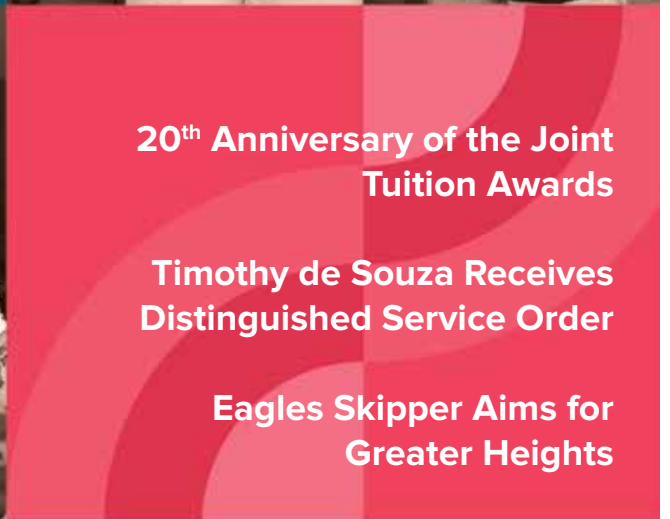


THE NEW EURASIAN

Oct – Dec 2023 | eurasians.sg



EA Hosts President Halimah to Tea



20th Anniversary of the Joint Tuition Awards

Timothy de Souza Receives Distinguished Service Order

Eagles Skipper Aims for Greater Heights

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The New Eurasian

Magazine of the Eurasian Association, Singapore

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President's Message

Dear EA members

It's the most wonderful time of the year! At the EA, we eagerly await the festive Christmas season, a time for joyful celebrations and reflection on the year gone by.

The EA was honoured to host outgoing President Halimah Yacob to tea at the Eurasian Community House (ECH) on 30 August, to express our gratitude for her support of the EA over the last six years. We wish her all the best and look forward to welcoming her back to the ECH again in future. We also welcomed 60 guests to Family Support Services' Family Day on 27 August, for a fun afternoon of food, live music, and stand-up comedy acts.

We are thrilled that former EA Trustee and President Timothy de Souza, in recognition of his decades of community service, received the Distinguished Service Order during this year's National Day Awards Investiture on 29 October, one of our nation's highest honours. This remarkable achievement highlights the significant contributions of individuals from our Eurasian community.

The past few months have been dedicated to celebrating educational achievements. In August, eight Eurasian students were recognised at the Joint Tuition Awards (JTA), for their academic progress in the PSLE, N-Level and O-Level examinations. In September, we awarded close to 150 students with merit and excellence awards, and 89 students with bursaries and scholarships at the Eurasian Community Fund (ECF) Education Awards. The Project Ray of Hope ceremony in October also saw numerous students receive vouchers and Coral de Cruz awards, to fund their school materials for the upcoming year. We are most proud of our Eurasian students for performing well in their studies.

This year, EA Education launched the Pen-to-Paper (PTP) initiative, offering academic and non-academic activities for Eurasian children, especially for those from needy families. The Learning Centre, a key part of the initiative, kick-started in August with tuition classes for Primary 6 and Secondary 4 students, with plans to expand in the coming year. Our goal is to provide a solid foundation for Eurasian students to excel in their studies and to offer enriching experiences. Do find out more about upcoming PTP activities on page 7.

On 21 October, more than 50 vibrant youth leaders joined Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong at the first-ever Inter-Self-Help Group Youth Dialogue. The youths shared views on matters close to their hearts, in the spirit of taking Singapore forward together.

Christmas is just around the corner. We look forward to host you at our Christmas Dinner & Dance at the ECH, and to count down to the new year together at our New Year's Eve celebrations at Concorde Hotel. Do get your tickets early.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a fantastic New Year in advance!

Sandra Theseira
President



In Touch The New Eurasian

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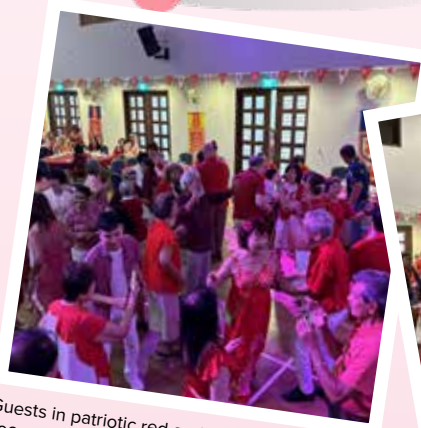
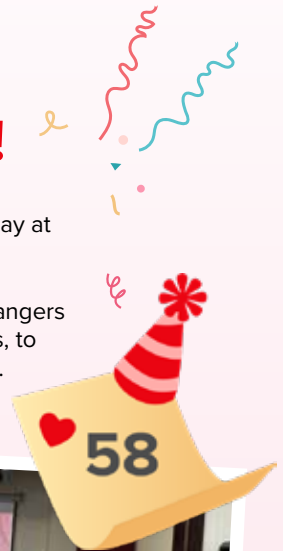
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

Ion Danker (Chair)
Michele Minjoot
Sheena Conceicao
Suzanne Walker
Noel Longue

Happy 58th Birthday, Singapore!

It was an afternoon of song and dance to celebrate National Day at the EA's Red & White lunch on 20 August.

Music and joy brought people together, and tunes from The Rangers filled the Eurasian Community House for more than 100 guests, to celebrate the journey that Singapore has taken over the years.



Guests in patriotic red and white lit up the dance floor, with live music by The Rangers.



58 and fabulous: EA celebrated Singapore's birthday in style at the Red & White lunch.

In-House Balut

EA's in-house Balut tournament concluded its seventh and final round of the year at the Eurasian Community House on 26 October. Look out for more balut fun next year!



EA's in-house Balut matches brought together friends throughout the year, over a game of dice.

Ukelele@EA

Curious about playing the ukelele?

Join classes, led by Renaldo Raquiza, every Wednesday morning at 9.30am.



Crafting for a Cause

Yarn@EA, an EA community that specialises in crochet and various craft forms, united for a heartwarming cause - 'Scarves for Ukraine'. In just two months, they hand-knit over 70 scarves for refugees, which aim to bring warmth and hope in challenging times.

