

THE NEW EURASIAN

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JULY - SEPTEMBER 2015



World War II: a Eurasian Perspective

As we mark 70 years since the end of the war in Asia, survivors talk of their determination to build a successful peace-time Singapore

PLUS

A PHILANTHROPIC FUTURE
EA scholarship student Dean Hunt

BUILDING ON OUR CULTURE
Festival launches EA Research Centre project

EURASIAN STEW PIE
Appolina Dragon's delicious recipe for readers

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Accounts
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Events
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Operations/Events
Seow Ting Zhou

EDITORIAL TEAM

Angelina Fernandez (Chair)
Rebecca Morris (Editor)
M Revathhi
Jean Angus
Ion Danker
Nicole Kessler

CONTRIBUTORS

Yvonne Pereira (Balut)

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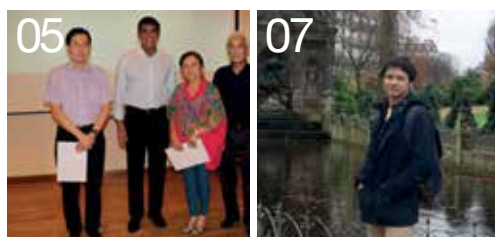
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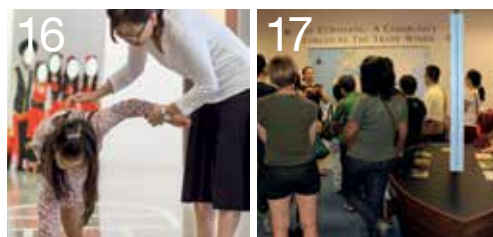


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THE NEWEURASIAN

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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139 Ceylon Road, Singapore 429744

Tel: 6447 1578 Fax: 6447 3189 Email: members@eurasians.org

President's Message

As we head towards the significant milestone which is Singapore's 50th anniversary of independence in August, we should reflect on the tremendous success we have achieved as a people and a nation. In a little more than a generation, Singapore has grown and evolved from a small town to one of the most successful economies in the world. We are recognised, world over, not just for our economic success but also for our innovation, hard work and integrity. Whenever I travel overseas, the strong and positive recognition that the Singapore brand enjoys globally, far more than our size justifies, makes me tremendously proud to be Singaporean.

One of the greatest gifts that Mr Lee Kuan Yew and our founding leaders gave us was their steadfast belief in building Singapore as a model multi-racial society. Today, Singapore is one of the most ethnically and religiously diverse countries in the world. We are able to celebrate our diversity and yet live in harmony with mutual trust and understanding.

It is a tremendous achievement, especially when we see the racial and religious strife in many countries today – even developed ones, such as the US, UK and France. Our Eurasian community has benefitted from this multi-racial policy. The Eurasian Association is recognised as one of the four ethnic self-help-groups and we receive significant financial support from the government and many non-Eurasian donors. As a result, the EA and the Eurasian community continue to thrive despite our very small size.

A number of Eurasians were part of the pioneer team of political leaders and civil servants, including EW Barker, Dr Benjamin Sheares, Stanley Stewart, Herman Hochstadt, John Le Cain, George Bogaars, Maurice Baker, Joseph Conceicao and Kenneth Byrne (see *The NewEurasian* Apr-Jun 2015). Many

Eurasians played significant roles in the civil service, the military, police and education profession, helping to build the foundations of the world-class civil service that we have today. Just as many Eurasians did us proud in helping to build modern-day Singapore, a number of younger Eurasians did both country and community proud with their sterling performance at the recent SEA Games held in Singapore. Joseph Schooling has proved yet again to be an outstanding athlete as he won nine gold medals, setting many new games records in the process. Among other top performances (see back page), Mark Leong, the son of our Honorary Treasurer Paul Leong, won a gold medal in water-skiing. While their achievements are certainly commendable, all of them will tell you that it took a lot of commitment, hard work, juggling, training and studies to get there. Certainly a lesson for all of us that with hard work and commitment, we can achieve success in whatever we aspire to.

I am heartened that, despite continuing to climb the ladder of success to more gold medals and games records, Joseph still has his heart in the right place. We are most appreciative of his recent donation of \$5,000 to EA, which will help us to fund our community assistance programmes. We were also very fortunate to receive a large donation of \$100,000 from Tang Holdings, in celebration of its 20th anniversary. On behalf of the EA and the community I would like to thank the Tang family for their very generous donation to the EA.

As we celebrate SG50, it is also useful to remember that this year is also the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. We mark the occasion in our feature article for this issue (page 9) where we share stories from elders in the community on what Singapore and the Eurasian community experienced during that very trying time in Singapore's



history. On the theme of heritage, EA recently collaborated with the NUS Eurasian Alumni Group and the NUS Office of Alumni Relations to organise a Eurasian Heritage Festival. The event allowed us to showcase Eurasian heritage and culture to members of the alumni as well as to reach out to its Eurasian members. We will work with them to build a strong Eurasian networking group that will hopefully connect with and support the EA in our programmes and activities.

I have often joked that Singapore has become a very 'Eurasian' society. It is ethnically diverse and a hybrid of Western and Eastern cultures and lifestyles. So perhaps as we celebrate this SG50 year, we can reflect, as a community on Singapore's success and what we can learn from it. Singapore has shown that despite being small, we can make a significant mark. How, through being an effective bridge between West and East, Singapore has developed into a successful global business centre. How, with commitment and hard work, we can overcome adversity and achieve success.

Wishing everyone a
Happy SG50 National Day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benett Theseira'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Benett Theseira
President



Joseph cuts into his birthday cake from the EA, made especially for him by Quentin's restaurant

Joseph's Heart of Gold

Life is going swimmingly for Eurasian sporting star Joseph Schooling, whose clean sweep of nine gold medals in his nine events at the recent SEA Games was topped by 20th birthday celebrations at the end of the games.

But the athlete – who is currently studying for a degree at the University of Texas at Austin in the US while pursuing his swimming career – hasn't forgotten his roots. And while back home in Singapore for the SEA Games, he found time to make good an earlier promise to raise funds in order to give back to less fortunate members of the community.

At a ceremony at the SPH News Centre on 16 June, he presented a cheque for \$10,000 to be shared equally between the EA, which, he

said, had supported him since he was young, and The Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund (SPMF).

The EA's Second Vice President, Yvonne Pereira, who received the cheque on the EA's behalf, said: "I hope that more young people will be inspired by the actions of Joseph. They are always welcome to volunteer at EA events. Please continue giving back to the community in any meaningful way possible."

Joseph, who attended the event with his parents Colin and May and mingled with guests, was pleasantly surprised to receive two birthday cakes – one each from the EA and SPMF. Don't worry about those extra calories, Joseph – you'll soon burn them off back in the pool.



