giving me tips on my delivery. I could not have achieved what I did without their help," she says.

Michelle has recently become a vegan, having been a vegetarian for some years in the past and she finds her Toastmasters speeches give her a platform to widen the debate.

She says: "As an active member of Toastmasters, I give speeches regularly to groups of people. I want to make those speeches count. I don't see myself as an animal rights activist, to be honest; I just seek to bring awareness and let the truth speak for itself", she adds.

Speak up!

Learning to speak in public can be an empowering experience – and you can learn how to do it at the EA

Many people list public speaking as one of their greatest fears.

But learning how to put your views across to a large number of people can make you more articulate, build your confidence – and it can also be great fun.

The EA Toastmasters Club aims to help individuals, young or old, to improve their communication, public speaking and leadership skills.

Since the club was established last year, many of its members have successfully overcome their fear of public speaking and have gone on to win awards at speech contests.

A Toastmasters club adopts a 'learn-by-doing' philosophy, whereby each member learns at a pace suitable to his or her needs.

Here's how it works. At the heart of the Toastmasters' curriculum is the *Competent Communication* manual, which consists of 10 speech projects, each building upon the other in skills and difficulty.

After that is a series of 15 advanced manuals with five projects that each focuses on a particular aspect of communication (such

as technical presentations, storytelling, or interpersonal communication).

For each project, the member prepares and delivers a speech, within a time limit, in front of the club.

Afterwards, another toastmaster will evaluate the presenter based on certain criteria for each project.

The club holds its chapter meetings on the first and third Saturday of each month and welcomes all who want to attend the meetings.

For more information, email Zaf Coelho at coelhoz@gmail.com.

Spark of life

Single parents wishing to return to the workforce while ensuring that their children are not neglected can now receive help through an innovative project

A new programme to give practical and financial help to single parents has recently been launched. Project SPARK (Successful Parents and Resilient Kids) is a partnership between Temasek Cares and the four self-help groups and aims to assist single parents to become independent and effective parents, while helping their children to become resilient, well-adjusted and successful.

Successful applicants will receive basic IT classes and a career readiness workshop, together with skills training to help get a job, plus a transport allowance and grooming vouchers to help prepare them for a new job. They will also receive childcare assistance, tuition for the children plus \$200 towards educational expenses.

There will also be financial literacy workshops, legal aid, parenting workshops and food vouchers, and parents will be given a case management officer to help them.

The project, whose launch was attended by Ho Ching, will offer a total of \$600,000 over two years to 600 single parents. Single, divorced, widowed or separated parents, or a parent with an incarcerated spouse are eligible to apply if they are Singapore citizens or permanent residents and have a household income below \$1,500, or have been unemployed for at least six months.

For further information, contact J Ramakrishnan or Florence Adriano at the EA's Family Support Services, tel: 6447 1578.



Ho Ching and self-help group representatives at the Project SPARK launch

A brighter future

Single mother Jassia Jasmani relates how Project SPARK is helping her to have more ambitious aims

Jassia Jasmani recalls that when she became a single mother 16 years ago, there were few organisations or welfare groups that could help people in her plight.

“Some single parents even went so far as to lose their homes, and their children quit schools and went without food,” she recalls.

Jassia, whose son and daughter are now 26 and 16 respectively, is hopeful that Project SPARK will foresee such parental struggles.

And she hopes that through the project parents will become better at relating to their children and better able to keep the family together. She also believes that subsidised family-bonding activities would help to improve communication between parents and their children.



Ho Ching chats to Eurasian parents at Project SPARK, including Jassia Jasmani (to the left of Ho Ching in the picture)

Jassia works as a cleaner but hopes that new skills will lead to a better job. “I am very keen on IT-related courses,” she says.

She was delighted to represent the EA at the recent launch of Project SPARK and meet Ho Ching. “It really boosted my self-esteem and made me feel empowered to manage my independence, together with my children,” she says.