The group gathers every Thursday from 1pm to 5pm for craft and crochet sessions.

For more information or to join these activities, contact Liya at marliyah@eurasians.org

What's On!

DECEMBER 2023

Mark your calendars and get ready to light up your holiday season with EA's festive year-end events! We look forward to seeing you there.

02

Saturday
7.00pm - 11.00pm

Christmas "Light Up" Dinner and Dance

Join us for Christmas celebrations at the Eurasian Community House and enjoy a captivating live performance by The Rangers!

Cost: \$50 (Member) \$55 (Non-Member)

10

Sunday
12.30pm - 4.00pm

Children's Christmas Treat

Inviting all kids aged 2 to 10 to join us for an unforgettable holiday celebration! Enjoy a captivating performance by The Amazing Toybox, indulge in delicious Christmas treats, explore exciting game stalls and look forward to special gifts from Santa.

Cost: \$40 per child

31

Sunday
7.00pm - 1.30am

New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance

Let's dance our way into the New Year - Retro Night at Concorde Hotel Ballroom! Groove to the tunes of The Rangers, savour an international buffet, and enjoy a night filled with surprises.

Early Bird Rate: \$150 (Member) \$155 (Non-Member)
Standard Price (from 1 December): \$155 (Member)
\$160 (Non-Member)

For enquiries and reservations, contact Liya at 6447 1578 (Ext 206) or email marliyah@eurasians.org

Coaching in Everyday Life



On 26 August, EA Youth organised a dynamic personal development workshop at the Eurasian Community House. The event was led by Jeffrey Angus, one of the mentors from the EA Mentorship Programme. Through role-play sessions, participants learnt the difference between coaching and counselling, and were empowered with coaching questions and techniques that they could apply to enhance their daily lives.



Jeffrey Angus (right) took participants through several coaching activities during the workshop.

2nd Mushroom Cultivation Workshop



Hands-on experience into the world of mushroom farming.



After a popular first run, EA Youth organised a second Mushroom Cultivation workshop on 23 September, in partnership with Bewilder, a Singapore-based company that explores the diverse applications of fungi.

Participants learnt about the potential of mushrooms and their role as efficient waste management agents, able to break down material like paper and food waste. Attendees also took home a personalised grow kit to continue their mushroom growing efforts.

EA Youth will be organising more educational and experiential workshops in the future, so keep a lookout on EA's social media pages!

Youth Social Mixer



EA Youth held a social mixer for youth on 2 September at the Tigress, Orchard Gateway, where young people came together to connect and engage with members from the EA Youth Sub-Committee. Over food and spirited card games, the youths shared their experiences and challenges encountered on their journeys.



Youths had fun and made friends over card games and food.

Inter-Self-Help Group Youth Dialogue



On 21 October, more than 50 youths from the four Self-Help Groups (SHGs) joined Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong for the first-ever Inter-Self-Help Group Youth Dialogue at Suntec Convention Centre.

In his address, DPM Wong highlighted the vital role of SHGs in shaping Singapore's future social compact. The SHGs actively serve their respective communities, collaborate in education and other areas, and cross-deploy volunteers across different domains.

Youths discussed issues close to their hearts, in the spirit of taking Singapore forward together. This conversation adds valuable perspectives to the ongoing Forward Singapore consultation, guiding the nation towards a brighter tomorrow.



Pen-to-Paper Initiative: Empowering Eurasian Youth

To expand learning and enrichment opportunities for Eurasian youth, particularly those from underprivileged backgrounds, EA Education introduced the Pen-to-Paper (PTP) initiative earlier this year.

The PTP journey began with a series of school holiday activities in June, focused on dance and movement for children aged 8 to 12. On the academic front, The Learning Centre was launched in August at the Eurasian Community House, providing tuition classes for Primary 6 and Secondary 4 students in Maths, English and Chemistry. The centre aims to become an educational support hub for students, and there are plans to expand its offerings in the coming year, one of which is to introduce a reading programme for older children.



The Learning Centre at the Eurasian Community House provides a comfortable and conducive environment for tuition sessions.

Explore exciting opportunities at
The Learning Centre:

Calling for Tutors!

If you have a passion for teaching and want to contribute to the development of our youth, we invite you to consider becoming a tutor.

Tutors will receive an honorarium for their services.



Join Us for Board Games Day!

Calling young people from 6 to 16 years old! Join us for an afternoon of board games fun, featuring both classic and contemporary board games. Drinks and snacks included.

Date: 9 December 2023

Time: 1.30pm to 5.00pm

Venue: The Learning Centre, Level 1,
Eurasian Community House

Cost: \$8 per child (complimentary for
EA bursary students)

For more information on The Learning Centre and to sign up for the activities mentioned above, get in touch with shareen@eurasians.org or tejas@eurasians.org

20th Anniversary of the Joint Tuition Awards

The four Self-Help Groups (SHGs) – Chinese Development Assistance Council, Yayasan MENDAKI, Singapore Indian Development Association and the Eurasian Association – celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Joint Tuition Awards (JTA) at Nanyang Polytechnic’s Auditorium on 26 August. This year’s event was organised by the EA, with support from the other SHGs.

Eight Eurasian students were among the more than 800 JTA recipients this year. All recipients had attended the Collaborative Tuition Programme jointly run by the SHGs, which provides accessible tuition opportunities island-wide.

Mr Eric Chua, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth & Ministry of Social and Family Development, was the guest-of-honour. In his opening address, he emphasised how the SHGs had worked together on various initiatives which had also enhanced interaction between races.

“Our SHGs’ combined efforts are certainly a reflection of our shared goals to build a better society together, strengthen bonds with each other, and in so doing, create a Singapore where all of us belong.”

He also encouraged recipients to take up volunteer opportunities for the good of society.

“Each one of you, each pair of hands – every individual – has the power and the agency to make small, positive changes in society. With all of these small, positive steps, where everyone brings our love and TLC to the table, Singapore’s society will be all the better. Because it’s only when we work together that we can ensure that social mobility in Singapore is well and alive, and remains a hallmark of Singapore society and a hallmark of our social compact.”



Guest-of-honour SPS Eric Chua with the Best Overall Eurasian O-Level performer, Wesley Widjaya Gordon.