EA President Benett Theseira (far right) with members of Tang Holdings Group, the other recipients – and the million dollar cheque

Million Dollar Donation

In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of Tang Plaza, the Tang Holdings Group donated a total of \$1 million to The Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund and the four ethnic self-help groups. The EA received \$100,000.

The donations were made to honour its founder Tang Choon Keng, who believed strongly in caring for the less fortunate. EA President Benett Theseira said: "We are very grateful to the Tang Holdings Group for the generous donation, which will be used to support several education and welfare initiatives that will benefit Eurasian families who are facing challenging times."

The EA Extends Its Membership Reach

The EA is broadening its membership to attract Eurasians abroad to keep in touch with their roots. It is also appealing to 'non-traditional' Eurasians – the mixed-race offspring of more recent European and Asian unions – to join the fold.

At its annual general meeting on 10 April, EA members voted in favour of changing the constitution to welcome new members.

EA President Benett Theseira explained that changes to the rule book would allow membership to the many former Singaporean Eurasians who have migrated and might be keen to keep abreast of events and initiatives at the EA. The new rules also now allow Eurasians in Singapore who are not Singaporean or Permanent Residents to join the association as members.

The change to the constitution creates a new 'Associate International' membership category, which provides that: "Any Eurasian of the age of 18 years and above, who is neither a Singaporean or PR and who may or



may not be resident in Singapore, may apply for Associate International Membership. An Associate International Member shall pay a single subscription of \$60.00 in one lump sum immediately on admission to Associate International Membership and shall not thereafter be liable for payment of any further subscription."

Associate international members will enjoy the same benefits as ordinary members but will not be eligible to hold office on the management committee or be entitled to vote at general meetings.

Full details about the different types of EA memberships can be obtained by downloading a copy of the EA constitution booklet at: <http://www.eurasians.org.sg/about-us/membership/>



Guests at the Appreciation Dinner



Benett Theseira presents a certificate of appreciation to volunteer Shanice Hedger

A Big, SG 50 Thank You



Eurasians in numerous fields have been doing the nation proud, and to acknowledge their role as standard bearers for the community the EA recently held two Appreciation Dinners at the Eurasian Community House as part of the SG50 Eurasian celebrations.

The first was held on 25 April, when EA President Benett Theseira presented certificates to four national day award recipients, 77 volunteers (23 of whom were involved in this year's Chingay Parade), 10 individual donors and three representatives from donating organisations.

The second was held on 6 June for the Eurasian contingent of the SEA Games Opening Ceremony. Benett gave guests an introduction to the EA before the Eurasian dancers entertained

the other guests with their performance of the opening ceremony's The Big Singapore Welcome segment. In a speech, co-ordinator Elizabeth Schurmann thanked the dancers for being "by far the best dance troupe that I have worked with".

Appreciation certificates were given to all 27 dancers. Special tokens of appreciations were also given to Elizabeth, choreographer Syarul and Derek Pinchbeck, Tim Walsh and Margaret Alvarez-Miller, the principals of ISS Elementary, Middle and High Schools respectively, whose students were part of the EA contingent.

Both events were catered by Quentin's restaurant and, in true Eurasian style, enjoyed musical entertainment throughout the evening.



Benett with the National Day Award recipients



(From left): Benett with Tim Walsh, Derek Pinchbeck, Margaret Alvarez-Miller and Elizabeth Schurmann



Minister Lim Swee Say, Yvonne Pereira and Dr Janil Puthuchear

Swinging in Harmony

Nearly 120 golfers, including a team from the Eurasian Association Golfing Society (EAGS), took part in the One Charity Golf 2015 tournament organised by OnePeople.sg, which was held on 22 April at Jurong Country Club.

EAGS purchased a standard corporate flight, participating with golfers Quentin Pereira, Anthony Maniam, Darren Ware and Gary Nonis. The EA's Second Vice President Yvonne Pereira received a token of appreciation from guest-of-honour Minister Lim Swee Say and Dr Janil Puthuchear MP for the sponsorship. The funds raised will be used to promote racial harmony in Singapore.



Champions SCC Team 4 (on the left) pose with EA balut convenor Yvonne Pereira and competition sponsor, KR Menon (right) from Pernod Ricard

High Fives for High Scores

The Eurasian Community House played host to the 31st Inter-Club Balut Competition on 10 June, when 76 players gathered for the second round of the competition.

Most of the participants – representing the Singapore Recreation Club, Tanglin Club Singapore, Singapore Cricket Club, Singapore Indian Association, National University of Singapore Society and the EA – were visiting the ECH for the first time and were keen to savour the authentic Eurasian cuisine that preceded the battle.

Then the die were cast onto the balut mats and every so often noisy cheers and high fives were exchanged after a team shouted “Balut!” – indicating that a competitor had thrown five identical die and earned the maximum score of 30 points.

The results were displayed for five games but the sixth game’s scores were hidden from the players to create suspense. This led the players to guess which team would emerge as champions.

EA balut convenor, Yvonne Pereira, presented six individual spot prizes and three top prizes for a balut in one throw, high score in a single game and the highest aggregate score.

SCC’s Team Four emerged as the second round’s champions with a total score of 2,385 points. All the winners received bottles of wine kindly sponsored by Pernod Ricard. The third round will be hosted by the Tanglin Club on 22 July.



EA Team 1 has a practice run before the start of the competition



Balut! – and congratulatory high fives



SCC's Rosemary Tessensohn looks on intently at her opponent's throw



Get Clicking!

The EA is now on Instagram! Special contests are under way for our followers, who stand a chance to walk away with exclusive prizes.

Follow us on our Instagram account (The_Eurasian_Association) or Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/eurasianassociation>) to find out more about the exciting competitions. A selfie storm is coming your way!



Dean Hunt (left) at Punggol Waterway in 2013, taken after the Little India riot to understand the working conditions of Singapore's Indian workers



Dean spreads his wings in London earlier this year



Dean in contemplative mood in Sentosa last year

Man with a Mission

EA University Scholarship recipient Dean Hunt's life is a full schedule of study, sport and volunteering.



Dean on a trip to Paris

Dean Hunt Wei Cheung, 21, is outspoken, motivated – and full of plans for the future. The recipient of the EA University Scholarship last year says: “I am immensely grateful to the EA for investing in me.”

The scholarship has relieved Dean of the need to work to help fund his education, allowing him to focus on his studies and future.

The EA Scholarship Panel was impressed with his commitment to the community,

“I am immensely grateful to the EA for investing in me”

demonstrated by his volunteerism and his ability to balance this with his academic achievements.

He is currently pursuing business administration at the National University of Singapore and plans in the future to set up a non-profit business in a developing country, giving employment to the locals. “I want to empower them with relevant skills so as to build up their economy,” he says.

Since he was 16, Dean has also been a volunteer. He joined the Punggol resident's committee and was made a grassroots leader last February. He takes part in various activities, such as helping out at the official opening of the Punggol 21 Community Club, organising block parties for residents and making house visits.

