

THE NEW EURASIAN

Jan – Mar 2023 | eurasians.sg



Remembering

Two Eurasians

Edwin Oliver Thompson (1931-2022)

Randal Brian Snodgrass (1941-2022)

Family Support Services

Christmas Lunch

2023
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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The New Eurasian

Magazine of the Eurasian Association, Singapore

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

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The New Eurasian

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In Touch

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Do come forward to get involved, or participate in the many events organised at the EA.



Dear EA members

I hope everyone has had a good start to 2023! 2022 was an eventful year in more ways than one, and all of us at the EA are geared up for the rest of the new year.

The EA had a lively last quarter, with the Youth Sub-Committee organising a post-National Day Rally dialogue with Minister S. Iswaran in November, which saw many pertinent issues and concerns raised. Festive celebrations were also back in full force, bringing vibrance to the Eurasian Community House; with Community Development's Christmas 'Light Up' Dinner & Dance; as well as the multi-racial children's Christmas treat, a meaningful annual event that brings children from different races to the EA together for an afternoon of food, fun, and gifts from Santa! We also resumed the annual Family Support Services' Christmas Cheers lunch with 110 guests, and welcomed many to the Eurasian Heritage Gallery for Christmas tours and activities.

EA Education organised a two-day football camp for our students over the year-end school holiday break, conducted by EA University Scholarship recipient and Singapore National Hockey player Ahmad Faris Johari. It was lovely to see the children having fun and picking up some sports skills, and we are most happy to see our past EA award recipients return to the EA to help our younger generations of students, a cycle we hope to continue in the years ahead.

In this issue, we also remember two late members of the Eurasian community; retired Deputy Director of Prisons Edwin Thompson, who lived a life of service to nation and community; as well as Randal Snodgrass, who played an integral part in the planning of the Permanent Eurasian Association Community House (PEACH), serving as the PEACH committee chairperson in 1997. Do also read about other Eurasians who have made outstanding contributions to the community over the years.

2023 will be the first full year that we are able to resume all activities. We had more than 30 people in the EA contingent participating in Chingay 2023 held on 3 and 4 February, and all of us are excited about the many more activities in store for the rest of the year. Do come forward to get involved, or participate in the many events organised at the EA. I look forward to meeting many of you this year. To those who have just celebrated the Lunar New Year, Happy Year of the Rabbit!

Sandra Theseira
President

Share Your Stories With Us!



If you have an interesting story to share with the wider Eurasian community, let us know! Email Lester Low at lester@eurasians.org



You can read The New Eurasian magazine online at eurasians.sg/neweurasian-magazine

Ready for More Balut Fun?



Keen to try out a new game that's easy to pick up? The new Balut tournament will start in March, held at 7pm every second Wednesday of the month. Contact Liya at marliyah@eurasians.org if you would like to play.

Dedicated 'Baluteers' ended their sixth and final Balut game of the year on 12 October. The EA would like to thank Mrs Evelyn Rodrigues, Philip Cordeiro, and Quentin's Restaurant, for their sponsorship through the years.



Bonding over Balut!



Balut champion for October Pat Leung (right), with Balut Convenor and EA 2nd Vice-President Yvonne Pereira (left).



Brightening the Night for Christmas

More than 100 festive partygoers brought Christmas spirit and merrymaking to the EA's Christmas Light Up Dinner & Dance on Saturday 3 December. Attendees gathered for the Christmas tree light-up while singing Christmas carols, and enjoyed sumptuous Eurasian cuisine and live music entertainment by 'The Rangers' band.

The hilarious highlight of the evening was the masked dance game, which saw 11 sporting guests dance blindfolded to two disco songs on the dance floor.



'The Rangers' aptly dressed as Christmas elves.



Living it up on the dance floor.



...Departing the game one at a time and leaving the 'last man standing'!



Kicking off the evening with the Christmas tree light up at the lobby of the Eurasian Community House.



11 sporting participants showing off their dance moves in the masked dance game...

Festive Fun at the Children’s Christmas Treat

What’s better than spreading Christmas cheer but through the eyes of children? 70 children aged 2 to 10 years old from the four Self-Help Groups (EA, MENDAKI, CDAC and SINDA) and the community, gathered at the Eurasian Community House on Sunday 11 December for an afternoon of Christmas fun. From various game stations set up by EA volunteers, to lunch and Christmas treats, entertainment by music duo ‘The Amazing Toybox’, ending with a special gift from Santa and goodie bags to take home.

The EA would like to thank all event volunteers, Kenneth Wicker, and sponsors for their generous contributions: FNA, Nestle, Deli X-Press (S) Pte Ltd, Gardenia Foods, Portuguese Association Singapore, and Rachel Liang.



Guessing what’s in the box at the ‘What’s that Santa?’ station to win a prize!



‘The Amazing Toybox’ had children on their feet.



Ho Ho Ho! Santa making a special appearance.



Santa and Santarina (Percival Shepherdson, EA MC Member and Florabelle Beins, EA dancer & volunteer) about to give out gifts to the children.



Nuno Pereira (President, Portuguese Association Singapore) sharing special Christmas goodies at the EA’s Children’s Christmas Treat.



◆ Farewell 2022, Hello 2023 ◆

It was a night of glitz and celebrations – Eurasian-style! – for 230 attendees at the EA’s New Year’s Eve Dinner & Dance, held at the Concorde Hotel Ballroom on Saturday 31 December. Entertainers DJ Bernard Jeremiah, guest artistes Vanessa and Thomas Francisco, and the band ‘That’s Life’ set the stage for dancing, with energy fuelled by the delectable dinner buffet spread. The party went on past the stroke of midnight after counting down to usher in the new year.



Guests dressed to the nines and ready to celebrate.



‘Father Time’ preparing to usher in the stroke of midnight.



Happy New Year!

Family Support Services' Christmas Lunch



Giveaway of NTUC vouchers during the lucky draw segment.

EA's Family Support Services (FSS) welcomed 110 guests comprising FSS beneficiaries, family members and their caregivers, to the Eurasian Community House for the FSS Christmas Cheers lunch on Sunday 4 December.

The guests enjoyed games, dancing and live music entertainment, and 50 FSS primary recipients received lucky draw prizes of varying NTUC voucher amounts. Wheelchair-bound clients were also provided transport allowance to attend the event.



Cheers for Christmas!



All clad in Christmas-themed outfits and colours.

FSS Christmas Hamper Giveaway

30 volunteers from FSS and Prosec Security helped with the packing and delivery of festive Christmas hampers to 84 beneficiaries on 20 December. Each hamper included items such as sugee cake, fish and vegetable pickles, pineapple tarts, tinned ham, corned beef, coffee, tea, jams and other items.