Distance learning

When the EA gives financial assistance to those in need, it can't always know exactly how much difference it makes. So it's heartening to learn of a success story

When Leslie Theseira and his wife, Liu Siak Moy, discovered their only child, Walter, was bright, they naturally wanted him to have a good education.

But cash was tight and they were grateful for the food rations and other support they received from the EA.

Recently, Mr Theseira wrote to the EA, thanking the association and advising that its assistance was no longer necessary. His son had finished his studies in the US and now had a good job in Singapore.

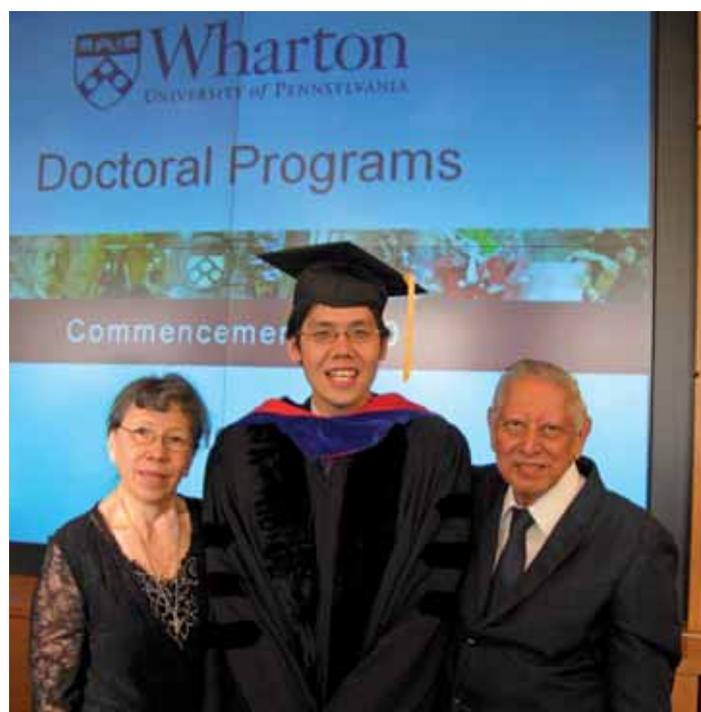
Walter explains: "My father had me very late – when he was close to 50. I am 31 and was studying in the US from 2000 to 2009."

His studies earned him a BA in Economics and an MA in International Relations from the University of Chicago. Then came the further opportunity to study for a doctorate.

Fortunately, modern technology made the separation easier for his mother and father, a former primary school teacher. "My parents are very good at keeping in touch via email and internet messaging!" says Walter.

He was able to pay for them to go to the US to attend his degree ceremonies, and as he is now working was also able to give them a two-week tour around the US.

But Walter believes his parents have achieved far more than him.



Walter with his parents at his recent doctoral graduation, when he was also able to treat them to a holiday in the US

"My parents are proud and happy that I've been able to continue my academic pursuits to this extent. As for myself, I really think that my achievements are quite small compared to the struggle that my parents and others of their generation endured.

"My father grew up under the Japanese Occupation in Malacca, so I think that for him, surviving and coming out of that with a secondary education required a lot more perseverance and determination than getting a PhD today does. He still speaks and reads Japanese.

"My mother is Indonesian Chinese originally, and grew up in a village in Sumatra; she had to move to Jakarta to find work early on, and

then move again to Singapore to work when she had hardly any family here."

Of the EA's help, Walter says: "I think that the support has been, most importantly, a way of showing my parents that there is a wider community around them that cares."

"The social support has been valuable for them and they especially enjoy the EA Christmas parties."

Walter is now Assistant Professor of Economics at Nanyang Technological University. "I have a special interest in public policy problems. So I hope to help by working on problems that matter for Singaporeans in the future," he says.

Should you care?



The fostering scheme needs families who can give a child a stable and happy home

The Ministry of Community Development Youth And Sports' Volunteer and Fostering Service administers a fostering scheme for children under 18 who may be unable to live at home because of their parent's ill-health or because home is not a safe place for them.