He has also been volunteering at SGCares for three years, has mentored underprivileged children and he has also taken part in singing and dance performances for old folks. He strongly believes that volunteering is an enriching experience. “I volunteer because some of us could use that extra help and kindness,” he says, adding that “happiness is only real when shared”.

When time allows, he enjoys Muay Thai and cycling. He says: “With such a busy schedule, exercise helps me to clear my mind and reenergise.” He advises students to prioritise their responsibilities, think in the long term and tell themselves that hard work now will pay off in the future.

He says that his biggest role model is Dr Benjamin Sheares, the second President of Singapore: “It's encouraging that by sheer hard work alone he received a scholarship and was able to provide for his family at a young age. He was a brilliant man matched with an amiable spirit of generosity.”

Lessons Add Up to Triple Success

A proud father is delighted that his sons' education is improving, thanks to help from the Collaborative Tuition Programme

Children who need a boost in their school lessons need not fall behind through lack of cash. The Collaborative Tuition Programme (CTP), jointly organised by the four self-help groups, gives disadvantaged children the chance to keep up with the aid of low-cost extra tuition in English, Maths and Science.

A father testifies to the programme's benefits. He was concerned that his three sons were achieving only average results at school and he felt they could do better. When he heard about the CTP programme in a community centre four years ago, he enrolled his eldest son. Impressed by the boy's rapid improvement, he enrolled his second and third sons.

He says: "The tutors are very helpful. They provide step-by-step guidance to all my boys." He highly recommends the CTP programme to all low-income families. "I am glad that I am able to afford to send my sons to tuition. They are not left behind in their classes."

His 11-year-old son adds: "My tutors are good and I can walk to tuition from home."

The EA works closely with other self-help groups to maximise educational opportunities for students. The CTP is offered to school children island-wide whose families have a per capita income of \$800 and below.

To find out more about the programme, visit: <http://www.eurasians.org.sg/education/>

“The tutors are very helpful. They provide step-by-step guidance to all my boys.”



High Tech at Low Price

Most of us in Singapore view our Internet connection as an indispensable household utility item just like electricity or water. But not everybody can afford to be connected.

The Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) launched the Home Access programme last September to make Internet connectivity more accessible and affordable to households with low or no income.

Eligible households will be provided with home Internet access and telephony services with a broadband package at \$6 per month for 48 months.*

This bundle comprises:



100Mbps fibre broadband connectivity



7-inch Alcatel tablet

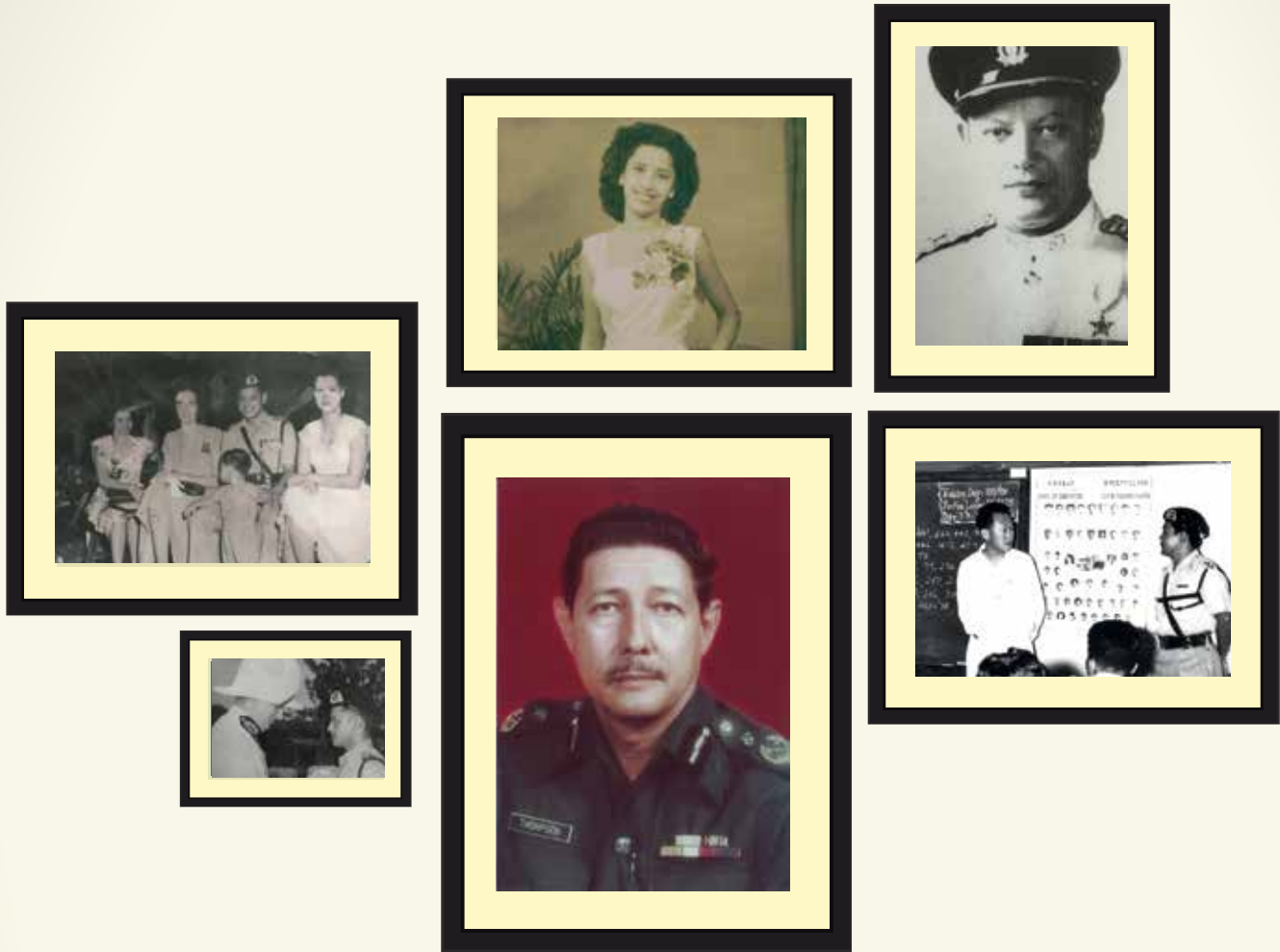


Unlimited local digital voice calls

* Prices are correct at time of printing. The bundle offering may be updated from time to time.

To find out more about Home Access, please visit: <http://www.ida.gov.sg/HA>

Or contact Jacqueline at jacqueline@eurasians.org or 6447 1578, ext 205.



Occupied!

As the nation celebrates 50 years of independence and looks forward to a bright future as we enter the next half century, it's also timely to mark the 70th anniversary that we commemorate this year – one that demonstrates the triumph of the Singapore spirit of fortitude over adversity and how it shaped our pioneers' vision of what our country could become

For most Singaporeans, World War II has been relegated to history. These days, we have cordial relations with our previous enemies, trade with them and visit their countries on holiday. However, for some of our senior citizens, memories of the war remain vivid. But the lessons they learned from it have played a large part in their determination to carve out a very different future for the country and have been instrumental in the nation's success.