The FSS Sub-Committee would like to thank the generous donors; Tan Chin Tuan Foundation and Mr Keith Minjoot, who sponsored the Christmas hampers; as well as other individual donors and volunteers who contributed to the FSS Christmas party and hamper delivery. The EA is very grateful for their generosity.



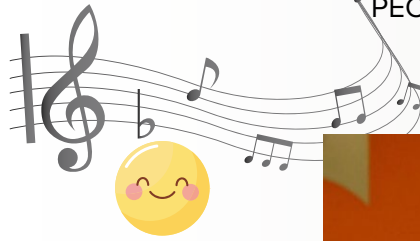
Dedicated staff and volunteers who helped with the packing and delivery of Christmas hampers for FSS beneficiaries.



Christmas hampers ready for delivery!



The Pursuit of Music Happiness



Guitarist, pianist, percussionist, flutist and ukuleleist. It might be uncommon to find a family of musicians playing different instruments, but for 17-year-old Evan Joel De Silva, it was that common love for music which got him interested in keeping the family tradition.

“Back in the day, my late grandfather was a great guitarist. Our family and friends would gather together at his place to eat, catch up with one another, and sing and jam along to music,” said the School of the Arts (SOTA) student, who has Portuguese heritage.

He added, “In my family, my brother and dad are casual musicians, playing the piano and percussion respectively, while my sister used to be a flutist. The Eurasian tradition of sharing a common love for music was passed down the generations. I am so lucky to have family members such as my late grandfather and my father, who were the ones that helped me to discover my love for music from the beginning.”

This led Evan to self-learn the ukulele after he turned eight years old.

“I was mostly self-taught through watching YouTube videos and learning songs by ear. I did have a few occasional ad hoc ukulele lessons at the start, but I mostly relied on the internet to help me learn the instrument,” said Evan, sharing how he took his learning to the next level.

“From playing YouTube videos in slow motion and matching every minute detail and movement, to finding the scores and tabs of the pieces I wanted to play, I taught myself how to play chords and other people’s arrangements, before eventually moving on to learning how to arrange covers by myself, along with music composition.”

From then on, there was no turning back as his music journey took off locally and overseas.

“In 2016, I auditioned and got a spot to perform at an event called ‘Childaid’ in Singapore. This then led to subsequent performance invitations from places such as the Esplanade Concourse. Sharing videos of music pieces and covers on social media platforms also

helped me create an online presence for people to watch my videos and reach out to me,” said Evan, before recalling his first overseas performance.

“This was how I got my first overseas performance invitation in 2019, to perform in Guam, USA. I have also been to Seoul once for their annual Ukulele Festival. My sister also helped me in the creation of a website, for people to reach out to me directly for music inquiries.”

While he clocked in performance hours, his next step was to participate in several music competitions which landed him a couple of awards.

“I won the 8th Thailand International Ukulele Contest in 2020 with my original composition, ‘Stallion’, and also won the Tropical Winter Ukulele Contest 2021, with both competitions awarding prestigious ukuleles for the first prize.”

For now, Evan’s online music lessons are on hold until the school holidays as he focuses on school, which offers a music curriculum on top of academics. He takes guitar lessons and is part of the school’s pop/jazz ensemble, which provides performance opportunities during annual celebratory events.

He added that he wants to pursue a career in music, which means heading overseas to study after graduating from SOTA.

“I aim to continue pursuing a career in music by studying in the Berklee College of Music. I hope to be able to follow in the footsteps of my current music mentors and get a scholarship to this prestigious school.”

“On top of school, I see myself being a freelance musician, taking up every music opportunity that I can find. Any kind of music-related work such as being a music teacher, composer, producer, performer, accompanist etc, as long as it helps me to hone my musicianship skills,” he added, before reaffirming his ambition.

“I hope to be able to make a living out of music, and fulfil my dreams of becoming a professional musician.”



Evan J De Silva's journey to becoming a professional musician.

World Mental Health Day-Aftercare

Following World Mental Health Day in October, a half-day aftercare workshop was organised on 12 November, building on past efforts to raise the awareness of the importance of mental health.

Speakers Nicolette Fernandez and Rosie McGowan covered the topics 'Combating Negative Mindsets' and 'Drama in Therapy' respectively, including how to support the well-being of self and others online, and incorporating yoga, emotional regulation, and mindfulness into daily practice. The event also featured Eurasians helping to drive positive change in the mental health space, including EA Youth Sub-Committee members Varian Monteiro and Viaano Spruyt.



Workshop attendees leaving with a better understanding on how to care for one's own mental health.



Participants in action during the 'Drama in Therapy' workshop.

EA Youth Networking Session

A networking session for tertiary youth and young working adults was held on 16 November at the Eurasian Community House, where youth had the opportunity to make new friends, and also shared experiences and obstacles faced in school or at work.



Making new friends over snacks and tea at the Eurasian Community House. From left: Claudia Nicole Chelliah, Samantha Santa Maria, Roberts Chloe Renee, Michael Gutierrez, Dominic Tan, Sheriann Tan, Brendan Choo, Aiden Tang, Jonathan Aaron Hendriks, Georgiana Elizabeth Dawson.

Post-National Day Rally Dialogue with Minister S. Iswaran



A post-National Day Rally dialogue with Minister S. Iswaran was held on 19 November at the Eurasian Community House. 25 participants shared their views and Minister Iswaran addressed questions on a wide range of issues; such as ensuring Singapore's continued international relevance, managing economic challenges such as inflation and the rising cost of living, and building our Future Singapore and a new social compact.



The dialogue covered wide-ranging topics and helped raise awareness and understanding about issues faced on the ground.

EA E-Racing Fundraiser

In collaboration with Automobile Association of Singapore (AA) and Sim Racing Association (Singapore), EA Youth organised EA's first e-racing fundraising event on 3 December, with actual simulation race equipment for a realistic, action-packed experience.



Getting ready to speed off and beat the clock!



Smiles from participants after an exciting race, where \$300 was raised.

Project Ray of Hope & Coral de Cruz Ceremony



At the Project Ray of Hope Ceremony held on Saturday 12 November at the Eurasian Community House, 65 students from primary to tertiary levels received back to school Popular and BATA vouchers to buy school necessities for the next academic year. 10 secondary school students also received the Coral de Cruz Memorial Fund award of \$1,200 each, to fund school fees and other necessary items for school.

Project Ray of Hope is an annual disbursement funded by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY). The Coral de Cruz Memorial Fund is sponsored by Ambassador Simon de Cruz and EA Trustee Justice Judith Prakash, named after their mother, who was unable to fully pursue her ambitions in life, and they hope award recipients will make the most of the academic opportunities they are given.

