

THE NEW EURASIAN

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JULY – SEPTEMBER 2012



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PLUS

OUR NEW EA PRESIDENT

Benett Theseira sets out his plans for the future

PENANG FIESTA

Celebrating with friends north of the border

GAME ON

Chefs and swimmers at the Olympics

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THE NEWEURASIAN

The magazine of The Eurasian Association, Singapore

The NewEurasian is published quarterly and read by more than 17,000 Eurasians in Singapore. It is also circulated to senior government offices, various ministries, statutory boards, community organisations and self-help groups.

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President's Message

I am honoured to have been elected President of the Eurasian Association for the term 2012-2014 and I would like to thank our Patron, trustees and members of the association for their support for me and our new management committee.

The management committee for the new term is made up of a mix of experienced hands and new faces. I would like to thank Vincent Schoon, Yvonne Pereira, Carla Barker, Francesca Eber and Geoff da Silva for continuing to serve, and to welcome Paul Leong, Michelle Tessensohn, Angelina Fernandez and Graham Ong-Webb on board. I am certainly appreciative of our new committee members for coming forward to serve the EA and the Eurasian community.

On behalf of the new management committee, I would also like to extend our thanks to the outgoing members of the previous committee: our past President William Jansen, who led the team in a collegiate manner and achieved much success in fund-raising during the term; Lynn Desker, who did a great job as Honorary Treasurer keeping the EA's finances in order; Jason Dendroff, the outgoing Honorary Secretary; and Burton Westerhout, who chaired the Heritage Sub-committee and led the establishment of the new Roots of the Community gallery in our Eurasian Heritage Centre.

We are also extremely appreciative of our hard-working secretariat team, led by our General Manager Lester Low, who have done

a tremendous job over the previous term. We look forward to their continued commitment and support.

Our priorities for the new term include continuing to focus on EA's three main pillars of Education Advancement, Family Support Services and Community Development. I am thankful that much progress has been made in these areas by the prior committees; we will continue to build on this base and improve what we can do to help the advancement of the Eurasian community.

Within Community Development, one of the key areas that we intend to focus on over the next couple of years will be 'engagement'. We will be looking at strengthening engagement with and among the community, especially with the younger generation. We will also strengthen engagement with the other community organisations and government bodies to leverage on partnership opportunities and maintain our relevance to the wider Singapore community.

As a small minority within the much larger Singapore community, there is a significant risk of dilution of the Eurasian community's fabric with each generation. This is an area of particular concern of ours and therefore we will be making a concerted effort to strengthen the bonds among Eurasians. We also need to reach out to more youth, to bring them in to be more active in the community, which will be critical for us to build our next generation of community leaders. Our

vision is to create a strong, vibrant Eurasian community; a cohesive and well connected community that looks forward to the future while celebrating our rich heritage.

The next two years will be challenging for the EA, as we look to step up our efforts in community engagement, reaching out to the youth and engaging the various external agencies, in addition to our continued efforts in education advancement, family support services and community development. There is much work to be done, to preserve, strengthen and advance the Eurasian community. We need more volunteers and I urge all Eurasians, especially the younger generation, to come forward to help us in any way you can with this important mission.

We hope more people will answer this call for help and come forward to play an active role in the community and make a contribution. It is after all up to us, the Eurasian community at large, to determine what we make of ourselves and our future as a community.

Best wishes



Benett Theseira
President



Looking to the *Future*

Benett Theseira, who has been vice-president of the EA for two years, was elected to the top job at the recent annual management committee meeting. Here, he talks to *The New Eurasian* about his vision for his tenure as President

Describe a little about yourself and your background

I grew up in a fairly typical Eurasian family for my generation; both my parents were Eurasian, and I went to school at St. Michael's, followed by St. Joseph's Institution and Catholic Junior College. I was subsequently offered a Colombo Plan Scholarship, which gave me the opportunity to study in Australia.

I am currently the managing director of Pramerica Real Estate Investors (Asia), where I look after an investment portfolio of more than S\$4 billion in South-east Asia.

I am married and have two lovely children, Sabrina, 14 and Max, 11. My wife Siew Hua, as her name suggests, is Chinese.

The reason I stepped forward to serve in the EA is because I am personally fearful for the future of the Eurasian community. If we are unable to get more of the younger generation to come forward to serve and represent the community, we will be increasingly challenged to remain relevant to the wider Singapore community. I felt there was a serious need and that I could make a contribution.

How do you feel your background has prepared you for the challenge of leading the EA?

I honestly can't say if any of my past experience has prepared me for a leadership role in the EA other than having the experience of working with people of various cultures and in many different situations. Running an association with a social mission and largely dependent on volunteers is certainly quite different from the corporate world.

Needless to say, the task at hand cannot be done by one person alone. I am thankful to have Vincent Schoon and Yvonne Pereira with me at the helm as our VPs and a good group of people on the management committee

“What I hope to see in the future is a well-connected Eurasian community”

comprising some experienced members and some new faces. We also have our hard-working secretariat team, led by Lester Low, to support us.

What will be the key areas of focus during your presidency?

Our plans are to continue to focus on the EA's three main pillars of Education Advancement, Family Support Services and Community Development. In the first two areas, Geoff da Silva and Francesca Eber have done a good job in leading our Education and Family Support Services initiatives and we will continue to build on the base that we have. It is in the third area, Community Development, that a lot more needs to be done.

There are two main aspects of Community Development we intend to focus on. The first, I would broadly term as 'engagement': engaging the community, so we can strengthen the bonds among Eurasians – especially the younger generation; engaging with relevant government agencies to strengthen our working relationship with them in areas of Education, Welfare, Heritage and Community Development; thirdly, engaging with the growing group of first-generation Eurasians in Singapore, to encourage them to be part of our Eurasian community, to inject new blood into it and to help our community to grow.

The second aspect is Heritage. The Eurasian community has a rich, proud heritage that



Benett Theseira speaks at the EA's annual general meeting after his unopposed election as President



Benett celebrates last year's Red & White Lunch. Both young and old take pride in their dual identity as Eurasian and Singaporean

straddles more than 500 years since the first Europeans, the Portuguese, established a presence in the region. Many of our forefathers played very significant roles in helping to build up Singapore. While names like Sheares, Barker, Stewart and Bogaars may be familiar to many of us, they are much less so among the younger generation. We will be working on enhancing the Eurasian Heritage Centre and finding better ways to make this more accessible to the community.

What do you hope to achieve as President?