Foster parents get plenty of back-up. They are supported by fostering coordinators, who provide regular training.

If you wish to be considered, you will first be assessed on your ability to meet the needs of a foster child. You need to be a Singapore resident, at least 25 years old and medically fit to care for children. Stable couples with experience of caring for children, and with a minimum income of \$2,000 a month are preferred, but widows and single women may also apply. Contact MCYS at 6354 8799 or visit www.mcys.gov.sg/fostering.

Rooting out the past

Celebrations are taking place in Malacca to commemorate the arrival of the first Portuguese there. Fiona Hodgkins joined – and discovered some personal history of her own

To most people of Portuguese ancestry, the year 1511 is viewed with great significance, so I encountered some surprise when I told people that I was going to Malacca last year to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the arrival of the first Portuguese there. So you will be forgiven if you, too, did not know that Captain Diogo Lopes de Sequeira first landed on the Malayan peninsula in 1509.

The mission was, in fact, a failure in that many of his crew were killed or imprisoned, but it was a success in that another mission followed two years later in 1511 and initiated the first Portuguese settlement.

The Malacca Portuguese-Eurasian Association has put together a series of events under the title, *Our Roots*. The final one in 2011 will be the biggest of all, called *Our Roots – Our Home*.

It was to share these celebrations that five members of the EA's Heritage Committee set off to Malacca with a photographer (actually, my 10-year-old daughter Cara).

For me, personally, it was a historic trip. I had recently discovered that my earliest Eurasian ancestor on the deSouza line could be traced back to mid 18th-century Malacca, and I was

embarking on a sabbatical year to document my Eurasian family history.

With Colin Goh (a first cousin of Singapore's Geraldine Pereira) as our expert guide, we were led round the main historic sites of Malacca. Colin works at a beautifully restored and fascinating showcase shophouse at 8 Heeren Street (open 11am to 4pm Tuesday to Saturday), which we also visited.

The MPEA Dinner Dance and Cultural show was attended by around 500 people – and included the arrival in the hall of a ship on wheels lit by fairy lights

The next day we visited St Peter's Church, where I had been told my maternal grandparents were married in May 1937. Of even greater personal excitement was the discovery in the church garden of a monument to the memory of Dr Manuel Francisco deSouza – I later discovered that this was my great, great, great, great, grandfather who died 1831. In addition, at the foot of his cross, are the tombstones of two of his sons.

A short walk away, in the now abandoned church of St Lawrence was the tombstone to Dr Manuel's son, João Americo, my great,



great, great, grandfather. We also visited the Church of St Francis Xavier where my mother was baptised in 1939.

It was an honour to represent the EA; but more than that, the trip gave me the opportunity to view Malacca in a new and illuminating light – to feel closer and more connected to my ancestry both recent and historical.

“For me, it was a historic trip. I had recently discovered that my earliest Eurasian ancestor could be traced to Malacca”

Reflecting on half a millennium

Experts from throughout the world will speak at a major conference on the Eurasian legacy in September



For the Eurasian community, 2011 is a hugely significant year, celebrating half a millennium of Portuguese presence in Asia.

To commemorate the anniversary, the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) is to hold a major conference, bringing together academics from universities as far apart as Macau, India, Australia, Portugal, Germany, the UK and the US.

On 29 June, EA President Bill Jansen, trustee Barry Desker, and management committee members Jason Dendroff, Vincent Schoon and Yvonne Pereira hosted a lunch at Quentin's restaurant for Singapore ambassador HE

Hosts and guests at the ISEAS lunch gather at the ECH

Reel Eurasians

Eurasians have been in the Straits for up to 500 years, yet our identity can still cause confusion in our fellow Singaporeans. We asked film-maker *Maurice Lin* how he would make the quintessential Eurasian film

If I were to make a Eurasian film, I would take the direction of telling the story of what it feels like exactly to live life as a Eurasian boy or girl right here and now.