“Thank you, EA Education, for sponsoring the education of my boys. I truly appreciate your assistance.” – *Ms Tini (Mother of Ryan & Adam Tunbridge)*

“I cannot wait to buy new sets of stationery for school next year.” – *Shanelle Andrea Valentina*



Recipients of the Coral de Cruz award. From left: Cubinar Martin Latino Joshua, Ian Rezky bin Mohamed Suhaimi, EA President Sandra Theseira, EA Trustee Justice Judith Prakash, EA 1st Vice-President & Education Chairperson Vincent Schoon, Eshton Isaiah Teo, Prince Ryan Andrez bin Andi Risfandi, Terry Bernard Ong.

Floorball Fun for the School Holidays



Participants in action at the floorball camp. From left: Ryan Tunbridge, Arman bin Tahar, Rio Ignazio Beins-Au, Adam Tunbridge.



From left: Ryan Tunbridge, Adam Tunbridge, Hannah Ilyanna, Laylabelle Alanna Beins-Au (first row), Arman bin Tahar, Coach Ahmad Faris, Aiden Little, Rio Ignazio Beins-Au (second row).

EA Education students between 7 to 12 years old picked up basic floorball skills over the year-end school holidays, at the two-day floorball workshop held at the Eurasian Community House. Conducted by EA University Scholarship recipient and Singapore National Hockey player Ahmad Faris Johari, they learnt how to control the floorball stick and develop passing skills, as well as tips to improve muscular endurance.

“I wish we had a three-day Floorball camp instead.” – *Arman bin Tahar*

“We learnt to work as a team and Coach Faris is fun!” – *Ryan Tunbridge*



EA Education Schemes 2023

The EA offers several awards, bursaries and scholarships for primary, secondary and tertiary students to support their academic journeys. Interested applicants can refer to the table below for EA's suite of education schemes, the eligibility criteria for each scheme, and the application deadlines.



Contact education@eurasians.org for more programme information.

| S/N | Education Scheme & Description | Level & Quantum | Income Criteria | 2023 Deadline |
|-----|---|---|--|---------------|
| 1 | <p>Eurasian Community Fund (ECF) Education Awards</p> <p>A one-time monetary reward to recognise students' academic progress and achievements.</p> <p>Bursary*: Improvement in 2021-2022 academic results Merit: Band 2 or B-average for final exams Excellence: Top 25% of students in national exams Distinction: Top Eurasian student in national exams</p> | <p>Primary, Secondary, Tertiary</p> <p>\$100 - \$300</p> | <p>GHI ≤ \$3,000 or PCI ≤ \$1,200</p> <p><i>*Income criteria applies only to Bursary Awards.</i></p> | 30 April |
| 2 | <p>Merit Bursary Award</p> <p>Tuition fees and book stipends for a 2 or 3-year course.</p> | <p>Polytechnic & ITE</p> <p>Cap: ITE: \$1,600/yr, 2-yr course Poly: \$3,600/yr, 3-yr course</p> | <p>GHI ≤ \$3,000 or PCI ≤ \$1,200</p> | 30 April |
| 3 | <p>Edward D'Silva Scholarship</p> <p>Tuition fees and a book stipend for one academic year.</p> | <p>Polytechnic & ITE</p> <p>Cap: ITE: \$1,600/yr, 1-yr only Poly: \$3,600/yr, 1-yr only</p> | <p>GHI ≤ \$3,000 or PCI ≤ \$1,200</p> | 30 April |
| 4 | <p>EA University Bursary</p> <p>Tuition fees and book stipends for a 3-year university course.</p> | <p>University (NUS, NTU, SMU, SUSS, SIT, SUTD)</p> <p>Cap: \$10,000/academic yr, 3-yr course</p> | <p>GHI ≤ \$3,000 or PCI ≤ \$1,200</p> | 31 May |
| 5 | <p>Irene Joseph Memorial Fund & P.K.P Nair Memorial Fund</p> <p>A one-time award to recognise primary students' academic progress.</p> | <p>Primary</p> <p>\$200</p> | <p>PCI \$626 - \$1,200</p> <p><i>*For students not under MOE FAS.</i></p> | 30 April |
| 6 | <p>Minnie Leicester-D'Rozario Award</p> <p>A one-time award for Eurasian students who score A1 for English Literature at the O-Level examinations.</p> <p><i>(For >1 candidate, the Education Committee determines the quantum per student)</i></p> | <p>Secondary 4 O-Level English Literature</p> <p>\$1,000</p> | Nil | 30 April |
| 7 | <p>Mads A. Lange & Pansy Theseira-Lange Education Bursary</p> <p>For school fees, uniforms and books, with a transport and meal allowance.</p> | <p>Primary</p> <p>\$250</p> | <p>PCI ≤ \$800</p> | 30 April |
| 8 | <p>EA Education School Pocket Money Assistance</p> <p>Pocket money assistance for school meals.</p> | <p>Primary, Secondary, Tertiary</p> <p>\$60 - \$100/mth</p> | <p>GHI ≤ \$3,000 or PCI ≤ \$1,200</p> | Ongoing |
| 9 | <p>Joseph Schooling Sports Grant</p> <p>A one-time grant to defray sports training and equipment cost.</p> | <p>Ages 14 -19 in calendar year of application</p> <p>\$5,000</p> | Nil | 30 September |

NOTE: GHI = Gross Household Income : Total monthly income of all working adults in the household
PCI = Per Capita Income : Total monthly income divided by the number of people in the household

Apply online at <https://forms.eurasians.sg/> or scan the QR code to download and print the application forms. Hard copy forms are also available at the Eurasian Community House reception counter, 139 Ceylon Road, Singapore 429744.

For queries, contact Shareen Galistan at 6447 1578 (ext 205) or email shareen@eurasians.org



Eurasian Heritage Gallery Visits & Tours

6 Oct



North Spring Primary School

EHG docents Sharon Miller (in photo) and Melanie Rodrigues Smith shared how the Eurasian community is part of Singapore's multi-cultural fabric, to over 70 primary 4 students from North Spring Primary School.

17 Nov



Tour for Friends of the Museum (FOM) Docents

EHG docent Gerardine Donough-Tan presented a thorough history of the Eurasian community in Singapore to FOM docents during an EHG visit as part of their training.

3 Dec



EHG Christmas Tour

During EHG's special Christmas tour, attendees heard from docent Hafiz Rashid how some EHG personalities celebrate Christmas. They enjoyed a Christmas bento meal, pulled Christmas crackers, and exchanged secret Santa gifts.

