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Operations/Events Executive
Seow Ting Zhou

EDITORIAL TEAM

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

CONTRIBUTORS

Charlene Lee (Toastmasters),
Yvonne Pereira (Balut),
Ari Van Huizen (Percival
Shepherdson)

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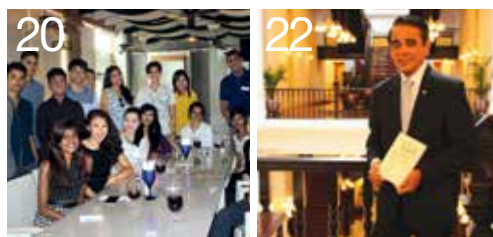


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THE NEWEURASIAN

The magazine of The Eurasian Association, Singapore

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

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139 Ceylon Road, Singapore 429744

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

President's Message



Over the last two months the EA joined members of the Eurasian community and our fellow Singaporeans in numerous celebrations to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Singapore's independence. I hope everyone had an enjoyable time celebrating our 50th National Day. As we commemorate this jubilee year, it gives us the opportunity to reflect how far we have come as a nation as well as to recognise and express our appreciation to the pioneer generation who overcame much adversity, through perseverance and hard work, to build the foundations of the successful nation we live in today.

One of the key ingredients for Singapore's success has been the focus on education as a means to uplift society as well as to equip our youth with the necessary skills to build and grow our nation. This is also one of the key pillars for the EA. On 29 August, we held the Joint Tuition Awards ceremony (page 10). A total of 694 awards were presented to determined students from primary to tertiary levels. After four years, it was once again the EA's turn to organise the ceremony and we were honoured that Minister S Iswaran graced the event as guest of honour.

The collaborative tuition programme (CTP) is a joint initiative by the four self-help groups (SHGs) to provide subsidised tuition classes for students who may be facing difficulties in their studies, to supplement what they are taught in school and to boost self-confidence for their examinations. The CTP has low fees and is easily accessible at more than 70 centres across Singapore. I strongly encourage all our students who would benefit from such assistance to sign up for this programme.

After jointly running the CTP for more than 10 years, the EA will be collaborating with the other SHGs on another joint education initiative. In August, the four SHGs signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Education to jointly run school-based Student Care Centres (SCCs). The SCCs will provide care and learning support for students through mentoring and after-school care in a school environment which is safe and convenient. There are already three SCCs in existence and we are planning to have at least 30 running by 2020. The EA is pleased to work together with the other SHGs on another initiative to ensure that opportunities are created for our young minds to thrive.

On the subject of youth, we organised a Young Eurasian Professionals (YEP) get-together session (page 20), both to help Eurasians to build strong friendships and to find out their views about the EA and the Eurasian community as we know that many of them do not get an opportunity to mingle often with fellow Eurasians. The event was useful to understand their ideas and we are looking forward to planning more events in which the younger generation can participate. I certainly hope that more younger Eurasians step up to be active members of the EA.

In our last issue we celebrated the achievements of Eurasian athletes who did the community and country proud at the 28th SEA Games held in Singapore earlier this year. More details of these achievements are provided in our cover story (page 14). Just as importantly, we also highlight the

achievements of a number of our pioneer generation athletes. All these athletes will tell you that achieving victory is not an easy path; their success required a lot of personal sacrifice, commitment and hard work. It is a lesson to all of us that we can reach greater heights if we are committed, work hard and strive towards our goals.

On 25 July, we held a special event to commemorate Mr George Edwin Bogaars and his contributions to the nation (page 9). It was heartening to welcome distinguished guests, family and friends of Mr Bogaars to the ECH and hear them share their memories of him. He was a great statesman and leader who inspired with his work ethic and vision and was a role model for many. He helmed many key positions in the government, including the head of the civil service, and was responsible for building up Keppel Corporation.

The EA is in the process of producing a book commemorating a number of Eurasians, in addition to Mr Bogaars, who made a significant contribution to Singapore in its first 50 years of nationhood. We will also be organising an event to honour our pioneer generation Eurasians in conjunction with the book launch early next year. More details of this will follow. In the meantime we have a call out for information on pioneers to be honoured (page 8).

Last but not least, the festive season is around the corner and in the spirit of giving, it's important for us to lend a helping hand to those who need it most. We are seeking volunteers and requesting donations (page 12) from members of the community for our Family Support Services (FSS) Christmas Lunch to ensure that those from disadvantaged backgrounds are also able to enjoy the festive season.

In addition, as we do every year, we are organising a Christmas Dinner and Dance, Family Christmas Carnival and Children's Christmas Treat and the New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance. I hope many of you will join us at these events. Apart from celebrating the festive season, these events are opportunities for us to come together to build a stronger Eurasian community.

May this festive season bring you joy and peace.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benett Theseira'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial 'B'.

Benett Theseira
President

Two Eurasians Receive National Day Awards

The NewEurasian talks to Timothy (Tim) de Souza and Carolyn De Souza, who have been honoured for their substantial contributions to Singapore

Timothy James de Souza has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Pingat Jasa Gemilang, PJG. The medal may be awarded to any person “who has performed within Singapore, service of conspicuous merit characterised by resource and devotion to duty, including long service marked by exceptional ability, merit and exemplary conduct”.

Tim served in the RSAF and the Ministry of Defence for a total of 41 years where he flew fighter aircraft, was a member of the first Black Knight team and held many senior Air Force appointments. Tim is a former President of the Eurasian Association and currently serves on its Boards of Trustees as well as on the board of the People’s Association. He is also a member of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights, the Chairman of the Pioneer Generation Appeal Panel and a member of the Founders’ Memorial Committee.

He has previously been awarded the Public Administration Medal, the Public Service Medal and the Public Service Star. EA patron and former minister George Yeo says of Tim: “In his community service, Tim was President of the EA between 1991 and 1999 and during this decade he spearheaded the transformation of the EA into a self-help group and gave it a new spirit.”

What does the term ‘service’ mean to you?
My career in the Air Force and MINDEF put country before self. So, the desire to serve my fellow citizens directly was a natural step. It led me to join the Eurasian Association in 1990.

In the EA, I learnt a new way of working with fellow volunteers who all had the same

desire to serve. So patience, a careful listening ear, a sincere interest in the other person was essential. Building relationships became central. Friendships grew and with this my journey became enjoyable and “service” took on a whole new meaning for me. Now I see so much of the human spirit at work in a relationship. The human spirit is omnipotent. Service for me now is about caring and being concerned for others on an individual basis.

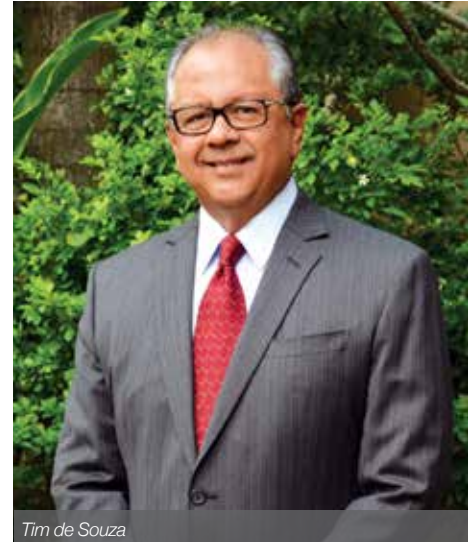
How do you feel about getting The Meritorious Service Medal?

Receiving the Meritorious Service Medal is a great honour. It was totally unexpected as I have always believed that the privilege of being of service to the nation and community is reward in itself. And receiving it in our nation’s Golden Jubilee Year is such a privilege to me, my wife and our family!

Are there any current initiatives that are particularly important to you?

My current role as chairman of the Pioneer Generation Appeals Panel. The Pioneer Generation Package (PGP) was introduced by the government to provide medical benefits to close to 450,000 senior Singaporeans who were 16 by 1965 or who were Singapore citizens by 1986. Some people who have not met these requirements can appeal to become a ‘Pioneer’. As the chairman, I believe in recognising the important roles that the seniors have played in building the nation and evaluate each case individually to ensure that they are able to enjoy the benefits of the PGP.

