

THE neweurasian

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OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2018

BUILDING OUR COMMON HERITAGE

PLUS

Motivation to Succeed

This year's Eurasian Community Fund ceremony to support students also saw the EA announcing the Joseph Schooling Sports Grant

No one is left behind

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Inaugural Family Day

Take action today for a Sustainable Singapore

Our youths learn the importance of supporting environmental sustainability and building resilience against climate change

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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.

Advertising Rates

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

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President's Message

On 1 September 2018, the EA held the Eurasian Community Fund (ECF) Education Awards. This ceremony is one of the EA's most important annual events, organised to award bursaries and scholarships to deserving but financially needy students, as well as to recognise Eurasian students who have done well at major milestone examinations.

At Temasek Polytechnic Auditorium that afternoon, Speaker of Parliament Mr. Tan Chuan Jin gave out more than 260 awards. It is important for me to reiterate that those awards are exactly why the EA exists today.

In 1919, almost 100 years ago, the EA was formed to advance the well-being of the Eurasian community. In 1994, the EA was accorded the "Ethnic Self-Help Group Status" by the government, and soon after, the Eurasian Community Fund was established. This Fund is supported by ordinary Eurasians who contribute a small proportion of their monthly salary through the CPF scheme. While each individual contribution may be small, pooled together, it allows needy Eurasian students to realise their dreams.

Similarly, many of the recognition awards (e.g. top PSLE student and top O Levels student etc.), as well as ITE, polytechnic and university scholarships are made possible through private donations. In this manner, the Eurasian community is directly helping the next generation of Eurasians to develop and do well in life. It is my wish that the recipients of these awards remember

this, and will one day, when they are able to, contribute back to the Eurasian community.

Also looking back over the quarter, we were saddened by the passing of Mrs Therese Stewart just a few days after celebrating her 104th birthday. Mrs Stewart lived a fulfilling life and touched so many hearts; she will never be forgotten.

Looking forward, the EA is excited about our plans for the Centennial in July 2019. A key event will be the launch of the Eurasian Heritage Gallery (see story on pages 12-17). The EA will also be organising the Centennial Festival in July 2019, as well as launching a book about the EA's 100th Anniversary in October 2019.

The New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance has always been important to the Eurasian community. I hope you will join us at the Fiesta de Gala on 31 December 2018, at the Orchard Hotel (see page 7).

And in case I do not get a chance to see you before the year's end, have a Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alexius Pereira', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Alexius Pereira
President

Playing to win

In-House Balut

The 5th Round of the In-House Balut Tournament was held on 4th July 2018. The July Champion was Pat Leung with 630 points.

The 6th Round of the In-House Balut Tournament was held on 1st August 2018. The August Champion was Patrick Ng with 702 points.

The 7th Round of the In-House Balut Tournament was held on 5th September 2018. The September Champion was Christina Theseira with 694 points.

The 8th and Final Round of the In-House Balut Tournament was played on 3rd October 2018. The October Champion was Pat Leung with 653 points. To conclude, the year end results were announced for the tournaments that ran from March till October 2018. The winners were determined by their Best 6 Rounds' scores out of 8 Rounds' scores.

34th Chivas Regal Inter-Club Balut Competition

The 3rd Round of the 34th Chivas Regal Inter-Club Balut Competition was hosted by the National University of Singapore



5th Round In-House Balut players all smiles as they pose for a group photograph

Society (NUSS) on the 18th July 2018 at Suntec City Guild House. 18 Teams (comprising 72 players) from six clubs participated in this competition. The 3rd Round Champion was Singapore Recreation Club with 2,423 points. EA Team 2 was placed in the 10th position with 2,262 points whilst EA Team 1 was placed in 17th position with 2,131 points.

EA's Joyce Cordeiro was placed in fifth position for her individual highest aggregate score with 624 points.

The 4th Round of the 34th Chivas Regal Inter-Club Balut Competition was hosted by The Tanglin Club on the 15th August 2018. 20 Teams (comprising 80

players) from six clubs participated in this competition. The 4th Round Champion was Tanglin Club with 2,467 points. EA Team 1 was placed in the 13th position with 2,220 points whilst EA Team 2 was placed in 19th position with 2,142 points.

The Tanglin Club emerged champion with 2,467 points, while EA Team 1 placed 13th with 2,220 points. EA Team 2 came in 19th with 2,142 points.

38th Chivas Regal Interport Balut Competition

The 38th Chivas Regal Interport Balut Competition will be hosted by SRC on 23rd and 24th November 2018.

Celebrating Singapore's 53rd birthday

Decked out in patriotic red and white, more than 100 EA members and guests enjoyed a lunch of multi-racial cuisine prepared by Quentin's Eurasian Restaurant, in celebration of Singapore's 53rd birthday.



Celebrating Singapore's 53rd Birthday

Other highlights of the afternoon of 12 August included games, prize draws, singing the national anthem and reciting the Pledge. Members and guests then let their hair down to dance to classic tracks spun by DeeJay Gerard Danker.

Organiser Yvonne Pereira expressed her gratitude to the community for supporting the event, with special thanks to Chef Quentin and Kristine Pereira for the sumptuous food and sponsoring attractive dining vouchers for the prize draw.



Organiser Yvonne Pereira (centre) together with the rest of the organising committee

Diversity and Togetherness

The annual Inter Racial Inter Religious (IRIR) Harmony Nite was held on 14 July to acknowledge the need to continue building trust and understanding between people of different races and religions. The theme for this year was 'Harmony: Where Our Hearts Meet'. It celebrates and represents Singaporeans' common hope of peace, values and success despite the differences in religion and race, as we live in harmony – where our hearts meet.