Representatives from the four races performed the ‘Coming Together, Achieving Together’ Self-Help Groups’ song.



16 students from the four Self-Help Groups received the ‘Best Overall Academic Performance’ award.



EA representatives with SPS Eric Chua (4th from right) at the 2023 Joint Tuition Awards Ceremony.

Eurasian Community Fund Education Awards

Over two Saturdays in September, the EA held the Eurasian Community Fund (ECF) Awards Ceremonies, where 89 students received bursaries and scholarships, and close to 150 students received merit, excellence and distinction awards. Since its inception in 1994, the ECF has benefitted more than 6,000 students.

During the 9 September ceremony, EA Patron Barry Desker shared the importance of supporting education.

“Creating support opportunities ensures that all students, regardless of background, get the opportunity to excel in education. How can we measure the success of our community? The answer is in our ability to empower our young generation – you – to achieve your full potential.”

He also called for award recipients to embrace diverse learning paths, show gratitude to those who had provided support along the journey, and to give back to the community.

On 16 September, EA Trustee Edward D’Silva highlighted that education transcends exam success.

“Education is not just about doing well in exams, it is about gaining skills and practical knowledge, as well as developing communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. These are especially important in today’s ever-changing world, and all of you will face many new and different challenges that you will need to apply beyond the classroom and throughout your life.”

He also encouraged students to actively engage with the community.

“Your involvement with the Eurasian Association and the community is valuable, because all of you have the potential to become future leaders, not just in our Eurasian community, but in wider society. When you participate actively, you will also develop skills and gain valuable experiences.”

The EA thanks all donors, and contributors to the Eurasian Community Fund, for making the awards possible.

Scan the QR code to view more photos from both ceremonies.



Special guests with EA MC members and Education Sub-Committee members. From left: Lester Low (EA General Manager), Edmund Rodrigues (EA MC member), Martin Marini (EA Honorary Treasurer), Edward D’Silva (EA Trustee), Sandra Theseira (EA President), Barry Desker (EA Patron), Mohd Fahmi Aliman (Mayor, South East District), Vincent Schoon (EA 1st Vice-President & Education Chairperson), Humphrey Conceicao (Education Sub-Committee member).



EA University Bursary recipients, with EA Patron Barry Desker and Education Sub-Committee members. From left: Humphrey De Conceicao, Joshua Mission, Edmund Rodrigues (EA MC member), Kurt Michael Pereira, Elray Danish Cook, Barry Desker, Vincent Schoon (EA 1st Vice-President), Kimberly Ann Jeremiah, Rosarita Ridhwan De Cruz, Christian Tide Van Huizen, Nico Elijah Van Huizen.



Congratulations to all 2023 ECF award recipients!



Laura Anne Lopez received the Minnie Leicester-D’Rozario award for scoring A1 in GCE O-Level Literature. With her are Edward D’Silva (EA Trustee) and Edmund Rodrigues (EA MC member & spouse of Evelyn Rodrigues, the donor of the award).



From left: Hana Schoon (daughter of Herbert Schoon and donor of the award), Herbert Schoon Progress Award recipient Shannon Ezrela Siew, Edward D’Silva (EA Trustee).



Recipients of the S.R. Nathan Education Upliftment Fund. From left: Sandra Theseira (EA President), Jasmine Oliveira, Azalea Oliveira, Edward D’Silva (EA Trustee).



Recipients of the Edward D’Silva scholarship. From left: Sandra Theseira (EA President), Janeiro Beins-Au, Edward D’Silva (EA Trustee), Ethan Alexander Tan, Vincent Schoon (EA 1st Vice-President).



EA 1st Vice-President Vincent Schoon presented a token of appreciation to Mayor of South East District, Mohd Fahmi Aliman, for attending and showing his support.

Racial Harmony & National Day Celebrations

Dance performances, cultural booths & school talks



22 July



Volunteer Tricia Seraphina Tham (right) facilitated the Eurasian cultural booth for the **Racial Harmony & PAssion Arts Festival @ Clementi**.



Onstage (from left): Laylabelle Beins-Au, Ignacio Estioco, Florabelle Beins, Rio Beins-Au, Terry Ong and Veron Ann Lincoln (who led audience interaction) from the EA Dance Troupe, performed the Jinkli Nona at the **Racial Harmony & PAssion Arts Festival @ Clementi**.



EA dancers (from left) Laylabelle Beins-Au, Ignacio Estioco, Terry Ong and Florabelle Beins promoted Eurasian culture at the **Singapore Sports Hub's Harmony Sports Fiesta 2023**.

23 July



EA dancers Jasmine and Azalea Oliveiro, along with their parents, hosted the Eurasian cultural booth at **Sengkang Central's Racial Harmony Day** at Sengkang Grand Mall.



From left: Percival Shepherdson (EA MC member & Heritage Chairperson), Maria Bhavani Das (General Manager, Indian Heritage Centre), and the EA Dance Troupe's Florabelle Beins and her three children Laylabelle, Rio and Janeiro Beins-Au, at the Eurasian exhibit as part of the **Indian Heritage Centre's 'Celebrating Harmony'** event.

EA dancers Florabelle Beins and her three children Laylabelle, Rio and Janeiro Beins-Au, engaged the audience at **Nee Soon Central's Racial Harmony Day**.



24 July



EHG docent Sharon Miller (seated, front row) conducted an insightful talk after which Trevor Nerva (on stage playing guitar) led a Jinkli Nona sing-along for the secondary 3 cohort at **Nanyang Girls High School**.

29 July



EA dancers (from left) Ignacio Estioco, Laylabelle Beins-Au, Jasmine Oliveiro and Florabelle Beins performed the Patuscada, a Portuguese folk dance, at **Harmony Fiesta** at Eastpoint.

5 August



The EA Dance Troupe (from left) Rio Beins-Au, Florabelle Beins, Laylabelle Beins-Au and Janeiro Beins-Au performed the Patuscada at **Cheng San-Seletar's Family Fun Day Carnival**.



EA dancers (from left) Rio Beins-Au, Florabelle Beins, Janeiro Beins-Au, Ignacio Estioco, Sophiea Tupaz and Laylabelle Beins-Au adapted to a venue change as they performed on grass for the first time, at **Punggol Zenith's National Day celebrations** at Edgefield Plains.