You were recently appointed to a 15-member committee tasked with coming up with the concept of a memorial to honour



Tim de Souza

Singapore’s founding leaders. Can you tell us about this?

The committee was formed to establish a concept for remembering Singapore’s founding fathers. It’s not only about the people who led Singapore, but also about recognising the value system that they have put in place for Singapore to progress. We are thinking about their personalities, their collective values and how they shaped the nation. Most importantly, we are planning to reach out to people to get their views on what this memorial should be.

What do you think is the younger generation’s mind-set towards service to the nation and what is your advice to them?

I believe strongly that our younger generation understands the concept of service and that they have integrity and are hardworking and compassionate. I am looking forward to more younger people volunteering.

I would also like to highlight that ‘informal volunteering’ is becoming popular among our younger generation and they are eager to sign up for ad hoc volunteering events. This is a good step for people with limited time and special interests. I am convinced that each generation will care for the next and that our society will grow stronger. There is no end to this.



George Yeo, holding a copy of *The NewEurasian*, with his EA hosts at the Eurasian Community House

The Words and Wisdom of *George Yeo*

Former Foreign Minister and current EA patron George Yeo officially launched his book, *George Yeo on Bonsai, Banyan and the Tao*, at the Esplanade on 9 July. The book is a compilation of his past speeches and writings and contains photographs of his personal life and his 23-year tenure in Singapore politics.

The following month, Mr Yeo, who represented the Eurasian community in the Cabinet from 1992 to 2012, met EA trustees and management committee members on 3 August for an informal lunch at Quentin’s restaurant, where his hosts were keen to get him to sign their copies of his book.



Carolyn De Souza (second from right) at the beginning of the trip

On 5 June, Sabah's Mount Kinabalu was struck by a rare 6.0-magnitude earthquake, in which 10 Singaporeans lost their lives. One of the survivors of the trip was teacher Carolyn June De Souza, who has been awarded the Commendation Medal for her courage during the tragedy. The medal is awarded to those who have distinguished themselves through admirable performance and conduct.

What does the term 'service' mean to you?

There are three qualities: open-mindedness, patience and organisational skills. Teachers always need to keep an open mind and be

willing to learn even as we teach. Our real learning occurs when pupils question us and we think further about the subject matter. We are lifelong learners and we gain knowledge and wisdom from those we teach.

Patience is important as the profession can be challenging and we often need to stop and take a breath to calm down. When teachers have patience, it will most likely be emulated by the pupil.

Organisational skills are essential as they help to ensure that the lesson goes smoothly and provides both the teacher and pupil with a structure that creates a conducive learning environment.

What do you feel is the best aspect of the teaching profession?

I feel a sense of accomplishment when I see

pupils change and improve over a period of time. This can't be achieved immediately. Knowing that the positive changes were the result of my teaching can be very rewarding.

What do you feel is the best way to honour victims and survivors of the Sabah earthquake?

It is by remembering the memories shared with the victims and how they touched lives in one way or another. I will always treasure the memories that I shared with each and every one of them, regardless of it being a happy or sad moment. They will live forever in my heart.

For the survivors, we all have gone through a life-changing experience. It taught us that lives can be greatly affected within a split second. To have survived the earthquake is no mean feat and we must honour the survivors for their courage and resilience. We need to cheer them on as they come out of this life experience stronger than before.

“ We can honour the victims of the earthquake by remembering the memories shared with them and how they touched lives in one way or another ”



The display by the Eurasian dancers

Coming Together to *Celebrate Diversity*

More than 2,000 people gathered to celebrate Singapore's diversity at the 12th Inter-Racial Inter-Religious (IRIR) Harmony Nite at Marina Bay Sands on 12 July, which is organised annually by the Thye Kua Kwan Moral Society.

Members of the public folded paper butterflies for the event – and succeeding in breaking the Singapore record for the largest display of paper butterflies.

More than a dozen Eurasian youngsters decked in red and white danced to the music of Portuguese songs *Patiscada* and *Jinkli Nona*, and Shanice Hedger and Ari Van Huizen represented the Eurasian community in reciting the national pledge.



Ari Van Huizen and Shanice Hedger prepare to recite the pledge

Celebrating SG50

Eurasians took part in a host of celebrations – both here and abroad – to mark the nation's 50th birthday. Here's our pick of a few of them



Reciting the National Pledge

JUBILEE SUNDAY LUNCH

The EA's annual Red and White Sunday Lunch to celebrate National Day was an extra-joyful occasion this year as more than 150 guests clad in the Singapore colours packed into the hall of the Eurasian Community House on 15 August to put a Eurasian twist on the nationwide SG50 celebrations.

Management committee member and MC for the event, Charlene Lee, welcomed the guests to the festive Eurasian lunch provided by Quentin's restaurant. The afternoon's entertainment included music from Peter Diaz and games such as 'The Singapore Trivia' and 'Don't Forget the Lyrics (Singapore edition)'. In a new twist to the latter game, guests were tasked with translating the national anthem into English.

A special video montage was then shown to the guests. *The Singapore Song* was a compilation of old and new EA photographs to commemorate the organisation's efforts towards nation building. It showcased the EA's collaborations with other organisations and programmes from its three key pillars – Education, Family Support Services (FSS) and Community Development. The video was produced by film producer Russel Zehnder and Megan Barker, Shanice Hedger and Sabrina Theseira sang the soundtrack song with Nikhil Hogan on guitar.

The idea to produce the song came from Megan's mother, Carla, the EA's 1st Vice-President, who suggested it as a special tribute for the nation's 50th birthday and as a gift to Singapore from the Eurasian community. Megan agreed enthusiastically and she and her three musician friends



The EA management committee and trustee gather for the cutting of the SG50 cake

created a medley from four Singapore favourites: *Our Singapore, Home, One People One Nation* and *Our Singapore*.

EA President Benett Theseira addressed the guests, who then sang the national anthem and recited the national pledge before cutting of the National Day SG50 cake.

The event included a card draw and many guests walked away with prizes. The best-dressed couple award was presented to Gregory and Tapsiy Gomez.

AT HOME WITH CARLA AND MEGAN BARKER – AND SIR STAMFORD RAFFLES

EA's 1st Vice President Carla Baker and her daughter Megan organised National Day celebrations at their home for some 100 family and friends.

The house was decorated with Singapore flags, red and white balloons – and a giant SG50 gold balloon. Carla and Megan are, respectively, the daughter and granddaughter of the late eminent politician and lawyer EW Barker. Megan says: "A special wall was dedicated to my granddad, where we displayed his PAP poster and old pictures of him and Mr Lee Kuan Yew."

Many of the guests were dressed as Singaporean icons, including Phua Chu Kang, Fandi Ahmad, a 'Singapore Girl' SIA stewardess and Sir Stamford Raffles. Megan opted for something tastier; she was decked out as a chilli crab.

Pride of place on the dinner table was a Lana chocolate cake decorated with the words *Majulah Singapura*.

The party continued throughout the night with guests singing favourite National Day songs that Megan had prepared in a special booklet. She says: "The most memorable moment was watching my grandmother dancing in her sarong kebaya to all the old songs. It has been increasingly difficult for her to walk and to see her get up and joget was a special moment for me!"



Rob Lamers, Kylie Flynn, Deborah Barker and Megan Barker with the portrait of Eddie Barker in the background



Festive preparations for the Barkers' National Day Party

NATIONAL DAY WITH THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY

To commemorate SG50, Malay self-help group MENDAKI invited its counterparts – the EA, CDAC and SINDA – to join in the celebrations marking the Malay/Muslim Organisations' National Day Observance Ceremony. Held on 8 August, the event was graced by PM Lee Hsien Loong and attended by 1,500 people. They were treated to food galore, cultural and musical performances, games, booths and a special exhibition of MENDAKI's SG50 postcard stories.

LITTLE RED DOT IN ADELAIDE

Singapore's 50th anniversary shindigs stretched as far as Australia, where Singaporeans and their friends gathered in Adelaide on 9 August for a party initiated by the city's Singapore-born Lady Mayoress, Genevieve Theseira, who moved to Adelaide in 2010 after her marriage to Martin Haese, the Lord Mayor.