The Fall of Singapore to the Japanese took place on 15 February 1942. The island was renamed Syonan-To (Light of the South). Singapore became caught up in a war that in Asia was mainly between the British Commonwealth and Japanese. It ended after the signing of the Instrument of Surrender in Singapore on 12 September 1945.

While it is inevitable and right that we have moved on, we forget history at our peril. We talk to some Eurasians who remember the war about what it taught them.



Edwin Thompson

Edwin O Thompson, who was born in 1931, is a former deputy commissioner of the Prisons Department. When the war with the Japanese broke out, he had completed his primary five

education at St Patrick's School and he and his fellow students were continuing their schooling at Telok Kurau Malay School. During the war, St Patrick's was used to house thousands of Australian troops, who were helping the Commonwealth Allies to defend Singapore. He recalls: "On 8 December 1942, the Japanese came to bomb Singapore. I was instructed to hide under the table and protect myself."

When rice was given out, Edwin and his brother would join the long queue at 5am and not reach home until noon

He clearly remembers the day when the Japanese announced that Singapore had to surrender. The Japanese had insisted that Singapore fly a white flag from the Cathay building, which was then the tallest in the country; the flag sent the Japanese a signal that the officer commanding the forces in



The Syonan Times was the Japanese English-language newspaper in occupied Singapore

Singapore was prepared to sign the surrender documents at the Bukit Timah Ford Motor Factory. "It was one of the saddest moments in our nation's history and I never want it to happen again", he says.

SURVIVING ON RATIONS

Edwin and his family faced several life-threatening situations during the Occupation. It was a time of fortitude, and the recollection of food deprivation is still deeply etched in his mind. The family stocked tinned provisions such as sardines or corned beef, but Edwin says: "The soldiers came into our house, took the food and ate it. Some even threw the half-eaten food away!" With rice being scarce, everyone had a ration card. When announcements were made that rice was given out, Edwin and his brother would join the long queue at 5am and not reach home until noon.

Towards the end of 1942, the Japanese demanded that his family vacate their Palm Road home so that the occupiers could use the space as a 'pay-office', an area for recreation. They were moved to a house at the junction of Upper East Coast Road and Woo Mun Chew Road. Perhaps surprisingly, Edwin says: "It was a blessing in disguise. We had an opportunity to grow our own produce such as tapioca, vegetables, long beans, tomatoes and so much more in the new place." It was important for them to be able to grow food. Eurasians had a difficult time adjusting to a new routine under the

Occupation. During British days they had been mostly involved in administrative work in the colonial civil service. As such, they were considered British sympathisers and were generally mistrusted by the Japanese and consequently found it difficult to gain employment. This prompted Dr Charles Paglar and the Japanese Mayor of Singapore to offer the Eurasian community a settlement in Bahau, Negri Sembilan for Eurasians to grow their own food and survive. Edwin points out that the locals couldn't manage to live on Japanese currency – a single egg was priced at \$30.

DICING WITH DEATH

His most horrific memory was of a near-death experience that he and his brother faced after a seemingly innocent gesture. Every morning, several open lorries conveying British and Australian Prisoners of War (POWs) to work in the city area would pass Edwin's house. These same lorries would drive past every evening to return the POWs to Changi. During one of these trips, a few prisoners waved to them and Edwin and his brother casually waved back. The following morning, two senior officers, armed with samurai swords and a jeep with five soldiers armed with rifles and a fixed bayonet arrived and surrounded Edwin, his two brothers and his mother in the verandah. Edwin and his family knelt down to pray while they were surrounded by five soldiers. One of the bayonets was placed three inches away from Edwin's head. One officer partially drew his sword from the scabbard and said, "One more time you wave at the English soldiers, I will cut off your heads." Edwin recalls: "Before they left, they gave me a kick which caused me to hit my head against the wall and bleed profusely."

Edwin explains that there were some Eurasians who were classified as 'enemy-aliens' by the Japanese after Singapore surrendered. This was because one of their parents was an 'enemy', either an English or American. In March 1945, Edwin and his family were taken to Sime Road Internment Camp, together with others who were similarly classified. There were about



Edwin leads the police contingent at the National Day Parade in 1966



In happy times: Edwin Thompson after his retirement

3,200 civilian internees in the camp. Again, he faced the possibility of starvation and resorted to eating snails and almost anything that was edible to ensure his survival. “The International Red Cross used to send us parcels with tinned provisions, buns and chocolates. The Japanese took 75 per cent and gave us the balance.”

His war-time memories range from everyday events to unthinkable atrocities, from selling curry puffs, to listening to Japanese songs and living among the brutal beheading of thieves. It was a happy day when he was able to watch the surrender ceremony and know that the nightmare was over.

Today, retired and enjoying time with his family, Edwin stresses the importance of nations jointly addressing the critical issues facing the world. He says: “We must not be complacent that another war will not happen. We have to take preventative measures to sustain peace and harmony in Singapore.”

Police inspector Halford Boudewyn, who died in 1998, managed to escape imprisonment by sheer chance. Fair-skinned Eurasian officers were all



Tess Boudewyn (seated) with her extended family at the book launch

made prisoners of war (POWs) but being tanned and looking more ‘local’ he escaped the scrutiny of the Japanese army when they took control of the island. As his wife Tess, explains: “He used to tell me that he was happy that years of playing hockey had darkened his skin and this saved him from the prison walls.”

Halford soon joined an Allied spy ring and, working in disguise as a vegetable seller, he would supply produce for Indian Army POWs held in a camp in Upper Serangoon. But his real mission was to smuggle out handwritten copies of documents containing important details about the Japanese plans to invade India. He continued doing this for several months until all the intelligence needed was in the hands of the Allies. With his help, the 1944 Japanese invasion of India was repulsed.

“Halford Boudewyn was one of Singapore’s war heroes and yet very little was known about him”

THE SECRET CHEERLEADER

During the Occupation years, Singapore was isolated from the outside world and Halford saw how the morale of the people was affected by the constant Japanese propaganda. Risking his life, he monitored news from a foreign radio station, which at that time was an offence punishable by death. He wrote his own news updates focussing on Allied victories in the Pacific and using an agar agar press – a crude printing method he had learnt at school – he pasted these notices at bus stops and on lamp posts so that the people would know that the Allies were slowly winning the war. This boosted the spirits of his fellow countrymen.

Reinstated into the police force after the war, he received the rare Colonial Police Medal (Silver) by the British government in 1948 for his help during the war. Tess describes Halford, whose career in the police force took him to the position of deputy superintendent, as a delightful and very charitable man who even offered shelter to homeless people. She says that despite his haunting memories, Halford had never wanted to migrate, insisting that Singapore was his home and he would always be happiest here.