25 Oct



Life BP (Bible-Presbyterian) Church

EHG docent, Nancy Fobrogo, spoke to guests about the Monastery in the Azulejo tiles fresco, one of EHG's first artefacts, at the EA lobby. She shared the story of how the monks in Portugal used egg whites to starch their robes. Then, with the leftover egg yolks, they created the Portugese egg tart - using the egg yolks for the custard.

19 Nov



Tour for New EA Members

During the tour for nine new EA members, docent Hafiz Rashid (second from right) described the perils of WWII and Bahau, the false paradise. Over suggee cake and tea, EA Heritage manager Jacqueline Peiris shared how EA supports the community as a Self-Help Group through its key pillars of Education, Family Support Services and Community Development.



Chong Pang CC Residents

EHG docent Ramesh Shahdarpuri (right) shared how Waterloo and Queen Street were one of the first Eurasian enclaves in Singapore, to Chong Pang Community Club residents.

26 Oct



Bedok Green Secondary School

Over 30 students from Bedok Green Secondary School learnt the Jinkli Nona traditional Eurasian folk dance, after an EHG guided tour by docents Sharon Miller and Henry Cordeiro, before they wrapped up their visit with suggee cake.

26 Nov



Exceptionally Eurasian Tour

Close to 50 people attended the three-hour programme on 26 November. Subsidised by National Heritage Board, the event comprised an EHG guided tour, dance workshop, cooking demonstration and Kristang workshop by Valerie Scully. Participants were impressed to hear from Chef Quentin Pereira that Quentin's fine dining branch in Sentosa uses waygu beef for their meaty cutlets!

17 Dec



Vibrance@Yishun Students

30 students from Vibrance@Yishun, a tuition centre run by the 4 Self-Help Groups, visited the EHG on 17 December. Docents Nancy Fobrogo and Hafiz Rashid shared the origins, contributions, culture and lifestyle of the Eurasian community in Singapore, followed by lunch and chocolate cake.

Events & Collaborations

20 Oct



NHB's Museum Roundtable Management Meeting at Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre (SCCC)

EA Heritage committee chairperson, Percival Shepherdson, and EA Heritage manager, Jacqueline Peeris, attended the National Heritage Board's (NHB) Museum Roundtable annual management meeting at the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre. The EA has been participating in NHB's Heritage Festival since 2009, and other programmes such as the Hongbao Campaign, Battle for Singapore and Children's Season.

19 Nov



Genealogy Society Celebrates 10th Anniversary

EA Heritage committee chairperson, Percival Shepherdson (third from left) attended the 10th anniversary of the Genealogy Society of Singapore on 19 November. A few Eurasian family trees were displayed at the event.

10 Dec



Let's Dance @ IHC & EHG

The Indian Heritage Centre (IHC) and Eurasian Heritage Gallery's (EHG) second collaborative tour focused on dance. After visiting the IHC and learning the Odissi dance, participants toured the EHG and learnt the Jinkli Nona, before concluding the tour with sugce cake and tea.

Dance Performances

9 Oct



Eurasian Dance at Sembawang Central's Community Garden Gala

The EA set up a cultural booth (facilitated by volunteers Francisca De Costa and Susannah De Silva) and four dancers from the EA Dance Troupe (from left: Natalie Trog, Jacqueline Peeris, Ignacio Estioco and Cynthia Yap) performed the Jinkli Nona along with two other folk songs at Sembawang Central's Community Garden Gala held at Sembawang Community Club as part of People's Association's One Community Fiesta. The event was graced by Minister for Health Ong Ye Kung.

5 Nov



Eurasian Dance at Ceylon Sports Club's Deepavali Dinner

Eight dancers from the EA Dance Troupe (from left: Rio Beins-Ow, Jasmine Oliveiro, Laylabelle Beins-Ow, Azalea Oliveiro, Veron Ann Lincoln, Ignacio Estioco, Florabelle Beins, and Terry Ong) performed at the Ceylon Sports Club for their Deepavali dinner, graced by Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Edwin Tong.

A Life of Service and Dedication to Singapore

Edwin Oliver Thompson, who lived a life of service and dedication to Singapore throughout his career and life, passed away on 18 October 2022 at the age of 91.

He joined the Singapore Police Force as a probationary inspector in 1952, and over a career spanning 34 years and numerous posts, retired as an officer in the civil service's superscale grade. In 1974, he was the first senior police officer to be seconded to the then Prisons Department, where he was the prisons deputy chief until January 1986. His revolutionary leadership helped transform and upgrade the Singapore Prison Service over time, with successive senior police officers seconded to the Prison Service after him due to his excellent service.

Edwin, whose father, Thomas was Norwegian-American and mother Olive, a Eurasian, was the youngest of three boys. He grew up at Palm Road in the east and attended St Patrick's School, but it was the experience of the Japanese Occupation that shaped his character and his career.

Speaking to the NewEurasian, his daughter, Wendy, shared, "Dad's conduct and work in the various fields of endeavour, not just career, was exemplary, he was a loyal pioneer citizen of Singapore. He was the most conscientious and upright person I have known. He was kind and generous to a fault, and was a wonderful man whom I'm so proud of, and will miss a lot."

Apart from his service in the Singapore Police Force and Singapore Prison Service, Edwin lived a life of service to the community and leveraged his experience in government administration when he joined the EA as Vice-President of the Management Committee for the 1991-1992 term. He also had his finger on the pulse after that, often staying in touch with the EA. He was also active in sports administration, serving as secretary-general of the then Asian Cycling Federation and also volunteering in other sporting organisations such as table-tennis and wrestling in the 1980s.

But no matter what, Wendy added that Edwin was a family man outside his work and volunteer life, and treasured his friendships. "In his free time, he was a computer whiz who spent many hours poring over things, and sending emails to his many friends. He also met up with friends for lunch and dinner sometimes."



Edwin Thompson with his wife Joy and daughter Wendy in their home.



Edwin Thompson was sent to Paris for an organised crime symposium in the late 1970s (front row, sixth from right).



Edwin Thompson led the police contingent at Singapore's first NDP after independence.



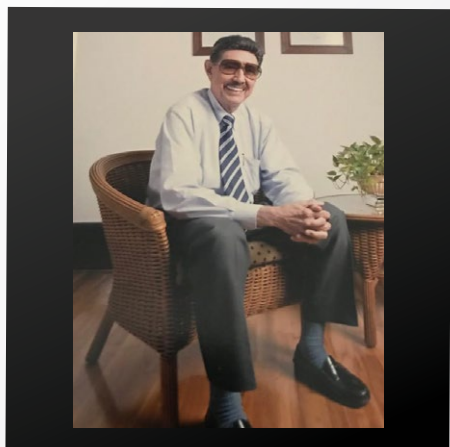
Edwin Thompson (third row, right) at an organised crime symposium in Paris in the late 1970s.

