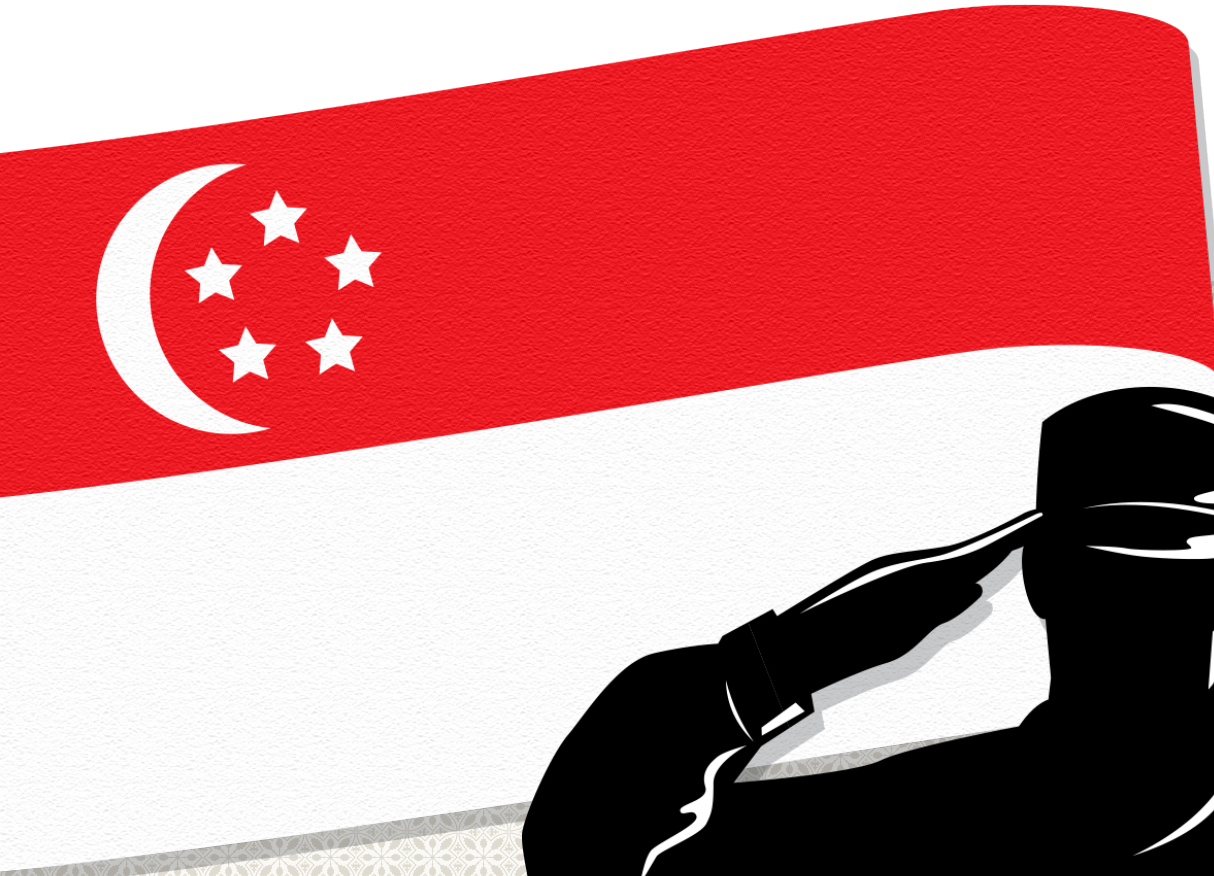


THE neweurasian

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JULY - SEPTEMBER 2016



PLUS

Collaborative Tuition Programme
Helping students reach their full potential

Art from the Heart
Bringing art to the community

Family Support Services
Supporting underprivileged, at-risk and elderly Eurasians

Sports Wunderkinds
Promising fencing and swimming athletes make us proud

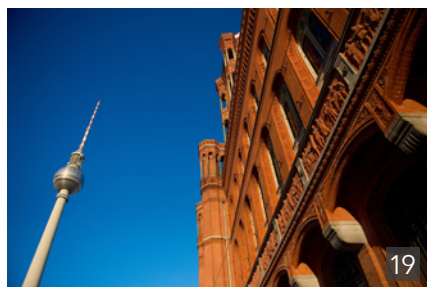
With a 'Porpoise'
Protecting the marine ecosystem

TAKING A STAND

How Eurasians contribute
to Singapore's
defence force



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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

We have reached the second half of this year and I am pleased to see the impact that the Eurasian Association (EA) continues to have on the community.

In this issue, we highlight the SHG Student Care Limited Family Day, an important event that brought together Singapore's four community Self-Help Groups (SHGs) on June 4 (page 6). The event launched the new "Big Heart Student Care" brand for these centres and introduced the latest Big Heart Student Care centre at Xingnan Primary School. We were pleased to be a part of this event and were even happier to learn how many students have already benefited from the exciting activities they offer.

On page 7 we share the story of Angeline Helen Peter, a student who has benefitted from SHG's Collaborative Tuition Programme (CTP). As mentioned in previous issues, not many of our students are taking advantage of the CTP to help them do better in school, which is why I would like to encourage more parents to consider enrolling their children in the CTP. In addition to the CTP, we have also launched intensive mathematics programme and arts workshops, details of which can be found on pages 7 and 8.

Other notable events this month included the Inter-Racial Inter-Religious (IRIR) Harmony Nite and the Heritage Fest, two events that bring different communities together to celebrate racial and religious harmony. Such events remind us that racial and religious harmony require continuous work and show the world that proactive and constructive dialogue can unite one of the most ethnically and religiously diverse countries in the world.

By playing a key role in these events, EA is able to build fruitful partnerships with external organisations, providing a platform to showcase our Eurasian culture and heritage to the wider society and to partner on new programmes that will serve the community.

Our cover story (page 9) for this issue focuses on uniformed members of the Eurasian community; members of the Army, Navy, Police, Civil Defence and Air Force who positively impact their communities and their country. In the formative years of Singapore's nationhood, the defence of the country rested on the shoulders of a number of notable Eurasians – John Le Cain (Commissioner of Police), Tommy Campbell (Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces), James Aeria (Chief of Navy) and

George Bogaars (Head of the Special Branch) – who rose to become some of the most prominent individuals in Singapore's history, devoting their lives to the nation. I am proud to see that the younger generation is building upon this proud heritage to contribute to Singapore's present day defence efforts.

Our calendars are already full with exciting events scheduled until the end of the year. The first youth fireside chat session on civil service will be held in late July. This is the first in a series of career talks that I hope will offer some career guidance as well as provide opportunities for Eurasian youths to connect and bond over their common interests. This session will definitely benefit anyone who is striving to build a career serving the public. I hope more Eurasian youths will come forward to drive such programmes and play an active role in the EA and the Eurasian community.