I don't believe that all that I would like to do can be achieved in my term as President but we will certainly do our best. What I hope to see in the future is a well-connected Eurasian community that uses our collective knowledge and experiences to be a vibrant and well-respected community in Singapore. I hope that we will have a younger generation that is proud of our heritage, actively involved with the EA and helping the Eurasian community.

As a small community, many of us do not come across other Eurasians in our school or work life. This is increasingly so with the younger generation. Without this regular contact the bond and fabric of our community weakens over time. Additionally, with each generation,



The EA gives out education grants to encourage Eurasians to strive for academic success

“I encourage all younger Eurasians to come forward. I ask all parents to encourage their sons and daughters to get involved”

through inter-marriage and general osmosis with a broader community, our Eurasian culture and heritage gets increasingly diluted and potentially lost. These are concerns I hope to be able to address during my term as President of the EA.

What challenges will face the organisation during your term and how do you plan to address these?

The challenges the EA faces are perennial – the need for more volunteers and more money. I am thankful for the numerous volunteers we have, but we shall be putting our efforts actively into recruiting more.

I hope to get approval this year to increase our community's contributions to the ECF and at the same time obtain an increase in the government's matching grant. This would help to provide a more stable financial base.



The EA wants to involve the younger generation of Eurasians and nurture the community's potential leaders

How do you think the EA can attract more youths, volunteers and people in the community?

No association can survive without strong leadership. To ensure this, we need to have an active programme of leadership renewal whereby we reach out to the next generation of capable young Eurasians, get them involved and identify and groom them to be future leaders of the community.

We will be initiating a series of programmes to connect with more of the younger Eurasians. We also hope to launch a Young Professional Eurasians Networking group.

Our youth outreach programmes are critical for leadership renewal and sustaining the EA. It is through the EA that we are able to provide a platform for the Eurasian community to have a focal point and a voice. It also provides a platform for us to develop and showcase our up-and-coming Eurasian talent.

I encourage all younger Eurasians to come forward, even if we may have missed them in our reaching out. I ask all parents to encourage their sons and daughters to get involved, to help us with this important task of ensuring the future of the Eurasian community.

Play Your Part in History

The National Museum of Singapore is embarking on a project to showcase how the different communities helped to build Singapore into what it is today and highlight these communities' contributions.

One focus is on Eurasian civil servants, who formed the first tranche of the civil service in Singapore, the community being the obvious choice of the British owing to their fluency in English, and the fact that they related more to the Europeans than the other communities in Singapore at that time.

The National Museum is therefore looking for people to share their memories and memorabilia, which may include photographs, staff access passes, punch cards, certificates or other awards received for good work etc. *If you can help, please contact Jacqueline Peeris at jacqueline@eurasians.org*

Ring in the New!

The New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance 2012 will be an affair to remember. We're bringing in a whole new year in a whole new way - this one's going to be a hot one. *You won't want to miss it. More details in the next issue!*

Meet the Team

Introducing the new management committee members

Benett Theseira, President

Benett Theseira is Managing Director of Pramerica Real Estate Investors (Asia), and is responsible for its US\$4 billion investment portfolio in South-east Asia.

A Colombo Plan scholar, he started his career with the Singapore Government, where he was assistant commissioner of lands in the Ministry of Law. He subsequently held executive positions with CapitaLand, the Ascott Group and Pacific Star Asia, where he was president.

Benett has served on the Eurasian Association Management Committee in numerous capacities including treasurer, honorary secretary and vice president.

Vincent Schoon, 1st Vice President

Vincent Schoon is Managing Director of Tridium Global Solutions; he has been in management consultancy for more than 20 years and has worked in Hong Kong, Dubai, Israel and Canada. He has extensive knowledge in sales and leadership training, which are also his areas of expertise.

Vincent has worked in numerous committees in the EA and has been involved in many of its fund-raising and other activities.

Yvonne Pereira, 2nd Vice President

Yvonne Pereira worked as a secretary and in administration in ABB Industry before retiring in 2008. A former sportswoman, playing netball, softball and hockey, she has also been involved in sports management.

A long-time volunteer, Yvonne was instrumental in setting up the EA's Balut Section and the Toastmasters Club. She has also represented the association on various outside organisations.

Carla Barker, Honorary Secretary

Carla Barker is a lawyer and partner at KhattarWong LLP. She has more than 30 years' experience and her areas of expertise include: banking and finance, conveyancing and property law, and landlord and tenant law.

She has chaired the Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) in aggregate for 15 years, was legal advisor to the Singapore Cheshire Home for many years, and has chaired the EA's Legal Advisory Panel.



Front row (left to right): Carla Barker; Vincent Schoon; Benett Theseira; Yvonne Pereira; Paul Leong. Back row: Angelina Fernandez, Dr Graham Webb, Geoffrey da Silva, Michelle Tessensohn, Francesca Eber, Christian Eber

Paul Leong, Honorary Treasurer

Paul Leong is a partner at a private equity firm, which he co-founded. He has more than 20 years' international venture capital and investment banking experience. He has considerable experience in the day-to-day operations and development of private enterprises having spent five years as vice president of business development for a leading Singapore IT company.

He has also served as a board member for several companies in Singapore, Malaysia and Australia, and holds Masters and Bachelors Degrees in Business Administration.

Geoffrey da Silva, Committee Member

Geoffrey da Silva is a senior lecturer at the School of Business, Temasek Polytechnic.

He has a wealth of experience in the field of education, sitting on various boards and committees, including the MOE Joint Consultative Committee for Education (JCCE) together with members of the other self-help groups, and chairs the school management board of St. Patrick's School.

A dedicated educationist, he has served as chair of the EA's Education Committee since 2004.

Francesca Eber, Committee Member

Francesca Eber is qualified in Home Economics Education. She has taught in Australia and Singapore, and has worked in the US Dept of Agriculture Singapore.

Francesca is also trained in Counselling & Psycho Spirituality and holds an Advanced Certified Training & Assessment (ACTA) certification. She is currently a consultant in human capital development, an international corporate training and

coaching organisation, and is partner in The Crane Practice, which offers life coaching.

She has worked with the EA's FSS section for more than six years. Its chair since 2010, her special interests are with single-parent families and the ageing community.

Christian Eber, Committee Member

Christian Eber is the founder and managing director of CE Engineering, a heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning business.

He started his career as an aircraft technician with SIA Engineering; he was sponsored for continuous education courses and completed his degree in Engineering Business Management at Coventry University in 2007. He is currently pursuing an MBA with the University of Strathclyde.