Remembering Two Eurasians for Their Dedicated Contributions to the EA

The EA has managed to achieve much throughout the years, because of the dedication of Eurasians who stepped up to the mantle to lift the Eurasian community and the EA. Former EA Trustee (2001-2021) and EA President (1991-1999) Timothy de Souza pays tribute to two Eurasians who have recently passed on.

Two prominent Eurasians who gave exceptional service to the EA some thirty years ago have passed away recently. It is my privilege to make this tribute to them in recognition of their contributions to our Association.

Edwin Oliver Thompson (1931-2022)



Edwin Thompson lived a life of service and dedication, and was also a family man.

When I first met Edwin Thompson in 1976, he was a senior Honorary Aide de Camp (ADC) to President Benjamin Henry Sheares. I was a newly appointed Honorary ADC. Edwin was the perfect example of what a Senior Honorary ADC was expected to be. He was a spectacular figure in his uniform, tall, lean and exceedingly handsome. He performed his ADC duties with quiet purpose, always polite and unobtrusive. He was the example all junior Honorary ADCs would emulate. I personally learnt much from Edwin about various procedures which Honorary ADCs had to perform and we became good friends.

In 1990, we would be partners in a different endeavour. Edwin became the EA Vice-President of the Management Committee for the 1991-1992 term. Edwin brought his vast experiences of Government administration procedures to bear to improve the processes in the EA – he worked on formulating regulations for Annual General Meetings which to this day are relevant. He reviewed the EA Constitution and recommended bye-laws to improve the operation of sub-committees.

Edwin also formulated standard operating procedures (SOPs), so very important then as the EA Secretariat comprised of only the Honorary Secretary and the Assistant Honorary Secretary, both committee members of the Management Committee in 1991. Edwin was meticulous in his labour. He would do all his work on his own typewriter being most comfortable doing the typing himself. I spent many hours talking to him about the introduction of new programmes and benefitted much from his experience and insight.

In 1992, the EA held a Charity Ball to raise funds to set up the EA Endowment Fund, where the then-DPM, Ong Teng Cheong, was the guest-of-honour. Edwin organised the entire security plan including the protocol procedures. Over the years, Edwin remained in touch with the EA. At the EA's Singapore Eurasian Family History Exhibition in 2021, he remarked to me how happy he was to see the EA flourishing with new programmes which the community were enthusiastically supporting. He was beaming widely!

Randal Brian Snodgrass (1941-2022)



Two Mountbatten Road bungalows at 715 and 717 Mountbatten Road were the EA's headquarters from the mid-1990s. In 1994, in recognition of its Self-Help Group (SHG) status, Randal Snodgrass, the brother of Ursula Snodgrass, who was responsible for education on the EA Management Committee then, paved the way for an introduction by me to invite Randal to join the MC for the 1994-1995 term. Randal was responsible for the conversion of the bungalows into a headquarters for the EA to run its SHG programmes.

Randal was thrilled that he could contribute to the EA. He was eager to make the most efficient use of space of a pair of pre-war colonial residences for a very different purpose. He worked very hard to deliver classrooms and a large hall for education purposes, counselling and dancing rooms, administration offices and a conference room, warehouse space, recreational and car parking facilities. The final product was a fit-for-purpose facility. The EA Secretariat set up its operations in the new accommodation in 1995, and it was visited by President S.R. Nathan on 25 September 1999.

The Mountbatten Road HQ served the EA very well, much of the early development of the new SHG programmes were launched there including the operation of the Eurasian Community Fund, the Family Support Services' (FSS) community programmes and language tuition classes, and the National Day practises.

In 1997, when the Government informed the EA that a new headquarters building would be built for the EA, Randal agreed to co-opt to head the project called PEACH (the Permanent Eurasian Association Community House). Randal was very excited about the project. He got down to work by drawing up an elaborate survey of community needs for 30 years. He had started work on the analysis but a few months later decided to step down as the effects of a stroke did not allow him the capacity to complete such a big project. Randal witnessed the ground-breaking of PEACH, and later the opening of the Eurasian Community House in 2003 at Ceylon Road, where it is still located today. He was so proud and happy at the official opening that he had played a major role in the journey of delivering a permanent house to the Eurasian community.



Randal was an engineer by profession. Photo taken in 2000.



Randal (back row, third from left) at President S.R. Nathan's visit to the EA's Mountbatten Road headquarters in 1999.

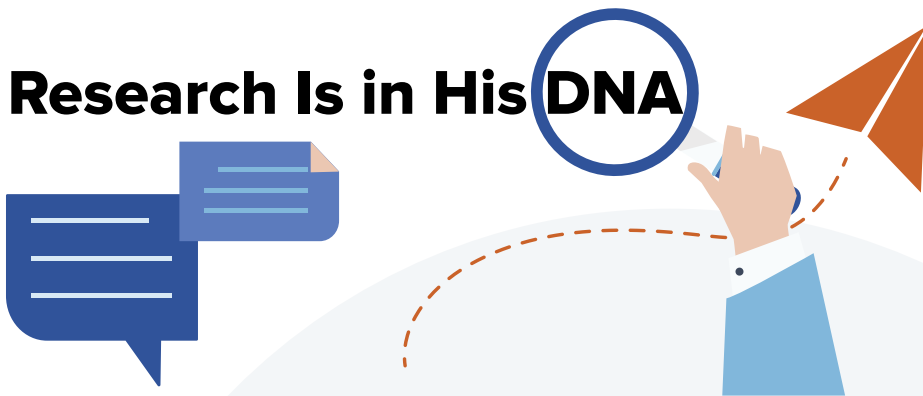


Randal (right) with his wife Mei (left) and their children (from left) Kevin, John, Laura (seated) and Sharon. Photo taken in 1987.



Randal (right) with then Minister for Health and Minister for Information and the Arts George Yeo, at an EA event in the mid-1990s.

Research Is in His DNA



He is a research scientist and author. He was conferred knighthood by Rome in 2007 – through the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta — an Order founded in 1050 to provide care for the poor and sick pilgrims to Jerusalem.

In December 2008, he was awarded the Gusi Peace Prize and is Singapore's first recipient of what is regarded as Asia's version of the Nobel Peace Prize. This was to recognise his efforts for coming up with a lighter, more flexible and durable substitute material that may soon be used for replacement of hip joints.

Then in November 2015, he received the Papal Benemerenti medal, awarded by Pope Francis, for his contributions and devoted services to the Catholic Church.

But for Professor James Newton Boss, being a research scientist and receiving accolades for his contributions, was not part of his life plan while growing up in Newton.

