

THE NEW EURASIAN

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OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2013

Taking Responsibility for Our **Ethnic Identity**



PLUS

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS

Leadership awards for distinguished Eurasians

ECF EDUCATION AWARDS

Students celebrate their academic success

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Eurasian artists are making waves

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THE NEW EURASIAN

The magazine of The Eurasian Association, Singapore

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

Advertising Rates

Prime positions (full colour)
Bleed size: 215mm x 280mm
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Deadline

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(Established July 1919)

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President's Message

The highlight for this quarter was the 18th edition of the annual Eurasian Community Fund (ECF) awards, which was held in September at St Patrick's School. Since its inception in 1996, more than 1,500 awards have been made to deserving students from primary to tertiary levels and a record 250 bursary and merit awards were given out this year. The ECF continues to be instrumental in providing Eurasian students with education opportunities in the shape of subsidised tuition programmes, bursaries, study grants and merit awards.

It was a privilege to have Ambassador Simon de Cruz, the guest of honour, speak to students about his own academic journey and share his struggles as a student. His encouragement to students was to explain how, despite a slow start to his academic journey, his passion for language and hard work eventually led to his success in the diplomatic service. Ambassador de Cruz is also one of the EA's donors, and together with his sister Justice Judith Prakash they set up the Coral de Cruz Memorial Fund in memory of their mother to provide financial assistance to needy students. Both Judith and Simon have been very successful in their careers and have chosen to give back to the Eurasian Community. I am thankful for their generous support and that of the many other donors to our education programmes.

While education has always been one of the topmost priorities in Singapore, it is important that in pursuing their academic goals, our youth also focus on strengthening their values and sense of compassion; to be grateful to the people who have helped them

in their academic journey and to consider how they can become active contributors to society, finding ways to give back to the community and help the less fortunate. I encourage more of our youth to participate and volunteer for community programmes organised by the EA or other community groups. Successful young Eurasians can serve as role models or mentors to others who are academically weaker or need guidance to unlock their potential. Being involved in community projects and leadership roles also builds character, a sense of purpose and instils essential people management skills, which will be helpful in both the academic and career path.

There were many voices in the recent Our Singapore Conversation calling for a return of the 'kampung spirit'. It is the close and binding ties that people want to rekindle, and coming together to help others is one good way of doing so. This is the outcome of a holistic education that the EA strongly supports and I encourage all parents to nurture and support our young people's drive to do good work and give back to the community. This is especially important for us, due to the small size of our community, where the spirit of self-help and resilience will put us in a strong position to secure a brighter future for the Eurasian community in Singapore.

At our own Eurasian Conversation event in February, the issues of race and identity were certainly dominant in the discussion. There were queries and concerns raised regarding the complexity that surrounds questions of race and identity of Eurasians in Singapore.



In this issue, we focus on the dual-race classification policy that was introduced in January 2010 and speak to some Eurasians on their views on the 2010 law that gives mix-race Singaporeans more say in how they identify themselves.

Finally, Christmas will soon be here and we have prepared a line-up of events for you and the whole family to enjoy. We will be having the Children's Christmas Treat and Family Christmas Carnival on 15 December 2013, the Social Circle Christmas Party on 21 December 2013 and the festive season will culminate with the New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance at the Concorde Hotel. We hope you will support these events and join us for what will certainly be an enjoyable time.

As we come to the close of another year, I would like to thank the EA Secretariat team, our many volunteers and donors, our Board of Trustees and my fellow Management Committee members for all their support and hard work, which has allowed the EA to help and touch the lives of many Eurasians in Singapore. We look forward to your continued participation and support in helping us lead the Eurasian community to greater heights.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benett Theseira', written in a cursive style.

Benett Theseira
President



Main picture: in red and white for the greens; Opposite: swings and shots from a great day out



Greens are Good for You

The newly convened EA golf sub-committee was pushing at an open (clubhouse) door when it advertised for players to take part in its recent inaugural game at the Keppel Club. More than 200 people signed up for a day out on the greens.

The game provided an overwhelming sense of community and support from like-minded people and looks set to inspire more people to take up the game. In addition to the fun and frustrations of challenging the roughs, bunkers and lakes, participants enjoyed a package that included golf with a buggy of two players, an all-inclusive dinner, gift bag, exclusive event T-shirt as well as on-course contests and prizes.

The sub-committee would like to say a big thank you to all the generous sponsors and donors who made the event a tremendous success.

The Winners

Men's Division

Champion – Ralph Aeria
1st runner up – Loh Yong Po
2nd runner up – Sebastian Choo

Ladies' Division

Champion – Yvonne Hui
1st runner up – Rosalia Soh
2nd runner up – Lilian Kwok

Novelty Game

Nearest to pin – Dennis Lim
Nearest to line – Tuan Abd Azman
Longest drive – Ralph Aeria



New Membership Plan is on the Cards



The Eurasian Association is to launch an EA membership card in December.

To do this, it is currently conducting a membership updating exercise. Those with Ordinary Membership, which has a one-year term, will be asked to renew their membership for another year at a cost of \$12 or convert to Life Membership, which is a one-time payment of \$60.