Lastly, as announced during the annual general meeting held last April, plans have been set in motion to revamp the Eurasian Heritage Centre in time for our 100th anniversary coming up in 2019. The objective is to transform the premises into a vibrant heritage institution for the Eurasian community of Singapore, while multiplying the learning opportunities for visitors of all ages and backgrounds. At the heart of this endeavour will be exhibits that showcase and celebrate our rich history as well as our present-day Eurasian culture and community.

Grants have been requested to make this project a reality, but I hope the members of the Eurasian community will help fund this project with their donations. We will also be conducting a series of discussions to come up with the best way to mark EA's centenary. Stay tuned for details of this in the coming months.

In conclusion, we are grateful for the support and contributions from friends, partners and members of the community, and look forward to continue building a stronger and more vibrant Eurasian community in Singapore.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Benett Theseira". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large loop at the end.

Benett Theseira
President

A VIP welcome

The EA's new management committee organised an informal dinner with Mr S Iswaran, Minister for Trade and Industry, at the Eurasian Community House on 26 April. The team took the opportunity to share and discuss some of the EA's upcoming projects with Mr Iswaran. The new management committee will serve a term of two years until April 2018.



The new EA management committee posing with Mr Iswaran (middle) after a fruitful dinner

Sporting fun

The second Malaysian Eurasian Games provided a wonderful opportunity for the Eurasian Association (EA) Singapore to meet, bond and forge new relationships with EAs from Malaysia. Organised by the Selangor and



EA representatives proudly holding up the Singapore flag during the opening ceremony



Eurasian representatives from different states in Malaysia posing for a photograph after the games



EA representatives during the opening ceremony

Federal Territory Eurasian Association, the event – which was held in Kuala Lumpur from 30 April to 1 May – aimed to celebrate the Eurasian community's achievements in sports. The most exciting part? The balut competition between EA Penang, EA Selangor and EA Singapore. "During the event, we taught players from Penang how to play balut and were even praised for being 'sporting'. In the end, EA Penang beat us at our own game and emerged as the overall games champion!" Ms Yvonne Pereira, EA Singapore's 2nd Vice-President, quipped with a laugh. EA Singapore took part in balut, darts and carom. The next games will be held in 2018.

EA clinches second spot

The Eurasian Association (EA)'s Team Two clinched second place with 2,399 points in the second lap of the 32nd Inter-Club Balut Tournament on 22 June. A total of 68 players from the Singapore Recreation Club (SRC), EA, Singapore Cricket Club (SCC), The Tanglin Club, Indian Association (IA) and National University of Singapore Society participated in the tournament hosted by the SRC at the Eurasian Community House.

The EA was represented by eight players split into two teams. Team One consisted of Christina Theseira, Louisiana Thomas, Pat Leung and The Ban Khi (Yang); while Herald Berlee, Sandra Ross, Wijay Kumar and Aloysius Fernandez made up Team Two.

NUS's Team Three emerged as the overall champion of the second round with 2,411 points. The Ban Khi (Yang) bagged a bottle of whisky for recording the highest individual aggregate score of 683 points, beating fellow EA player, Patrick Fernando, who scored 670 points – the highest individual aggregate score in the first lap of the tournament on 18 May.

In the first round of the tournament, the EA's Team Two clinched



The EA's Balut Team One (right) and Team Two posing with balut convenor, Yvonne Pereira (middle), after the second round

the second runner-up spot with 2,364 points. Overall, the second round provided a platform for EA players to further test and refine their skills before the third round on 20 July, which will be hosted by The Tanglin Club.

Separately, the EA Balut Section would like to thank Pernod Ricard's Mr K R Menon for the sponsorship of prizes; Quentin's Restaurant for the sumptuous Eurasian dinner; SRC for loaning the Balut equipment; Chief Scorer Erica Neo; all baluteers; and our EA Secretariat for making the competition a success.

EA Toastmasters Club

It was an exciting day at the Eurasian Association (EA) when toastmasters from various clubs attended the installation ceremony on 2 July.



EA executive committee for the 2016-2017 term



Ramesh Tarani (right) receiving Best Table Topic Speaker from EA TMC President Yvonne Pereira



Immediate Past President Charlene Lee (right) receiving the Best Prepared Speech Speaker ribbon from EA TMC President Yvonne Pereira

The day began with a welcome address by District Director, Patricia Lum, who commended EA for receiving the recognition of 'President's Distinguished' status. "Continue building on the image that you are getting bigger and better!" she encouraged. Patricia also presented special awards to the club members for their achievements in the previous term and gave a special award to EA President Benett Theseira for supporting the EA Toastmasters Club (TMC).

Ensuring that minorities have a chance to become president

How do we ensure a person from a minority race can be elected to the highest office in Singapore? The Eurasian Association (EA) may have the answer. On 22 April, at the second Constitutional Commission hearing on Singapore's elected presidency, the EA proposed returning to the old system of having Parliament decide who should take up the highest office in Singapore. However, if doing away with presidential elections is unfeasible, the EA proposed a Group Representation Constituency (GRC) approach. This means two or three members, with at least one minority member, run for office as a team. If the team wins, one person will be president, while the other two will become members of the Council of Presidential Advisers (CPA). The EA was represented by Benett Theseira, Martin Marini, Alexius Pereira and Timothy de Souza. The commission was appointed by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong to review three aspects of the elected presidency: candidates' eligibility criteria, minority representation and the CPA.

Division E Director Prem Methani conducted the installation ceremony, announcing the executive committee for the term beginning July 2016 as follows:

- President : Yvonne Pereira
- Vice-President (Education) : Michael Rodrigues
- Vice-President (Membership) : Peter Rodrigues
- Vice-President (Public Relations) : Peter Lee
- Secretary : Jennifer Francis
- Treasurer : Harry Klass
- Sergeant-at-Arms : Arshad Vaswanala
- Immediate Past President : Charlene Lee

After a brief high-tea session, the meeting continued with participants presenting their prepared speeches and impromptu table topic speeches. Charlene Lee's speech 'Open Letter' earned her the title of Best Prepared Speech Speaker.

Thinking on his feet for the table topic speech on 'The start of my marriage was the end of the...', Ramesh Tarani chose to discuss his friendship with his wife, a feat that got him the title of Best Table Topic Speaker.

The event ended with Yvonne's closing address as she presented a special appreciation cake to Michael Rodrigues for his invaluable support in reviving the EA's TMC.

Why you should join the EA

There are many reasons to join the Eurasian Association. Members not only get to participate in EA activities at subsidised rates, but they're also entitled to exclusive benefits, including ad-hoc discounts to events and concerts. But most importantly, an EA membership puts you in touch with other members of our small but historic community and helps keep our rich culture alive.