6 August



EA dancer Florabelle Beins (left) led an audience interaction segment after the EA Dance Troupe performed three songs. EA dancers (in Eurasian costume, from left) Rio Beins-Au, Jasmine Oliveiro, Azalea Oliveiro, Janeiro Beins-Au, Sophiea Tupaz, Laylabelle Beins-Au and Ignacio Estioco taught 13 sporting volunteers the Jinkli Nona at the **Joo Chiat National Day Dinner** at Bliss Garden restaurant, Singapore Expo.



26 August

EA dancers Rio Beins-Au, Laylabelle Beins-Au, Florabelle Beins-Au, Ignacio Estioco, Veron Ann Lincoln and Natalie Trog performed the Patuscada at **Mayfair Neighbourhood Committee's 20th Anniversary Celebration Dinner** at the Civil Service Club in Bukit Batok.

16 September



EA dancers Cynthia Yap, Rio Beins-Au, Laylabelle Beins-Au and Sophiea Tupaz promoted Eurasian culture at **Kembangan-Chai Chee's One Community Fiesta**.

EA dancers Rubina Aw, Rio Beins-Au, Cynthia Yap, Florabelle Beins, Ignacio Estioco and Laylabelle Beins-Au dazzled the audience at **Stamford Arts Centre's 'A Date With Tradition'**. Cynthia introduced each song and Rubina led audience interaction.



From left: Jacqueline Peeris (EA Heritage Manager), Amaryllis Puspabening (NHB Assistant Manager, Outreach), Tejas Hirah, Samantha Santa Maria (EA Heritage Sub-Committee members) with EA Heritage Chairperson Percival Shepherdson, at **NHB's Museum Roundtable Management Meeting** at One Punggol.

13 September



Eurasian Heritage Gallery Tours

JULY



Eurasian Heritage Gallery (EHG) docent Chloe Stewart conducted a tour for 68 K2 students from **The Schoolhouse @ Katong** on 5 July.



On 9 July, 20 participants explored the Eurasian Heritage Gallery, visited Maghain Aboth Synagogue, and toured The Jews of Singapore Museum on Waterloo Street.



Guided tour by EHG docent Tan Hui Kheng for **Sasco @ Compassvale Active Ageing Centre** on 14 July.



EHG docents Hafiz Rashid (left) and Long Chin Peng (right) shared the origins of Eurasians with 12 K2 students from **The Schoolhouse @ Prinsep** on 21 July.

SEPTEMBER



On 8 September, EHG docent Hafiz Rashid led a tour for Malay teachers from **PCF Sparkletots**, part of the preschool's series of six visits from May to September, for their Malay, Chinese and Tamil teachers to learn more about Eurasian culture.

AUGUST



On 2 August, 59 K2 students from **The Schoolhouse @ Aroozoo** had an exciting guided tour by EHG docents Hafiz Rashid and Valerie Scully, then learnt the Jinkli Nona.



Agape Methodist Church visited the EHG on 9 September and learnt more about the Eurasian community from EHG docent Long Chin Peng (left).



On 22 August, EHG docent Richard Ong guided 50 National Ambassador students from **Qifa Primary School** through the EHG. They then learnt the Jinkli Nona and enjoyed suegee cake.



On 31 August, EHG docents Sharon Miller (left) and Gerardine Donough-Tan (right) enlightened 34 students from **Singapore Korean International School** about the Eurasian community's history, culture and contributions, followed by a Jinkli Nona workshop and suegee cake.

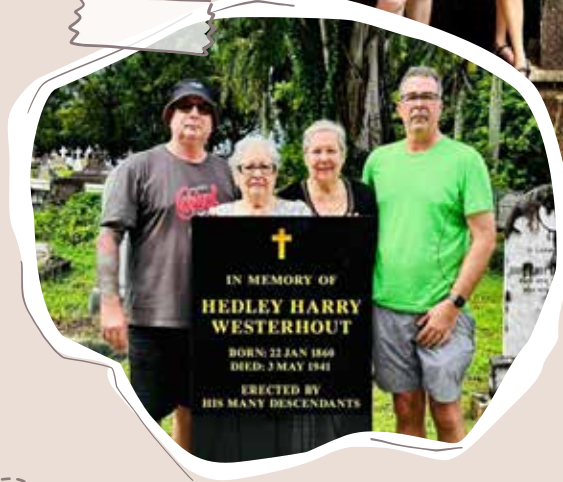
Tracing Family Origins Through Singapore and Malacca

The Eurasians in Singapore have a rich history of how the European side of ancestry came to Singapore. Phyl McCartney (nee Westerhout), 87, took a journey with her three children in August to explore their Eurasian connections to Malacca and Singapore.

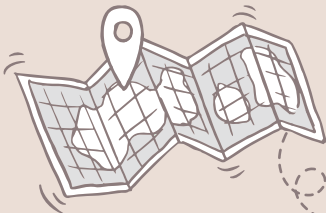
With 30 Westerhout cousins in Malacca, they explored the old town, museums and local cemeteries, and discovered their ties to an old Dutch family in Malacca dating back to 1755. Their journey continued back in Singapore with a visit to the Eurasian Heritage Gallery (EHG) at the Eurasian Community House, where they uncovered World War II artefacts, including their grandfather Victor 'Bunty' Westerhout's work pass and identity cards from the Japanese Occupation.



At St. Paul's Hill, the family saw the tombstone of Jane Charlotte Westerhout, wife of Johannes Bartholomeus Westerhout, Assistant British Resident (Deputy Governor) of Malacca in 1837.



Family visit to the Bukit Serindet Cemetery in Malacca.



In the EHG, they also found prominent figures within their lineage, such as Newbold Benjamin Westerhout, the first elected president of the Eurasian Association in 1919, and J.B. 'Birch' Westerhout, a well-known architect who designed many houses in Emerald Hill.

The Westerhout family's journey of discovery serves as an inspiration for fellow Eurasians to celebrate and discover personal family histories. We encourage Eurasians to trace your own family tree and share your stories for the Eurasian Memories Project. Contact jacqueline@eurasians.org for more information.



Phyl with EA MC member Percival Shepherdson.