Members will enjoy a discount on all the EA's facilities and function rooms, and will receive *The NewEurasian* magazine each quarter to keep them up to date with the EA's news. Other benefits will be announced at a later date.

Letters have been sent out to all Ordinary Members, with a Membership Updating Exercise Form enclosed for them to indicate if they wish to renew Ordinary Membership or convert to Life Membership. The closing date to submit this form is 10 November 2013.

Barry Desker is Awarded *Honorary Doctorate*

Ambassador Barry Desker, Dean of the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, has been awarded an honorary law degree by the University of Exeter in the west of England.

The degree was conferred in recognition of his huge contribution to public life in Singapore and East Asia and for his global leadership and scholarship in the field of international relations.

Barry received his degree from Baroness Floella Benjamin, chancellor of the university, during a ceremony on 16 July held at the university.

This is his second honorary degree in as many years. Last year, he received an

honorary doctorate from the University of Warwick in the UK's Midlands.

In his oration, the University of Exeter's vice-chancellor and chief executive Professor Sir Steve said that since becoming dean of RSIS in 2000, Barry had "rapidly established the school as the leading centre of its type in the Asia Pacific region".

The school, which has close links with the University of Exeter, undertakes research in security, defence, international affairs and diplomacy and teaches postgraduate programmes in Strategic Studies, International Relations, and International Political Economy.

Sir Steve added: "Above all, we are recognising a man who, since 2000, has



Barry Desker (right) with Prof Sir Steve Smith at the ceremony

taken a Singapore-based think tank to be a world-ranking graduate school of international relations. Dean Desker's skilful balancing of academia and policy-oriented work has clearly made RSIS the leading research organisation in the region. Building that reputation from such a low base has taken enormous skill and the full use of his diplomatic training."



Yvonne Pereira and Benett Theseira present Ang Hak Seng with a book

The EA Hosts *VIP Visitors*

Three distinguished guests visited the Eurasian Community House on separate occasions in July and August: Lawrence Wong, Acting Minister for Culture, Community and Youth; Sam Tan Chin Siong, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and Mayor, Central Singapore District; and Ang Hak Seng, Chief Executive Director of People's Association. They met the management committee for lunch at Quentin's restaurant and each guest was presented with a copy of the book, *The Eurasian Face*, by Kirsteen Zimmern and given a tour of the Eurasian Heritage Centre.



Michelle Tessensohn, Sam Tan Chin Siong, Yvonne Pereira and Benett Theseira



Lawrence Wong (centre) with the EA Management Committee



Ang Hak Seng meets the EA management team

Daryl Pereira Wins Leadership Award

Singapore-based Daryl Pereira has been judged one of this year's top 40 Young Business Leaders by renowned accounting body, CPA Australia. The leaders, all under 40, were recognised for their leadership in their professional lives and the community.

In 2004, the 38-year-old Australian Eurasian, who is now Director of Management Consulting at KPMG Singapore, took a big leap and moved from Sydney to Singapore to join Deutsche Bank. Daryl says: "Having never lived in Singapore or worked overseas, I saw this as a good opportunity to see the world and at the same time I wanted my wife to be closer to her family in Singapore."

Daryl also volunteers at non-profit associations here; he is chairman of the Audit Committee at the Eurasian Association

as well as chairing the Corporate Social Responsibility Working Group at the Information Systems Audit and Control Association, where he is the immediate past president of its Singapore chapter.

"A great leader's role is to help those around them to achieve their true potential"

He says having an understanding wife and family (he has four children) who supported his studying for two Masters degrees played an important role in his success. He adds that he has also been fortunate to work with and learn from some great mentors.



Daryl Pereira (left) with wife Sharon and Eurasian musician Trevor Nerva

Coming to Singapore "has been an interesting ride and I now count many people who are involved with the EA as my friends."

How would he describe a strong leader? "I believe that a great leader's role is to help those around them achieve their true potential, and to have the courage to stand up for your team and for your personal ideals. Another important point is that leaders can shape their team's dreams; and when the dreams are exciting and believable, people will dramatically increase their investment in making them come true," he says.

News in Brief

Do You Speak Kristang?

The EA is aiming to resurrect the Kristang language and is calling for Kristang speakers to help. Kristang – formally known as Malacca-Melayu Portuguese Creole – is made up of linguistic elements from each country. If you speak Kristang or know of anybody who does, we would like to hear from you. Please contact Revathhi, tel: 6447 1578 or e-mail: revathhi@eurasians.org

Advertise in *The New Eurasian*

The New Eurasian is published quarterly and read by more than 17,000 Eurasians in Singapore. It is also circulated to senior government offices, various ministries, statutory boards, community organisations and self-help groups. If you would like to advertise your services or any other news in the magazine, contact Revathhi for more information and rates, tel: 6447 1578; e-mail revathhi@eurasians.org

Socialise With Us!