"I studied at Monk's Hill School, which was close to home and I was mischievous in school. I was average in my studies, didn't like sports but I harboured some interests in singing and joined the school talentime," he told the NewEurasian before he added, "I didn't win it but thoroughly enjoyed the session!"

Recalling his growing up years, Prof Boss spent much time with his grandmother, where he learnt the Kristang language and traditions.

"Being a traditional Eurasian, my grandmother was a good cook and thanks to her, I enjoyed lots of good Eurasian cuisine, especially my favourite dish, Curry Feng, which is a traditional mild curry stew made with finely diced pork, liver and pork heart. I also relished Pang Susi made by her, which is a pillowy sweet potato bun, filled with sweet-savoury minced pork," he said.

As an inquisitive young boy, he also spent time catching spiders and 'longkang' fish with the neighbour's kids, exploring the Bukit Timah area and the nearby cemeteries and added, "I was familiar with literally every nook and corner of the Newton and Bukit Timah area back then."

Fast forward to today, Prof Boss said that had he chosen a different path, he might have become a medical doctor. "Medicine has always fascinated me, because my late father taught me how to use plants and herbs as traditional cures, for example boiling neem leaves and using the water for bathing when infected by smallpox or when the body is itchy."

It was also his father who indirectly influenced him to spend seven years researching an alternative composite material to be used to create replacement hip joints.



For his contributions to biomaterial research, Prof Boss received the prestigious Key to the City of Manila by the Mayor in 2008.



Prof Boss on a leisure trip with his wife Evon to Dubrovnik Croatia in Spring 2019.



“After my father, who was small built, broke his hip in a fall, the doctor inserted a large steel rod into his hip. The problem was the rod was heavy and thus affected his mobility. Also, during the cooler rainy months, the metal often sent a chill down his spine, which was very uncomfortable,” he shared.

He went on to laud his colleagues, the driving force to his medical research achievements. “I was lucky to be working with some professionals, in both local and international universities, and international diagnostics laboratories, researching and discovering new frontiers with materials that could help alleviate pain or improve the quality of life for mankind. This spurred me to continue to pursue my quest in research.”

One could say research is in Prof Boss’ blood, as he also wrote and published two books – ‘Journey of 190 years: A history of the Eurasian Catholic Community in Singapore 1825-2015’, and ‘The Portuguese Mission in Singapore (1825-1999)’.

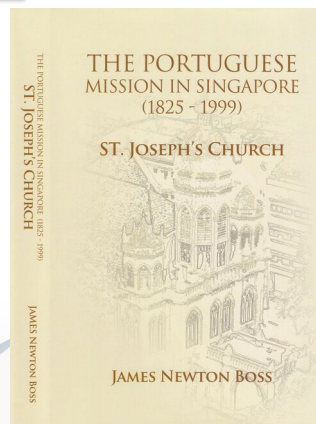
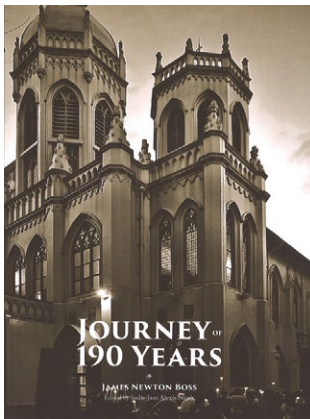
“Two men inspired me into book writing, my late father and the late Fr. Manuel Teixeira. My father imparted many tales of early settlers, stories of Singapore history which one cannot find in history books but only etched in memories of the older migrants to Singapore. I wanted to share these stories and penning them in a book is a great way to pass on the legacy. Fr. Manuel Teixeira was a born leader, a stern priest and I had read several of his books. I always harboured the thought that I could someday follow in his footsteps, to be able to write and share my knowledge with others.”

Just like medical research, Prof Boss acknowledges the need for patience and endurance to embark on a book writing journey.

“I had to travel a fair bit to do oral history with priests who used to preach in Singapore but moved on to other countries upon their retirement. The priests are old and with failing memories, it was a challenging task to ask them to furnish dates or happenings during their earlier years in Singapore,” he shared, before adding he was relieved that some of them had archived their records and documents that he was fortunate to be able to incorporate them in his books.

Looking back, Prof Boss was pleased that his two books not only provided in-depth details of the Eurasian community and the Catholic Church in Singapore, but also brought the Eurasian community closer.

“The camaraderie and support of many Eurasians and friends, coming to my book launches, giving both in kind, their time as well as their money,” he said, before adding how he was pleased that the proceeds from his two books were channelled to selected charities, with the Eurasian Association being one of the beneficiaries.



Books written by Prof Boss.



With the king of fruits – Prof Boss at a durian tasting session in Miri Sarawak in September 2022.

Friends of MCCY Award for Dedicated Community Service

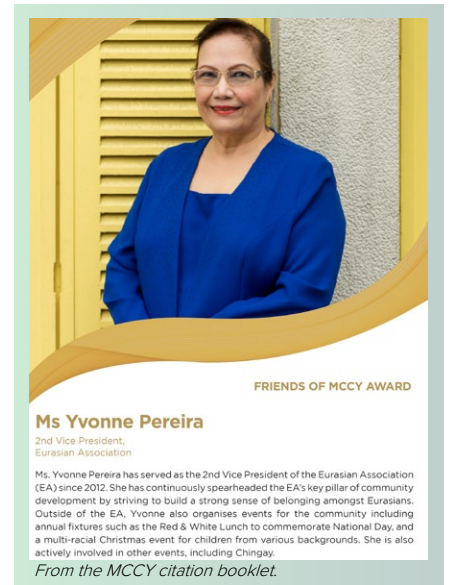
Yvonne Pereira, EA's 2nd Vice-President, received the 'Friends of MCCY' Award on 2 November 2022 at MCCY's Appreciation Dinner in conjunction with their 10th anniversary, in recognition of her commitment and service to the community.

Nominated by MCCY, Yvonne was one of 64 award recipients; from MCCY's boards, councils and committees, receiving awards for their contributions to the arts, heritage, charities, community, volunteerism and philanthropy, sports, and youth sectors over the years.

While the Friends of MCCY award was in recognition of Yvonne's service as the EA's 2nd Vice-President for 10 years since 2012, she has been a volunteer for 58 years since 1964, first volunteering through sports at the Girls' Sports Club and Singapore Recreation Club, then joining EA in 1989 as an EA Song & Dance Troupe singer. She joined the EA Management Committee (MC) in 2008 as a member where she organised EA's social events as Chairperson of EA's then-Social Circle, then became EA's first lady 2nd Vice-President in 2012, spearheading EA's Community Development pillar to build camaraderie within the community and bring people from various backgrounds together through various events, including the annual National Day Red & White lunch and multi-racial children's Christmas event, concerts, Christmas and New Year celebrations, as well as regular Balut tournaments. She also facilitated EA's participation in external events like Chingay and NDP.