Westerhout Road on display at the Eurasian Heritage Gallery.





EA President Sandra Theseira presented a token of appreciation to President Halimah.

EA Hosts President Halimah to Tea

President Halimah was also instrumental in assisting the less fortunate in the Eurasian community. Funds from the President's Challenge were channelled toward meaningful initiatives such as EA's Family Support Services and in Education.



The EA was privileged to host outgoing President Halimah Yacob to tea at the Eurasian Community House on 30 August, in appreciation of her support of the Eurasian Association during her time in office.

In her address, EA President Sandra Theseira thanked Mdm President for her steadfast support. She visited the Eurasian Community House (ECH) in 2018 for dinner, and officially launched the upgraded Eurasian Heritage Gallery in September 2019 during the EA's centennial celebrations, which has grown from a small room in 2003 – then known as the Heritage Centre – to three galleries today.

President Halimah was also instrumental in assisting the less fortunate in the Eurasian community. Funds from the President's Challenge were channelled toward meaningful initiatives such as EA's Family Support Services and in Education. These included sprucing up the homes of low-income Eurasian families living in one and two-room rental flats, and making these homes safer and cleaner to improve the well-being of the elderly and those with young children. In education, the funds also helped provide education aid to those facing financial constraints.



During the session, President Halimah engaged with EA Patrons, Trustees, and Management Committee members over a sumptuous tea by 'Campur Nasi Padang' which included a specially curated menu of items such as almond sugée cake, pulut serunding (glutinous rice with coconut floss), and chempedak lapis cake.

The EA expresses its heartfelt thanks to Mdm President for all she has done for the Eurasian community, for Singaporeans, and for Singapore.



President Halimah reminisced about her past visits to the Eurasian Community House as she engaged in warm conversation over tea with guests.



A wifie to capture the moment at the Eurasian Community House.



President Halimah with EA Patron, Trustees, and Management Committee members. Front row from left: Yvonne Pereira (EA 2nd Vice-President), Carla Barker (EA Trustee), Benett Theseira (EA Trustee), Barry Desker (EA Patron), President Halimah Yacob, Sandra Theseira (EA President), Edward D'Silva (EA Trustee), Vincent Schoon (EA 1st Vice-President), Edmund Rodrigues (EA MC member). Back row from left: Lester Low (EA General Manager), Martin Marini (EA Honorary Treasurer), Christopher Gordon (EA MC member), Jason Dendroff (EA Asst Honorary Secretary), Angelina Fernandez (EA Honorary Secretary), Ion Danker (EA MC member).



Guests united as one big family.

♥ FSS ♥ FAMILY DAY



EA's Family Support Services (FSS) celebrated their third Family Day with a joyful gathering at the Eurasian Community House on 27 August. 60 guests came together for an enjoyable afternoon filled with sumptuous food and live music performances by The Music Men.

They were also treated to a lineup of stand-up comedy acts featuring freelance actor and emcee Tejas Hirah, independent creative Shaiful Rizan ('Shai'), and Greta Georges, a broadcaster, entrepreneur and marketing specialist who is also a proud mother of two. To add to the festive spirit, FSS beneficiaries received NTUC vouchers as gifts to take home.



Delectable buffet spread at the FSS Family Day lunch.

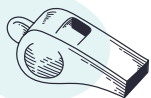


A moment to remember with good food and laughter over lunch.

Racial Harmony Cup 2023

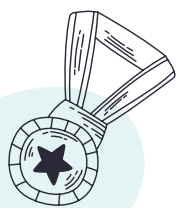


The EA Football Club (EAFC), part of the EA Sports & Recreation Club (EASRC), organised an inaugural Racial Harmony Challenge Cup on 3 September, bringing together participants from the four races in Singapore.



Held at Tanjong Katong Secondary School, players from four teams took part – Singapore Indian Association, Singapore Xin Hua Football Club, Singapore Malay Football Club and EAFC – with the majority of players over 50 years old. The 11-a-side league tournament spanned four thrilling rounds, and eventually ended with Indian Association clinching the championship win. The teams adjourned to the Eurasian Community House for the prize presentation ceremony following the tournament.

The event brought players from different backgrounds together on the football pitch, and beyond the scores and medals, all players walked home winners, in the friendships and bonds forged on and off the field. EA thanks Tarin Chee, Director, Doverpick Global Pte Ltd, for sponsoring the event. The EASRC continues its commitment to community-building initiatives, and looks forward to organising more events to bring people together, both through football and other sports.



Participants exchanged pre-match formalities before they embarked on the tournament.

The event brought players from different backgrounds together on the football pitch, and beyond the scores and medals, all players walked home winners, in the friendships and bonds forged on and off the field.



Players in action at the Racial Harmony Cup.



Harmony through football: The inaugural Racial Harmony Cup united players from diverse backgrounds as one big football family.



Timothy de Souza Receives Distinguished Service Order

Former fighter pilot Timothy de Souza, 76, was one of just four Singaporeans honoured with the Distinguished Service Order at this year's National Day Awards, for his sterling contributions to Singapore across diverse sectors, over three decades. The Distinguished Service Order is one of Singapore's top national honours, and may be awarded to any person who has performed within Singapore any act, or series of acts, constituting distinguished conduct.

Timothy has also received several National Day Awards for his community work over the years, including the Public Service Medal, Public Service Star, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

From fighter pilot to community leader

In 1966, instead of going to university to study Medicine, Timothy joined the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), and was commissioned a year later as one of the SAF Training Institute's first officers. He was then posted to the newly formed Singapore Air Defence Command (SADC), later known as the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF), and sent to England for fighter pilot training by the Royal Air Force.

Timothy returned in 1970 and helped set up the SADC's first fighter squadron, 140 Squadron. He was a founding member of the RSAF's Black Knights, Singapore's iconic national aerobatic team.

After 34 years in service in various



Timothy trained in the United Kingdom with the Royal Air Force, to become a fighter pilot in 1968, at age 21.



Timothy de Souza received the Distinguished Service Order from President Tharman Shanmugaratnam at the 2023 National Day Awards Investiture on 29 October.