Join us on Twitter and Facebook. To find out what's happening and meet up with fellow Eurasian members, follow us on:

 <https://www.facebook.com/eurasianassociation>

 <https://twitter.com/EurasianSG>

<http://www.eurasians.org.sg>

Events Space Available

The EA has rooms available to rent at the Eurasian Community House for a variety of occasions, and catering is available through Quentin's restaurant. For enquiries, rates and bookings, contact Bridget Basnayake, tel: 6447 1578; e-mail: bridget@eurasians.org

Festive Decorators Needed

The EA is looking for volunteers to help with the Christmas decorations at the Eurasian Community House. We welcome all visitors and community members, whether you're coming alone or in an organised group. Yuletide decorations start in November. For more information, contact Bridget Basnayake, tel: 6447 1578; e-mail: bridget@eurasians.org

Be a Party Planner

The Community Engagement Committee of the Eurasian Association is organising an inter-cultural fiesta in March 2014 and is looking for volunteers to help organise it. Volunteers should be available to meet on weekday nights, at least once a month, for a few hours from September. Help is needed with the planning, logistics and search for sponsors and performers, and during the event. If you're interested, please contact Michelle Tessensohn, e-mail: michelleayn@gmail.com

Upcoming Events at the EA

The EA has lined up a programme of fun events for the coming months. All will be held at the ECH unless specified.

- AWARE, STEP UP! Saturday 19 October at 6.30pm
- Children's Christmas Treat and Family Christmas Carnival, Sunday 15 December from 12 noon to 4pm
- Christmas Dinner & Dance, Saturday 21 December, 7pm
- New Year's Eve Black & White Ball, Tuesday 31 December, 6.30pm (pre-dinner cocktails) and 7.30pm (dinner and dance) at the Concorde Hotel Ballroom

In Pursuit of Excellence

Award-winning Eurasian students are a fine example to us all



Distinction Award recipients with EA President Benett Theseira (centre) and Simon de Cruz to his left

The ECF Education Awards ceremony, the EA's keynote annual event to recognise young Eurasians' academic success, was held on 14 September at St Patrick's School.

The 250 recipients, comprising students from primary, secondary and tertiary level, were given awards in four different categories. The guest of honour was Simon de Cruz, Singapore's non-resident ambassador to Ukraine. Mr de Cruz is also one of the EA's donors, together with his sister Justice Judith Prakash, who set up the Coral de Cruz Memorial Fund in memory of their mother, to assist secondary students.

“I feel that it is important to be consistent in having an eventful and fulfilling school life while keeping up the momentum with my studies”

Shannon Neubronner,
Top Eurasian 'A' Level student 2012

The annual ceremony, which was established in 1996, aims to promote academic excellence by supporting and encouraging more Eurasian students to excel in their studies. There are four award categories: the Bursary Award assists to defray education costs for students from lower-income families. The remaining three categories are solely based on academic results. The Merit Award is for students from all levels who have performed well in their final year examinations. The Excellence Award recognises the top 25 per cent in the national examinations (PSLE, 'N', 'O' and 'A' levels). The Distinction Award is the most prestigious and is awarded to those who



Top: Benett Theseira and Simon de Cruz with his wife

Right: Simon de Cruz gives his speech



have emerged as the top student in their national examinations and tertiary students who have achieved academic excellence.

In an insightful and motivational speech, Mr de Cruz told the students of his own academic journey. He admitted that at school, he had been underachieving and had been a disappointment to his teachers; yet his teachers had had faith in him and had not given up on him; so he had begun to put in the work needed to succeed. His teachers' persistence had made him realise the importance of a good education for one's future.



Primary school pupils gather for a photocall

Eugene Tessensohn, recipient of the Outstanding Eurasian University Student 2012, who aims to be a chemist, gave the vote of thanks on behalf of all the recipients.

He said: "To me, Eurasians are similar to a catalyst in a chemical reaction. A catalyst has a positive effect; it increases the desired yield, accelerates the rate and relieves the requirements for the reaction to occur. And all this can be achieved with just a small amount of catalyst. We Eurasians can be the catalyst in racial harmony."

The recipients are all full-time students in the formal Singapore education system from primary to tertiary levels.

To round off the event, a dance performance was given by Samantha Santa Maria, Hazel Seah, Chanel Roberts and Chloe Roberts, recipients of the ECF Education Award.

Distinction Awards

Award Title	Name of Student
Top Eurasian PSLE Student 2012	Andrew Mark Snodgrass
Top Eurasian Normal Academic 'NA' Level Student 2012	Russell James Santa Maria
Top Eurasian Normal Technical 'NT' Level Student 2012	Tatiana Nicholette Grosse
Top Eurasian 'O' Level Student 2012	Brandon Krygsman
Top Eurasian 'A' Level Student 2012	Shannon Scott Neubronner
Outstanding Eurasian ITE Student 2012	Gabriel Vivian Joseph
Outstanding Eurasian Polytechnic Student 2012	Jared Maurice Bateman
Outstanding Eurasian University Student 2012	Eugene Malcolm Tessensohn
Outstanding Eurasian Sports Student 2012	Tia Louise Rozario
Meritorious Eurasian Sports Student 2012	Joshua Bernard Pereira



Simon de Cruz with a prize winner

Pupils Take School Work to the Next Level



Joint Tuition Award winners with the EA Education Sub-Committee

The 10th annual Joint Tuition Awards ceremony was held at Singapore Polytechnic Convention Centre on 24 August. Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Health, was the guest of honour.