There are different categories of membership and for those who have been contributing to the Eurasian Community Fund (ECF), there's even better news – membership is free! Simply mail us a copy of a filled-out EA membership form, a document indicating the ECF contributions you've made in the past three months and a copy of your NRIC, and we'll waive your membership fees.

To download the EA membership form or find out more about the membership and its benefits, visit:

www.eurasians.org.sg/about-us/membership/

If you're an organisation or individual keen to partner with EA to provide more membership benefits, please contact Bridget at bridget@eurasians.org or

6447 1578 (ext 203).



A Saturday of fun and games

On 4 June, more than 400 guests, including community leaders from the various local self-help groups (SHGs), students and their families, flocked to a family day carnival, where they had great fun. It was organised by Self-Help Groups Student Care Limited (SHGSL) – a collaborative initiative by SHGs, such as the Eurasian Association (EA) to run 30 local Student Care Centres (SCCs).

Education Subcommittee Chairperson, also held a workshop on 'Effective Parent-Child Communication Skills'.

At the carnival – launched by Mr Ng Chee Meng, Singapore's Acting Minister for Education (Schools) – the SHGSL unveiled a new branding initiative, 'Big Heart Student Care', for all SCCs. Mr Benett Theseira, President of the Eurasian Association,



A drone selfie at the carnival



Ms Low Yen Ling (left), SHGSL Chairperson and Singapore's Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Minister Ng Chee Meng (third from left) and Minister Gan Kim Yong (third from right) with EA representatives at the Eurasian booth



VIPs with students at the SHG Student Care Family Day

The carnival at Xingnan Primary School in Jurong West featured a diverse range of activities, including workshops; exhibition booths by the different SCCs; game stations designed by Jurong Junior College students; and a 'Kampong Fun' booth by the National Heritage Board offering old-school games, such as five stones, *chaptah* and pick up sticks.

The EA set up a special heritage booth showcasing Eurasian traditional wear and cuisine. Mr Graham Ong-Webb, the EA's

shared in a media statement that the SCCs are a necessary support infrastructure for students, especially for those with working parents. "They provide a platform to engage students, and widen their horizons and opportunities to achieve more."

Other attendees included Mr Gan Kim Yong, Singapore's Minister for Health, and Ms Low Yen Ling, SHGSL Chairperson and Singapore's Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Winning formula for exam success

With its quality tutors, smaller classes and low tuition fees, the Collaborative Tuition Programme is a cost-effective way to higher grades

Angeline Helen Peter, 15, has always dreamed of becoming a top accountant – but she had a problem with maths. “I was consistently doing one thing wrong in school – failing maths,” she says. All that changed when Angeline’s mum signed her up for the Collaborative Tuition Programme (CTP).

Launched in 2002 by self-help groups (SHGs), the CTP gives students from low-income households within local communities access to affordable tuition classes.

These classes are held in 70 centres located island-wide, with tuition fees as low as \$8 per subject per month for primary-school students

The CTP has helped me improve my maths grades. Now, I can even solve maths problems in my head!

and \$12 per subject per month for secondary-school students. The fee for each student varies according to the subsidy provided by the respective SHGs.

Since 2007, Angeline has been attending English and maths classes at a CTP centre, with her tuition fees subsidised by the EA. “Over the years, the CTP has helped me improve my maths grades,” says Angeline. “Now, I can even solve maths problems in my head!”

Another reason she has remained in the CTP is the accessibility and quality of its tutors. “With an average class size of only eight students,



Angeline receiving a secondary school level bursary award from Ms Indraneel Rajah, then Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Law and Ministry of Education, at the Eurasian Community Fund Award Ceremony 2014

it’s so easy to ask questions and clear any doubts – something that’s not always possible in school,” she adds.

It’s this conducive and engaging learning environment that gives Angeline the confidence that she can do well in her GCE N-level examinations next year. “The CTP has put me on a path to achieving my goal of scoring good results – and eventually pursuing a successful career in accounting,” she says.

If you’re keen to know more about the CTP, please contact Keith Kuah at keith@eurasians.org or 6447 1578 (ext 205).

Maths matters

In the second week of June, Ms Lim Ahlin conducted a five-day mathematics intensive programme for students taking the Primary School Leaving Examination. The programme’s lessons focused on effectively revising all important maths concepts, formulas and rules, and practising as many past examination papers as possible.

Ms Lim Ahlin teaching students how to solve maths problems during one of the lessons



A class act

Since 1934, the Singapore Buddhist Lodge (SBL) has played a significant role in improving local communities and the lives of the disadvantaged. Education has been a major part of that role – it's the charity's belief that it leads to social and individual uplift. That's why it's committed to helping students carry the burden of education costs, so that they can fully focus on their studies and reach their highest potential. At its 38th Batch Bursary Award Presentation Ceremony on 9 and 30 April, the charity awarded bursaries to eight primary- and secondary-level Eurasian students. The recipients are:

Primary level

- Lucretia Cecilia Achugbu
- Rosemary Callista Achugbu
- Christopher Bryan Andrew
- Wesley Widjaya Gordon

Secondary level

- Micheal Ryan Andrew
- Mohamed Feroz Bin Baseer Ahamed
- Shawn Dillon Siew Kei Leon
- Chrislyn Rose Pereira



Secondary-level student recipients



Primary-level student recipients

Art from the heart

Ruby Elvina Wyse has found a creative way of contributing to the Eurasian community in Singapore. On 5 June, she conducted an exclusive art workshop at the Eurasian Association (EA) for artistically inclined students. As part of the workshop, Ruby taught students how to pick and add colours, and the techniques of shading and highlighting. Jasmine Oliveiro, 15, walked away with the best drawing award at the end of the workshop. She drew a house, but used her newly learned shading skill to create the illusion of depth and shadows. "The workshop was simply awesome!" Jasmine said with a smile. "I've made many new friends and, most importantly, learned new art techniques."

For Ruby – a Master of Education (Art) student at National Technological University – this is just one of her many ways of giving back to the Eurasian community. "Growing up in a family of five was no easy feat," she recalls. "It was the EA's endless support all those years in the form of school bursaries and its inclusive events and programmes that helped me get where I am today – so now it's my turn to contribute."



A group photograph of Ruby (second from left) and her art workshop students



The students holding up their artwork at the end of the art workshop with Ruby (third from left) smiling proudly



Ruby (left) and Jasmine, seen here holding her winning picture, posing after the art workshop

Pillars of DEFENCE

How modern-day Eurasians are contributing to Singapore's defence force

In 1918, during World War I, a group of Eurasian volunteers came together to form a home guard to defend Singapore. Calling themselves "D-company", their brave efforts contributed to the nation's security. They were the vanguard of what is today the Singapore Police Force, Singapore Civil Defence Force and Singapore Armed Forces, which is made up of the Singapore Army, the Republic of Singapore Navy and the Republic of Singapore Air Force.