An iconic moment from 1974 featuring Timothy (left) as one of the original Black Knights. The other Black Knights were (2nd from left) Harry Lim, Jimmy Lim and Frank Singam.

appointments in command and staff roles, Timothy retired from the RSAF. He continued to be very much involved in pilot training in the Ministry of Defence's Singapore Youth Flying Club as its principal officer.

Community service beyond the skies

Beyond the skies, Timothy's community service journey started in 1989, as a member in the EA Management Committee (MC). He served as EA President from 1991 to 1999 and led the EA's transformation into a self-help group, representing the Eurasian community in Singapore.

EA MC member Edmund Rodrigues told The New Eurasian that Timothy and his wife Patricia were instrumental in reshaping the EA. "They drew on Patricia's insights from growing up in Katong, the heartland of the

Eurasians, and Timothy's experiences in government and the armed forces. Together, they persuaded many individuals to contribute to the community. With their sincerity and gentle persuasion, Eurasians knew they had a dependable team."

Ursula Snodgrass, who served in the EA MC during Timothy's presidency, highlighted his clear vision for the EA. She said, "While focused on uplifting the Singapore Eurasian community, Timothy was also very much aware that we are an integral part of a multicultural society. I greatly appreciated Timothy for steering the EA towards making a greater contribution to the wellbeing of Eurasians within the larger Singapore community."



The 1994/1995 EA Management Committee. Timothy (front row, 3rd from left) served as the EA President from 1991 to 1999. Front row (from left): Bryan Davenport, Robert Scully, Timothy de Souza, Benett Theseira. Back row (from left): Keith Rodrigues, Randal Snodgrass, Ursula Snodgrass, Kathleen Woodford, Paul Desker, Burton Westerhout. Not in photo: William Jansen.



At then-President S.R. Nathan's visit to the Eurasian Community House in September 1999, featuring EA dancers and the lively community, with Timothy de Souza in attendance during his final year as EA President. George Yeo, the then-Minister representing the Eurasians in Cabinet, was also present.

While Timothy dedicated a decade to leading the EA and later served as an EA Trustee, his commitment to serving the community extended well beyond. Outside of the EA, he devoted more than two decades to various roles, driven by a deep sense of stewardship.

As a member of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights since 2010, Timothy provided wise counsel on matters affecting Singapore's racial and religious communities.

As a member of the Founders' Memorial Committee since 2015, he has played a significant role in actively shaping its vision for a memorial honouring Singapore's first-generation leaders and its journey to independence.

As founding Chairman of the Pioneer Generation and Merdeka Generation Appeals Panel, he oversaw the review of more than 5,000 appeals, ensuring each was considered thoroughly and empathetically.

During his 18-year tenure as a People's Association Executive Board member (2002-2020), Timothy championed inclusivity. He strengthened grassroots organisations' governance and fostered connections between the Eurasian community and wider society.

As the Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore's (CAAS) Unmanned Aircraft Systems Advisory Panel (2019-2021), Timothy recommended improvements to Singapore's Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) regulations, such as mandatory registration of unmanned aircraft, and the creation of designated unmanned aircraft flying zones.

When asked about his lasting commitment, Timothy cited a sense of duty to fellow Singaporeans. He shared, "Every cause I was a part of led me back to people – starting with the core values of care and compassion." Recognising volunteers' invaluable contributions, he emphasised the importance of effective management to ensure their value was fully appreciated, saying, "They are precious indeed!"

Timothy credited his achievements to his family's support, and the 'many good people' he worked with over the years. He said, "My wife Pat was my constant companion on this journey, a blessing indeed." Of George Yeo, the then-Minister first representing the Eurasians in Cabinet, Timothy recounted, "It is with much gratitude that I remember George Yeo's contributions as the Minister representing us. Without his support, the EA would not have become a Self-Help Group."



Timothy and his wife Patricia celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary in 2006, joined by their son Christopher (left) with his wife Sharon, and their daughter Vanessa (2nd from right) with her husband Lincoln.

Evelyn Rodrigues, a former EA MC member, extended her appreciation to Timothy's family. "We also pay tribute to his wife Patricia, his children, and his mother. For a man to fully succeed, he must have the love and support of his family. We have much to be grateful for to the de Souza family."

On his plans for the future, Timothy expressed, "If I can make a difference, I will step forward to help. There is a lot to be done. I think that I have the ability, the experience, and in some areas, I know what needs to be done." His belief in Singapore's continuous growth is best summed up in his own words: "Singapore never actually gets to our final destination but it's a constant work in progress."

"I will continue to contribute for as long as I can."



Timothy's dedicated community service spanning three decades:

1991 – 1999	2001 – 2021	2002 – 2020	2010 – present	2014 & 2019 – present	2015 – present	2019 – 2021
EA President	EA Trustee	People's Association Executive Board Member	Member of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights	Chairman of the Pioneer Generation and Merdeka Appeals Panel	Member of the Founders' Memorial Committee	Chairman of CAAS' Unmanned Aircraft Systems Advisory Panel

Live to Fight Another Day

“You can show the world your plight, or you can show the world your might,” said Warren Sheldon Humphries, 54, reflecting on his darkest moments over the past few years battling health issues.

“It was a period where I was fighting my inner demons to do it, it being kill myself,” recalled Sheldon, before a close friend in her final stages of breast cancer shared those wise words, which became a ‘wake-up call’ for him.

“It was a good reminder of what legacy I wanted to leave for my family, especially my mum, brother, nieces and most importantly, my daughter,” he added.



Warren Sheldon Humphries is one of Singapore's first pioneer team of docents for the Enabling Village tours.

From then on, Sheldon, who has Irish, German, Chinese and Indian heritage, knew he had to take control of his life despite being diagnosed with Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT) disease in 2020, a rare and incurable genetic condition caused by mutations in the genes that affect the nerves in the limbs.

After three years of unemployment due to poor health, Sheldon now juggles three jobs: he serves as a crisis helpline responder three evenings a week, providing mental health and triaging support to corporate clients.

He conducts eight tours a month at The Enabling Village, and is leading a social enterprise effort to offer an Adapted Aquatics Programme for persons with disabilities (PWDs) at a swim school.

As an active Caregiver Volunteer Trainer with Caregivers Alliance, he offers emotional support during their 12-week programme, volunteers for Caregivers with PWDs and is a spokesperson for the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC)'s ‘We See You Care’ campaign.