This year, 575 recipients from the four ethnic groups received the awards for significant improvement in their performance in national examinations. Recipients are students in the Collaborative Tuition Programme run by the self-help groups who have been recognised for their success in examinations including PSLE, N-levels and O-levels. When CTP centres were

first launched in 2002, there were 14 tuition centres. Today, there are 65 centres island-wide, making tuition affordable and convenient for students, with an enrolment of approximately 8,700 students from the four ethnic groups.

The EA strongly encourages Eurasian students to register for these tuition classes as they not only provide affordable, subsidised tuition at conveniently located venues but also offer the opportunity to make friends from other cultures.

Ten Eurasian students received awards at this year's awards ceremony. They were:

PSLE

- (1) Natalie Anjasari Gordon
- (2) Nicholas Nelson Oliveira
- (3) Christian Tide Van Huizen

N-Level

- (4) Claudia Maire Lai Peiwen
- (5) Hazel Seah Hui Min
- (6) Farah Faiqah Bte Mohd Ali

O-Level

- (7) Shanice Vanessa Hedger
- (8) Muhd Syazwan Menzies Bin M S C M
- (9) Jerald Justin Francisco
- (10) Ari Storm Van Huizen



TAKING A
SECOND
LOOK AT

Ethnic Identity

Ensuring that all the ethnic groups that make up Singapore's citizens feel equally treated and valued is a delicate balancing act. We ask some Eurasians for their views on the 2010 law that gives mixed-race Singaporeans more say in how they identify themselves



How a new ID card might look



Members of Duane Ang's family enjoy a birthday party

In January 2010, the government implemented changes in the law to allow Singaporean children born to parents of different races to be registered with a 'double-barrelled' ethnicity in their identification documents. For the purposes of administering policies in fields such as education or housing, however, the parents will have to decide the 'dominant' race of the child.

For example, a child with an Indian father and Eurasian mother would previously have been registered as Indian. Now, the child can be identified officially as Indian-Eurasian or Eurasian-Indian. In recent years, inter-racial marriages have been on an upward trend. The new policy is said to have been introduced "in recognition of evolving societal changes".

The Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) made clear how the new flexibility will be implemented. For the purposes of government policy, such as the assignment of mother-tongue language classes in schools and the ethnic quota applied in Housing Board estates, the first-named race in the double-barrelled classification will be used.

The policy also comes with some caveats. Inter-racial couples must register all their children with the same double-barrelled race classification. If a change of race classification for any child is required, all siblings must change their race together. From the age of 21, however, this restriction is lifted. And, further, there will be three chances to determine the racial classification of a mixed-race child born on or after 1 January 2014: at birth, any time (with siblings) before the age of 21, and any time, individually, after the age of 21.

Full details of the policy and registration procedure can be found on the ICA's website, at www.ica.gov.sg.

The ICA says that to date there are no official figures showing how many people have changed their race but unofficial polls reflected that many mixed-race Singaporeans do not feel the need to do so. Only four out of 15 polled by *The Straits Times* would consider changing their race to reflect their dual identity. In terms of newborns, the ICA revealed that parents of some 16 per cent



There will be three chances to determine the racial classification of a mixed-race child born on or after 1 January 2014

of mixed-heritage babies opted for double-barrelled races on their child's official documents between January 2011 and June 2012. Singapore is fast becoming more ethnically cosmopolitan and new measures such as the double-barrelled race classification is, of course, a significant move in recognising the diversity of Singapore's racial mix.

Singaporean recruitment consultant John Adams, 50, is a father of three who is married to a Singaporean wife of Indian heritage. He welcomes the double-barrelled race option. "We don't fit a cookie-cutter definition of race and to simply categorise us as 'Other' overlooks our unique blend of race and culture. I think the new development is a good move," he says.

He adds that he would opt for a double-barrelled race in his children's IC, as it "more accurately reflects their ethnic heritage".

Eurasian businesswoman and mother of six, who wishes to be known as Angel H, says: "I have struggled with this race issue as far back as I can remember. I used to have to tick 'Others' as my race. And I would often feel like an outsider who didn't belong. I was happy when the double-barrelled race law was announced on the news last year. It is a big deal for me personally because I have always had problems identifying with the race on my IC and for my children, too, whose race on their ICs identifies them as Malay. We recognise ourselves as Eurasian and we identify with the whole culture and identity of being of mixed race, of being Eurasian."



“I used to have to tick ‘Others’ as my race. And I would often feel like an outsider who didn’t belong. I was happy when the double-barrelled race law was announced”

Duane Ang, a combat engineer specialist, believes the new initiative will help resolve the issue of racial identity for people born with mixed heritage. Timothy Oliveira, 68, a retiree says: “Personally, I would probably go for the double-barrelled race option. Even if they [his descendants] turn out to completely identify with the Chinese race, I would still like them to remember that somewhere up the line, they are also part of another race.”

But teacher, Marc Tan, 38, was undecided. Married to a Briton, Marc, who is ethnically Chinese, says he would decide when his two-year-old daughter applies for an IC at the age of 15. “I don’t think dual race matters and we don’t need them to determine our identity. Having two races will confuse”, he says. “Moreover, she is too young to understand race, ethnicity, or the implications of race. I want her to make the choice herself when she gets older”.