Christian has served on the EA's FSS committee and Communications Sub-committee.

Angelina Fernandez, Committee Member

Angelina Fernandez is Director of Communications at the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS). She is responsible for communicating MAS' policies to a wide group of external stakeholders.

She read Social and Political Science at the University of Cambridge and began her career as a broadcast journalist, hosting and producing a current affairs chat show before gaining experience in managing communications strategies for both public and private sector organisations. Angelina chairs the EA's Communications Sub-committee.

Michelle Tessensohn, Committee Member

Michelle Tessensohn is a healer, coach and facilitator. She trained with pioneers in the field of human potential, life coaching and Oriental healing.

Besides her one-to-one consultations, she gives talks, workshops and speaks publicly about natural health and human potential. She has been featured on *Primetime Morning* on Channel News Asia, Razor TV, News Radio 93.8, WKRZ 91.3, and in the magazines *Time Out*, *Female* and *Her World*.

Michelle also promotes communication and leadership skills as an active member of the EA

Toastmasters Club and is currently working on a semi-autobiographical self-help book.

Graham Ong-Webb, Committee Member

Dr Graham Ong-Webb is a consultant with the Global Client Services' South-east Asia team at Control Risks, a global risk consultancy specialising in assisting companies and organisations to manage political, integrity and security risks.

A Commonwealth scholar, Graham has a PhD in Political Science from King's College London, a Master's degree in International Relations from the London School of Economics, and a Bachelor's degree (with Honours) in Political Science from NUS.

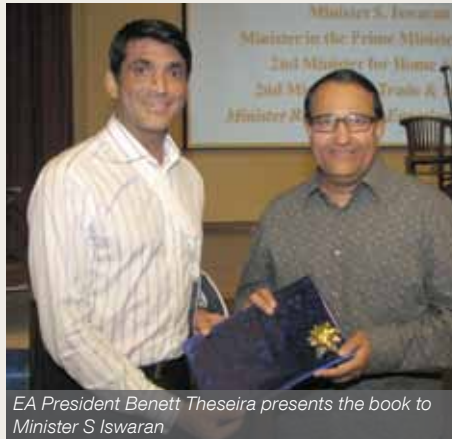
Graham is a recipient of the Eurasian Association's Academic Excellence Award.

Minister S Iswaran's EA Briefing

Minister S Iswaran, who now represents the Eurasian community in the Cabinet, visited the ECH on 4 July to meet the management committee over a private dinner. Before the dinner, Minister Iswaran viewed the newly refurbished Eurasian Heritage Centre.

During dinner, guests were entertained by the band Janelle Stewart and Roger Pereira.

Afterwards, Mr Iswaran thanked the committee for introducing him to the association and EA President Benett Theseira presented him with the book, *The Eurasian Face* by Kirsteen Zimmern.



EA President Benett Theseira presents the book to Minister S Iswaran



The Minister with the trustees and management committee

Trick or Treat with the Toastmasters



Sherlin Giri tries out her Halloween look

In addition to following their more lofty ideals of learning to communicate eloquently in public, EA Toastmaster Club members are also known to let their collective hair down now and again.

In fact they're planning to look positively ghoulish on 3 November and invite club members and non-members alike to join them for their Halloween Party.

Toastmaster member Sherlin Giri says: This particular meeting will not end with the usual formalities but will continue into the evening... and perhaps even into the night, if any brave soul dares. We will be invoking ghostly spirits (of the alcoholic kind) and perhaps even tempt the Devil (in his curry form) to grace the occasion. Guests are strongly encouraged to dress up and blend in with the mob of miscreants and misfits (we will gladly provide free make-up application at the door if need be)."


Eurasian Association Toastmasters Club Misfit and Miscreant Meeting

Date: Saturday 3 November

Time: 1.30-4.30pm

Venue: Platinum Lounge, Eurasian Community House

Email guest@eurasiantm.com to indicate your interest to attend this event, if you dare. We look forward to eating – oops sorry, we mean meeting – you.



Happy Birthday, Singapore!

Come and show your true colours – red and white – and party to celebrate the nation's 47th birthday.

Event:	Social Circle's Red & White National Day Celebration Lunch
Date:	Sunday 26 August 2012
Time:	12pm to 3pm
Place:	Quentin's Restaurant, ECH
Price:	Adults \$22++, Children (6-12 years) \$11.00++ Dress code: red and white, of course.

The lunch will include a buffet, nostalgic music, tombola, stalls selling suggee cake and other goodies, and a chance to win prizes in the lucky card draw.

Make your reservations with
Bridget Basnayake, tel: 6447 1578
 or at **Quentin's Restaurant, tel: 6348 0327.**

Closing date for bookings is 17 August, or earlier if the maximum number is reached. So reserve your place now!

Please note: parking space is limited, so please use public transport if possible.

Education Excellence

Geoffrey da Silva, chairman of the EA's Education Sub-committee, talks to *The NewEurasian* about its goals for the future

What is the mission of the Education Sub-committee?

To support Eurasian students in their educational journey from primary to tertiary, giving them the encouragement and confidence to persevere despite the obstacles and challenges; motivating them to aim high and achieve academic excellence; moulding them to be the leaders of tomorrow and inspiring examples to the youth and community.

How do Eurasian students benefit from the scholarships, bursaries and awards the EA gives them?

The EA Education Sub-committee helps students from low-income families through scholarships, bursaries and awards. The annual Eurasian Community Fund (ECF) Education Awards was started in 1996 to

recognise academic excellence among our Eurasian students. Since then, it has benefited about 800 students through the monetary award, which is aimed at encouraging them to continue studying hard despite the difficulties.

The EA offers various bursaries and scholarships to students from primary, secondary and tertiary levels. These schemes, which cover various education expenses including school fees, books, uniforms and transport, help to defray the cost of education, lighten the financial burden, and enable the student to focus on their studies.

What improvements do you hope to see (specifically in which subjects and areas of expertise, which age groups etc.)?

It is our hope that more secondary students,

which are the age group 13-17, will do better in their studies and progress to post-secondary institutions (ITE and polytechnic), as this will give them more options for higher studies and better placement in the job market.

What other long-term goals (over the next five to 10 years) does the EA have to raise the standard of education of young Eurasians?

Through the various enrichment educational programmes, as well as attractive bursaries and scholarships for Eurasian students, we look forward to seeing tangible results in improvement across the board in national examinations, as well as spurring a higher number of school leavers to extend their learning into institutions of higher learning, such as the polytechnics and even beyond to university education.