Tickets for main event – a steamboat dinner – sold out in less than 48 hours. More than 100 people, including a number of guests who had flown over from Singapore, enjoyed a Singapore event with a dash of Australian style. The 15-course steamboat feast was made from an abundance of fresh Australian produce. Guests were entertained with performances by Chinese, Malay and Indian dance troupes. The evening included recollections of life stories by Singaporeans.

A Nyonya-style birthday cake was donated by Adelaide City Council and cut by the Lord Mayor, Martin Haese, and his wife, Genevieve. An auction was held with the proceeds – AUD\$1,500 – donated to a local charity, Minimisation of Suicide Harm (MOSH), of which the Lady Mayoress is a patron.



Prime Minister Lee leads the reciting of the National Pledge



Genevieve Theseira with Eurasian Adelaide Bollywood dancer Francesca Mcmillan – and a celebratory Singapore Sling

Unity in Orange

Eminent Singaporeans line-up to take part: (from left) Gerald Singham, vice-chairman of OnePeople.sg; Dr Janil Puthuchery, chairman of OnePeople.sg; Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean; Goh Chim Khim, executive director of the Chinese Development Assistance Council; EA president Benett Theseira; Kumaran Barathan, CEO of Singapore Indian Development Association; Ramesh Ganeson, director of OnePeople.sg; and Amatul Jameel Suhani, board member of OnePeople.sg



Photo courtesy of OnePeople.sg

The EA collaborated with OnePeople.sg for the annual Orange Ribbon Run on 29 August to promote racial and religious harmony.

A record 7,000 people turned up at Marina Bay Sands Event Plaza. Former national sprinter C Kunalan led the participants in reciting the National Pledge and Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean then flagged off the family walk segment, which he also joined.



The new executive committee (from left): Charlene Lee, Michael Rodrigues, Peter Lee, Tay Yak Keng, Kevin Sim, Yvonne Pereira and Peter Rodrigues

Word Perfect

The EA Toastmasters Club held its Installation Ceremony of Club Officers for 2015/2016 on 4 July during an event that combined formal pomp with lively speeches.

The event was conducted by Prem Methani – in his capacity as Area E4 director, competent communicator and competent leader – who oversaw the swearing in of the new executive committee, led by the club's president, Charlene Lee.

At the ceremony, district director and distinguished toastmaster Tay Yiang Ping presented the club with a golden gavel. District club growth director and distinguished toastmaster Tay Tiam Teang was also present.

Under the guidance of the immediate past president Kevin Sim, the newly installed officers face the challenge of attracting new members and

increasing the club's visibility while working to improve the quality of the speech-making skills of its existing members.

The members of the newly installed executive committee of the EA TMC are: club president – Charlene Lee; vice-president, education – Michael Rodrigues; vice-president, marketing – PM Carolyn Street-Johns; vice-president, public relations – Peter Rodrigues; secretary – Tay Yak Keng; treasurer – Yvonne Pereira; sergeant-at-arms – Peter Lee; immediate past president – Kevin Sim.

Founded in 2009, the EA Toastmasters Club aims to improve the communication and leadership skills of its members. Membership is open to the public and if you are interested in joining, please contact Rev at revathhi@eurasians.org or 6447 1578 (Ext 207).

Honouring Eurasian Pioneers

The EA is planning a special event next year to honour the older generation of Eurasians in recognition of their contributions to making Singapore the stable and successful nation that it is today. The invitation is open to Eurasians who fit the definition of pioneers, i.e. those born on or before 31 December 1949.

If you qualify, or know somebody who does, please email the EA with the full name, date of birth and contact information of the pioneer to Lestrine at lestrine@eurasians.org or call 6447 1578 (ext 206). The nomination form will be available on the EA website in December 2015.

Lots of Space

How often have you decided to miss out on an event at the Eurasian Community House because parking near the building was such a hassle?



Those worries are now over – the EA is happy to announce that the car park adjacent to the ECH was officially opened to the public on 8 July and has 23 lots. (Next to it is a new playground area.)

So come early, grab your parking spot and enjoy a stress-free EA event!



Photo courtesy of the National University of Singapore Society (NUSS)

Rolling to Victory

Congratulations to EA's Balut Team 2, who emerged as champions in the 31st Inter-Club Balut Competition held at NUSS on 19 August. Pictured with their wine bottle prizes are (from left to right): Wijay Kumar, Joyce Cordeiro, Eddie Tessensohn, NUSS Sports & Recreation Chairman Mohan Balagopal and Aloysius Fernandez. Cheers!

Sugee Cake Plays a Diplomatic Role



EA general manager Lester Low and Yvonne Pereira with Mr and Mrs Sirivat

The much-loved Eurasian sugee cake has been helping to sweeten international relations.

Last year, when the EA hosted HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand, King Bhumibol Adulyadej's third child, at its premises, she enjoyed tasting a slice of the traditional cake during her visit. She was pleased when one of her hosts passed her the recipe and promised to try it and send some back to the EA for tasting.

In August, Mr Chairat Sirivat, Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission of the Royal Thai Embassy, and his wife, Angkana, visited the Eurasian Community House to present the excellent sugee cake baked by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn as gifts to the EA President and members of the Eurasian community. Mr Sirivat spent some time chatting with EA's 2nd Vice-President Yvonne Pereira during the visit.



Mr SR Nathan pays tribute to Mr Bogaars

A Place in Singapore's *History*

George Edwin Bogaars, one of Singapore's most eminent Eurasians, was remembered at a special event held on 25 July at the Eurasian Community House to mark the naming of an NUS professorship after him.

The gathering was a collaboration between the NUS and the Eurasian Association to honour one of its most outstanding pioneers. The late Mr Bogaars was the great grandson of one of the association's founding fathers, Edwin John Tessensohn. Francesca Eber, a member of the EA management committee, comments: "It is a significant achievement that a professorship in History be named after a member of the community, an inspiration for the younger generations of our students to keep striving for excellence."

Professor Brian Farrell, head of the History Department at NUS, spoke about how the endowment for the professorship came about. The History Department and the Endowment & Institutional Development of the NUS joined forces to establish the professorship and the EA donated \$10,000 towards the fund. The professorship will be tasked with developing the History Department to make it a thriving asset to Singapore. The incumbent will bring further value to the university.

Prof Farrell also gave an insight into the important roles that George Edwin Bogaars played in many areas of government: he was head of the Civil Service and worked alongside Dr Goh Keng Swee in the Ministries of Finance and Defence, played a primary role in the setting up of the Singapore Armed Forces and was head of Special Branch. Despite his commitments, he attended the NUS, where he wrote a thesis in history.

Prof Farrell described Mr Bogaars' great ability to size up people. He said: "The most important challenge he faced in his biggest

jobs was to know who was the right person for the right job. He couldn't have succeeded in all those very demanding civil service senior appointments if he didn't know who to put where, and when, and to do what particular job."

Among the guests was former President SR Nathan, a patron of the association, who had worked with Mr Bogaars, and spoke fondly of their time together.

During the course of the afternoon, Mr Bogaars' family, former colleagues and friends shared anecdotes of his life. Christina Theseira, wife of the late Boris Theseira, spoke about the Morning Glory Tennis Club where her husband and George Bogaars were members. His cousins remembered

him as a kind playmate in childhood. His nephews, Christopher and Nigel Bogaars, remembered that their uncle had given them career advice. Former colleagues joked that the popular Mr Bogaars was known among them as "The Greatest Ever Boss".

EA President Benett Theseira concluded the evening by saying that the fund-raising efforts were nearing their target and thanked the many Eurasians who had responded to a call for donations in an issue of *The New Eurasian* earlier this year.

Professor Farrell is the Head of the History Department at NUS. He has been lecturing at NUS for more than two decades in military history, European history and the history of empires and imperialism.



George Bogaars (far left), in a photo taken in 1945



Professor Brian Farrell



George Bogaars (left) and his cousin Edwin Tessensohn



The winning line-up including Josh Neubronner (far left) and Euphrasia Francisco (third from right)

Successful Together

Students who excelled in the Collaborative Tuition Programme received awards at a ceremony attended by Minister S Iswaran

Six Eurasians were among a record number of students who received Popular bookstore vouchers at the 12th Joint Tuition Awards ceremony held at ITE College Central on 29 August.