Some people feel that while these measures are welcome, they are a cosmetic fix for a complex issue and maybe do not strike at the heart of the matter. They believe that the more cosmopolitan Singapore becomes, the more difficult it will be to implement the

rigid classification of racial identities and to prolong the established racially based policies in governmental projects such as those in housing and education.

Angel says: “I would rather a law that says everyone born in Singapore, regardless of race, should have Singaporean as race on their IC. This would really unite us as Singaporeans and prove to all of us that we are all Singaporeans and race does not matter. And probably only PR and new citizens should have their race origin printed in their IC.”

Victoria Fernandez, 21, a student says: “In Singapore I am constantly being reminded about my race. It’s there in every official document and form I fill up – my passport, identity card, school report cards and job interview applications; I could go on. We don’t need racial classification, which is basically just a counter-productive cultural print that draws attention to our differences, which most of us have forgotten as we have loads more in common. We should focus instead on ensuring that no one feels excluded or discriminated against. If you ask me, I think we could start with doing away with forms that ask us about race and on our ICs.”

Technician Francis Sta Maria also feels that race is not important. “Some countries did away with race classification a long time ago. If I were to opt for the dual-race option, it doesn’t really matter which comes first. My boys have Chinese characters in their birth certificates and IC too.”

Perhaps, in time, a complete overhaul of the racial classification system may be needed, especially given the latest trends in inter-ethnic marriages and immigration. The manner in which racial identities are cultivated or classified is changing constantly. There will definitely be a need to redefine how we identify races, and consequently race policies, as our ethnic landscape evolves.



Angel H with her six children



“I would rather a law that says everyone born in Singapore, regardless of race, should have Singaporean as race on their IC. This would really unite us”

Finding Happiness in a New Life

Problems that can at first seem insurmountable can be overcome if you know where to get help, as this family shows (we have changed their names)

Christian's life took a dramatic turn and he had to adapt quickly to a situation he never imagined he would have to face when his daughter Jessica became pregnant two years ago. Jessica, 19, has a low IQ, suffers from asthma and was born with slight deformities on her fingers and toes.

To complicate matters, his young granddaughter also has medical problems. She was born with congenital hydrocephalus (water on the brain), an extra blood vessel in her heart and an extra vertebra in her spine, which makes normal activities difficult for her. She has had an operation but still requires medical care, including hospitalisation and therapy.

Christian admits that coping with the extra financial costs and balancing his

full-time job with his granddaughter's needs have not been easy. But since he approached the EA's FSS department for financial help, he has received monthly food donations, vouchers, emergency cash relief and grants.

In addition, Jessica has received support under Project SPARK ('Successful Parents and Resilient Kids') and the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation. Life transformation coach Yana Fry has also been assigned to help Jessica develop the skills she needs, which has improved her relationship with her family. Christian's other daughter has also received financial help with her education.

Jessica is presently working at a fast-food restaurant and this has helped to

lessen the family's financial burden. Grandma also comes in to help and look after her granddaughter.

Christian remains positive and says: "I am happy, and no matter what, I am here to teach them the way through life and to have as much fun as they can."

Your contributions make a difference: any donation you can make will help the EA continue to meet the needs of our community, specifically low-income families, young people at risk, struggling single parents and lonely and poor elderly people. To make an online donation, please visit: <http://www.eurasians.org.sg/a-helping-hand/fundraising/>



Helen Ko gives a motivational speech



FSS clients socialise over tea

Laughter and Learning

The ever popular Sunday Tea with Neighbours took place on 1 September and saw 45 participants, including the EA's FSS clients and Mountbatten's active ageing community, turn up for a chat, laughter – and some fun learning.

The EA event, in collaboration with Beyond Age, supported by the Council for Third Age, aims to encourage FSS clients to forge bonds with the neighbourhood communities. Many of those who attended have little or no local family so an invitation to tea could be a real social highlight. Among the VIP guests were David Soh Eng Hock, chairman of the Mountbatten Community Centre Management Committee, and Simon Tensing de Cruz, Singapore's non-resident ambassador to Ukraine.

Chwen Sia, life coach and EA FSS volunteer introduced some 'laughing yoga' therapy and Helen Ko, executive director of Beyond Age, did a presentation called 'Loving Me' which taught guests taught about accepting and understanding personal behaviour and family issues.

Feedback from the guests revealed that they thoroughly enjoyed both sessions and found the talk educational.

Help is Available for Single Parents

Single parents and their children may now seek help from the EA's Family Support Services. If you are an unemployed single parent or have a household income of less than \$1,500, you may qualify for assistance.

This FSS assistance programme provides employment help which can include: basic IT skills, a career readiness workshop, transport allowance, grooming voucher, skills training to enter the workforce, financial literacy workshops and food vouchers. Terms and conditions apply.

Children of single parents will be referred to tuition centres run by the self-help groups, which offer them continuous assistance for their education. They will also receive childcare administrative fees and school bus fees for the first month.

For more information, contact our Family Support Services Executive, J. Ramakrishnan, tel: 6447 1578 or e-mail ram@eurasians.org

Rough and Tough

Rugby player Daniel Chow is hoping the sport will achieve professional status in Singapore

Daniel Chow started playing rugby at the age of 13 and now, at the age of 29, has been a member of the national team for six years. His dad had been keen to get him and his brother involved in sports when they were young; at first, they mostly played football, but Daniel found his true love in rugby. His younger brother David, 25, followed suit and plays for a club side.