The examples set by John Le Cain (Singapore's first Commissioner of Police); Edwin Thompson (former Deputy Commissioner of Prisons); Boris Theseira (Senior Deputy Director of the Security and Intelligence Division); Tommy Campbell (SAF's first Chief of Staff); James Aeria (Singapore's first Navy Chief); and Timothy de Souza (pioneering Black Knights of SAF) have inspired many Eurasians to help build the foundations of Singapore's world-class defence force.



Edmund (left) and Graham

Congratulations!

*The NewEurasian would like to congratulate
Edmund Twohill and Graham Gerard Ong-Webb
from the Singapore Armed Forces for being appointed
Honorary Aides-de-Camp to the President of Singapore for a
period of one year. The ceremony was held on 1 June at the
Istana.*



SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE

DSP Rosie Ann McIntyre

Head of Training and Operations Officer

Ever since she was a young girl, Rosie Ann McIntyre wanted to become a police officer. This led her to join the National Police Cadet Corps while in high school. "I remember the time I visited the then Criminal Investigation Department (CID) headquarters along Eu Tong Sen Street with a group of younger cadets," she recalls. "I saw many photographs of different criminal cases and it was then that I made a firm decision to join the Singapore Police Force (SPF)."

Today, Rosie is Central Division's Operations Officer and concurrently the Head of Training. She handles operational planning, security and readiness for national events, such as the National Day Parade, Chingay Festival and the presidential elections. "It's my job to conduct readiness exercises and prepare officers for such events," she explains.

She has also been promoted consecutively for two years in a row. "It is my biggest achievement to date and I'm proud that SPF does not view female officers as less competent or qualified." Recently, she was also tasked with overseeing the Central Division Training Branch, which involves managing and developing a training regime for front-line officers.

Her biggest challenge at the SPF is people management. "Complaints, victims, witnesses and assailants come from all ages, backgrounds and interests. It's about managing their different expectations and, at the same time, upholding the values of SPF."

Her most recent challenge was the SG50 celebrations. "What a challenging year that was! I had to manage an entire team as well as the security and contingency plans for what seemed like a year-long event."

But the end result was nothing less than satisfying. "Seeing the joy and happiness on the faces of my fellow citizens made it all worth it, and I'm proud to have contributed to such an important milestone in our nation's history."

With terrorist attacks on the rise around the world, Rosie believes that each Singaporean citizen has a role to play in ensuring the safety of the nation. "There are only so many police officers out there patrolling the streets. That's why we need everyday citizens to be our eyes and ears on the ground," she says.

Rosie now looks forward to spearheading new SPF projects and training new officers in the years to come. "For those looking to join the SPF, it's not all about hardcore crime fighting. There are many other opportunities in frontline crime and incident management, security planning and even human resources."



SINGAPORE CIVIL DEFENCE FORCE

Sergeant Timothy Roch Krishnan

Special Rescue Unit

Ever wondered what a rescuer's day-to-day job is like? For Timothy Roch Krishnan – a 20-year-old Eurasian full-time National Serviceman (NSF) Section Commander at the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF)'s Special Rescue Unit – it begins with checking that the various types of equipment used in rescue operations are in good working condition.

Then he and his fellow rescuers go off to their respective units and standby for operational incidents. "Throughout the day, we attend lectures and training courses to ensure that we maintain operational competence," Timothy explains.

Timothy enlisted in National Service in 2015, where he attended Basic Rescue Training at the National Service Training Institute. There, he excelled and was selected for the six-month Section Commander Course (SCC) at the Civil Defence Academy. "I worked hard to get into this course and it was here that I learnt the importance of discipline, teamwork and unit cohesion."

While he admits that the SCC training was intense, vigorous and gruelling, the camaraderie and bond forged with his drill sergeants, instructors and batch mates made it all worth the effort. "I'll never forget the passing-out parade at the end of the course, when my batch mates and I were finally awarded the rank of sergeant. It was one of my proudest moments."

Currently, his role in the SCDF's Special Rescue Unit is to provide support to firefighters from various fire stations in emergency situations, such as rescue and evacuation, personnel decontamination and incidents involving mass casualties.

Timothy considers his biggest challenge to be managing and working with NSFs with diverse backgrounds and personalities. "I take it upon myself to understand each individual, their strengths and weaknesses, so that I can bring out the best in them."

Overall, if his experiences at the SCDF and National Service have taught him anything, it's the nobility of service. "Growing up, I never thought I'd become a rescuer," Timothy says. "But being at the forefront of protecting lives and property, I've seen first-hand how my work with SCDF positively impacts lives," he adds. "It's a feeling of fulfilment that only a job like this can provide."



THE SINGAPORE ARMY

ME6 Gavin Arnold Rozario

Army Engineer

Gavin Arnold Rozario joined the Singapore Army 19 years ago. Fresh out of school with only an engineering diploma, he was determined to develop his skills in engineering. In 1999, after years of diligently saving, he decided to further his studies.

Three years later, armed with an engineering degree, he returned to the Singapore Army – this time with a stronger passion to serve. Now aged 41, Gavin is an Army Engineer in the Singapore Army.

His daily routine begins at 7am with a workout, followed by meetings and discussions. But what he enjoys most is interacting and coaching junior officers. "I am very lucky to have had great inspirational bosses and leaders in the early years of my career. So I want to be the same for my subordinates and coach them to be better leaders, individuals and team players," says the father of two. "I see it as a way of giving back to the Singapore Army after all I've gained here in terms of exposure and training," he says.

One of his most memorable experiences was the National Day Parade (NDP) 2006, of which he was part of the executive committee. "It was the last parade to be held at the old iconic National Stadium," he says. "Organising and being involved in a large-scale national event like the NDP was an experience

to remember. Just knowing that my efforts were going towards making it a success was a great source of motivation for me."

But a joint exercise in the United States with the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) and Singapore Army is one experience he'll never forget. "As the Commander of the Forward Support Group, I was tasked with managing a team of 50 people who had come together for the first time, ensuring that they work together as a team to meet unique training requirements in an overseas environment," Gavin explains.

Overall, Gavin believes that a career in the SAF is both challenging and rewarding. "It demands passion, intellect, empathy and dedication, but it is immensely rewarding and fulfilling in return."



THE SINGAPORE ARMY

2WO Veronica Ann

Army Logistician

Ever since she was a child, Veronica Ann has had big dreams to do something different with her career. When the rest of her classmates were considering fashion or design, she decided to prove her worth in the field of defence. This led her to join the SAF as a logistician in 1996 after completing her studies.

She is currently the Military Police Training School's Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant and oversees the logistical requirements of the courses and exercises conducted in the school.

Her daily routine begins with a discussion with her colleagues on the tasks for the day or week. Then she gathers her logistics crew and gives them specific instructions for the day, including briefing them about upcoming events.