Since our day-to-day lives are no different from the rest, I'd need to give it a slight cutting edge to make it interesting.

So even if we do look mixed, other people's first impression would be that we're of a Malay heritage, but when we open our mouth to speak, they then realise that we're not actually what they thought we are.

So we're stereotyped, and I would like to create a film that clarifies these doubts and shows clearly what Eurasians are.

By adding a little spice into the film, going into the different culinary delicacies of Eurasian families and what kind of lifestyle a Eurasian boy or girl has, or even the upbringing of a Eurasian child, would, I feel, open up the eyes of the general public.

I might call it *To See Life Through a Blind Man's Shades*. I'd base it on two lifelong friends – Patrick, a well-to-do Eurasian and Bob, who lives with his Islamic grandmother, having been blinded in a car accident that killed his parents. Patrick acts as Bob's eyes, telling him stories, giving him Eurasian food,

explaining its origins and letting him see the world through his eyes. They become involved with two girls – Chinese and Indian, who accept them simply for who they are.

When Bob goes out one day alone, he is killed in the crossfire of some street gangs. Patrick is distraught and thinks of suicide, but is persuaded by his girlfriend to live.

Every year on the anniversary of Bob's death, Patrick visits his grave and wears shades and closes his eyes for a whole day to feel exactly what Bob felt during his time being blind.

As an old man, he relates the story of his friendship to his grandchildren. The moral: no matter who we are in whatever era we live in, we are all the same; we are only different in the decisions and choices we make.

At the end of the day, though, a film about a Eurasian boy or girl wouldn't be that different from making a film about a Chinese, Malay or even Indian child. The difference would be in the details; in showing our cultural heritage.

Showing our differences would be ultimately to emphasise the saying "to each his own", but that we have all been inculcated with the same important morals and values.

I'd end it with another saying: "Learn from yesterday, live for today, and hope for tomorrow."



Singapore EA Heritage Committee members (left to right): Geraldene Lowe, Fiona Hodgkins, Therese Thompson, Charlotte Collars and Eulyth Fernandez

K Kesavapany, Professor Laura Pang and Professor Eul Soo Pang of ISEAS, Portuguese ambassador HE Jaime Leitao and author James Boss to discuss the conference, which is planned for 28-30 September.

The three-day conference will incorporate aspects from the entire spectrum of the Portuguese presence. It will include subjects from the days of the early settlers, through diplomacy, culture and traditions, religion, music and literature up to the issues facing Eurasians today.

ISEAS plans to collate the edited papers into a book to commemorate the anniversary.



"We're stereotyped, and I would like to create a film that shows clearly what Eurasians are"

Maurice Lin

Aged to perfection

If 60 is the new 50, there's no limit to what you can do in retirement. We show how one retiree is busier than many young employees and report on a survey into how to age happily

If you're supposed to slow down and take it easy when you reach retirement age, nobody has told Ruby Ng.

You've probably seen Ruby's photo, beaming from a bus stop poster this year. Ruby, 72, is one of the six winners of the latest Active Ager Award from the Council of Third Age, and her picture acts as a positive role model for the not-so-young.

Her reaction on learning of the award was typical of her enthusiastic approach to life. "When I received a phone call confirming that I was one of the winners I was elated and excited – it was like winning first prize in the lottery," she says. "My phone never stopped ringing as congratulations kept pouring in."

"I felt very honoured and proud and did not expect to receive such prominent recognition."

In recent months there has been a plethora of publicity and photo shoots to occupy her on top of her normal routine.

Her own busy schedule would put many a teenager's to shame. "I keep active by offering my time and experience to assist various clubs, associations and volunteer groups in organising social events; I also organise trips to Malacca, and help out at fundraising golf tournaments, dinners and walks."

"My husband and I attend practices, do volunteer work together, and go dancing and travelling whenever we can find the time," she says. "He has been my pillar of strength and motivator all these years."