Two years before his death, he asked his wife to help him type up his memories, which he hoped could be turned into a book one

day. For many years, Tess was unable to find an author but last year, in *The New Eurasian*, she read a story on author David Miller, who was looking to document such local stories. And this year, on 11 April, the book, *Duty Bound – A Singapore War Hero Remembered*, was launched at the Senior Police Officers’ Mess, attended by more than 150 people, who turned up to honour the late senior police officer and his contributions to Singapore during the Japanese Occupation.

A RECORD FOR POSTERITY

David Miller, a former newspaper correspondent, takes up the story: “Halford was one of Singapore’s few war heroes and yet up to that point in time, very little was known about him,” he says. Using Boudewyn’s notes as a basic framework for the book, he undertook the real challenge of verifying the information and completing the story with historical accuracy. For David, one of the most significant aspects of the book was the nightmares that Halford suffered for many years after the war.

David says: “Post-traumatic stress disorder was quite unrecognised at that time. It offers a very personal dimension to the book.” David has also recorded the story of his own Eurasian family’s experiences in Bahau during the war, in his book, *Bahau, the Elephant & the Ham*, and believes that the two books offer different perspectives of the trauma endured by the Eurasian community at that time. He says: “There is no doubt that Eurasians suffered considerably because of racial bias by the Japanese.”



Author David Miller

He says: “As a small founding community, we have retained the essence of what makes us unique – from our food, to our traditions, to our stories of Halford Boudewyn and many others. We owe a duty to our future generations to record and share with them the struggles of our past even as we look forward with confidence to the future of our nation.”

Pearlyn Velge was 12 when the Japanese invaded Singapore, but at 85, she is still able to vividly recall the Japanese Occupation



A Straits Times cutting from 1948, showing Halford Boudewyn receiving his Colonial Police Medal (Silver) from the Governor of Singapore, Franklin, Gimson

and the ordeals that Singaporeans faced during that period.

It was particularly difficult for Pearlyn's family as her father was of Irish descent and immediately thought of as aiding the British. The family took great efforts to hide him from the Japanese. He took on the job as a gardener as jobs were scarce and he needed to feed his family. Unfortunately, while cutting grass, he was spotted by Japanese soldiers. He tried to explain that he was a Eurasian, but they failed to understand the term and captured him.

“I will never forget that day. The Japanese came in their lorries and took my sister and nephew away”

Pearlyn and her family thought that they would never see him again. “We were heartbroken”, she says. Her father was taken to Johor Bahru where some local Chinese heard him speak Malay and secretly released him in the middle of the night. Pearlyn says: “Till today, I think about his lucky escape! We were so grateful to



Pearlyn Velge

the men who had helped us.”

But she continued to live in fear during the war as the Eurasians were often mistaken for British. And the day came when Pearlyn's sister and two-year-old son were interned at

Sime Road, a memory that still haunts Pearlyn today. She recalls: “It was a Thursday morning and it was pouring. I will never forget that day. The Japanese came in their lorries and took my sister and nephew away.” Pearlyn didn't see them for another year and a half.

Her late father-in-law had met with an even worse fate. After the war, when Pearlyn was married, she learned from her husband that he had been caught listening to the BBC and was killed. “The Japanese were very cruel. Many Eurasians were beheaded during the period,” she says.

RESPIRE AMONG THE MISERY

Despite her father's disapproval, Pearlyn started working at a Japanese shipping company. Her father was strongly against his children working at such a young age. However, they had no choice: food was limited and money enabled them to buy their own rice. Pearlyn says: “The Japanese gave us bread that was so hard, I could have hit you with it.” Her warm-hearted mother packed what food she could spare and passed it to the poor people down the street. Pearlyn says: “In my family, we were always taught to lend a helping hand to those who needed it.”

Pearlyn learned how to speak limited Japanese and worked as a telephone operator. And she discovered that even among the enemy, there were times when human decency shone through. Pearlyn's female Japanese manager adored her and even wrote her a sign stating: ‘Do not disturb this family.’ Pearlyn laughs and says: “We hung the signboard outside our house. From that day onwards, the Japanese did not bother us.”

SINGAPORE TODAY

Happily, the post-war years have brought peace, stability and prosperity to Singapore and the interviewees are unanimous in their pride in modern-day Singapore. Edwin comments: The loyal and steadfast contributions made by my pioneer counterparts have resulted in an almost crime-free Singapore, an education system that is one of the world's best, first-world status in its transportation system, housing, and much more that is the envy of other world-class countries. I am happy to admit that

Singaporeans, including me, are among the happiest people and are proud to be part and parcel of a political system that has made all this possible.”

Tess Boudewyn adds: “People we know who come from abroad seldom want to go back to their own country. There is no such thing as a ‘second-class citizen’ here. You are not judged by the colour of your skin but on the quality of your work and your paper qualifications. My husband wanted this book to be written for his own family to live by but also for anyone to read this book to understand what he was getting at: for them to love their country so much that they would willingly die for it if it came to the push.”

“I believe that Singapore has a ‘one and all’ system which relies on fairness to everybody”

Pearlyn sums up her feelings thus: “We are safe from all the natural disasters. We have a very fair and just system. I believe that Singapore has a ‘one and all’ system which relies on fairness to everybody.”

To purchase a copy of *DutyBound—A Singapore War Hero Remembered*, please contact Tess Boudewyn at tessbouds@gmail.com or David Miller at davidmiller@dmbbooks.org



Do You Have a War-Time Story to Tell?

Author David Miller says his research into the history of World War II for his books “left me with a profound sense of pride in our community”. He is now looking to record further war-time stories from Eurasians.

War survivors (or their relatives) who have interesting or unusual stories to share can contact davidmiller@dmbbooks.org or visit www.dmbbooks.org

Looking on the Bright Side

At 83, in poor health and struggling on little money, Aloysius has reasons to feel disheartened. But he prefers to be optimistic about life

Aloysius (not his real name) used to work in the civil aviation industry. On his retirement in 1980, he depended on his savings to support himself. But three years later, he found himself divorced, and soon his savings were wiped out. Worse, he lost contact with his three children. Now, with heart problems, he relies on his nephew to take him to the clinic when he falls ill.

He admits that one of his biggest challenges is living alone without any help. "If I was living with my family, it would be easier to cope. It's very important not to fall sick," he says. But despite his setbacks, he speaks with enthusiasm and candour. He is grateful for the financial assistance he gets from the EA and CDC and says his life is "not so difficult". He is content to live frugally on the food rations and financial assistance provided to him.