An Educational Legacy



Recipients of the Coral de Cruz Memorial Fund grants

The EA hosted the Coral de Cruz Memorial Fund on 26 May, which disbursed education grants to six Eurasian secondary school students. The money, which was presented by EA Education Sub-committee member Derek Scully, provides opportunities for educational advancement to less fortunate students.

The fund was set up through the EA by Justice Judith Prakash and her brother, Simon Tensing de Cruz, in honour of their late mother Coral.

Recipient Caelan Marcel Oliveiro, 14, a pupil at St Patrick's Secondary School, says the money will help to ease his family's financial burdens: "I am quite relieved to have received the fund because it will help me a lot. It will help me pay for school items such as assessment books and school stationery."

Making Books a Part of Life



This picture and below: the opening of the Singapore Book Fair



Reading paves the way for lifelong learning, and each year bibliophiles – young and old – look forward to The Singapore Book Fair held during the June school holidays. This year the event, held at Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre, boasted some 300,000 English and Chinese publications.

Thanks to the generous donation of book vouchers from Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple, many needy students were able to buy books at the fair. The vouchers, worth \$40 each, were distributed through the four self-help groups. Some 100 Eurasian students received vouchers.

A Bright Future

Promising Eurasian primary school pupils were awarded bursaries from Temasek Cares at a ceremony held at the Eurasian Community House on 26 May.

The bursaries, which are awarded to children from low-income families, aim to recognise the academic achievements of talented students and support them in their educational goals.

Proud family members watched as 28 children received their bursary from Derek Scully, a member of the EA's Education Sub-committee.

Bursary recipient Benjamin Oliveiro, nine, of Teck Ghee Primary School, told *The NewEurasian*: "I am very happy to receive this award. I hope to be a recipient for next year, too, because I don't want to burden my

parents and I hope to use this money to help my parents in every way I can. This bursary has helped me with buying school necessities and paying of the school fees."

Benjamin, who enjoys drawing and reading, hopes to become a lawyer. "I want to fight for justice and win many lawsuits to make my parents proud," he said. "Also, lawyers earn quite a lot of money and I want to be able to save and take care of my parents when they grow old."

The students were also treated to a tour of the new Eurasian Heritage Centre to learn more about Eurasian history and culture and took part in a fun quiz. Benjamin, who plans to go to Anderson Secondary School, said: "The activity was interesting; I got to make new friends and learned many things about my history and culture."



Benjamin Oliveiro

Cambodian Inspiration

Teenager Abigale Rodrigues' recent overseas trip as a volunteer has given her a new perspective on life – and privilege



Abigale Rodrigues (back row, centre, with short hair) with her classmates and new friends at the orphanage

When Abigale Rodrigues joined her classmates from CHIJ Katong Convent on a mission last November to help Cambodia's most vulnerable citizens it was her first time in an aeroplane and her first trip abroad.

The 17 year old, now an ITE College East student, was understandably nervous about the adventure ahead but saw the trip as "an opportunity to travel, learn, use my skills in a new setting and form a more honest and global perspective on the human experience".

The students visited villages, schools and orphanages during their stay. Abigale says: "We prepared and served food for the children and villagers as they waited patiently before their prayers started. We also taught them origami, games, singing and even walked home with them."

Throughout their trip, the students learnt how these less-privileged Cambodians live

and survive daily with little or no money. Abigale says: "I was saddened by the shocking lack of resources for disadvantaged communities. I witnessed the struggles of some Cambodians living in the rubbish dumps and the deprived conditions of the street children and landmine victims. Most of the kids are not clothed and some go without food for days. There were so many babies and children at the orphanage because their parents were not able to take care of them. At the same time, I was moved by the strong, resilient and happy Cambodians."

She adds: "Here in Singapore, many of us get to pick and choose what we would like to eat and wear every day but the less fortunate don't. The people in Cambodia take care of each other very well, especially the children. Despite the fact that they do not have modern things like us, they are very happy and loving and the children

there love to go to school and they do not waste food."

The students also had the chance to visit some of the country's attractions, including the famous temple of Angkor Wat. "We had to climb very steep steps, which are quite a hike, but all of us had so much fun. We were all amazed by the Khmer culture and the magnificent Angkor Wat," says Abigale.

The joys of giving and volunteering left the teenager deeply inspired. "I believe in giving back because I have always been receiving help, and I feel that it is very important to help others in need too. I have always admired people who are able to do volunteer work for the less fortunate, especially in third-world countries like Cambodia." Abigale now looks forward to making more such life-changing experiences and would consider volunteering work in the future, maybe in Africa.

Get Connected – Get Involved

There has never been a better time for young people interested in music or sports, want to network with someone who has something to say that isn't being heard – the EA will help you.



This picture and right: The Young Professional Eurasians Gathering

From developing country to modern industrial economy in little over a generation, Singapore's key identity has always been its melting pot of ethnic groups. Now, in our wired-up global village, it's more important than ever that we remember where we came from; that we don't lose sight of our roots, values and identity in the race to compete in the world economy.

The EA believes that by knowing and understanding their heritage its younger members can make the most of their future. The Eurasian Community House can offer all sorts of activities and events for younger Eurasians to come together to enjoy social, cultural and educational activities. The EA also seeks to encourage young people to participate actively in the Eurasian community and includes a warm welcome to first-generation Eurasians.

Take, for example, the recent new youth drive that was kick-started by members of the EA's Youth Sub-committee. The young participants mixed business and pleasure during an inaugural, informal get-together for young Eurasian professionals on 7 June at the Singapore Recreation Club. The immediate objective of these networking sessions is to provide a vehicle for young professional Eurasians to come together for an hour or two each month to catch up with each other and to develop community ties. The first event was a great success and 50 people attended to meet new friends. They have since kept in touch on a Facebook group called 'Young Professional Eurasians', which already has 120 members.

*“ I understand that
the more I express my
comments, the more I can
influence ”*

Michelle Rodrigues, 20, a
performing art student from
LASALLE

Finding My Voice

Adam Abdeali gave up a Saturday afternoon to attend an event at the EA to please his cousin – and is now a regular there, honing his new-found skills

ted ed

...e to join the Eurasian Association. Whether you're
...ith other young professionals – or feel you have
...ants to hear from you



Graham Ong Webb, who chairs the committee, says: “In the past, Eurasians could develop a sense of community more easily because many of them went to the same schools and lived in the same areas. Today’s work tempos are certainly not helping. In their hearts, younger Eurasians yearn to bond and to identify with each other but in the face of today’s challenges, they cannot do it themselves. They still need the help of the larger Eurasian community. The resources, support and leadership of the Eurasian Association are making it possible for our youth to gather and to preserve what would otherwise be lost.”