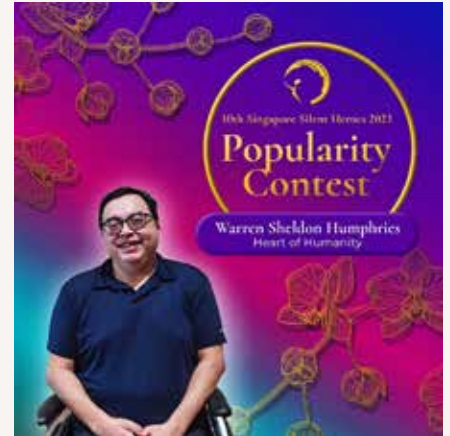
Sheldon was sanguine when asked about the driving force behind his volunteer work. He said, “It's all about not wanting to be a victim of my disease but more so a voice to advocate where my disability is concerned.”

This, he hopes, will dispel the various misconceptions about persons with disabilities – or as he prefers to call them – persons with determination, which he feels is due to lack of awareness.

“It's quite common to see PWDs pigeon holed in positions that are physical (an irony itself) within the hospitality, service, F&B and retail or logistics sectors or in low level administration roles. Within our community, there are PWDs with various jobs ranging from mid to senior roles in MNCs, government and social services,” said Sheldon, before he added that this positive trend is fuelled by a growing number of employers embracing inclusive hiring practices, as well as supported by government initiatives.

Even with so much on his plate, Sheldon shared he is far from done, and spoke about his plans to support the Eurasian Association.

“I hope to help the EA to be the first Self-Help Group with its own version of the iChamp, a caregiver programme to support those within our community who need help but are not willing to take the first



Sheldon was one of three finalists for The Silent Heroes Award (Heart of Humanity category).



Behind the scenes: Filming of the Adapted Aquatics Programme for Channel NewsAsia.

step to seek help,” said Sheldon, who was nominated as a finalist for the 10th Singapore Silent Heroes Award under the Heart of Humanity Category and is a potential awardee of the Goh Chok Tong Enable Awards.

“Whatever challenges you are experiencing, there is always light at the end of the tunnel, and it will take Courage, Mental (resilience) and Tenacity, or CMT, to get you through those tough times.”



Sheldon was the guest speaker who represented Caregivers Alliance at AIC's #WeSeeYouCare campaign launch on 20 May.

The Art of Active Ageing



Cora credits her late father who introduced her to dancing when she was young.

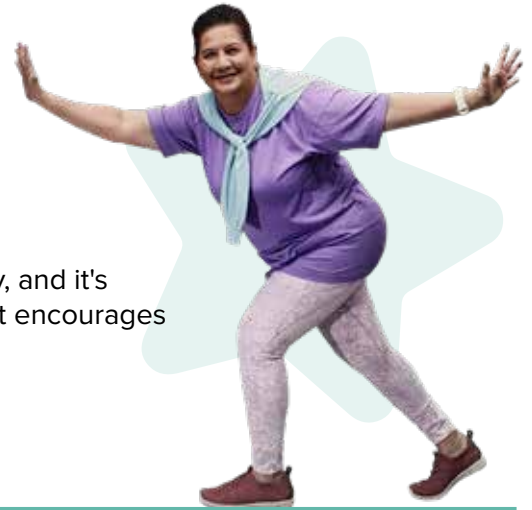
As a young girl, Cora Schooling developed a passion for dancing when her late father introduced it to her during her childhood days at Opera Estate. In true Eurasian tradition, she danced day and night – from parties, to weddings, birthdays and at other special functions.

“Dancing is my form of exercise even though I have never attended any dance classes. When my favourite music comes on be it on the radio or from watching a live band, I feel so alive. It is also a good way to socialise, meet and jive with like-minded people,” said the 69-year-old mother of three, who has Portuguese and Irish heritage.

Besides her long career as an English speech and drama teacher for over three decades in Singapore and Australia, dancing has remained her enduring passion, even more so after she was diagnosed with Osteoarthritis a few years ago.

“

Dancing is my form of therapy, and it's something my physiotherapist encourages to 'keep moving'.



“Dancing is my form of therapy and it's something my physiotherapist encourages to 'keep moving',” said Cora, who ensures she exercises regularly since Eurasian dishes can often make you pile on the pounds.

“My mother taught me to cook dishes such as devil curry, shepherd's pie and pineapple prawn curry (curry nanas) and it has become a family favourite, especially during Easter, Christmas and birthday celebrations,” she added.

These days, the former Katong Convent Secondary School student who participated in netball, girl guides and joyful vanguard, continues to lead a healthy lifestyle. She enjoys diamond painting and is often outdoors exploring various parks across the island.

Earlier this year, she represented the EA in the People's Association Let's Glow initiative, in support of Healthier SG, a

national initiative focusing on preventive health.

“I was one of the four people featured in their publication that introduced the various ways to keep our mind and body healthy through movement or community,” she said, before sharing what made the experience worthwhile.

“I was also invited to join the Piloxing (a combination of pilates, boxing and dance) workout session for seniors during the event. My greatest moment and privilege was when Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong came to sit beside me and we did the workout together.”

“It was a proud moment for me, to be representing the Eurasian community.”



Cora and PM Lee participated in Piloxing - a combination of pilates, boxing and dance.



Cora, her husband Jac, and three children Clifton, Alison and Ruth cherish family moments, and often come together over a meal to reconnect.

Eagles Skipper Aims for Greater Heights

“Last year when I received my first call-up to the national team, it was a pleasant surprise. It’s every footballer’s dream to represent their country.”

What a year it’s been for footballer Joshua Pereira. Last September, he was one of three uncapped players called up by Singapore coach Takayuki Nishigaya to play Vietnam in an international friendly. This year, he was named captain of his club, Geylang International (the Eagles), who play in the Singapore Premier League (SPL), bringing added responsibilities on and off the pitch.

“It was such an honour to be appointed club captain and it also meant I had to up my game and leadership in the team,” said the 25-year-old, whose father is Portuguese Eurasian and mother Chinese Peranakan.

“But it was also helpful that we have many leaders in the current Geylang team, which makes my job as skipper much easier because we are a tight knit group, always pushing each other on and off the pitch.”