Since living alone can be dull, Aloysius has taken up a range of hobbies to keep himself

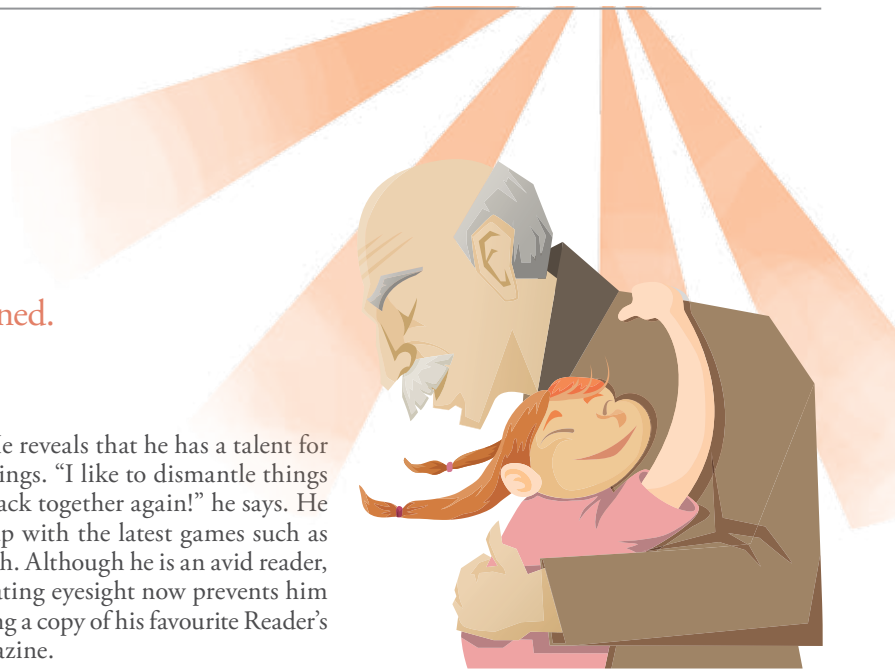
occupied. He reveals that he has a talent for repairing things. "I like to dismantle things and put it back together again!" he says. He also keeps up with the latest games such as Candy Crush. Although he is an avid reader, his deteriorating eyesight now prevents him from enjoying a copy of his favourite Reader's Digest magazine.

Aloysius admits that his one wish in life is to be reconciled with his children again

Asked what advice he would give to the younger generation, he laughs. "I will tell you what my dad told me. Always exercise your brain, read, play Scrabble! Keeping mentally

fit prevents dementia!" He is quick to add on that one must also do physical exercise and be wary of the amount of salt and sugar that they consume. Most importantly, he believes that it pays to be optimistic and pray regularly. So life is manageable, but Aloysius admits that his one wish in life is to be reconciled with his children again.

To enable Aloysius and many others like him to continue with their positive outlook towards life despite their daily struggles, please help with a donation through <http://www.eurasians.org.sg/contributions/fundraising/>



Back on Track

The Family Support Services team is there to help when life gets tough

The EA's Family Support Services (FSS) team is a key community-based focal point for Eurasians in times of need, providing various programmes for families, caregivers and children.

The FSS focuses on addressing the challenges that families face when unforeseen circumstances turn their life upside down. Last year, it assisted some 65 families and more than 100 individuals monthly through various initiatives.

The efforts and contributions of the EA's volunteers and donors have helped to improve the lives of many Eurasians in Singapore. See below the help we give to those in need. If you can help with a contribution, please visit: <http://www.eurasians.org.sg/contributions/fundraising/>

Where your donations go



\$ 38,500

Food rations and expenditure



\$ 24,200

FSS Christmas lunch, including hampers and gift vouchers, for FSS recipients



\$ 4,700

Beyond Financial Assistance programme, providing one-time financial assistance for costs such as rent and utilities and activities/events for FSS Families



\$ 76,200

Cash grants to meet basic living needs



Fit for Work

Jasmine Danker, 26, is a fitness fanatic – and her motivational videos on Instagram attract a huge following of some 15,400 viewers

Jasmine Danker was always an active child. Encouraged by her parents, she was always outside burning up energy and could rollerblade at the age of three. Her passion for sports developed further in primary and secondary school, where she specialised in netball and track events. At the young age of 16, she started coaching both netball and rollerblading.

When she left school, she began work in a gym, but realised “their management style didn’t suit me”, so joined another gym. She worked there for three years, zealously taking as many courses as she could to gain skills and qualifications. She completed international courses from organisations such as the American Council of Exercise and the National Academy of Sports Medicine.

Jasmine’s philosophy towards fitness is very simple: “We have to focus on moving every day.” For her own fitness regime, instead of simply planning to go to the gym, she has

“Always create a variety of activities and you will not get bored!”

alternative ways to exercise such as taking the stairs or getting off a stop earlier to walk back home. With an evolving regime, she always looks forward to exercising. She laughs and admits: “Looking good is my biggest motivation!”

She works out seven days a week and also makes videos for Instagram to give her followers some ideas of what they could do to improve their fitness. She adds: “I am game for any activities such as tennis, yoga, rock climbing and even meditation throughout my week. But she is also careful to balance her life socially with the people she cares for.

She says, “Always create a variety of activities and you will not get bored!”

Personal training has enabled her to meet people from all walks of life. She trains both men and women: some are looking to lose weight while others are aiming to tone up. Jasmine says that some of her clients have been with her for six years and their consistency helps her to motivate herself. She plans her training sessions for her clients according to their style and requirements.

For those keen to become a personal trainer, her advice is to start out in a local gym where they can train and get certificates to prove their ability. She says: “It’s very hard to find clients and you have to be sales-oriented too. It’s important to build a name for yourself.”

“It’s hard to find clients and you have to be sales-oriented”



Colin (second from right) with the working committee for the Eurasian Heritage Festival

A View from Inside

Eurasian student Colin Bolton learned what the EA does for his ethnic community when he spent a month as an intern at the ECH



Colin (right) at the registration table for the Eurasian Heritage Festival

Photos courtesy of NUS Office of Alumni Relations



Colin Bolton

Colin Bolton is a proud Eurasian, a third-year student at Singapore Polytechnic pursuing a diploma in Creative Writing and a previous ECF Education award recipient. So a month's internship in the EA's Corporate Communications department seemed the perfect placement for the 20-year-old.

The eldest of four siblings, Colin is proud that he shares a lineage with all three former European powers of the region – the British, Dutch and Portuguese. His father is British-Dutch-Filipino while his mother is of Dutch and Portuguese descent.

Colin chose to spend his recent month's internship with the EA as he wanted to use his semester break productively and contribute to the Eurasian community. He says: "It was a busy time at the EA, with the Eurasian Heritage Festival, the annual general meeting and, sadly, the passing of Mr Lee Kuan Yew. I was glad to be of assistance and it showed me EA's commitment to organising both internal and external events."

One learning point for Colin was to understand the reality of deadlines in a working environment. To cope, he says: "I applied the skills taught in my course. Some tasks were time-sensitive and I could not afford the luxury of writing at a glacial pace."