Pei Lin Marie, who attended the event said: “This contribution by the young people was significant. This free and neutral space quickly became a chosen place for dialogue, to meet or simply to pause and think.”

Another participant, Christopher Gordon, said that when he heard the gathering was intended for young people, he felt important and felt that he had made some impact towards the association: “The only way is to get closer to young people and to give them an opportunity to contribute so we can work together with respect.”

Dillon Francis, 22, a student from Temasek Polytechnic said: “I believe youth leadership development is important because the youth of today are the future of our nation. It is also important for youth to take

My involvement with the Eurasian Association Toastmasters Club (EA TMC) began when my cousin and now fellow toastmaster, Peter Rodrigues, invited me to witness a speech contest organised by the club. I was hesitant at first and wondered whether sitting in a hall listening to a group of people delivering speeches was the best way to spend a Saturday afternoon. In the end though, I agreed and that was probably one of the best decisions I’ve ever made.

The moment I stepped into the hall where the contest was to take place, I felt an aura of warmth and friendliness emanating from everyone that, in a way, took me by surprise. Immediately, I felt at home despite being in a room filled mostly with strangers. >>

“The more I understand the spaces I can occupy, and the more I learn to negotiate the spaces I share with adults, the more I discover the pleasure of working together”

Anthony Dorélas, AIESEC Project co-coordinator at SMU, 2012

“Adults should ask for our opinion when they make decisions concerning us”

Edmond De Cruz, 21, student from ITE Bishan

part in what our communities are doing day by day so they can use those life experiences later on for something they might like to do. We need older people to lead us as well to help us become successful as we become older.”

The EA Youth Committee aims to use social media to encourage greater interaction, forging links with youth committees of other SHGs to explore collaborative initiatives and to transform social gatherings into a seed bed for identifying other community leaders and to mobilise volunteers.

Graham says: “We encourage all working Eurasians roughly between the age of 20 and 40 years to join our Facebook group. You can join our mailing list by visiting the EA website and writing in to us. We are looking at holding our next gathering on either 7 or 8 August to celebrate National Day and also a Eurasian Youth Symposium is slated for the first half of 2013.”

For young people to engage in their community is an opportunity to help build a better world. For adults, it is a civic responsibility to include young people in the decisions that interest and affect them. When young people are involved in the process and share the responsibility for developing and implementing solutions a totally new perspective is created. Today’s youth can be both today and tomorrow’s actors.



Adam Abdeali (seated, in white shirt) learns to speak up



Adam receives his Best Speaker award

<< Soon, the actual contest commenced and I was amazed by the ability that each of the speakers demonstrated. At some point during the speeches, I told myself: "I want to be like this." I wanted to be able to impress, excite and entertain an audience the same way I had just been. It did not take me long to sign up as a member.

It has been about a year since I joined, and I am on the verge of achieving my Competent Communicator (CC) award, the very first milestone that most toastmasters aim at accomplishing. While my confidence and ability to communicate have definitely improved. I have also come to realise that there is much more that the EA TMC has given me. On top of being an excellent platform for me to become increasingly comfortable with public speaking, it's the friendships I have forged that make me never want to miss any of our gatherings. If you are wondering whether becoming a toastmaster is going to benefit you, simply set aside some time to attend one of our chapter meetings. If you think you are too young or too old, let me quash that myth right here. Members range from young adults in their early 20s to those well into their golden years – we are united by a common spirit of wanting to improve ourselves, both as speakers and as people.

Ultimately, if you're someone who has trouble with public speaking EA TMC is definitely where you are going to find all the support you need. And the people you meet, the skills you learn, and the memories you make will last with you a lifetime.

Join the Clubs!

There are numerous activities for young EA members and associates. Here's what's on offer.

The Eurasian Association of Singapore, Dragon Boat Team

The EA Dragons comprises many nationalities. Training sessions are a social event, and a great way to keep fit. *Contact Bianca Hoeden, team captain at bianca.hoeden@yahoo.com*

The Eurasian Association Toastmasters Club

The EA Toastmasters Club seeks to foster a community of public speakers, leaders and individuals who want to improve their communication, public speaking and leadership skills. *For more details, email: info@eurasiantm.com*

Young Professional Eurasians (YPE)

Young Professional Eurasians is a forum for young Eurasian professionals to develop professionally, socially and civically. Members don't come just to exchange business cards; be a part of a group that will foster Eurasians' future leaders. *Find out more from Irfa Tukiman at irfa@eurasians.org*

The Eurasian Association Soccer Team

The EA Soccer Team is continually looking for soccer players to join the squad and welcomes players for all positions and from ages of five to 24. *Contact Bridget Basnayake at bridget@eurasians.org*

The EA Music Studios

Looking for a place to jam? Want to learn a musical instrument? Courses offered are: electrical guitar, bass guitar or drums. A course of four lessons of one hour per week costs \$80 for beginners and \$90 for intermediate (for a group) or \$160 for beginners and \$170 for intermediate (individual tuition). *For music course registration and studio bookings, call Joe Ferdinands at 9691 2891.*

Alternatively you can also check out our website www.eurasians.org.sg and 'LIKE' us on our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/eurasianassociation>



Hey, We're on Facebook!

Have you visited the EA's Facebook group? Join the 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!

An Evening of Laughter and Learning

Tea with Neighbours was a joint event between the EA and the South East Community Development Council at which members chatted with their neighbours, got a smattering of culture – and even underwent some informal cheering-up – while enjoying a comforting cuppa.

The event, held at the ECH on 24 June, aimed to encourage the EA's FSS clients to forge bonds with the neighbourhood communities. Among the invited guests were Chew Siong Hee, chairman of the Mountbatten Community Centre Management Committee and Barry Shah of the EA's Culture & Heritage Sub-committee.

After a welcome address by FSS chairperson Francesca Eber, Lucille Marcus led guests on a tour of the heritage rooms and museum.

During the tea at Quentin's, guests were entertained with childhood kampong stories by EA toastmasters Michelle Tessensohn, Santhanaram, Shi Win and Peter Rodrigues.

Toastmaster Ram then introduced some 'laughter' therapy and had everybody standing up with their hands in the air and guffawing.