The 694 recipients, who are students in the Collaborative Tuition Programme run by the four self-help groups, were awarded for their success in examinations including PSLE, N-levels and O-levels.

The guest of honour, Mr S Iswaran, Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Home Affairs and Second Minister for Trade and Industry, said: "The self-help groups foster a culture of self help by reaching out to those within their respective communities who need a helping hand. They work collaboratively with each other in the spirit of multi-racialism and mutual help."

The EA encourages Eurasian students to register for the CTP programme as it provides affordable and subsidised tuition at conveniently located venues throughout the island.

This year's awarding-winning Eurasian students are:

PSLE: Euphrasia Marie Francisco and Adriel Fernandez

N-Level: Josh Mendel Neubronner and Esmeralda Crisanta Apps

O-Level: Sarah Bethany Rozario and Nadine Anne De Jong

Fusion Food

A recipe book celebrating Singapore's cuisine aims to inspire the next generation of cooks



Representatives of the self-help groups present Minister S Iswaran with Singapore's Multiracial Recipe at the book's launch during the Joint Tuition Awards Ceremony

The self-help groups have collaborated to publish an SG50 cookbook entitled *Singapore's Multiracial Recipe*. The book was presented to Minister S Iswaran as a token of appreciation during the Joint Tuition Awards Ceremony 2015. The book celebrates Singapore's multiracial culture and food, and aims to introduce the country's food heritage to the younger generation.

The nation's cultural diversity is represented in 50 dishes – each showcasing Chinese, Malay, Indian or Eurasian influences. Every recipe, from Teochew-style steamed fish, to mee soto, briyani rice, and devil curry, has been handed down by a member of the pioneer generation to ensure the continuing of Singapore's rich culinary traditions.

SHGs Join Forces to Set Up Student Care Centres

The four self-groups have entered into a new partnership to provide better help for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds

The four self-help groups have agreed to jointly run 30 school-based student care centres. The SCCs aim to provide care and learning support for students by tapping on the combined resources of all four community groups.

The centres, which will be for both primary and secondary children, will be held at schools; pupils whose schools have a centre can remain there after classes; in schools without an SCC, pupils can visit the nearest available centre.

There are already three SCCs in existence and the remainder are planned to be in place by 2020. They will provide care and support for students after school, and run programmes to meet the broad range of the students' social, emotional, recreational, physical, intellectual and creative needs.

They will also provide coaching and mentoring for students who need additional support.

The Ministry of Education signed a memorandum of understanding regarding this partnership with the Chinese Development Assistance Council (CDAC), Yayasan Mendaki, Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA) and the Eurasian Association at Bendemeer Primary School on 13 August.

The partnership was initiated by the joint commitment of the four SHGs and will enable schools to better support the holistic development of students. EA President Benett Theseira says: "The EA has always had a much broader focus beyond education, looking at family support services and community development, so that holistic approach is an area in which we can add value."



A Battle for Independence

When a lack of job opportunities makes life a financial struggle, it's good to have a helping hand



Singaporeans are renowned for their work ethic and Mark (whose name we have changed) would like nothing more than to find a job so that he could support himself financially again and contribute to society. He checks the newspaper adverts daily and calls organisations which he thinks might offer him the chance of employment. However, at the age of 86 he is becoming resigned to the fact that his working days are irretrievably behind him.

A delightfully cheerful man, who describes himself as "full of jokes", he became a single-father in 1981, when he was divorced. His daughter was six at the time and he says he dedicated his life to working hard and taking care of her.

He spent almost his entire working life with Cable and Wireless, which he joined in 1947. He worked there for 38 years before moving to two different jobs. However, he says he was asked to leave by these last two employers on the grounds that he had passed the retirement age and was too old. He says: "Even though I am fit, healthy, can walk and talk, I am told to leave as I am too old." Despite trying

his luck with organisations willing to hire retirees, "when they hear my age is 86, I am rejected immediately," he says, momentarily disheartened. "I have even considered lying about my age but decided against it," he adds.

After his last job in 2008, life has been a struggle. His daughter now lives in Switzerland and he lives with his elder brother. His sole support is from his siblings, who have not only accommodated him but also prepare lunch and dinner for him. He relies on the EA for financial support.

“ Even though I am fit, healthy, can walk and talk, I am told I am too old ”

He lights up as he speaks about the EA. He says: "I have to thank Ram and Quentin Pereira for all their assistance to me. Quentin [the owner of Quentin's restaurant] introduced me to FSS case manager Ram and I truly appreciate their kind hearts." Currently, Mark

receives \$150 financial assistance, plus food and transport vouchers from the EA each month.

He admits to having two major regrets in his life. Firstly he misses his daughter and longs to see her. "If I had the money, I will definitely visit her more often or live with her but the cost of living in Switzerland is too high," he says. He also regrets never buying a flat as it would have been a useful asset in his current circumstances.

When asked what his plans are for the near future, Mark jokes and says, "I need an electric table fan!"

He encourages people to work hard and save when they can. And he requests: "Please donate to the poor if you have the means to do so. There's always someone who needs a helping hand."

You can help elderly people in similar financial hardship to Mark, by contributing to the EA's fund-raising efforts. To donate, please visit: <http://www.eurasians.org.sg/contributions/fundraising/>

Be a Secret Santa!

A donation this Christmas can give seasonal cheer to fellow Eurasians in need

The EA's Family Support Services (FSS) brings joy each year to disadvantaged Eurasian families and elderly people through its annual Christmas Lunch. This year's event will be held on Sunday 6 December and will include a Eurasian festive meal and musical entertainment.

For many FSS clients, the party is one of the few social events they can attend during the year. However, owing to financial constraints, the EA is able to organise only one major function a year as most of the donations it receives are earmarked for day-to-day financial assistance such as food rations.

The cost per table is \$600 and the FSS also provides each client with a Christmas hamper. If you can help with any amount, please pay your cheque to 'EA Family Support Services' or pay by interbank transfer. You can also donate via our website: http://www.eurasians.org.sg/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/FSS_Donation_Form.pdf

Any amount made above \$100 is tax deductible. In conjunction with SG50, all qualifying donations made in 2015 will be eligible for a tax deduction of 300 per cent. Also this year, every \$1 raised will be matched by the government under its Care & Share scheme for charities. For more information, please contact Ram at 6447 1578 (Ext 210) or e-mail ram@eurasians.org



Passing the Baton

In the past, some of Singapore's finest sports people were Eurasians.
Are we seeing a resurgence of the Eurasian sporting spirit?

Eurasians have always featured prominently in Singapore's sporting arena. Indeed, the Singapore Recreation Club (SRC) originated as a sports club exclusively for Eurasian men and soon also opened its doors to Eurasian women.

Today, Eurasians have emerged once again as some of the nation's brightest sporting talents. When the republic hosted the SEA Games this year, the nation had a rare opportunity to catch a glimpse of the nation's top young athletes – among them many Eurasians who excelled in swimming, rugby and netball among other sports. The record-breaking medal haul in the games was inspiring. Will it spur on the Eurasian community to greater sporting glory? *The New Eurasian* talks to Eurasian athletes – the pioneers and the new generation.

The Pioneers

AN OLYMPIAN FIRST

In many sports, the Olympics are the pinnacle of achievement and it was a Eurasian, the late Lloyd Oscar Valberg, a high jumper, who in 1948 became the first Singaporean Olympian.

Name: Lloyd Oscar Valberg

Sport: High Jump

Notables: First Singaporean Olympian (1948)

Did you know?

Lloyd made his own hurdles and measured them himself to practise every day.

Lloyd's most memorable moment was a race in the 110m hurdles heats, in which he beat two-time Olympic gold medallist Harrison Dillard, years after the latter's prime. His nephew, Colin Schooling recalls that Lloyd's pride had been not in the result but in the sheer privilege of racing alongside the legend.