One of her personal challenges is meeting expectations each time she's appointed to a new unit. "Because I strive to be highly competent in my daily work, I constantly pressure myself to pick things up fast at every new appointment," Veronica says. "For instance, I go the extra mile to ensure that I have a detailed understanding of new tasks required of me."

Her hard work and desire for excellence often pay off. "The feeling I get when I surpass expectations is invaluable."

She considers her biggest achievement to be graduating in the top ten for the first Joint Intermediate Leadership Course – a tri-service course involving the SAF, Republic of Singapore Navy and Republic of Singapore Air Force. "The course helped me sharpen my interpersonal skills and taught me how to better communicate with our men on the ground," she explains. "It also gave me the opportunity to network with my counterparts from the Republic of Singapore Navy and Republic of Singapore Air Force."

One thing she has learned from her experiences at the SAF is the importance of planning. "Without sufficient planning, we may not be able to efficiently use our limited resources and manpower or anticipate potential issues," Veronica says. "I've also learnt to multi-task well, which is required given my tight schedule at the SAF."

She prides herself on being able to juggle work and family commitments simultaneously. "Of course, having a helpful and understanding husband helps!" she adds with a laugh.

Overall, Veronica believes she was made for the SAF. "My grandmother inspired and motivated me to join the SAF, and she always encouraged me to follow my heart," Veronica says. "She also advised me that I should find a job I love doing, so that it doesn't feel like an obligation and I would be undaunted by challenges that come my way."

For Eurasians looking to join the SAF, Veronica says: "Passion and drive – that's what's needed for the job and the tough training and physical challenges." She adds: "Our individual contributions may seem small in the bigger scheme of the SAF's goals and objectives, but it is our collective effort that ultimately helps us achieve success."



REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE NAVY

Captain James Ronald Brown

Naval Combat Officer

When Flight QZ8501 crashed into the Java Sea in December 2014, James Ronald Brown was required to conduct search operations. "It was the Christmas weekend and my baby boy was only two weeks old," says James, a 30-year-old English-Chinese Naval Combat Officer. "However, I felt the need to be with my crew and ship on such an important mission."

James joined the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) in 2007 and is the only Eurasian to have graduated at the top of the Naval Warfare Officers' Course – a pinnacle course in the RSN.

On why he decided to join the RSN, he says: "I attended a RSN recruitment talk during my basic military training course in Pulau Tekong. It not only provided down-to-earth examples of life in the RSN, but through the talk, I discovered that the RSN frequently participates in multinational aid efforts, such as the reconstruction of Iraq. That really struck a chord with me."

A typical day for James starts with a discussion with key appointment holders on a ship's status and readiness. This is followed by a mission brief and a series of checks to ensure that the ship is ready for deployment. "As the Executive Officer, my job is to work the ship out of harbour and pilotage waters,

before handing it over to others to take it to its destination and accomplish its mission."

He adds: "I'm usually in the ship's Combat Information Centre, just like the one in the *Battleship* film, making key decisions as to how the ship will accomplish its mission."

According to James, what keeps him going is the inner feeling of satisfaction he gets when a mission is completed and surpasses expectations. "At the end of the day and after each mission, I love watching the sun set across the horizon because it means the end of another peaceful and successful day," he says.

Overall, he says the RSN has made him believe that he can achieve the impossible. "If you're looking for a career filled with friendships and believe you have what it takes to lead and serve, then the RSN is where you belong."



SINGAPORE AIR FORCE

LTC Sunder Gavin Kiameng

F-16 Fighter Pilot

Sunder Gavin Kiameng has always been fascinated by flying and the aviation industry. "My father was a pioneer member of the Singapore Airlines cabin crew, so I grew up with memories of sneaking into cockpits to watch pilots in action," he says.

In 1990, he joined the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF), shortly after which he was selected to attend a pilot training course.

"That's the day my dream came true," says Sunder, now aged 45 and an F-16 fighter pilot. He started off with the basics, such as learning how air systems work and acquiring tactical qualifications. "Then, I was put through a rigorous flight training programme, which focused on sharpening my flying and safety skills."

After more than two decades of training and perfecting the art of flying a fighter jet, Sunder is now the Deputy Base Commander for the Paya Lebar Air Base. "It's an honour to serve alongside some of the finest personnel in the RSAF," he adds. "There's never a dull moment, although we work 24 hours a day, seven days a week to keep Singapore's skies safe from threats."

Sunder considers his most significant contribution to be training and preparing junior RSAF personnel to be operationally ready to counter all kinds of air attacks. "I'm making the most of my

time here by sharing my experiences, knowledge and skills with the younger ones."

He now looks forward to celebrating SAF Day on 1 July. "It's a day to remind us of Singapore's progress in ensuring security and stability. It's also a time for me to reflect and renew my allegiance to Singapore."

Sunder believes that the RSAF's achievements and accolades from air forces around the world are the result of the hard work and dedication of each and every RSAF personnel, like himself.

As for future plans, he says: "Once I retire from the RSAF, I'm looking to find a job that is useful to society and allows me to help others." But if he's called upon to defend Singapore, Sunder is clear about his stand. "I will step out of retirement and not hesitate to protect my beloved country and fellow citizens."

Lighting up lives

There may be many things in this world we'd like to change – underprivileged families, elders without support, children who don't have enough to eat – but where do we start? Since 1994, the Eurasian Association (EA) has been providing assistance to underprivileged local Eurasians, especially families at risk and the elderly, through its Family Support Services (FSS).

In 2015 alone, the FSS helped more than 120 individuals and 60 families overcome various challenges – from unemployment to housing and health.



Point of reference

Underprivileged individuals, families and the elderly often turn to the EA for help with information about social welfare agencies and schemes available in Singapore. If necessary, the EA will refer them to the relevant organisations for more direct and targeted assistance.

Financial help

The EA provides financial assistance and emergency funds to struggling members of the Eurasian community. These funds are usually used to cover their basic monthly needs, such as food, shelter, transport and healthcare.

Food rations and general supplies

Each month, the EA ensures that poor families have enough to live on by providing food rations and other essential items, such as clothing donated by generous organisations and individuals. Today, this initiative has become the main support system for many underprivileged

Community-bonding and active-ageing activities

The EA holds regular seminars on current issues to keep senior Eurasians connected and encourage them to discuss, network and forge new friendships. For instance, the EA's interactive Tea with Neighbours sessions educate them on various issues, such as diet and nutrition, exercise and the importance of a will. In addition, the EA's annual FSS Christmas party gives underprivileged Eurasian families an opportunity to enjoy the festive season with food and drinks.

The human touch is an important aspect of the FSS. Become a befriender with us and experience the difference in your life as you make a difference in someone else's.