Asked what has kept her going all these years, she shared, "Giving back to society has become a big part of my life. The satisfaction of putting a smile on someone's face, especially on a less fortunate person's face, is so gratifying. Volunteering is something I love doing without expecting anything in return. I will keep on volunteering as long as I'm needed, and for as long as I'm fit enough."

She also encourages more volunteers to step up. "I wish that more people (especially the younger generation) will come forward to serve our Eurasian community in whatever capacity they can. They will surely find it most rewarding, no matter how small it may be."



Yvonne (2nd from right) with DPM Lawrence Wong (2nd from left), EA President Sandra Theseira (left) and Yvonne's daughter Charlene (right) at the ceremony.



Yvonne receiving the 'Friends of MCCY' Award from Minister Edwin Tong at Fairmont Singapore on 2 November.



At the EA's Red & White lunch on 14 August. Yvonne (third from right) with (from left) Vincent Schoon (EA 1st Vice-President), Lester Low (EA General Manager), Percival Shepherdson (EA MC Member), Chua Poh Choo-Shepherdson, Annie Pereira, Alexis Pereira (former EA President).



Never-Ending Love for Environmental Conservation

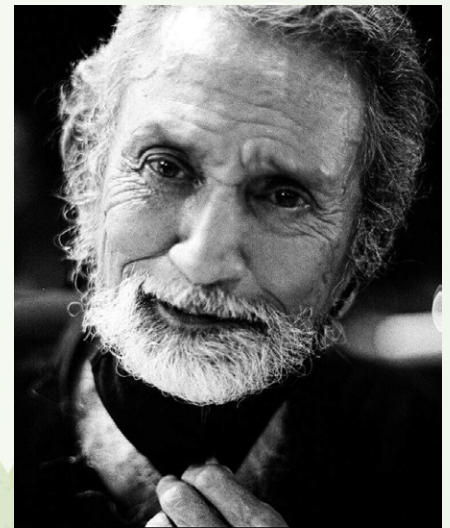
While many who have retired from the corporate world spend much of their time on hobbies, with their family and friends or travel, Grant w Pereira, 73, decided he was going to do otherwise – embark on an agroforest project in Chiang Rai, Thailand.

The veteran environmental conservationist with close to 50 years' experience shared his vision with the NewEurasian on how this project will achieve its self-sufficient goal in a decade.

"We have converted 10 acres of land from a padi field into an agroforest project and it's all about creating a sustainable ecosystem," said Grant, who has Portuguese heritage, and has been married to Janey for almost 50 years.

"The vision is for this land to provide us with everything. We have kept some rice fields so we have a staple. There are freshwater prawn ponds, fish and eel ponds to provide protein, and duck and chicken coops too," he added, also sharing insights on how fertile waters from the ponds are used to fertilise the padi fields.

He went on to highlight how used water is drained into a huge pond to be stored and reused for the dry season, and how the rubber and fruit trees could help provide an income stream. An educational centre, with rooms for volunteers, is also being planned to share his knowledge and encourage others to adopt the agroforest concept.



Environmental conservationist Grant w Pereira.



Grant receiving his People of Good (Senior) Award from President Halimah. In the photo from left: Tony Soh (NVPC CEO), Tan Chuan-Jin (Speaker of Parliament of Singapore), Grant Pereira, President Halimah Yacob, Seah Chin Siong (NVPC Chairman), Minister Edwin Tong. Photo: NVPC.

Love at first sight for gardening

Grant, who is a President’s Volunteerism & Philanthropy Awards 2022 - People of Good (Senior) recipient, which recognises individuals, organisations and leaders who have achieved excellence in giving, was only 15 years old when his love for gardening blossomed from a rose garden in his estate.

“We had a fantastic rose garden that was the envy of the whole estate. This gradually moved to helping others with their gardens in our estate. The more you do, the more you learn how useful gardens are, especially in producing oxygen and a cleaner environment. I eventually got heavily involved in conservation when I was around 25 years old,” said Grant, who was from St Joseph’s Institution and enjoyed playing football, tennis and long-distance running.

It is no surprise that Grant took his passion to the next level by embarking on a 15-year career with the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) as Head of Volunteers before his retirement.

“At SEC, I started a greenhouse at Pulau Ubin, built ground up with recycled materials. All the wood came from an abandoned school. We also organised beach clean ups, nature walks and camps and from the weekly talks and walks, were able to make a positive impact on many youths we reached out to.”

Grant was active with the Nature Society (Singapore) youth groups, has been a lifelong member of the EA, and was a founding member of the Orang Utan foundation (Indonesia) for about 33 years, with the mission to protect both the endangered orangutan and its environment with the booming palm oil industry. He was also a board member of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, which created awareness about eating endangered sharks fin soup, which later led many companies and airlines to stop serving it.

He is optimistic that more youth will step up to volunteer to defend Mother Earth.

“We need them to help preserve our delicate environment, especially today where climate change and global warming is evident. Our youth will inherit the environment so it makes sense to do something today. Everyone can do their part!”



An elephant conservation project in Chiangmai.



Building a play school in Bali as part of the Youth Expedition Project.



Never a dull day out with volunteers in the butterfly garden at Pasir Ris Park.



A reforestation project with Grant and volunteers in Indonesia.

Documenting Family History – Through Eurasian Recipes

Food has always been a distinctive aspect of Eurasian culture, and a family history of bonding through food is certainly the case for William Adam Morton Jr, a.k.a. 'Hughie'. The Singaporean Eurasian of Kristang and Scottish ancestry, who served in the Civil Service for 37 years and was the Commander of SPEAR (Singapore Prisons Emergency Action Response) unit, retiring as a Deputy Superintendent, recalls his earliest childhood memories as being in the kitchen helping his mother bake cakes and pastries.

Describing gatherings over food as a key tradition for the Morton family, he said: "I love to cook dishes for my family that is uniquely part of the Morton home, such as Chuan Chuan [fried fish with a sweet and sour sauce], Smore [Eurasian beef stew] or the simple, but always favourite, sambal pork chops. Seeing my family come together, enjoy their meals and time together is very much my Eurasian family's tradition."