“To be competitive at major events, we would have to move towards being professional players”

Daniel has always dreamed of representing Singapore in sports, and rugby has made this a reality. His greatest achievement so far has been captaining the Singapore team to victory at the recent Asian 5 Nations Division 2 Championship.

Recently, the Singapore Rugby Union made a bid to host Rugby World Cup Sevens at the Sports Hub in Kallang, which is due to open in 2014. If the bid succeeds, he says: “Training will definitely step up for sure.” But more importantly: “The whole concept of playing rugby in Singapore would change. To be competitive at such major events, we would have to move towards being professional players when we would be able to train full time, similar to what the Hong Kong team is doing right now.”

Is rugby the character-building sport it is claimed to be? “I think playing sport in general builds a lot of character and rugby is no different,” says Daniel. It also inculcates good values like



In the locker room: Daniel Chow (right) and mates

teamwork, patience, commitment and fighting spirit.” But he credits his parents (a Chinese dad and Eurasian mum) as his biggest inspirations.

He says: “Whenever the going gets tough, I always think about the tough times they went through when they were kids, and how they struggled in their early years of adulthood juggling raising a young family and careers. I’m doing quite a lot now where work and rugby is concerned and times can really get tough. And when those times come I know I can always count on my parents for their support and wisdom.”

Daniel will be busy training for the Asian Sevens Circuit which is on now until November and the national team is also preparing for the SEA games 2015, which will be held in Singapore.

Giving It His Best Shot

Young photography Timothy Lim is finding greater exposure for his work

Eurasian photographer Timothy Lim has been chosen to be part of an international exhibition in New York.

His work was selected from thousands of entrants in the See | Me international artist online community, whose exhibition, *The Story of Creative*, is being staged at its brand new multi-media gallery in New York from July to September. The exhibition features work from members representing more than 100 countries.

Tim, 29, a freelance commercial photographer who specialises mainly in portrait and people photography, says: “This is a first for me and I am proud to represent Singapore on an international stage.”

He adds: “I was 17 when I started taking photography seriously. The interest blossomed and I’d make the effort to attend formal photographic classes to learn all the technicalities and basics of photography”.



Tim would like to stage an exhibition in Singapore and also find more opportunities to exhibit abroad. In the meantime, he is busy planning photography workshops and seminars.

To see more of Tim’s work, visit his page at www.facebook.com/chapmanphotos



The genealogy volunteers and their families at the National Library

Rooting Out Your Past

An exhibition by the National Library Board delves into Singapore family histories

The NLB worked hand in hand with the EA Heritage Sub-Committee to feature the family tree of the Moss family as well as other topics of historical interest.

The Moss family, British in origin, spans more than six generations, and traces its Singapore roots to Captain Mark Moss, who arrived on these shores in 1838 in the most unusual circumstances – he had been rescued by British Sea Captain Keppel from the clutches of pirates.

Safely in Singapore, Captain Moss married a local girl named Maria and they had one son and four daughters. It is from this son, Isaac Moss, also an experienced sea captain, that the Singapore Mosses spring. Indeed, the generations of Mosses

Francis Road, was named after her great-grandfather, Isaac.

Other Eurasian families featured in the exhibition include Cedric Pereira on the topic of love letters; Kevin Aeria on family heirlooms and Quentin Pereira on food.

Are you curious about your family history? Intrigued by the stories behind your family's heirlooms or well-loved recipes? Do you want to find out more?

Visit *Roots: Tracing Family Histories*
Time: 10am – 9pm
Venue: Gallery, Level 10,
National Library Building

The National Library Board (NLB) officially launched its exhibition, *Roots: Tracing Family Histories* on 25 July and it will run until 16 February 2014.

Benett Theseira, Vincent Schoon, Yvonne Pereira and the Eurasian families featured in the exhibition attended the opening. Ms Sim Ann, Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information & Ministry of Education, was guest of honour.

The exhibition explores the quest of four Singaporean families – one from each of the main ethnic groups – to discover their history. Digging through documents at home, in the library and various archives, they researched their family tree.

“ *Captain Mark Moss arrived on these shores in 1838 in the most unusual circumstances* ”

that followed married into other Eurasian families or ethnic groups in Singapore and Malaya, giving the family a truly ‘made-in-Singapore’ flavour.

Christine Peiris, née Moss, started her research into the family in the 1980s and was able to trace the Moss genealogical line back seven generations. Moss Avenue, which used to link Serangoon Road and St

Where to Find Your Ancestors

There are numerous resources available for people to trace their family history. To get you started you should consider:

- Oral accounts (by family members)
- Old photographs
- Passports
- School report cards
- Newspaper articles (from national archives online and Spore newspapers online)
- Birth and death records (from ICA)
- Marriage certificates (from the churches)
- Maps & street directions (from national archives)



Taking Our Place in History

The EA joins in the nation's Heritage Fest

The EA took part in this year's Heritage Fest organised by the National Heritage Board when it opened the Eurasian Heritage Centre at the Eurasian Community House to visitors.