And she enjoys domestic activities, too. "I'm passionate about cooking, so I often prepare the ever-favourite Peranakan dishes for pot-luck parties and friends." She even finds time to work as an ad-hoc volunteer with the EA.

So what advice would Ruby give to Eurasian senior citizens? "Eat right, exercise and stay healthy. Get out of your comfort zone and socialise. Impart your knowledge and skills to those who may need them. Be open-minded and always strive to learn new things."

"When I received a phone call confirming that I was one of the Active Ager winners I was elated and excited – it was like winning first prize in the lottery"



Ruby Ng comes face to face with herself at a bus stop

Giving and receiving

Since retiring, Nancy Fobrogo has thrown herself into volunteering work with the EA

When Nancy Fobrogo retired from her job as vice-principal of a primary school five years ago, she started looking for interesting ways to pass her time.

"My professional activities had given me the opportunity to be involved in multiracial community work but seldom with Eurasians," she said. "I read that the EA was recruiting volunteers and I was available."

She has been active in issues surrounding ageing. At a meeting with the Council for Third Age (C3A) she attended feedback sessions, and at the International Consortium for Intergenerational Programmes this year she attended various speeches, discussions and workshops on the theme 'Linking Generations: Family, Work, Community'.

At a less scholarly level, she has helped out in fundraising cookie sales, packing supplies for Padang earthquake victims, helping out at Sunday brunches and EA heritage events. She also plays balut with the EA.

According to Nancy, volunteering benefits both the recipient and the volunteer in tangible and intangible ways.

"Volunteerism is quite often depicted as an action of only giving and not receiving," she says, "but in my opinion it is an area of life learning that is not that different from jobs taken during school vacations for work-life orientation. The thoughts, emotions, actions and reactions volunteerism brings out in us can enhance our lives."

She also believes that the training one receives while volunteering can positively change person's outlook. As well as making new friends, "I gained new knowledge about the wider Eurasian family and the other communities whenever I attended functions."

And, perhaps best of all: "When giving any assistance required of me, I feel that when one is not seeking any reward, work becomes uplifting and gives a sense of fulfillment."

"The thoughts, emotions, actions and reactions volunteerism brings out in us can enhance our lives"



Nancy Fobrogo

Keep healthy, keep busy

– *be happy*



Senior EA members give their views to moderator Gwee Xinyi

What are the factors that help people to make the most of their retirement years?

That was the question put to a group of over-60s from the Eurasian Association, who took part in a recent survey to identify how different ethnic groups perceived successful ageing.

The study is being conducted by researchers in the National University of Singapore's Department of Psychological Medicine among Chinese, Malay, Indian and Eurasian senior citizens as a research project in the Gerontology Research Programme.

With the guidance of moderator Gwee Xinyi, the EA participants discussed what factors (such as health, family and spiritual) they felt helped them age successfully.

The consensus was that the two main factors were:

- to be in good physical condition and free of illness
- to refrain from harmful habits such as smoking and drinking

Other contributing factors included:

- staying active through volunteering and taking classes
- keeping the mind active
- companionship and strong support networks
- financial support from children
- close family ties
- respect from others

The study is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

A culture seen through cuisine

Do you have a couple of special Eurasian recipes you'd love to share? Here's your chance to see them in print

Two Eurasians – one living in Hong Kong and one in the US – have joined forces to create a Eurasian cookbook.

The book, tentatively called *The Best of Both Worlds: Eurasian Cuisine from the Age of Discovery to the Global Era*, is due to be published by Blacksmith Books next year.

The authors, barrister Kirsteen Zimmern and social anthropologist Alexander Mamak, explain: "We are both Eurasians interested in raising the profile of Eurasian cooking and preserving recipes that might otherwise be lost to future generations."

They plan to produce a book of easy-to-follow recipes with a memory or story behind each. Part of the proceeds will go to charity.