Lloyd Valberg (in the centre, wearing sunglasses)

Colin says that Lloyd used to train alone at the Padang after the Japanese invasion, where he made his own hurdles and measured them himself to practise every day; and that he also practised the high jump at the SRC Club grounds where there was a sand pit – sponge mattresses did not exist in those days. "We can all take pride that he was our Olympic hero, even without a coach but with a lot of passion, determination and belief," says Colin.

SPRINTING INTO HISTORY

No mention of Singapore's sports pioneers can omit the name of Mary Klass. The



Former national sprint champion Mary Klass

Name: Mary Klass

Sport: Sprinting

Notables: • National Sprinting Champion

• One of the two females in the 1956 Olympic Games

Did you know?

Her parents did not encourage her sporting ambitions.

80-year-old was one of the only two Singaporean women to be part of the 45-strong team at the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne. The former national sprinting champion admits her parents did not encourage her sporting ambitions:

"In those days, parents were very strict, and even my father was against it," she says. She adds that the financial rewards that top sports people enjoy these days were scarce a generation ago.

Former teacher Cedric Monteiro, now 77, was known as the 'Sprint Champion of Singapore' and 'The Flying School Master'. He represented Singapore in the Malaysia Sports Festival and set a new national record for Singapore at 42.0 seconds in the sprint relay – a record unbeaten for six years.



Cedric Monteiro – now, and as an 18-year-old

Name: Cedric Monteiro

Sport: Sprinting

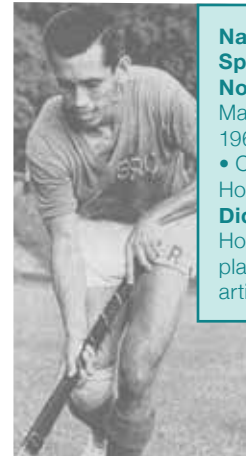
Notables: • Set new national record for Singapore

• Silver medalist in the first SEAP Games 4x100 relay event

Did you know?

He set a new national record for Singapore at 42.0 seconds in the sprint relay.

He recalls: "I represented Singapore in the first SEAP Games [the forerunner to the SEA Games] and won a silver medal in the 4x100 relay – it was an amazing moment." One of his main challenges was running on cinder tracks that became waterlogged after a rainy day. "In my day, I had a cobbler to make the spikes on my shoes and my mother used to sew my running shorts," he recalls.



Name: Douglas Nonis

Sport: Hockey

Notables: • Member of Malaysian team in the 1964 Olympic Games

• Coach for Singapore Hockey Squad

Did you know?

Hockey was previously played on grass, not artificial turf.

OUT IN THE FIELD

Douglas Nonis, 78, was a member of the Malaysian

hockey team in the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo and later became a coach for the Singapore hockey squad that competed in the SEA Games in Jakarta in 1979. "The Olympics training was rigorous; the team stayed, ate and trained together," he says. He points out that these days the game is played on artificial turf, not grass. "Previously, we needed a lot of skill to control the ball on uneven ground. The entire game has been transformed and many original rules have also been changed."



Dorothy Tessensohn receiving a prize during one of her games

Dorothy Tessensohn, is another hockey pioneer. She played the game for more than 20 years, competing in many international events such as the Asian Games in Seoul in 1986. She believes that artificial turf has made the game more difficult. "I think it is tougher now; players must be faster and it's a whole new ball game compared to my time."

Name: Dorothy Tessensohn

Sport: Hockey

Notables:

Competed in the 1986 Asian Games

Did you know?

She played hockey competitively for more than 20 years.



Annabel Pennefather leads the team

Lawyer and former national women's hockey captain Annabel Pennefather continues to represent Singapore nationally as a high-profile sports administrator. Her advice to the current generation of young athletes is: "If you want to realise your aspirations, you must be prepared to push yourself beyond your comfort zone and beyond limits which others set for you. Sports participation not only benefits you physically but also helps the development of valuable skills and a disciplined outlook in your life. It's not all about winning but also about losing; and that when you don't win, you just have to pick yourself up, learn from your mistakes and try to do better the next time."

Name: Annabel Pennefather

Sport: Hockey

Notables: Former captain of the national women's hockey team

Did you know?

She is now a high profile sports administrator representing Singapore.

ON THE BALL

Colin Schooling, 67, played softball at national level and is still passionate about the game. He vividly remembers the catch he made in centre field when he represented Singapore against the hosts at the 1968 Asian Men's Softball Championship in Manila and says the moment was his biggest sporting achievement. He feels that the sport is well supported both at club and national level but says: "Parents, schools and clubs must encourage and stimulate children from young to embrace and enjoy sports 'til it becomes a part of our culture."

"If you want to realise your aspirations, you must be prepared to push yourself beyond your comfort zone and beyond limits which others set for you"

Name: Colin Schooling

Sport: Softball

Notables: Competed in the 1968 Asian Men's Softball Championship

Did you know?

His proudest moment was when he made a catch in centre field in the 1968 Asian Men's Softball Championship.



Colin Schooling (standing second from right)

Bowled Out?

Some of the sports prevalent in the pioneer days – such as boxing, cricket and bowling – have fallen out of fashion – but the people who played them haven't lost hope of a revival.

Melvin Hoeden, 72, was of Olympic boxing standard, although for personal reasons he did not attend the 1964 Olympics. However, he competed in the SEA Games the following year. He says that 50 years ago, Singaporeans would gather to watch boxing events. "There used to be 15 to 18 fights a year but now it's rare to see even three." He adds that in the past, the police and military competed in events here and abroad and more than 20 Eurasians were active in the boxing scene.



Melvin Hoeden during his younger days



A youthful John Martens with his late wife

John Martens, 83, clearly recalls scoring his first 'duck' during a cricket game at the Police Training School, in which he represented St Joseph's Institution, but says that during the 1970s, pupils were encouraged

to focus on academic rather than sporting success and a number of sports such as cricket and road relays began to fall out of favour. John attributes cricket's disappearance mainly to the lack of land in Singapore. "There are not enough grounds in Singapore and I suppose the culture in Singapore has transformed from colonial days."

Rosemary Tessensohn, 70, started lawn bowling in the early 1950s and triumphed in the 1999 SEA Games when she won a gold medal. Although lawn bowling is still popular in countries such

as Australia and the UK, it's no longer a high-profile sport here. Rosemary says: "The main reason for this is that the sport is not being promoted in schools or community centres."



Rosemary Tessensohn

The New Generation



Max Ducourneau (centre) celebrates winning a SEA Games bronze medal with his team mates

The recent SEA Games echoed the sporting days of yesteryear in the number of Eurasians who triumphed in their field. Could we be heading for another golden age of Eurasians in the sporting arena?

THE SWIMMER



Joseph Schooling, Singapore's next Olympic hopeful

Name: Joseph Schooling

Sport: Swimming

Notables: • Won 9 gold medals in the 2015 SEA Games

• Broke a 33-year record for 50m freestyle in the 2015 SEA Games

• Broke national records at 2015 World Aquatics Championships

• Won Singapore's first medal in the FINA World Aquatics Championships

Did you know?

He is Lloyd Valberg's great-nephew and Colin Schooling's son.

Joseph Schooling – Lloyd Valberg's great-nephew and Colin Schooling's son – is Singapore's sporting superstar and much has been written about his career over the last few years. With nine gold medals at this year's SEA Games 2015 (breaking the 33-year record for the 50m freestyle in the

process) and success at the Commonwealth Games and FINA World Championships, the 20-year-old is the nation's best hope for the upcoming Olympics in Rio.

THE RUGBY PLAYER

Chloe Besanger, 21, used to think that rugby was "scary, manly, dangerous and rough". Little did she know then that she would fall in love with the sport and walk away with a silver medal at the recent SEA Games.



Chloe Besanger with her SEA Games silver medal

Her aim now is to represent

Singapore at the next Asian Games.

Name: Chloe Besanger

Sport: Rugby

Notables: Silver medalist at the 2015 SEA Games

Did you know?

She used to play handball and touch rugby.

“I used to think that rugby was scary, manly, dangerous and rough”

Name: Max Ducourneau

Sport: Rugby

Notables: Bronze medalist at the 2015 SEA Games

Did you know?