EA Toastmaster Ram gets the guests on their feet with some rousing laughter therapy



EA Heritage volunteer Lucille Marcus shows the guests round the Eurasian Heritage Centre

Future dates for Tea With Neighbours are planned for Sunday 9 Sept and Sunday 4 November 2012, from 4pm to 6pm at Quentin's. Contact Ram, tel: 6447 1578 or e-mail ram@eurasians.org for reservations.

Patricia's Story

When you are hit by the worst events life can throw at you, it helps to know that there are people in the community who care

In February 2012, Patricia's life took an unforeseen direction. The strong and optimistic woman has been dealing with a cancer that has become progressively more severe. She was then told that she had stage 4 pancreatic cancer that has spread to her lungs and intestines. Since the diagnosis, she has gone through several chemotherapy treatment and radiotherapy sessions at Tan Tock Seng Hospital.

Doctors told her that her prognosis was bleak, giving her only a few months to live. Her survival rate is expected to be between two and six months. "That day my life changed. I became emotionally depressed and angry as I am facing death for the first time", she says. Patricia had not acknowledged to herself yet that this cancer would eventually take her life, probably sooner or later. She says: "If my mood improves I may be able to live a little bit longer. Or I might have a better quality of life that will make my body stronger, so that I can survive a little longer."

She had to give up her job as a part-time promoter in a pharmacy because of the medication and radiation. "It weakened me and I had to struggle to just get dressed in the mornings. I always felt tired and sleepy", she says.

Her husband, Rafael Kimo, 59 is her sole caregiver. They live in a one-room HDB flat. She has two children from her previous marriage but has very little contact with them. Early this year, Rafael was

diagnosed with clinical depression and has resorted to attempting suicide on several occasions. Owing to his condition, he has been certified unfit for employment.

On hearing of her plight, the EA's FSS has come to the couple's aid to help lessen the burden of such challenging times. Patricia and Rafael receive emergency cash relief and grants as well as food vouchers. "I don't know what I would have done without the help. I am so thankful," she says. She also receives free home nursing care from the Dover Park Hospice, which provides hospice care for patients going through the last stages of their lives.

A main pillar of the EA's work is to help fellow Eurasians when they find themselves in desperate need. But in order that the association can carry on this work it requires donations from those who can afford to give.

Your contributions make a difference

Your donation will enable the association to continue the good work in meeting the needs of our community, specifically, low-income families, and youth at risk, struggling single parents and the lonely and poor elderly. To make an online donation, please visit: <http://www.eurasians.org.sg/a-helping-hand/fundraising/>

Kayaking Round the Clock

EA Dragons coach Calvin Christian and two boating mates shared their paddle power earlier this year to put together a fundraiser for a children's charity. Calvin, fellow EA Dragon Andrew Chng and friend Elsie Lim, who last year made waves by kayaking together from Singapore to Phuket and back from Surat Thani, developed a 24-hour, non-stop, sponsored kayak challenge to assist the children of the newly opened ARC Children's Centre.

The event, titled X240, was held in the Kallang Basin section of Marina Reservoir and was supported by friends and family. Calvin had designed a triangular circuit that measured 1.73km a lap. Working in eight-hour shifts, the team aimed to cover 240km within 24 hours and invited the public and corporations to donate to the cause.

Demonstrating great mental tenacity and physical endurance, the team paddled an impressive distance of 250.85km in 24 hours, surpassing their target and raising a total of \$37,000 for the children.

Following the immense success of the challenge, the team plans to take the challenge to greater heights next year and raise more money for charity. Calvin says: "I hope to inspire fellow adventurers and the sporting youth of today to make a difference and contribute to the community with the skills they have."

The event was made possible with help from the Singapore Canoe Federation, Kanoe Sports, Trekkers Pte Ltd, the Public Utilities Board, Sunsnack, Allswell and Red Bull.



Calvin Christian and Andrew Chng take to the water



The intrepid trio in the Kallang Basin

In the Spotlight

Budding queen of performance arts Halimah Kygrios will be part of the dancing cast in the stage production of *La Cage Aux Folles* produced by W!LD RICE this July

When Halimah Kygrios was five, her mother sent her to an audition for the musical *Carousel*. At that moment, she says, "I fell in love with the theatre".

Now 22, the Malay-Greek student has recently been busy preparing for the *La Cage aux Folles*, whose previous Broadway productions have won numerous Tony Awards. "I have been researching the musical, watching clips and movies related to the style. I've listened to the Broadway cast albums, reading scripts to get as much familiarity as possible. Physically, I have been training regularly at my dance studio, working on technique and style. Ballet, I believe is an essential part of training for 'La Cage' because the posture and elegance of a Cagelle is extremely balletic", she says.

Halimah, who is currently pursuing a degree in Musical Theatre at LaSalle College of the Arts in Singapore, already has a backlog of work to her credit. She has performed in *Tapworks* choreographed by Chris Horsey and original Tap Dog Nathan Sheens, the 2006 Australian Dance Awards in the company

Beats Per Minute, *Kismet the Musical* produced by The Production Company in Melbourne and *Aladdin* by W!LD RICE. "I found that art is a place where I can be myself; where I am able to escape everyday life and do something that I love. I feel it's a way to let out my feelings in a safe and open environment", she says.

“I found that art is a place where I can be myself; where I am able to escape everyday life”

"Throughout my training, I embraced the Stanislavski's Technique using 'Emotion Memory'. Using real emotion and personal experiences really lifted my acting, showing truth and commitment to a character", she adds.

The method can, however, present challenges, such as when she was singing *Maybe I Like It This Way* from *The Wild Party* during a rehearsal: "It became so meaningful to me that I could not finish singing the song, I



Halimah Kygrios

was so emotionally torn at that moment. I had never seen such emotion and truth come from my performance before".

Her words of advice for aspiring performing artistes? "It's a hard industry, we all know that; but if you want something bad enough, you will get it. Have your heart set on a goal. Never give up. A quote that always sticks in my mind is: 'I do because I can, I can because I want to, I want to because you said I couldn't.'"

La Cage Aux Folles will run from 20 July to 4 August at the Esplanade Theatre. Tickets start at \$35 and are available from Sistic, tel: 6348 5555 or www.sistic.com.sg

A Soaring Career

Fourteen-year-old Matthew Supramaniam is a multi-talented singer and pianist, who is well on his way to a musical career

His voice is high, crisp and crystal clear. And behind the voice is a power and control that seem almost alien in one so young. Singapore Eurasian Matthew Supramaniam, 14, is a leading boy soprano (which has a higher range than the treble voice). He has already performed live on the BBC to millions, recorded under the Chandos label, and was recently featured as soloist in the World Premiere of the *Flight of the Jade Bird* operetta, which marked the opening of the Singapore International Arts Festival on May 2012.