Now, as the EA approaches its 100th anniversary, it seems like the right time to chart a new course and vision, including making positive changes within the EA itself, so it can better serve and bring greater benefits to the Eurasian community.

The FSS's list of beneficiaries and under-privileged cases are growing by the day, especially with the number of elderly people with various issues on the rise. That's why the EA is calling for more volunteers to come forward and contribute – be it time, funds or supplies – to make a positive difference in the Eurasian community and help light up the lives of those who may be struggling.

Read on to find out how exactly the FSS works.

local Eurasian families and individuals who find it difficult to cope with living in poverty in Singapore.

Coaching, mediation and counselling services

FSS's team of volunteer coaches – which comprises professionals such as lawyers and teachers – often give underprivileged members of the Eurasian community advice and guidance on how to deal with the different challenges they face. With a strong focus on family, individual and community well-being, these coaches – together with other members of the FSS – have helped address many individual, family and community problems, restoring the hope of those who find themselves in difficult situations.



Blades of glory

Teen fencing stars Amita and Aarya Berthier are tipped to go far – but how did they first get hooked on swordplay? We spoke to Amita to find out.

A 'never give up' attitude is one way to describe national fencing stars - the teenage Berthier sisters. After years of honing their skills and techniques, Aarya, 17, and Amita, 15, have both set their sights on competing at the 2020 or 2024 Olympic Games.

So where did the sisters' passion for swordplay begin? "With football!" Amita explains. "That was our first love when it came to sport. But then, as we grew up, our parents thought that it might be appropriate to change to something that would allow us to compete for years to come."



Amita (right) and Aarya posing after the Taipei Fencing Open in 2014

In 2007, while walking around United Square Mall, the family chanced upon some children training at a local fencing academy – and the rest is history.

"We were both intrigued and attended a couple of trial lessons," Amita recalls. "That was almost a decade ago and we don't regret even a single day."

Once she finished primary school, Amita began attending Singapore Sports School, a specialised institution offering an integrated academic and sports programme. She says it has been the making of her as an athlete. "Imagine doing what you love every day under the guidance of top-notch coaches, sport science services, world class facilities and also being supported academically! It's been a dream come true."

With the school's guidance, Amita has had many opportunities to travel overseas for training and competitions. As a result, she's been able to gain exposure and compete against top international fencers in her age group.

In 2014, Aarya beat her sister in a bout at the Taipei Fencing Open. However, in February, Amita beat her sister by just

one point in the last 16 of the Asian Cadet and Junior Fencing Championships women's cadet and individual (foil), before clinching Singapore's first gold medal at the event in Manama, Bahrain. Today, Amita ranks sixth in the world for the Under 17 Women's Foil category – the highest-ranked cadet female fencer in Singapore's fencing category.

"When we go up against other opponents, we share pointers on how to take them on. We have become very close as a result of training and competing together."

The sisters meet each other regularly at championships, but see their rivalry as a positive development as it provides them with much-needed practice. "We don't like the idea of trying to defeat each other, but we've had to get used to it," Amita explains. "And when we go up against other opponents, we share pointers on how to take them on. We have become very close as a result of training and competing together."

Sadly, the girls' father, Eric, died after a workplace accident just three weeks



Amita ranks sixth in the world for the Under 17 Women's Foil category and is the highest-ranked cadet female fencer in Singapore's fencing category

Photo credit: Singapore Sports School

before the Asian Championships this year. Their mother, Uma, a research consultant, suggested they consider opting out of the event, but both Amita and Aarya decided to press on.

"It's what Dad would have wanted us to do," Amita says. "Win or lose, I want to fence well for my father - both of us do."

He was our number one fan and we both know he would be so proud to see us put our hearts and souls into every challenge."

Her father continues to be Amita's tower of strength and inspiration.

It's clear there's no foil-ing Amita and Aarya on their way to the top. We wish both of them every success in reaching greater heights and securing places on the Singapore fencing team at the next Olympic Games!

Strokes of success

Eurasian swimmer Enzzio Pasqual Spruyt has turned his passion into a mission to inspire and coach young, aspiring swimmers

As a child, Enzzio Pasqual Spruyt could not sit still. He enjoyed trying to jump into rivers or ponds more than his piano and violin lessons. His Dutch-Chinese parents, Henry and Margaret, knew then that he was born for the outdoors and enrolled him in a swimming academy. "That's where it all began," says Enzzio, now 25 and a certified swimming coach in Singapore and Australia.

Since he was 17, Enzzio has been coaching young, aspiring swimmers. "Because I had participated in countless competitions during my time in school, I felt I had a lot to share with younger swimmers – although I was pretty young myself back in 2008!" he says with a laugh. The same year, after his 'O' Levels, he joined Wild Wild Wet – Singapore's largest water theme park – as a part-time lifeguard.



Enzzio at the Grand Central Terminal in New York, 2015



Enzzio (centre) posing with his family during a recent trip back to Singapore

Enzzio's proudest moment? "When I represented the Singapore Swimming Association in a 2005 competition against swimmers from Thailand, Hong Kong and Japan, and emerged as champion."

His extensive skills and practical knowledge of swimming techniques, styles and water safety have since earned him the Swim Australia Teacher and Swim Australia Teacher of Babies and Toddlers accreditations by the Australian Swimming Coaches and Teachers Association; and the Pool Lifeguard award from the Royal Life Saving Society Australia. He's also registered with Singapore's National Registry of Coaches.

"Because I had participated in countless competitions during my time in school, I felt I had a lot to share with younger swimmers – although I was pretty young myself back in 2008!"

He currently coaches the junior and senior performance squads at the University of South Australia in Adelaide. He also gives lessons at the local community pool on the right swimming and breathing techniques, and how to stay safe in and around the water.

So who or what inspires Enzzio to excel in and out of the pool? "Michael Phelps," he says. "Through watching him, I learned that if you have the passion to do something, you'll find a way to do it well."

Enzzio's top swimming hacks

For beginners and those thinking of learning to swim:

- Swimming is a life skill, so learn at least one swimming style – and make that freestyle.
- Keep safety in mind at all times. According to the World Health Organization's Global Burden of Disease study, drowning is one of the five leading causes of death.
- Swimming gets easier the more you practice. And why not? It's a great way to cool down and a form of low-impact therapy for certain injuries and conditions.

For more competitive swimmers:

- Be committed to and consistent with both dry and wet training.
- Work closely with your coach to improve your swimming techniques for the best results in the water.
- Remember: if you want to swim well, you'll need determination, a positive attitude and strong character.