For an application form, log on to <http://www.blacksmithbooks.com/eurasiancookbook.htm>. Submissions can be e-mailed to the authors at kirsteenzimmern@hotmail.com or amanthro28@hotmail.com

Sunday lunch and serenades



EA members enjoy Sunday lunch at Quentin's



Chef Quentin Pereira with Yvonne Pereira (right) and guest

Quentin's restaurant was bustling with activity on 27 June as more than 100 people enjoyed an eat-all-you-can buffet lunch.

The event was organised by the EA's newly formed Social Circle Sub-committee, an amalgamation of the former Silver Circle and Women's Wing Sub-committees, to open its term of office.

EA member Trevor Nerva strolled round the diners, guitar in hand, serenading the guests – which included an encouraging number of new faces – and a tombola provided many happy guests with attractive prizes.

Join the EA's National Day Lunch

Celebrate National Day the Eurasian way with family and friends at a celebration lunch at Quentin's restaurant at the ECH on Sunday 15 August.

Price: \$18++ adults; \$9++, children under 12.

To book, contact Rachel Chen, tel: 6447 1578. (Please note: parking space is limited, so car pool or use public transport if possible.)

Enjoy a leisurely, all-you-can-eat buffet, prepared by Quentin Pereira, between 11.45am and 3pm and take part in an afternoon of entertainment jointly organised by the EA's Social Circle and Quentin's restaurant. D'Highlights (Chato & Qamal) will provide the music.

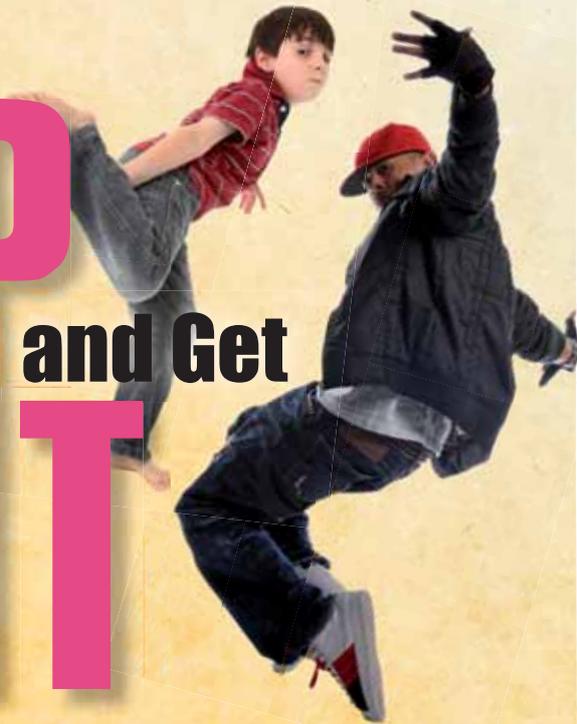
Dress code? Red and white, of course. Dress up to the nines because there'll be a prize for the best-dressed guy or girl.



Get

HIP FIT

and Get



WORKSHOP DATES:

Children (aged 7-11) Dance: Hip Hop Bhangra

DATE	TIME
Tuesday 7 September	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Thursday 9 September	2.00pm - 3.00pm
Saturday 11 September	4.00pm - 4.30pm

Teens (aged 12-16) Dance: MTV Hip Hop

DATE	TIME
Tuesday 7 September	4.30pm - 6.30pm
Thursday 9 September	3.30pm - 4.30pm
Saturday 11 September	4.00pm - 4.30pm

The course is run by The Julia Dance Company at the ECH. For enquiries and registration, contact **Jacqueline Peeris** at 6447 1578 or jacqueline@eurasians.org.

Calling all advertisers

We are seeking advertisers who would like to promote their goods, services or any other news in *The NewEurasian* magazine. For enquiries, contact Rachel at rachel@eurasians.org or 6447 1578.

Have you visited the EA's Facebook group?

Join the EA's Facebook group by searching for 'Eurasian Association, Singapore' and clicking 'Join'. Meet fellow EA members and find out about what's going on at the Eurasian Community House!