During the two Heritage Fest weekends in July, 135 members of the public visited the centre, which showcases the history, lifestyle and culture of Eurasians in Singapore. The galleries trace the genealogy of

different Eurasian groups and recount the community's experiences during the World War Two.

Tours were conducted by the EA's own Heritage Tour guides Eulyth Fernandez, Lucille Marcus, Percival Shepherdson and Michelle Tessensohn. Other Eurasian heritage sessions were conducted at schools during July and August.

Looking Back, Looking Forward

A newly published book gives major insights into the Eurasians and their culture



An appreciative audience at the book launch



Guests queue up to have their book signed by Dr Rappa



Mr SR Nathan with Dr Rappa and his sons



Dr Antonio L Rappa with his sons and EA manager Lester Low

A book that takes a nostalgic look at the Eurasian past, assesses how Eurasians manage current challenges to the community and gives indications of its future, was launched at the Eurasian Community House on 7 September.

Written by Dr Antonio L Rappa, head of the Management and Security Studies programme at SIM University, the book is entitled *Saudade – The Culture And Security Of Eurasian Communities In Southeast Asia*.

More than 40 guests, including Dr Rappa's colleagues from Singapore Institute of Management School of Business, attended the launch and Mr SR Nathan was guest of honour.

Dr Rappa, who also has in-depth knowledge of the political and military culture of Thailand, says: "As a Eurasian, sooner or later there will be someone who is going to remind you of your ethnic roots, be they Portuguese or other European. Eurasians as a whole are really no different from any other ethnic community."

Dr Rappa has received praise for his analysis of Singapore's Eurasian history, which not only brings to life Eurasian history but also paints a vivid account of Singapore's entire cultural background. Pang

Eng Fong, Professor of Strategic Management (Practice), Lee Kong Chian School of Business, Singapore Management University, says: "Rappa has written a fascinating cultural history of the Eurasian community in Singapore. His study will be of interest to anyone who seeks to understand how a minority group is adjusting to rapid changes and new challenges."

EA's First Vice-President Vincent Schoon told the gathering: "Saudade [a Portuguese word] is a feeling of longing, melancholy, or nostalgia, especially for something or someone that one loves that is now lost. Today, Mr Rappa has chosen to use the word to describe the Eurasian heritage gradually becoming forgotten and lost."

He added: "As you read this book, it will hopefully bring back fond memories and instil willingness and need to find out more of our own culture. Mr Rappa has hit a chord that reverberates strongly within all of us. We need to take that step to fully embrace our culture and then, finally, ourselves."

Saudade – The Culture And Security Of Eurasians Communities In Southeast Asia, priced \$33.10, is available for purchase at the Eurasian Community House.

After their tour of the centre, guests were treated to a performance of the traditional folk dance the Jinkli Nona and feasted on slices of sugee cake.

The EA aims to reach out to schools and involve youngsters, and recruited five young Eurasian students to train as Eurasian dancers under the EA's Lanette Conceicao.



Guests enjoy a range of fun activities at the Heritage Fest



Cutting to the Chase

Actor-singer Candice de Rozario talks about her musical tastes – and her recent role in Singapore Lyric Opera’s musical for young people, *Pursuant*



Main picture: Candice de Rozario; Inset: treading the boards in different roles

What’s your background? Are you from a musical family?

Yes, my father is a retired music teacher. He tried to teach me the piano when I was a child, but I was terrible at it – never practiced! But I was always singing in some choir or other as a child and as a teenager, and I also picked up the drums and various other percussion instruments along the way.

My training is in classical music, but my listening preferences tend towards much heavier stuff. I’ve been in a couple of rock bands and one death metal band. And now I do musical theatre!

How does a singing actor prepare for a role?

The same way one prepares for a non-singing role: it is imperative to understand what your character wants. Musical theatre is very different from opera. In opera the most important thing is the music. In musical theatre, however, the emphasis is on the acting, and there’s more room to play within the framework of the music.

Does being Eurasian gives you more scope in your acting roles?

The great thing about being Eurasian is it’s pretty easy for me to alter my appearance to look more or less Asian depending on the role. Coloured contact lenses, a little hair dye here, a little more liner around the eyes there... But honestly, it hasn’t made much difference. I still have to audition and network as hard as the next actor to get work.

During your career, which were your most memorable performances?

I consider 2010 one of my favourite years ever, because three of my favourite performances in my entire career happened that year: Pangdemonium’s *The Full Monty*, SRT’s *Fried Rice Paradise*,

and I Theatre’s *Arabian Nights*. Another of my faves is The Finger Players’ *Furthest North, Deepest South*, which was directed by the late, great Christina Sergeant. We won two Life! Theatre Awards for that show, did two runs – 2004 and 2006 – and even took it to a festival in Budapest, Hungary.

“Being Eurasian, it’s pretty easy for me to alter my appearance to look more or less Asian depending on the role. But I still have to audition and network as hard as the next actor to get work”

Tell us more about *Pursuant* and the role that you played.