Enzzio coaching his team at the University of South Australia, Adelaide

Go back in time in a blink

If you're looking for information on traditional trade activities and places that are quickly disappearing in Singapore, take a look at *A Blink In Time: Memories of Singapore's Vanishing Past*. Filled with memories of past traditions and cultures, it also contains interesting details contributed by Mrs Valerie Scully on the Eurasian folk dance and traditional Eurasian food, such as curry feng and seaweed jelly. The handsomely designed coffee table book was launched at the Eurasian Association (EA) on 30 April in conjunction with the Singapore HeritageFest. Guest of Honour, Alexius Pereira, the EA's First Vice-President, welcomed guests. The authors also took the opportunity to share more details about traditional Eurasian trade activities. Get your copy at the EA for only \$28.



The cover of *A Blink In Time: Memories of Singapore's Vanishing Past*



Guests indulging in a game of cards at the book launch event on 30 April

Making heritage fun

The Eurasian Association recently held a Eurasian Heritage Bus Tour – the first of its kind in Singapore. With support from the National Heritage Board and in conjunction with HeritageFest 2016, the tour took visitors to four 'Eurasian' locations over three weekends from 30 April to 15 May. The first stop was



Group photo taken at St Patrick's School courtyard

the Eurasian Heritage Centre to give visitors an introduction to the history and lifestyle of Eurasians; followed by St. Patrick's School, one of Singapore's early mission schools attended by many Eurasians; St. Joseph's Church for a glimpse of traditional Catholic Church architecture; and Quentin's Eurasian Restaurant, the only restaurant in Singapore with a full menu of Eurasian cuisine. Who says history and heritage can't be fun?

A serving of family fun and love



The de Souzas posing for a picture after their reunion lunch at Quentin's on 5 May

The de Souzas – a family with deep Eurasian roots in Singapore – are a shining example of our community's unity, values and strength. The family recently held its reunion at Quentin's Eurasian Restaurant on 5 May. Despite it being a Thursday, more than 30 family members gathered to reconnect, reminisce and catch up over a satisfying traditional Eurasian lunch.

A glimpse into the past

Between 1943 and 1944, during the Japanese occupation of Singapore, many Eurasians moved to Bahau – an agricultural settlement in the Malaysian state of Negri Sembilan. There, Eurasians with a mainly urban background struggled to farm and live off the land, which was also plagued by disease. In 2006, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong launched the 'World War II – The Eurasian Story' exhibition, which tells of the community's experiences during the time, including the hardships faced in Bahau. Recently, the Eurasian Heritage Centre – where the exhibition is housed – decided to spruce up the Bahau section of the exhibition, adding large panels displaying the image of the Bahau flag and the names of Eurasians who moved to Bahau during the Japanese occupation. Don't miss it!



Panels displaying the Bahau flag and the names of Eurasians who moved to Bahau during the Japanese occupation of Singapore

Keeping Eurasian food culture alive

Popo & Nana's Delights offers a taste of classic Eurasian cuisine

Christopher and Grace Chin, the sibling owners of Popo & Nana's Delights, have a unique way of keeping the Eurasian cuisine alive. "We serve different Eurasian dishes every day," says Ms Chin. From devil curry and beef ball stew to chicken shepherd's pie and beef smores, the stall at Maxwell Road Food Centre in Chinatown serves up to two Eurasian dishes daily, reasonably priced at \$6.

Set up in 2014, the stall is named after Ms Chin's mother and paternal grandmother. "Popo refers to my late Peranakan grandmother and Nana refers to my late Eurasian mother," she fondly recalls. Ms Chin's passion for cooking classic Eurasian dishes led the siblings to set up the stall.

Chinese maternal grandmother," Ms Chin explains. "My passion for cooking was born then and there in my mother's kitchen."

Pork Cutlet Recipe

Ingredients

- 1.5kg potato
- 1kg lean minced meat
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 1 teaspoon of dried parsley
- 1 teaspoon of dried basil
- 1 big onion (finely chopped)
- ½ teaspoon of pepper powder
- Breadcrumbs
- Three beaten eggs (can be modified according to preferences)

Method

- Cook and mash the potato
- Fry the onion until soft, then add minced meat
- Fry until cooked and dry, then add spices
- Mix together with mashed potato
- Roll into balls and dip each ball in the eggs
- Remove and coat with breadcrumbs
- Fry until golden brown and serve.



Popo & Nana's Delights serves different Eurasian dishes every day and they're reasonably priced at \$6



A generous serving of beef cutlets



The stall's most popular dish, the chicken devil curry, followed by chicken shepherd's pie



"And with my children all grown up and settled in life, it seemed like a good way to keep ourselves busy and our passion alive," she adds.

Her earliest memory of Eurasian food is smores and moli, a spicy fish and coconut dish of Portuguese and Indian origin. "I used to help my mum prepare these dishes for my Anglo-Indian-German-

So what makes Eurasian food so unique? "It's our special spices," says Ms Chin, with a laugh. Her most popular dish? "The chicken devil curry. Many customers order this dish because they love how it's so rich and spicy!" she explains. The stall also has a Peranakan menu, the favourites being buah keluak with chicken or pork, and babi assam.

As for future plans, the siblings plan to move to an air-conditioned café so that customers can enjoy delicious Eurasian food in a more comfortable setting. The siblings also hope that Popo & Nana's Delights will spark an interest in the cuisine among young Eurasians and encourage them to keep the Eurasian food culture alive in Singapore. Ms Chin has a special pork cutlet recipe (see box story) for those who'd like to try their hand at cooking a Eurasian dish. "It's the same recipe I use, so no secrets!" she says.

To find out more about Popo & Nana's Delights, visit www.popoandnadelights.com

Celebrating Eurasian women

Eurasian author Denyse Tessensohn, who wrote the *Elvis in Katong* trilogy, has embarked on a book project with the Singapore Management University. Set to be launched in 2017, the book, the first of its kind in Singapore, aims to record the achievements of local Eurasian women – those who have contributed to our community and country; those who began working at a young age to support their families; as well as teachers, nurses, secretaries, volunteers and homemakers. So if you know of any Eurasian woman – family or friend – who should be featured, celebrated or listed, please contact Denyse at puterim@gmail.com

NUS student with a 'porpoise'

Crystle Wee is making waves in her efforts to protect the marine ecosystem



Crystle posing for a photograph in between planting mangroves at Pramuka Island, Jakarta, to reduce coastal erosion and protect habitats

As a child, Crystle Wee Shi Yi loved the beach. Born to Chinese-Eurasian parents, she has fond memories of family days out digging for clams and swimming in the sea. However, as she grew older, she noticed disturbing changes in the marine environment.

"There seemed to be far more litter, and the waters are greenish and murky. On trips to the beach, I'd find more cigarette butts and plastic waste than shells," says the 22 year old, who's currently pursuing a degree in Environmental Studies at the National University of Singapore.

Crystle's growing concern about environmental issues led to her signing up to participate in the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) in March this year. "The more I saw the marine environment deteriorate, the more I felt the need to do something – anything."

She was chosen following a selection process based on relevant past experiences and other candidacy materials, including application essays and self-assessments.