“ The Eurasian community epitomises Singapore’s mesh of cultures. Unlike other races, no two Eurasian families are the same ”

One of his favourite projects was drafting the EA's social media campaign proposals targeted mainly at Eurasian youngsters. His task was to ensure that the campaigns could increase engagement and generate content among the Eurasian community online. He particularly enjoyed thinking of abstract ideas in order to showcase the Eurasian culture. "I am pleased with my proposal and hope that it will receive the stamp of approval!" he says.

And not least of all, Colin believes that his stint at the EA taught him to appreciate better the Eurasian culture and heritage. He says: "The Eurasian community epitomises Singapore's mesh of cultures. Unlike other races, no two Eurasian families are the same. The Eurasians have an inherent sense of community. We carry the heritage of our illustrious forebears and they are reminders that we too have much to aspire to."

Festival Launches Plan for a Eurasian Research Centre

The Eurasian Heritage Festival was a fun family event with a serious purpose

Photos courtesy of NUS Office of Alumni Relations



A young visitor discovers that typing the old way is hard work!



Setting up the old ship



Portuguese dancing



The Eurasian surname tree

For older Eurasians, the Eurasian Heritage Festival was an occasion for nostalgic reminiscing. For youngsters, it was an opportunity to experience for the first time the pastimes of older generations. And for non-Eurasians, it was an opportunity to learn about a different culture.

The aim of the event, held at the Shaw Foundation Alumni House of the National University of Singapore (NUS) on 11 April, was to recruit Eurasian alumni from the NUS to form a committee to help to set up a library and resource centre at the EA. This would serve as a one-stop centre for students and others to conduct research into the Eurasian history and culture.

The festival was a collaboration between the EA and the NUS Eurasian Alumni Group and NUS Office of Alumni Relations, which worked extremely hard to ensure the success of the event. Happily, they were rewarded with a healthy turnout of more than 200 visitors.

Welcome speeches were given by Kevin Shepherdson, President of the NUS Eurasian Alumni Group, Associate Professor Victor R Savage, Director of the NUS Office of Alumni Relations and Benett Theseira, President of

A special tree consisting of various Eurasian surnames was lit up to mark the launch

the EA. They all expressed the importance of setting up a group of Eurasians to promote the Eurasian community in Singapore. A special tree consisting of various Eurasian surnames was lit up to mark the launch.

Children had fun being captured on Polaroid photographs with cut outs that represented the British, Dutch and Portuguese settlers. They enjoyed learning how to play Eurasian games from the past such as five stones, the happy family card game, paper balls and pick-up sticks. But the favourite was hopscotch, where several older Eurasians were on hand to teach the kids the proper way to play the game.

The youngsters also enjoyed looking at the display of antiques, which included a gramophone, typewriter, clock and telephone.

Exhibits set up to create awareness about the Eurasian culture provided information on its history, food and lifestyle and highlighted some of the prominent people in the Eurasian community. A highlight was a model ship decorated with a fishing net to symbolise early Eurasian ancestors, who were mostly fishermen.

Visitors were also inspired by a talk given by Kevin Shepherdson on how to research one's Eurasian family history using DNA testing.

Emcee Gerard Danker ensured an entertaining afternoon, which included a Portuguese folk dance and musical performances by Janelle Stewart, Roger Pereira, Nikhil Hogan, Peter Diaz and Shanice Hedger. Visitors sang along and danced to the upbeat music.

No Singapore event would be complete without food and Eurasian dishes such as curry devil, meaty cutlets, singgan serani, patchri, shepherd's pie and sugee cake were provided by Quentin's restaurant, together with information posters giving details about each dish.



Fascinated visitors take a guided tour around the Eurasian Heritage Centre

Looking Forward by Looking Back

Singapore's annual HeritageFest is held to promote greater understanding among citizens in our multicultural nation

The annual Singapore HeritageFest, now in its 12th year, gives multi-ethnic Singapore a chance to learn more about the different cultures that make up our nation. Organised by the National Heritage Board, and held from 18 April to 17 May this year, it was a colourful event that included a variety of cultural events, creative performances – and, of course, plenty of local food.

The Eurasian contribution comprised several heritage events. Each weekend during the festival, tour guides escorted visitors around the three galleries of the Eurasian Heritage Centre at the Eurasian Community House, giving them an insightful journey through the history of the Eurasian community and reviving stories from the Eurasian past. Visitors were also presented with a chance to participate in the popular Jinkli Nona folk dance and the tour ended on a sweet note with a slice of sugee cake.

The EA was also involved in heritage events held at the Buangkok Resident's Committee and Tampines Central Community Centre on 22 March and 13 June respectively. At Buangkok RC, the EA youth dancers brought cheer to elderly residents with a performance of three Portuguese Eurasian folk dances. At Tampines Central CC, dancers livened up the citizenship ceremony, held to welcome new Singapore citizens, with a dance performance.



Eurasian dancers form part of the Eurasian Experience heritage tour at the ECH

Visitors participated in the popular Jinkli Nona folk dance



The dancers entertain senior citizens at Buangkok

Facebook Sparks Old School Reunion

What would it be like to meet your teenage friends after 52 years? Four ladies find out

Facebook isn't just about having a whole lot of online friends you've never actually met. It can also be a way of getting back in contact with real friends.

It was through Facebook that four Katong Convent school friends got back in touch – after more than half a century. The 'girls' – Yvonne Pereira (nee Lesslar), Barbara Dragon (nee Allen), Eulyth Fernandez (nee Phillips) and Louise Pereira (nee Boudewyn) – held their secondary school reunion over lunch at Quentin's restaurant at the Eurasian Community House on 15 May, eager to learn what one another had made of their lives.

Their faces brightened as soon as they saw each other on the day and in no time they were catching up with one another's news. Louise mentioned that she had stopped working in 2002. Yvonne told them that she had been volunteering at the EA for 26 years and at the Singapore Recreation Club for 47 years. Eulyth and Yvonne have kept up with each other as Eulyth currently spends time volunteering as a tour guide at the Eurasian Heritage Centre and Yvonne is currently the

2nd Vice President at the EA. Barbara is a housewife. After a quick catch-up on what their current lives were about, loud giggles and conversations filled up the restaurant as they raked up old memories.

They reminisced about their days during secondary school. All four were sporty. Yvonne recalls: "I represented our school in track and field events and I was also in charge of our school's softball and netball teams where I played with them." As teenage girls, they had their fair share of fun at house parties and tea dances, which were usually held at hotels. Yvonne and Louise jokingly grumbled that they had strict parents and so were often in school playing sports.

Eulyth says her favourite memory of her schooldays was the school funfair. "We went there at the end of each month. There were games, food – and, of course, the boys from



(Left to right): Yvonne, Louise, Eulyth and Barbara at the ECH



Happy school days

As teenage girls, they had fun at house parties and tea dances

St Patrick's School!" Barbara said that money was scarce and they would buy ice-balls for five cents. She adds: "We went to the Roxy Cinema and chopped our seats by tying handkerchiefs."

The friends spent the rest of their afternoon looking at old photographs, laughing at how much their appearances have changed and catching up on what had happened since their schooldays.