Joshua’s football journey has taken an upward turn in the last year, after he overcame some setbacks that made him reconsider his career in football. Injuries

slowed his progress during his transition from Young Lions to Geylang International, but today, he’s determined to bring glory to his club, and to be a regular in the national team.

“Last year when I received my first call-up to the national team, it was a pleasant surprise. It’s every footballer’s dream to represent their country and as a kid, I grew up watching the national team,” said Joshua, who enjoys his father’s curry devil, stew and pongteh (braised meat dish) with a Eurasian twist.

He also credits the Eurasian Association for playing a role in his journey as a footballer. “I studied in St. Stephen’s Primary School and I only picked up football when my father brought my younger brother and I to the former Eurasian Association Soccer School where I picked up the sport,” he said.

After joining the Singapore Sports School, Joshua’s talent was evident when he received the Dollah Kassim



A young Joshua Pereira in action. He credits the EA Soccer School where he picked up the sport.



Award in 2015 – presented to the most outstanding youth player aged 18 and below in recognition of their footballing excellence and character. He advises aspiring young footballers to stay committed and focused on their long-term goals.

“You have to know what you want, be disciplined and train hard. You also must be prepared to make sacrifices which means birthday celebrations or family occasions will go down the priority list, because training will take up most of your time.” He also shared what his former coach and Singapore legend Fandi Ahmad once told him, “You must be prepared to give up something, to sacrifice in order to achieve success.”

For now, Joshua’s aim is to lead Geylang International in the Singapore Cup and hopefully, land their first trophy since 2009.

“I always say a prayer before any match, and I pray for everyone on the pitch, that there will be no injuries, and most importantly, god willing, to give the Eagles the win.”



Joshua credits the coaches at Geylang International for pushing him to be a better footballer.



Joshua scored two goals in 21 matches for the Eagles in the 2023 SPL season.

Ask Me Anything About NS

In this column, Commando Officer Brian Thomas from the Singapore Armed Forces, answers questions related to National Service (NS).

I will be enlisting as a commando recruit and would like to know the expectations and demands of commando training. Any advice on best ways to prepare?



Commando training is tough but manageable. Being fit and disciplined is required of an individual who takes on Commando training. Upon enlistment, training is progressive and well designed. You will be able to cope as long as you adhere to the training programme, consume enough calories and rest.

Before enlistment, it will be helpful if you could build up your fitness levels, particularly in running and calisthenics. You should aim to run the 2.4km under 11 minutes and be able to do at least 40 push ups and sit ups comfortably at one go. Start running at a comfortable pace for distances up to 4km. For these activities, as a guide, start at 50% of the desired repetitions/ distance and work your way up. Workout at least three times a week.

Being mentally prepared is also very important. Tell yourself to make the best of your National Service and be committed to doing your best in training.

Disclaimer: The opinions in this column are the author's own.

National Day Reception at the Istana

EA MC member Percival Shepherdson represented the EA at the National Day reception, hosted by President Halimah Yacob and Mr Mohamed Abdullah Alhabshee at the Istana on 10 August.



With DPM Lawrence Wong at the 2023 National Day reception.



Percival Shepherdson with MP Joan Pereira and grassroots members.



Lee Kuan Yew Centennial Fund

The EA was pleased to support the joint community initiative – ‘Grateful for the Present, Nurturing the Future’ – to gather support from the community through signing on signature books and donating to the Lee Kuan Yew Centennial Fund (LK YCF). The funds raised will go toward funding about 2,000 student leaders and disadvantaged students from the Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) annually, through scholarships, bursaries and programmes.

At the presentation ceremony on 15 September. The Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations (SFCCA), the Singapore Malay Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SMCCI), the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI), the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce (SCCCI) and the EA came together for the initiative.



Photo: SCCCI

Become An EA Member:

Be Part of Our Journey!

Join the Eurasian Association (EA) today, and become an integral part of our mission to make a positive impact. Membership is open to all Singaporeans and Permanent Residents.

Membership Categories:

- 1. Ordinary & Life Membership:**
For Eurasian Singaporeans or Permanent Residents aged 18 and above.
Annual fee: \$12;
Life membership: \$60
- 2. Associate Ordinary & Associate Life Membership:**
For Singaporeans or Permanent Residents aged 18 and above.
Annual fee: \$12;
Life membership: \$60
- 3. Associate International Membership:**
For Eurasians aged 18 and above who are neither Singaporeans nor Permanent Residents and may not reside in Singapore.
Single subscription cost: \$60
- 4. Junior Membership:**
Free for Singaporeans or Permanent Residents under the age of 18, who have a parent eligible for Ordinary or Associate Membership.

As an EA member, you become a part of our journey to help the less fortunate, uplift the younger generation, preserve Eurasian heritage, and enjoy fun community experiences. If you are a working Eurasian adult, you can get your membership fee waived by providing proof of three months of contributions to the Eurasian Community Fund with your application form.

Ready to join us? Visit <https://www.eurasians.sg/membership> or scan the QR code to apply online. Remember to follow our social media channels to stay updated on EA's exciting activities and community initiatives!



Facebook



facebook.com/eurasianassociation

Instagram



instagram.com/the_eurasian_association

YouTube



youtube.com/@eurasianassociationsg

LinkedIn



linkedin.com/company/the-eurasian-association



Meet the EA Secretariat Team

Get to know the fun bunch of folks behind the scenes, the driving energy behind EA's mission.

Front row from left: Albert Pok (Senior Accounts Assistant), Bridget Valeria Basnayake (Assistant Manager, Admin), Jacqueline Peeris (Manager, Heritage & Culture), Lester Low (General Manager), J Ramakrishnan (Manager, FSS), Bernadette Soh (Senior Accountant).

Back row from left: Alvin Goh (Operations Support Officer), Tejas Hirah (Assistant Programme Executive, Education), David Fobrogo (Executive, Operations & Projects), Marliyah Yusoff (Executive, Events), Beverly Snodgrass (Lead, Corporate Communications), Desmond Shen (Executive, Youth & Sports), Shareen Galistan (Assistant Manager, Education), Kenneth de Witt (Executive, FSS). Not in photo: Jassiah Jasmani (Operations Support Officer).