The play takes place in a not-so-fictional country in a not-too-distant future, where dreams have been outlawed and the citizenry has bought into the national agenda. It focuses on a young dreamer named Ethan, played by Windson Liong, who is arrested for dreaming and sentenced to six months at a concentration camp. He is rescued by an underground resistance group called Dream On, led by the Can-Crushing Uncle and the Cardboard Box Auntie, and leads them on a quest to find the Old Man who keeps appearing in his dreams. I play the Sticker Lady – yes, that Sticker Lady – who is one of the resistance fighters.

Telling Tales and Spreading Happiness

Noelle Perera says it is possible to change the world for the better, one bit at a time



In 2006, when Noelle Perera was studying for a degree in English and Comparative Literature at the University of Sydney, she took on part-time work in a fund-raising company. At first, it was simply a job to help pay the rent and food bills.

But in two and half years, she had raised AUD\$1.25 million for good causes. And at that point, she realised that she would never be able to work in a profit-driven industry.

“It was a powerful and humbling realisation for me,” she says. “On top of that, I’d got to speak to so many people who were committed to making change: people I’d debate human rights with; people who regularly wrote letters to governments around the world calling for change; people who didn’t have much money to give, but gave anyway. I’m privileged to have spoken to each of those people.”

“We want to tell stories that inspire hope and make people smile”

Now 29, Noelle works for Our Better World, a project by the Singapore International Foundation.

She says: “Our Better World is all about telling stories. Stories have the power to inspire people, and people have the power to change the world. We believe that a well-told story can and will move a person to action. So we work to find, tell and spread inspiring

stories. We want to tell stories that inspire hope and make people smile. What makes us happiest is when the stories we tell translate into a tangible benefit for a community.”

She recalls a group of people – including a cancer survivor and a group of blind people – who ran the Standard Chartered Marathon for charity last year. “We’d told their stories, and encouraged others to take up the run for charity, too.

“It’s a powerful thing for us to see a group of people who can’t hear making music”

Another success is ‘Toy Story’, about a woman in India called Shweta Chari, who decided to set up a toy bank for at-risk kids to give them a safe place to play. Noelle says: “That was something so simple to me, and so obvious. A lot of the time, we think about very big things, like ending hunger and poverty. And those are great and important things to work towards. But what I love about Shweta’s story is that it’s about bringing joy.”

What’s more, a woman in Sri Lanka was inspired to set up a similar project for kids there, and Our Better World was able to put her in touch with Shweta for guidance.

Our Better World project has also helped ExtraOrdinary Horizons, a Singapore

percussion band comprising members with varying degrees of deafness, to shoot a music video. The band also functions as a social enterprise and conducts sign language courses, workshops and seminars.

The band is now also able to conduct music workshops with deaf children at Krousar Thmey School for the Deaf in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, having carried out a successful crowd funding, which raised US\$4,000 for the project in just two weeks.

To learn more about Our Better World project – and keep these inspiring stories a reality – visit <http://ourbetterworld.org>



This picture and above: ExtraOrdinary Horizons at one of its performances

Up for Grabs

The recent Really, Really Free Market held at the Eurasian Community House showed Singaporean generosity at its best. The market was stocked full of items donated by the public for anybody who wished to take them.

The Really Really Free Market is based on sharing resources, caring for others in the community and improving the collective lives of all. In Singapore, it is run by Post-Museum, which was founded in 2007 as a platform for “examining contemporary life, promoting the arts and connecting people”.

In addition to the generous pile of used clothing, books and knick-knacks on offer, there were also tarot card readings, manicure and nail art services, yoga lessons and hand massage sessions, all offered for free.



Above and top:
Visitors enjoy a really, really good time



Sean Nerney and Gayle Nerva provide entertainment



We are all Singaporean

Celebrating Diversity

More than 2,500 people from all faiths came together to celebrate the 10th annual Inter-Racial Inter-Religious Harmony Night dinner at the Grand Ballroom, Marina Bay Sands, with a kaleidoscope of cultural entertainment.

The event, organised by Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society and supported by the four self-help groups, included diplomats and foreign dignitaries. Guest-of-honour President Tony Tan ceremonially cut the cake. Five Eurasian readers, clad in ethnic attire, read the IRIR pledge in English. Members of the School of Dance represented the EA in a performance and Shanice Hedger and Natalie Sayson sang the English version of the IRIR theme song for the finale.



Guests enjoy night of song and dance



Guests decked out in red and white enjoy the Eurasian cuisine

Patriotic Colours

More than 100 Eurasians and friends turned out in Singapore's colours for a 48th National Day meal at Quentin's in August, turning the restaurant into a sea of red and white.

Guests at the Red & White Lunch helped themselves to what Nancy Fobrogo, who chairs the Social Circle Sub-Committee, described as “the longest buffet of sumptuous dishes I can recall”.

Chato & Qamal provided the music, there were prizes for guests playing the tombola and card draw games, and brisk sales took place at the Teatime Treats, Artsy Craftsy and Anna's Bags stalls. Artsy Craftsy Circle members were delighted when Susan and Freda Pereira presented them with the gift of a sewing machine.



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Dress Code: Formal
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7.30 p.m. to 1.30 a.m. Dinner & Dance
Venue: Concorde Hotel, Concorde Ballroom
100 Orchard Road, Singapore 238840

EA Members: Early Bird Price:
\$125 - Payment by 15 November 2013
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