Matthew started singing hymns and choruses at the age of three and had passed his piano grade 7 with distinction by the age of 10. He began singing as a chorister at St John's College, Cambridge, in the UK.

"It's really fun to sing," he says. "I like to see the pleasure it gives the audience. Occasionally, I have made people cry with my singing but it amazes me how people can be so moved by me. It brings me joy that they find my singing so meaningful."

“It's really fun to sing. I like to see the pleasure it gives the audience”

Matthew is currently a Music Exhibitioner at the prestigious Eton College in the UK and is one of the lead trebles and a regular soloist in the Eton College Chapel Choir.

During his recent appearance at the arts festival here, Matthew had to work closely with world-class musicians. "I really enjoyed the opportunity as it was very exciting for me, although the music was demanding and

complex and I had to hold my own as a soloist against all the adult professional musicians," he says.

What has been his greatest challenge so far? "Coughs and sore throats! When I did Child Aid 2011 in Singapore, I had laryngitis and nearly did not perform at all. It was just dreadful as it hurt my pride because I knew I wasn't singing even half my best but I had made a commitment and I didn't want to let everyone down."

It won't be long before the boy soprano's voice changes. What then? "It will be a challenge," admits Matthew, "but it may be better. In opera, you can sing even if you are old."

And he is already thinking about a whole new world of roles he could sing as an adult. "I would like to be a music scholar at St John's College in Cambridge," he says. "I'd also like to be able to put something back into society but I am not sure what exactly that might be. As for now, I am thinking singing as a possible career but my dad would prefer me to be a lawyer. Maybe I can be a singing lawyer!"



Chorister Matthew Supramaniam at the prestigious Eton in the UK



Matthew chills out

Young Eurasian is Sportsman of the Year

Teenager Joseph Schooling makes sporting history

Sixteen-year-old Joseph Schooling was named the country's top male athlete at the Singapore Sports Awards 2012 in May.

The event, which was held at Swissôtel the Stamford hotel, honours the nation's top sporting talents for their notable achievements. Shuttle Fu Mingtian was named Sportswoman of the Year.

Joseph makes sporting history by being the youngest recipient to receive the prestigious

title, and is the first swimmer since Mark Chay in 2002 to win the award.

Joseph's achievements in a stellar 2011 included breaking the 200m butterfly SEA Games record where he bagged two gold, one silver and one bronze medal. He is also the only Singaporean swimmer to have qualified for the London Olympics, where he will be competing in the 200m fly. He says the award will be an inspiration to reach greater heights in



Joseph Schooling is dreaming of success at the London Olympics

London: "You can't put a limit on anything. The more you dream the further you get."

Animated Life

Singaporean Eurasian Errol Le Cain's illustrations became known by children throughout the world. *Denyse Tessensohn* – who owns copies of nearly all his books – looks back at his life

The artistic legacy of Singapore Eurasian Errol Le Cain began for millions of children in 1968, when his first book, *King Arthur's Sword*, was published by Faber and Faber in London. This, and subsequent books, were translated into many languages. The books he illustrated are among the favourite children's books of all time, such as *Aladdin*, *Thorn Rose*, *The Twelve Dancing Princesses*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Cinderella*. He won awards and accolades from distinguished newspapers such as *The Times* in the UK and *The New York Times*.

He was also a renowned animator and the Disney movie *Aladdin* borrowed heavily from his ideas. Likewise, Andrew Lloyd-Webber's *Cats* drew inspiration from Le Cain's interpretations of TS Eliot's cat poems *Groultiger's Last Stand* and *Mister Mistoffelees*.

Le Cain was born and brought up in Singapore, the son of the first non-British Commissioner of Police. He was evacuated to India during the Japanese Occupation, but returned to attend St Patrick's School and St Joseph's Institution, and completed his Senior Cambridge in 1956. He had no formal art education – indeed, his unconventional style irritated his art teachers – but his artistic talent had been encouraged by his grandmother since he was a toddler.

When he sat for his Cambridge leaving exam, he finished his art paper in 20 minutes instead of the three hours allotted, so the invigilators (who were from another school) reported the matter, suspecting him of cheating. The matter was investigated and he was fully exonerated. Not only that – his mark was an A1.

Le Cain recalled his regular trips to the local cinema – conveniently next door to his home. "The Roxy was really where I was educated. It used to change its programmes twice a week, and I knew how to get in behind the screen so I'd see the films back to front. I saw everything. Those films were my art training," he said.

He also turned his room into a repertory company with his friends. "Then, when I was 11, a friend of mine bought an 8mm camera and I branched out into animation. I did a scene of a cricket walking across a

bridge carrying a knapsack on its back and to my amazement it worked. So I wrote a story called *The Enchanted Mouse* and made a 10-minute cartoon feature using cut-outs. Then my parents gave me a 16mm camera and some colour film, and I made *The Littlest Goatherd*," he said.

He married Lili, the daughter of GG Thompson, an Englishman who played an important part in Singapore's political landscape as director of the Singapore Political Study Centre in the early days of independence. They had two children.

Le Cain spent the post-war years in the UK. He joined the studio of noted animator Richard Williams, where he worked on a wide range of animation projects, including film titles for *The Charge of the Light Brigade*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and *Casino Royale*. His most important work with Richard Williams is

the unfinished animated film *The Thief and the Cobbler*, thought by some to be the all-time best animated movie before the advent of Pixar technology.

He turned freelance in 1969, working on sets for BBC productions as well as continuing with animation projects and developing his career as a children's book illustrator. He illustrated more than 50 books. Le Cain died in January 1989, after a long illness.

Academic papers analysing his art have been written and his illustrations still come up for sale at major auction houses. Sadly, most of his books are now largely out of print, although some rare – and expensive – titles exist. Despite his illustrious career, Le Cain never earned a fortune from it.

There is a small museum in Japan with a substantial part of it dedicated to his works and which contains a number of his original illustrations. His work has never been fully archived, his biography is skimpy, sometimes with errors. Some of his illustrations and paintings were never published; these may be with collectors or they may be lost forever.

It is a great loss for Singapore not to acknowledge the art of this genius and to claim him as one of our own.