He started playing in rugby-loving France.

Max Ducourneau, 21, received a bronze medal in Men's Rugby 7s at the SEA Games. He started playing in rugby-loving France, where he attended boarding school. When he returned to Singapore for his National Service, he joined the Rugby 7s squad and began training. "We prepared a whole year for SEA Games and all the pain and sacrifice was a 100 per cent worth it," he says.

He believes that more can be done to improve the sporting culture in Singapore by allowing national athletes to train full time and even exempting them from national service if they have the potential to represent Singapore on the international stage.



Samantha Neubronner (left), wrapped in glory

THE SAILOR

Samantha Neubronner's brother, Bryan – her role model – is passionate about football and sailing and introduced her to boats when she was nine.

Bryan won a bronze medal for football in the Youth Olympic Games 2010 and Samantha says: "Maybe he should thank the EA for the football training courses for kids in 2002 which he attended at seven years old."

Samantha began to compete, climbing up the rankings – until she crossed the line to win a gold medal at the recent SEA Games. The special moment came, she says, when she knew they were going to sing the Singapore national anthem. Her ambition, now, is to get through her 'A' levels.

Name: Samantha

Neubronner

Sport: Sailing

Notables: Gold medalist at the 2015 SEA Games

Did you know?

She won first in the 2010 Optimist Oceania Championships.



Water-skier Mark Leong celebrates his SEA Games gold medal

Name: Mark Leong

Sport: Waterskiing

Notables: Gold medalist at the 2015 SEA Games

Did you know?

He took a gap year from school to prepare for the SEA Games.

THE WATER SKIER

At the age of 10, Mark Leong, who is Chinese-Singaporean and part German, was introduced to wakeboarding and showed promise, but

three years later he tried water-skiing and found his true watery paradise. Now 17, he has proved his talent over and again.

He took a gap year from school to prepare for the SEA Games and trained daily – a sacrifice that secured him the gold medal for the water-skiing men's slalom. He says: "It was at that point that the culmination of all my hard work and the support of my family, friends and coaches had come to fruition." He is representing Singapore in November at the Asian Waterski and Wakeboard Championships in Thailand and the World Waterski Championships in Mexico.

THE NETBALLER

Shelby Koh, 20, the daughter of a Singaporean Chinese father and Australian

mother, grew up in Perth where her mother was a netball coach and moved to Singapore when she was 15. Her elder sisters played netball and she naturally followed suit. She was thrilled with her gold medal during the SEA Games (she did a term of her university course online while training and flew back to Sydney for her exams) but considers her biggest achievement as being selected for the Netball World Cup. "As spectators, you are able to see the ecstasy or disappointment on a person's face but it can be hard to understand the reason behind it. Nobody sees the hours put in by the whole team," she says.



A jubilant Shelby Koh (left)

Name: Shelby Koh

Sport: Netball

Notables: Gold medalist at the 2015 SEA Games

Did you know?

She can make her eyes shake.

THE JUDO PLAYER

Tania Forichon grew up mostly in Switzerland and started judo at the age of seven, taking part in her first competition at 10 years old. After her first bronze medal in a regional competition, she realised her passion for the sport and was pleased when she was signed up to Singapore's national team after her return to Singapore.



Tania Forichon prepares for battle

Name: Tania Forichon

Sport: Judo

Notables: Bronze medalist at the 2015 SEA Games

Did you know?

She took part in her first competition when she was 10 years old.

She says she started training for the SEA Games in 2014 and trained about 10 times a week, including a month with the team in Mongolia training with world-class athletes. She says "It has been a tough two years as I had to juggle my academic and sporting commitments". But it was worth it; winning a bronze medal in front of her family and friends was "exhilarating".



Shelby Koh takes aim



Tania Forichon sends her opponent over the top



The 2015 National Football Academy team including Benjamin Davis (second row, fifth from right) and Katz Ellison (back row, fifth from right)

The Lions Roar



Jacob Mahler has his eye on the ball

Name: Jacob Mahler
Sport: Football
Notables: Competed in the Lion City Cup Tournament
Did you know?
 He attends St Joseph's Institution, which finished second in this year's B Division football championship.

The Lion City Cup Tournament was held from 14 to 16 August. The Singapore Under-16 team included four Eurasian footballers; Benjamin Davis, Jacob Mahler, Katz Ellison and Jordan Vestering, who along with their team played Liverpool Football Club (Under-15). The team's performance was generally described as gutsy and impressive and after a 3-3 draw, the match was decided on a cliff-hanging penalty shoot-out, which the Singapore team lost 5-3.

Name: Katz Ellison
Sport: Football
Notables: Competed in the Lion City Cup Tournament
Did you know?
 He played as a defender in the AFC U16 Championship Qualifiers.

“I play my heart out when I represent Singapore!”

The boys have all been playing from the ages of three to seven. Benjamin jokes: “It all started when I started kicking things on the floor as a toddler!” Most of their families are involved in sports. In March, Benjamin enjoyed the chance to join a professional team during a special 10-day stint in northern France. Katz and Jordan

Name: Benjamin Davis
Sport: Football
Notables: Competed in the Lion City Cup Tournament
Did you know?
 He was selected for a training stint at Metz's highly acclaimed youth academy in France this year.

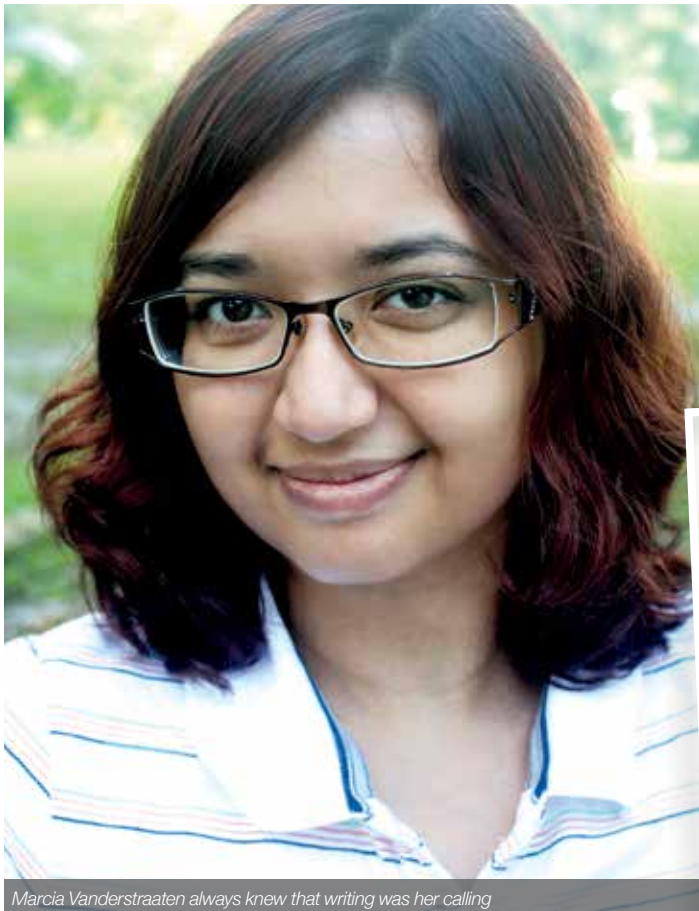


Number 3 Jordan Vestering races his opponent to the ball

Name: Jordan Vestering
Sport: Football
Notables: Competed in the Lion City Cup Tournament
Did you know?
 He scored a goal in the 2015 AFF U-16 Youth Championship.

believe that the biggest challenge with football is to balance the game with their academic studies but say that being in the Singapore Sport School helps them as time is set aside for training.

And Jacob says: “I give my 100 per cent for every game and play my heart out when I represent Singapore!”



Marcia Vanderstraaten always knew that writing was her calling

Write Minded

Playwright Marcia Vanderstraaten, 31, discusses what motivates her to write plays for a living



Marcia with her family

Marcia Vanderstraaten first discovered a taste for drama in secondary school and tried her hand at writing some skits – “They were never performed, thankfully!” she laughs – but her literature teacher recognised in her a theatrical talent and cast her as Banquo in a school production of Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*. The experience of acting cemented her love of the stage, but she nevertheless decided that “I ought to stick to playwriting”.