Launched in 2013 by United States President Barack Obama, YSEALI seeks to strengthen leadership development and networking in Southeast Asia. It focuses on critical topics identified by the region's youth: civic engagement,

environment and natural resources management, and entrepreneurship and economic development.

"I saw it as an amazing opportunity to meet like-minded individuals who are passionate about the environment, including marine conservation, and learn about other marine issues in the region," Crystle adds.

Recently in March, as part of YSEALI, Crystle went on a memorable trip to Pramuka Island, Jakarta. She joined 64 other participants from all 10 ASEAN countries to clean coastal waters and plant mangroves to reduce coastal erosion and protect habitats. "There were piles of trash on the island despite the government's waste management efforts," Crystle says. "It made me realise the importance of having an effective



Crystle advises consumers to buy fish and seafood products that bear the blue MSC label, an indicator of sustainable fishing practices

waste management system and applying the 'reduce, reuse and recycle' principles in daily living."

Additionally, as part of the workshop, a competition was held requiring participants to come up with solutions for improving the marine environment in Southeast Asia. So simple yet potentially effective was the solution by Crystle and her team – which comprised participants from Cambodia, Indonesia and Laos – that they won a trip to a global youth conference, Our Ocean, which will be held in the US in September.

Crystle and her team proposed setting up mooring buoys near coral reefs to ensure that boats do not accidentally damage them. "We won because it's a simple, relatable idea that can be easily



Crystle (far right) and her fellow YSEALI participants during the coastal clean-up exercise at Pramuka Island, Jakarta, in March

understood and implemented," she adds.

Crystle sees the global youth conference as an opportunity to explore and discuss the perspectives of other youths from around the world. While in the US, she also plans to visit Chesapeake Bay in Maryland and the mangroves ecoregion in Florida to learn more about ways of protecting the ocean.

However, Crystle says, there are many other small but effective ways of protecting the marine environment and species. "I've learnt that we cannot do big things, only small things with a big heart."

I've learnt that we cannot do big things, only small things with a big heart.

For instance, she and her fellow marine enthusiasts plan to install mooring buoys at Pulau Hantu – a popular dive spot in Singapore. "We're corraling support on Facebook (facebook.com/anchorsaway.buoy) and our fundraising website 'Anchors Away' (www.generosity.com/animal-pet-fundraising/anchors-away--2) for this project."

Buying and consuming only sustainable seafood is another way. "Look out for Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)-certified products and those labelled 'dolphin safe,'" Crystle advises. "And do not consume products made from endangered fish species, such as shark's fin soup and bluefin tuna!"

She also encourages Singaporeans to use green, recyclable products whenever possible to reduce Singapore's carbon footprint. "I carry a recyclable bag and use a reusable bottle to reduce plastic waste," Crystle says. "The point is, every 'green' effort counts and makes a difference."

To find out more about sustainable seafood in Singapore, visit:
www.wwf.sg/get_involved/sustainable_seafood/seafood_guide

Framed for success

Ryan Michael Chin's passion for photography is set to take him around the world



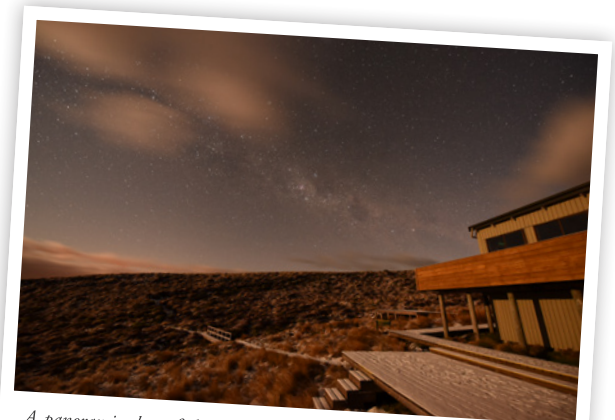
Ryan Michael Chin, a 21 year old with a wanderlust and passion for photography

the 21 year old. "It had a lot to do with just being in the moment and appreciating my surroundings."

Born to an Australian-Chinese father and Punjabi mother, Ryan grew up in three different countries – Singapore, the United Kingdom and Switzerland. As a teenager, he was intrigued by visual effects processes. "It's amazing how imagery is created or manipulated outside the context of a live action shot," he says.

However, when it comes to his pictures, Ryan prefers to keep them as close as possible to reality. "It's about capturing real experiences, sharing them with others and enjoying their delight," Ryan says.

One of his favourite shots was taken at New Zealand's Kepler Track – a 60km circular tramping track that passes through the South Island of New Zealand. "I woke up at 3am to snow and a star-filled crystalline sky. I just had to pull out my camera," he says. "There are moments in life when time comes to a standstill – and that was it for me."



A panoramic shot of the Milky Way from Luxmore Hut – where Ryan hiked and camped – near Kepler Mountains, New Zealand



One of Ryan's most challenging shots to date, at the 2015 Southeast Asian Games swimming event



The cover of Moments, a compilation of Ryan's photography works

Most people would return from time spent overseas with souvenirs and gifts. But for Ryan Michael Chin, it was a newfound passion for photography.

In 2012, while attending boarding school in South Wales, United Kingdom, Ryan went on a hiking trip in the Brecon Beacons National Park. A few months later, he left for Israel to attend a course on green technology and conflict resolution.

These experiences were the catalyst for his keen interest and successful start in photography. "It was during this time that I discovered my passion for nature and landscape photography," explains

But a photograph taken at the 2015 Southeast Asian Games swimming event is one he'll never forget. "I had to capture a shot of the swimmers at full speed," he says. "It's definitely one of my most challenging shots to date."

In late 2015, Ryan launched a book, *Moments*, to share his love and passion for photography with others. "It tells my story through the places I've visited, so if you like pictures of breathtaking landscapes, nature and sceneries, you'll love *Moments*," he adds. "Additionally, through this book, I want to inspire people to pursue their passions and find purpose in their work."

On what makes a good photographer, Ryan says: "Patience, commitment and a willingness to try, fail and try again."

2016 INTER RACIAL INTER RELIGIOUS HARMONY NITE
2016 族宗教和道宴会



INTER-RACIAL
INTER-RELIGIOUS
HARMONY NITE

Organised annually by the Thye Kua Kwan Moral Society to celebrate the nation's diversity, the Inter-Racial Inter-Religious Harmony Nite took place at Marina Bay Sands on 3 July. Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore, and his wife, Mrs Mary Tan, joined the event as guests of honour.

The exciting night was filled with cultural performances from several of the Self-Help groups, including the Eurasian Association Dance Troupe and a lovely rendition of the national pledge by Shanice Hedger and Chanel Roberts.

SUNDAY, 3 JULY 2016
MARINA BAY SANDS, GRAND BALLROOM