Errol Le Cain

When he sat for his Cambridge leaving exam he finished his art paper in 20 minutes, so the invigilators suspected him of cheating



Partying in Penang



Penang and Singapore Eurasian Association members pose for a group photo



Yvonne Pereira, 2nd Vice President, gives the Malaysians a balut lesson



Yvonne Pereira presents PEA Vice President Edmond Prior with a token from Singapore

A group of EA members was invited to attend a Eurasian Fiesta in Penang, part of a month-long series of events to celebrate George Town being named a UNESCO World Heritage City.

The fiesta was organised by well-known entertainers James Rozells and Kathleen Rodrigues, together with like-minded Eurasians; and EA members Yvonne Pereira (second Vice-President), management committee member Francesca Eber, Dorothy Tessensohn, Nancy Fobrogo, Lucille Marcus and Angela Phipps made the trip north to join in the festivities on Saturday 30 June.

That evening the Singapore contingent was invited by the Penang Eurasian Association (PEA) management committee to dinner at its Eurasian Heritage House. They were welcomed by PEA Patron Dato Stanley de Witt, Vice-Presidents Gerald Green and Edmond Prior, committee members and their spouses.

It was a night filled with Eurasian cuisine and great entertainment and was a chance for the two Eurasian groups to foster new ties. Yvonne Pereira presented Mr Prior with a souvenir from the Singapore EA.

The following day, the Eurasian Fiesta was held in the Church of the Immaculate Conception hall at Pulau Tikus, where Penang's top Eurasian artistes entertained the crowd with songs by the Eurasian music legends of yesteryear.

There was home-cooked Eurasian cuisine and delicacies to whet the appetite, and bargain hunters could find an assortment of books, handicrafts and paintings to buy.

Both the Singapore and Penang EAs look forward to future collaborations.

Help to share our Eurasian Heritage. Be an EA Heritage Volunteer

The Eurasian Association Heritage Committee is looking for heritage volunteers to give tours of the Eurasian Heritage Centre, which houses three galleries:

- The Eurasian Showcase (focusing on Eurasian culture and prominent Eurasians in Singapore)
- Roots of Our Community (showing the history and influence of the Portuguese, Dutch and British on the Eurasian community)
- World War II – The Eurasian Story (encapsulating stories and real-life accounts of Eurasians who survived WWII)

For more information, please contact
Jacqueline Peeris
Assistant Manager, Education & Heritage
Tel: 6447 1578
Email: jacqueline@eurasians.org



Taste of Success

Kenneth Francisco is making his own special preparations for the 2012 London Olympics

It takes years of relentless, dedicated training to reach the levels demanded of Olympic athletes. And, when it really matters – in London this July and August – they will also need a diet finely tuned for peak performance.

That's where Chef Kenneth Francisco, executive chef, Sentosa Leisure Group, comes in. Following his success as Head of Food and Beverage (Culinary Operations) for the Youth Olympic Games in Singapore in 2010, he has now joined Team Singapore Olympic and Paralympic teams at their training location in central England overseeing the preparation of food for the athletes and support team. Team Singapore will be staying at the athletes' training camp from 2 July in preparation for the games that begin on 28 July.

Kenneth says that providing food for the some 5,000 athletes and support staff taking part in the YOG was "one of the best in my entire career history". And he is delighted that his contributions at that event have led to the opportunity to ensure that Team Singapore



Chef Kenneth Francisco

will enjoy the best food possible to increase their chances of Olympic success.

“I believe difficulty truly shapes a person”

Kenneth has now been cooking for more than 25 years, although he found his vocation in life only after dabbling with other careers: "I tried dog breeding and training and I was a DJ," he says. But his passion was always food, and he learned his art the hard way during a five-year apprenticeship with a German chef.

"Training with the European chefs was very tough; their standards were very high, and they expect consistency, speed and quality. I have gained real world experience training under them and I became more knowledgeable. I believe difficulty truly shapes a person," he says.

A sentiment that his young Olympians will certainly share.



Happy Father's Day

Eurasian fathers and their families enjoyed a special evening on 16 June at Quentin's Restaurant, where Father's Day was celebrated with a barbecue, a drink or two, and some games to join in. Resident two-piece acoustic band, Janelle and Roger provided the music. EA President, Benett Theseira was also present to take part in the fun.

Curry and Chords

A weekend dinner at Quentin's Restaurant now comes with live music from a new musical duo

Diners at Quentin's have lately been entertained with soulful vocals and acoustic string work by two musically talented individuals, Janelle Stewart and Roger Pereira. The duo have been playing to the crowd at Quentin's with a collection of covers and genres from the oldies, country and modern hits.

The couple have known each other slightly for 10 years but did not get together until recently. "We share the same circle of friends but we never really got close," says Roger. "We got acquainted through Quentin Pereira, a close friend of ours. He asked me if it was possible to start a two-piece acoustic band line up at his restaurant. He suggested that I call Janelle, since he had heard her sing at the EA Heritage event."

“The big dream for us both is to record and sell our own music”

Roger and Janelle share similar early musical influences. They both grew up listening to country music so it was natural that this would be a choice for their stage performances.

Roger, who inherits his love of music from his father and uncle, says: "Country music flows with crisp, majestic harmonies, distinctive melodies and intriguing lyrics. It's one of the most sonically pleasing and substantive genres. I do, however, love a mix of soft rock and ballads and am a close fan of Boyce Avenue."

Janelle grew up in a musically talented family. "As a child, I was greatly influenced by my parents, uncles and cousins, many of whom were musicians and singers. We would gather at my grandmother's house on weekends with guitars and microphones and we would put on



Janelle and Roger wow the weekend crowds at Quentin's

a show for our family and friends," she recalls. "My mom had a voice like Tammy Wynette and I always thought my dad sounded and looked like Eddie Rabbitt! I like all genres of music now – anything that sets my feet tapping, I like!"

She adds that it helps that she and Roger live near to each other: "We regularly practice at either of our homes. Yes, the big dream for us both is to record and sell our own music but I guess all that will happen in time to come, God willing!"

Janelle and Roger play at Quentin's every Friday and Saturday from 8pm onwards.

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Singing in *Harmony*

More than 2,500 people from all faiths came together at this year's Inter-Racial Inter-Religious Night held at Marina Bay Sands.

Organised by the Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society and supported by the four self-help groups, the event was attended by President Tony Tan as guest of honour.

The EA singers and performers, led by Janelle Stewart, entertained the crowd and five Eurasians, clad in ethnic attire, read the IRIR pledge. The finale saw Janelle Stewart and her daughter Alexandra singing the English version of the IRIR theme song.