Although they had drifted apart owing to family commitments, they ended the reunion certain that they would now see each other more frequently. As for Yvonne and Louise, they are excited about getting a chance to party with their friends again – this time at exciting EA events!

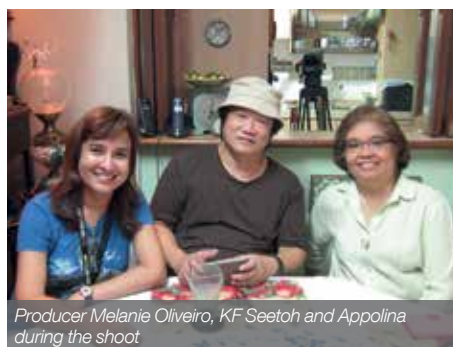
TV Dinners

Appolina Dragon, whose chicken stew pie was recently featured on Channel 5's *On The Red Dot* programme, shares her recipe with readers

Appolina Dragon, 54, admits she is a "little fussy" when it comes to cooking and baking. She learned to cook at the age of nine and her reputation among family and friends for producing delicious food gained wider recognition when she was shown rustling up one of her favourite recipes on TV recently.

Her appearance in *On The Red Dot* was her first experience in front of TV cameras and she confesses: "I was quite nervous with the camera focused on me, but the producer, Melanie, made me very comfortable and relaxed throughout the shoot."

Appolina was inspired to cook by her mother's eldest sister, Clarice, whom she fondly refers to as 'Mama'. Her aunt would always ask her



Producer Melanie Oliveiro, KF Seetoh and Appolina during the shoot

to help out in the kitchen and she started by baking cakes. From there, she picked up cooking methods and tips that have enabled her to create comforting Eurasian cuisine.

On the TV show, Appolina baked a hearty Eurasian chicken stew pie. She says: "Mama taught me to cook the stew and also the pie with a shortcrust pastry. However, these days we use the ready-rolled puff pastry because my family prefers it as compared to the heavier short crust." She reminds us that if the stew is cooked to eat with rice, it's important to add a little flour to thicken it.

Her love for Eurasian food is evident and when asked to pick a favourite, she laughs

“I was quite nervous with the camera focused on me but the producer made me very comfortable”

and says: "That's a difficult one! There are too many – curry devil, semor, sugee cakes, pineapple tarts and the list goes on!" However, she does say that her favourite aspect about Eurasian cuisine is its variety and versatility.

Although Appolina's advice for those who are learning how to cook Eurasian food is to get a good recipe and adapt it to their own style, she also strongly believes in retaining the originality of the dish as she feels that it is a good way to save the Eurasian heritage. She says that the best compliment she has received is from her friends and family who have tried her Mama's cooking. She says: "They tell me that my food is a blast from the past. Mama's a hard act to follow, I'll tell you that!"

Recipe for Chicken Stew Pie



1 Ingredients for stew

- 1 whole fresh chicken cut into medium sized pieces
- 3½ tablespoons vegetable cooking oil
- 10 shallots, sliced
- 2½ teaspoons allspice powder
- 3-4 cups water
- 3 medium-sized carrots
- 5 medium-sized potatoes, cut into 4
- 2 onions cut into wedges
- 1 pack of 10 chicken sausages/franks (each frank cut into 3)
- 300 g French beans
- 4 tomatoes, cut into 6 wedges each
- 5 boiled eggs, halved
- Salt to taste

2 Method

- Heat the oil in a deep saucepan
- Add the sliced shallots and fry until slightly golden
- Add in the allspice and stir for about a minute or so
- Add the fresh chicken and stir to brown slightly
- Add the water and bring to the boil on a low heat.
- Continue cooking until the chicken is half cooked
- When half cooked, add in the carrots and potatoes
- Continue boiling until soft
- Once carrots and potatoes are done, add the onion wedges
- Next add the chicken frank pieces and the French beans
- Let the stew come to a boil again and continue to cook for about 2 minutes
- Turn the heat off and set aside

3 For the beef balls:

- 500 g minced beef
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- 1 egg, beaten
- Oil for deep frying
- Mix all together and form balls and deep fry until golden brown and set aside

4 For the shortcrust pastry:

- 680 g plain flour
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 270 g butter, cubed
- 1 cup water
- Pinch of salt
- Rub in the dry ingredients with the butter and add water to form the dough. Set aside in a cool place.

5 Making the pie:

- In the pie dish, start layering the ingredients from the stew into the dish.
- Add in the meat balls, tomato wedges and half-boiled eggs
- Continue layering until there is a slight dome formed
- Add stew gravy to the pie so it does not get too dry

- Extra stew gravy may be put in a gravy boat for later
- Roll out the pastry to about 2cm thick and wide, big enough to cover the pie
- Don't forget the dome, formed by the ingredients in the pie dish, so the pastry should be larger than the size of the dish
- Don't worry if the pastry breaks while you try to lay it over the pie. Just 'patch' up the pastry and form a design
- Use a fork to 'pinch' the sides of the pie
- Brush the pastry with egg wash
- Finally, before closing the pie and placing it in the oven, pour in 1 tablespoon of brandy (optional) into a small hole made in the pastry
- Bake the pie on lower shelf in a preheated oven at 200°C for about 20-30 minutes or until the pastry is a deep-golden brown
- Remove the pie from the oven and let the pie stand for about 5 minutes



DACOUR

Launched this year, DACOUR is a local women's fashion label and we're currently expanding our operation and looking for good-looking female models to join our big family.

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Requirements:

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- Hours are flexible and during weekdays, and you must be able to commit long term

If you are interested, please email Stephanie at info@dacour.com with the following details:

- Full name
- UK size
- Contact no.
- 2 x full body shot pictures
- Age
- 2 x face shot pictures
- Health status
- Portfolio (if you have one)

PERMANENT
PART-TIME MODELS



DACOUR

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you soon

GAME ON!



The Eurasian contingent at SEA Games 2015



Chloe Besanger and the women's rugby team



After 22 years, the SEA Games returned to Singapore from 5 to 16 June, with the region's top athletes competing in 402 events across 36 sports.

Hearty congratulations to Eurasians Joseph Schooling for achieving nine gold swimming medals, plus Mark Leong (gold, water-skiing men's slalom), Shelby Koh (gold, netball), Samantha Neubronner (gold, sailing - female youth 420, U19), Chloe Besanger (silver, women's rugby 7s) and Max Ducourneau (bronze, men's rugby 7s).

The biggest, non-sporting highlight was the Opening Ceremony, which began with The Big Singapore Welcome segment comprising 1,400 performers from various organisations including the Eurasian Association. In a joint collaboration between the EA and ISS International, 27 students danced to the *Jinkli Nona* song.



Shelby Koh



Samantha Neubronner



Joseph Schooling
Photo courtesy of Angela Schooling



Max Ducourneau and the men's rugby team



Mark Leong