She took a degree in Theatre Studies at the National University of Singapore, but then worked for a year at the Catholic Archdiocese before going into teaching. She enjoyed teaching and working with young people – but something was missing. And she eventually accepted that “writing is my first calling” and applied for a place at NYU Tisch Schools of the Arts Asia, from where she graduated with a Masters of Fine Arts in Dramatic Writing.

She is now working at theatre company WILD RICE as an associate artist, primarily writing scripts for their productions. One of her most memorable works was a play on teaching, entitled *Micromanage Overwork Exaggerate*. She staged it with a good friend, Christopher Fok, in August last year under their collective name, The Common Folk.

She says: “I wrote it as a sort of a love letter to the teaching profession. It was based on my own experiences as a teacher. It was a

“*As Eurasians, we naturally look for places to blend in, and adopt personas*”

huge achievement as Chris and I did almost everything ourselves – writing, directing, producing and even performing.” Their hard work paid off and they sold out three of the four shows. Equally importantly, she says the response from the audience was overwhelmingly positive and many teachers were encouraged. It was proof to her that theatre can inspire people and communities in a positive way.

Marcia also provides playwriting advice to WILD RICE’s youth wing, young and WILD, which is dedicated to training and nurturing young talent in theatre. Its aim is to help young people aged between 17 and 25 to develop all-round skills in theatre-making. She says she advises them that the best way to decide about a future in theatre is to venture into other jobs first. “If you get a job that pays well and gives you comfort and yet you can’t get rid of the itching desire to do theatre, then go do it,” she says.

Asked if there are any unique cultural qualities that help make Eurasians a natural fit in the

theatre scene, she pauses. “I do hesitate to call myself Eurasian. I identify more with the term mixed heritage”, she says. Her father is of Anglo-Dutch descent and her mother of Malayalee (Indian) descent and although her identity card refers to her as a Eurasian, she feels that she has no cultural connection to what is generally accepted as Eurasian, for example the Malaccan-Portuguese heritage.

However, she believes that being a minority among minorities is something that necessarily influences how a lot of young Eurasians negotiate with their surroundings. She says: “As Eurasians, we naturally look for places to blend in, and adopt personas. This can tend to point young Eurasian people towards the theatre.”

“*We did almost everything ourselves – writing, directing, producing and even performing*”

As for the future, Marcia has two major productions coming up. She is directing one of the shows at the Substation in November, entitled *A Twisted Kingdom*, a fairy tale with modern consequences. She concludes the interview by laughing and saying, “Playwriting has been one hell of a ride so far!”



The Young Eurasian Professionals group take a break during the meeting

Finding a Young Eurasian Identity

Young professionals gathered over lunch to discuss how they can continue the Eurasian legacy

Nearly two dozen young men and women from different backgrounds attended a Young Eurasian Professionals (YEP) get-together at Singapore Recreation Club to discuss how they would like to organise or participate in events in collaboration with the EA.

EA President, Benett Theseira attended the event on 22 August to provide the guests with an overview of the EA and its services, and the participants were keen to learn both about the history of the association and how it continues to assist the Eurasian community today.

After lunch, they were asked to split up into groups to think about what makes them unique as Eurasians, why it's important to build a sense of community among young Eurasians and what events they would be interested in the EA organising. Among the suggested events that were of interest to the participants were those related to sports, the arts, youth leadership and volunteer work, and many were also keen to join in social gatherings. Another key suggestion was organising career workshops as many in the group were keen to learn from mentors in their respective work industries.

The dialogue was explorative and constructive and there was a consensus that it is important for the younger generation to maintain a close-knit Eurasian community.



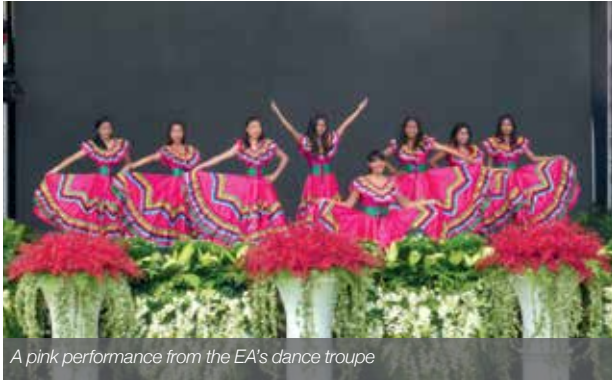
Marcel Scully shares his views



Amanda Hogan makes a point to the gathering

Culture in the Park

Jubilee celebrations in the Botanic Gardens featured plenty of Eurasian activity



A pink performance from the EA's dance troupe

The Botanic Gardens – newly inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site – was the idyllic setting for the SG50 Carnival and Concert from 7 to 9 August, in which the Eurasian community made its mark. The gardens hosted a slew of activities, including music performances, heritage walks and movie screenings to mark Singapore's 50th birthday.

The carnival included a Eurasian booth run by the EA and Quentin's restaurant called Eurasian Delights, which displayed information about the Eurasian community, its history and heritage, giving members from other ethnic communities the chance to learn about the unique Eurasian culture. Eurasian delicacies, including devil's curry, meringue, salted fish pickle and the popular sugee cake were sold to the appreciative visitors.

Eurasian Vernetta Lopez, one of the two MCs presiding over the carnival's concert held at the Symphony Stage, was delighted that the event opened with eight dancers from the EA's dance troupe jiving to the traditional Portuguese folk dance 'Patuscada' and 'Jinkli Nona' – a performance, she said, that was close to her heart.

Eurasians Around Town

The EA has been travelling throughout Singapore to spread the word about its culture as part of the SG50 celebrations

The Eurasian Association is in full swing for SG50, staging exhibitions around the island.

Heritage booths have been set up to showcase the Eurasian history, culture and heritage to visitors, who enjoy trying on the traditional Portuguese costumes and learning to play traditional games from the past such as five stones and pick-up sticks. The EA's dance troupe has also performed a number of folk dances including their Eurasian 'theme song', *Jinkli Nona*.

The EA has been involved in the following events that have assisted to create awareness about the Eurasian community in Singapore:

- Jalan Kayu Day (4 July)
- Teck Ghee International Cultural Day (11 July)
- Inter-Racial Inter-Religious Nite (12 July)
- Choa Chu Kang Family Day (26 July)
- Jubilee Weekend Concert and Carnival at Botanic Gardens to commemorate it becoming a UNESCO World Heritage Site (7-9 Aug)
- Retired Senior Volunteer Programme's (RSVP) event during National Senior Volunteer Month at Toa Payoh HDB Mall (4 Sept)
- People's Association (PA) One Community Fiesta at Marina Barrage (5 Sept)
- Tampines GRC Mid-Autumn Festival at Tampines Community Plaza (19 Sept)

Bos Papiah Kristang?

If you can understand the heading ('Do you speak Kristang?'), you may be able to help

Kevin Martens Wong, a Eurasian undergraduate at the National University of Singapore, is researching what has happened to the Kristang language in Singapore – and what might become of it in the future.

His Bachelor of Arts degree includes linguistics and for his *Peskisa di Papi Kristang na Singapura* (Kristang Language in Singapore project) he is looking for Kristang speakers to interview from Singapore, Malaysia, Australia – or elsewhere – and hopes eventually to publish his results.

If you speak Kristang, and would like to help out, please contact Kevin via email at a0110481@nus.edu.sg



A Historic Career

More than 40 years ago, Leslie Danker joined Raffles Hotel staff as a maintenance supervisor. Since then, he's rubbed shoulders with some of its most famous guests to inform them about its history

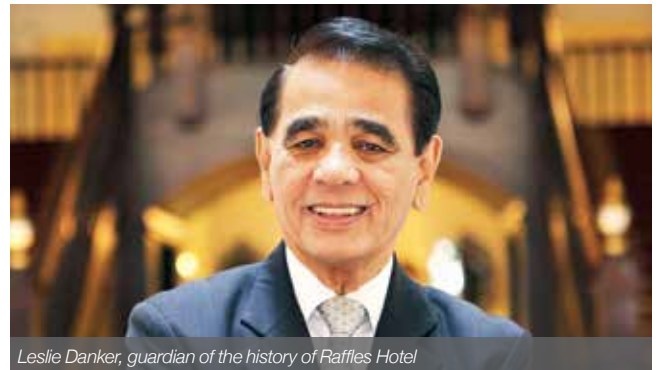
As a school boy, Leslie Danker walked past Raffles Hotel every day after his classes at St Joseph's Institution. He never tired of its architecture and that, combined with a fascination for history, made him curious to discover what went on behind its walls.