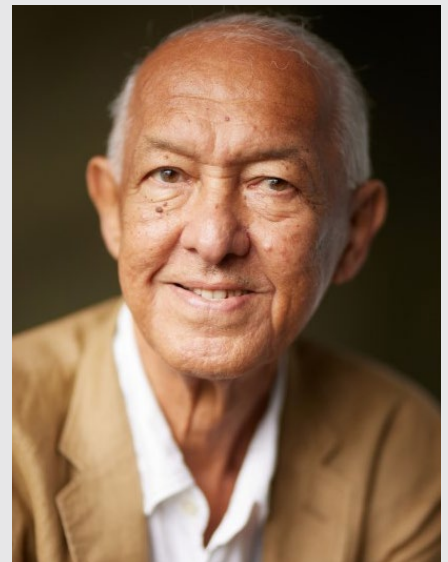
Hughie's long-standing dream – after decades of archiving Eurasian family recipes – finally came to fruition, with the recent launch of his recipe book 'Mum's the Word'. The book comprises a collection of recipes passed down by his mother, Juanita Morton, and grandmother-in-law, Alexandrina Rodrigues ('Sandrina'), who used to run a Eurasian food stall at East Coast Lagoon Food Centre.

During Hughie's younger days in St. Joseph's primary and secondary schools, he played actively in soccer and hockey and enjoyed cycling. He formed a rock and roll band – The Peddlers – where he played the rhythm guitar, and also later pursued other interests, excelling in 3rd Dan Karate (Oyama Style, Kyokushinkai Karate). Fishing remains a regular pastime, and he often travels with his son Russell to the southern islands to fish.

His dedicated work in the civil service is honoured in Singapore's Home Team Academy Gallery today, and he now runs his own security firm, Keith Morton Security.

Asked what finally motivated him to get down to writing the book, Hughie shared, "I've been taking sugee cake orders for many years now and have often been asked for the recipe, which is over a hundred years old. It was a closely guarded recipe that I was never really comfortable sharing, but then I started thinking, if I do not share these recipes and pass them on for others to enjoy, they will be forgotten forever. It has been my dream for many years to compile a book of my favourite Eurasian recipes so that it may be archived for future generations to enjoy and finally, this dream has come true."

Writing the book was not without its share of challenges. "When I would sit down with Mama, Sandrina Rodrigues, and ask her to describe the recipe to me, she would often describe it as, '2 fingers of belachan', '1 kati of flour' or '30 cents of ginger'. It was tricky to figure out modern day conversions of these descriptions while considering inflation." His best advice to aspiring chefs? "Be open minded, in the end, enjoying the meal is most important!"



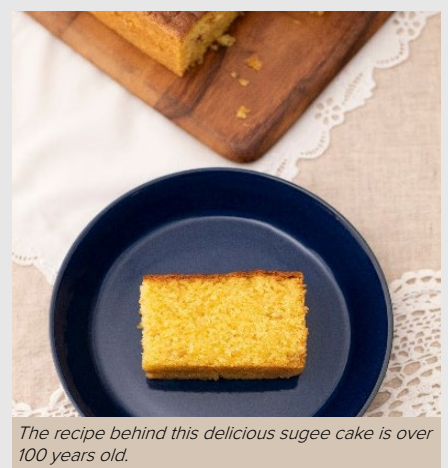
Author William Adam Morton Jr, a.k.a. 'Hughie'.



The inspiration behind 'Mum's the Word'; Hughie's mother and grandmother-in-law Juanita Morton (left) and Alexandrina Rodrigues 'Sandrina' (right).



'Hughie' (left) as a child with his mother Juanita, and siblings Robert and Ann.



The recipe behind this delicious sugee cake is over 100 years old.

“Be open minded, in the end, enjoying the meal is most important!”

Debal Hiris Recipe (from 'Mum's the Word')

This dish is my grandmother-in-law Sandrina's invention. 'Hiris' means 'slice' in Kristang, and in Malay. Sandrina wanted something quick and easy to make with the ingredients of Debal Curry, which didn't involve blending. A 'fast food' version of the Curry Debal, if you will! So what she did was slice and stir fry all the ingredients from Curry Debal to create this dish.



METHOD

1. Marinate pork ribs with pepper and salt.
2. Fry the meat till fully cooked and set aside.
3. Slice ginger into thin matchsticks.
4. Cut chillies and onions into small slices.
5. Fry sliced ginger, onions and chillies till fragrant.
6. Add the cooked pork, stir for 2 minutes.
7. Add the vinegar and mustard, and stir fry for another 3 minutes.
8. Add salt and sugar to taste.
9. Garnish with celery leaves and serve.

The book costs **\$38** and can be found in local bookstores, or email russellmorton@me.com to purchase.



Ask Me Anything About NS with LTC Brian Thomas

In this column, LTC Brian Thomas, Commanding Officer at the Special Forces Leadership School, Singapore Armed Forces, answers questions related to National Service (NS). If you are enlisting in NS soon and have questions, send them to beverly@eurasians.org



I am a Diploma graduate who will be enlisting for NS this year, and am considering a career with the SAF. However, I am undecided on which vocation to consider. What should I do?

Congratulations on deciding on a career path. As a Diploma holder, depending on your grades and ability to secure a local or overseas university placing, you can apply for various scholarships, ranging from the SAF Academic Scholarship to the SAF Overseas Scholarship. The terms and conditions of each scholarship are different and you can find out more from the Army Recruitment Centre at Central Manpower Base (CMPB). The Air Force and Navy recruitment centres are also at CMPB.

On vocations, it is important to decide if you would like to be a combatant or non-combatant. Combat vocations range from Commandos, Infantry, Guards to Army Intelligence, Armour and Artillery, and more. Non-combat vocations include Logistics, Medical and Maintenance roles. Combat vocations involve more field training, and warfighting will form the core of your training. Non-combat vocations will require you to develop a niche set of technical skillsets to support SAF's warfighting effort. All vocations have important roles to play in the defence of Singapore. My advice would be to think 5 to 10 years ahead to assess which vocation would suit you better based on your aspirations in life, or think about which vocation would be a suitable "stepping stone" in your development as an individual in the workforce.

What I can safely say is that the SAF provides many development opportunities as you will get to experience a variety of appointments, and get to meet people from all walks of life and who share a common purpose.



You can find out more about a career with the SAF here: Do reach out to the recruitment officers if you have more queries.



E AFC Annual Year-End Dinner & Dance

Many have said that the team that eats together, stays together. That could also be used to describe the EAFC annual year-end dinner and dance which was held on Saturday 5 November.

The Eurasian Community House multi-purpose hall hosted close to 120 guests which included EAFC players and their families, and members of the EA Management Committee.

It was also a good opportunity for all guests to network over dinner, before they were treated to a performance by EAFC players and musicians Mel Ferdinands, as well as John Molina and Roberto Carlos De Costa.



Musicians John Molina and Roberto Carlos De Costa entertained guests with a couple of cover songs.



All together now, EAFC!