In 1972, he decided to apply for a job there and joined as the maintenance supervisor – and he has been there ever since. He recalls fondly: "This was the place where I had my first beer!" After his first position, he worked in several other departments including food and beverage, catering, human resources (then known as Personnel) and on front office duties.

“ *This was the place where I had my first beer!* ”

As his responsibilities evolved, he had many opportunities to mix with the hotel's guests. Many of them questioned him about the hotel and its history, which led him to conduct his own research. He says: "At that time, there was no Google. I had to go to the National Library and look at media clippings and documents to find out about the hotel's rich history."

On 4 March 1987, when the hotel was listed as a national monument, a new company came on board to carry out restoration works, and



Leslie Danker, guardian of the history of Raffles Hotel

as a result many of the staff were asked to leave their jobs. However, the new management was impressed with Leslie's knowledge about the hotel and, understanding his passion for the job, they asked him to continue with his work at the hotel as a site supervisor.

During the restoration, he assisted the architects, engineers, interior designers and workers in every way he could, discovering not only the foundation of the 10-room bungalow, which the Armenian Sarkies Brothers bought from an Arab trader and converted to the original 10-room Raffles Hotel, but also horse skeletons and many other interesting aspects about the place. He made notes of his findings, documented the changes and compiled them into a black book to ensure all the information was archived.

He also collected press releases, which the hotel issued during the restoration, which described the history and restoration of particular parts of the hotel, such as the main building. He says: "I treasure my black book and the media reports. I am the only member of staff who has witnessed the restoration of Raffles Hotel and can speak with authority about its history."

When the hotel reopened on 16 September 1991, Leslie was appointed to the position of resident historian of Raffles Hotel. Every day, he gets several requests from hotel guests to provide them with a historical tour of the hotel. Leslie is also the spokesperson for the hotel's media interviews regarding its history. Most memorably, he gets to meet famous people, from the late pop star Michael Jackson and actor Jackie Chan to Britain's Queen Elizabeth.

Now 76, Leslie's biggest challenge in his job these days is coping with modern technology, which he jokingly refers to as 'Star Wars'. He says: "Back then, everything was manual. The amount of books we collected were stored in a very large room. I am still learning to adapt to computers and e-mails."

“ *At that time, there was no Google. I had to go to the National Library to find out about the hotel's history* ”

He is currently busy with both the centenary celebrations of the hotel's invention of the Singapore Sling and the nation's 50th birthday celebrations. In conjunction with these events, Leslie was tasked with training several guides to give special, historic tours of the hotel.

He says: "Raffles Hotel is here to stay and people will continue loving its heritage."

Leslie has written a book about the history of the hotel, titled, *Memoirs of a Raffles Original*. It is available for sale at the Raffles Hotel Gift Shop and leading book shops.



A royal encounter with HRH Queen Elizabeth II



Jackie Chan signs a photo of his meeting with Leslie



Thrilling! Leslie meets Michael Jackson

Guiding the Future Flock of Eurasians

Percival Shepherdson is a stalwart of the EA's volunteering community and discusses here how he gets as much out of it as he puts in



Percy Shepherdson

Percival Shepherdson – ‘Percy’ to his friends – has been volunteering with the EA for the past 15 years. He signed up when the EA's past president, the late Brian Davenport, asked him to assist the Family Support Services department. Despite his work commitments at that time, Percy was happy to get on board and began his volunteer work by delivering food rations to needy families, spending at least three days a month carrying heavy loads to the doors of grateful FSS clients. He also finds time to volunteer with the Singapore Prison Service.

Percy, now 68 and retired, began his working life as a clerk at the Tanglin Officers' Mess. His work enabled him to acquire an extensive knowledge of European food as the mess catered mostly to British officers, who enjoyed a cuisine of Western food adapted to the tropics. His growing interest in Eurasian food led to a mid-career switch at 30 to become a chef.

At an early age, he had helped his mother to grind ingredients, prepare food and cook daily for his family and had a passion for cooking different types of cuisines. He read cook books and attended courses by renowned chefs and so had a good grounding when he began his catering career as a trainee cook in a Japanese catering company, where a professional chef from Japan taught him to cook its national

dishes. He then joined a hotel, where he learned to cook all types of cuisines, and worked as a chef until his retirement at 55. He is a member of the Society of Professional Chefs and the Singapore Chefs Association.

He says: “When I cook and eat with my family, I refer to my dining table as ‘My Eurasian Chef Table’ and it always consists of devil’s curry, shepherd’s pie and sugee cake.”

When asked why he had a British family name, Percy realised that he knew very little of his roots

He says he cooks his devil’s curry with roast pork, char siew and roast duck to give it a rich, unique flavour. It is eaten with yellow rice, baguettes, mantou buns or prata giving it a Singapore twist.

His employment at the Tanglin Officers' Mess was also the starting point of what has become another lifelong passion. A British officer asked him why he had a British family name and Percy realised that, despite growing up in a Eurasian family and being exposed to different Eurasian cultures, he knew very little of his roots. So, as a hobby, he set about finding more. Soon after, he joined his nephew



Percy with his family at the NUS Heritage Festival



The Shepherdson name written in Chinese

Kevin Shepherdson to embark on a major research into the Shepherdson family history. Based on their discoveries, they wrote a book called *Journey to the Straits, The Shepherdson Story*. He says: “In 1990, we organised the first Shepherdson gathering – it’s now in its 25th year!”

“The Eurasian Heritage Centre must remain the key attraction of the EA”

Percy is now also a member of the EA's Heritage Committee and his passion for the Eurasian heritage is infectious. He says: “Heritage is the key element of the EA and we need to ensure that the origins of Eurasian culture, traditions and customs are impressed onto the present and future generations of Singapore.”

He adds: “My most favourite aspect of being part of the EA's Heritage Committee is getting to meet like-minded people. I love collecting and reading books about Eurasians in Asia, especially their genealogical aspects.”

Percy hopes that the EA's premises will have a new look 50 years from now, adding that “the museum must remain the key attraction of the EA”. He suggests providing free tours and incorporating Eurasian food as a part of the tour. And he believes that the younger Eurasian generation should find out more about their culture, heritage and customs, participate actively in EA events and contribute to the community – just as he started all those years ago.

THE EURASIAN ASSOCIATION SINGAPORE PRESENTS
**NEW YEAR EVE'S
DINNER & DANCE 2015**
"ROLLING GOOD TIMES!"

THURSDAY, 31 DECEMBER 2015

SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTES:

RIEM DE WOLFF (BLUE DIAMONDS)

EMCEE: ROBERT CHITTY & DEEJAY BERNARD JEREMIAH

BROADBAND: A LINE-UP OF 6 MUSICIANS WHO WILL TAKE YOU AWAY ON A MUSICAL ROAD TRIP!



TIME: 6.30PM TO 1.30AM
VENUE: CONCORDE HOTEL, CONCORDE BALLROOM

EA MEMBERS
EARLY BIRD PRICE: \$130
(VALID FOR PAYMENT BY 15 NOVEMBER 2015)
REGULAR PRICE: \$140
(PAYMENT AFTER 15 NOVEMBER 2015)

NON-MEMBERS: \$150
CHILD (AGED 8 TO 11 YEARS OLD): \$70
PREMIUM DONATION TABLE: \$3,000

FREE FLOW OF BEER, WINE AND SOFT DRINKS
(WHILE STOCKS LAST)

NO CORKAGE CHARGES
ONLY DUTY-PAID BOTTLES ARE ALLOWED

FOR RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT LESTRINE AT
6447 1578 (EXT. 206) OR
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