Members of the Eurasian Folk Dance Team



EA President Alexius Pereira and 2nd Vice President, Yvonne Pereira with the EA members

The event, held at Marina Bay Sands Grand Ballroom, was attended by President Halimah Yacob and Mr Mohamed Abdullah Alhabshee. The Eurasian community was represented by 20 dancers, who performed a traditional Eurasian Folk Dance that has been passed down through the generations. Kristina Seah Rodriguez represented the Eurasian community to recite the pledge.

Farewell, Therese Stewart

A stalwart of the Singapore Eurasian Community, Mrs Therese Zelig Stewart quietly passed away on 9 September 2018. At 104 years, she had experienced two World Wars and British colonial rule, right through the turbulent years of self-independence to witness the transformation of Singapore into the 21st century.



Stanley, Therese Stewart plus their 7 daughters at the couple's 25th Wedding Anniversary in 1960

Hers was a life well lived, and she was a role model for all - loving and loyal to her husband Stanley and family of seven daughters, generous and kind hearted to everyone she met, and strong in faith to the end.

Therese was born the third daughter of Jocelyn and Isabella de Souza in 1914. In a family of 11 siblings she grew up in Queen Street in a loving home and neighbourhood surrounded by numerous Catholic churches and chapels which influenced her and her family values. Educated at CHIJ Convent,

she developed a strong and caring character which shaped her life ahead. After marrying Stanley Toft Stewart in 1935, she followed him to Malaya where they were stationed in Penang and Butterworth. Stanley's government service as Chairman of Province Wellesley required Therese to play her part as a charming, intelligent and supportive wife of a high-ranking civil servant in the British colonial government. In spite of her busy schedule, she still found time to start a choir (she sang beautifully), and organise and run a sewing-circle of expat and local ladies to make clothes for hundreds of poor children in Butterworth. And being a sporty woman, she formed a youth hockey team to keep the children off the streets and away from the triads.

During WWII in Penang, she held her family of five small children together while Stanley coordinated civil services under the Japanese occupiers' watch. Despite the hardships, her hospitality was legendary among those who had less – always watchful and giving what she could to ease the pain of others.

In 1952, seven years after the Japanese Occupation, Therese moved back to Singapore with Stanley where he rose to become Head of Civil Service. During that time, she set up a school for the poor children in Bukit Panjang and voluntarily taught there every day, except Sundays. She later followed her husband to Australia when he



Therese Stewart's 104th Birthday celebration

was appointed Singapore's first High Commissioner to Australia. Her lively and 'feisty' spirit, quick humour, elegance and quiet discretion enabled her to mix with royalty and commoners alike. She fondly recalled many stories about having dinner with Queen Elizabeth, and with numerous prime ministers around the world. However, her greatest honour was to be chosen by the Singapore Catholic community to present gifts to the Pope at Holy Mass in the National Stadium, 1986.

Therese was the oldest member of the Eurasian Association! An icon of the Eurasian Community has departed...but her spirit will long be remembered.

'Vale' Therese!

EA Singapore scores big win

Third edition of Malaysian Eurasian Games a show of good sportsmanship



Members of the EA Soccer Team posing for a Team Photograph



The EA Contingent consisting of four soccer players and eight baluteers



Runners Up Medal won by the EA Soccer Team

The 3rd Malaysian Eurasian Games 2018 kicked off on 18 August with teams from Penang, Selangor, Perak and Singapore.

EA Singapore comprised eight baluteers and four soccer players, who were accompanied by Chef de Mission 2nd Vice President Yvonne Pereira and Lestrine Tan from the EA secretariat.

A total of four teams and 16 players participated in the balut tournament. EA Team 1 (Dorothy Tessensohn, Hyacinth D'Silva, Joyce Cordeiro and Pat Leung) made Singapore proud by clinching gold with 2,021 points. The Penang team came in second with 1,923 points, while EA Team 2 placed third with 1,873 points.

Scores aside, it was a fun and friendly tournament, giving baluteers a chance to interact, bond and compare their skills against one another. Yvonne, assisted by Lestrine, served as the competition's emcee and scorekeeper.



First-time players Hyacinth and Dorothy also represented Singapore in the carrom competition, winning gold in the doubles match. Hyacinth also bagged gold in the singles competition.

In the seven-a-side soccer match, the Penang team emerged champion, while the Singapore team scored second place.

Due to a timing clash, a player from the Penang contingent represented Singapore in the darts competition, winning a gold medal for the team.

The games were a true show of good sportsmanship and class from all players.

The names of the Singapore players and competitions are as below:

Balut & Carrom	Balut	Soccer
Dorothy Tessensohn Hyacinth D'Silva Philip Cordeiro Joyce Cordeiro Patrick Ng	Christina Theseira Pat Leung Ruby Ng	Lyle Cordeiro Andrew Pang Sean de Zilva Sanford Webb

Rock & Roll fever

On 18 August, the PAC held a Country Rock & Roll concert, drawing close to a hundred people to the Eurasian Community House.

Ramon Cedillo, Leonard De Cotta and Bernard De Cotta, Rani and Mel with the Indopura band entertained the crowd as they danced and grooved to the music throughout the night.

The event was organised by Yvonne Pereira and Mel Ferdinands – one half of the popular local brother duo Mel and Joe Ferdinands – and hosted by Gerard Freddie and Jason Tolson from The Singapore Eurasians. Food and drinks were provided by Quentin's Eurasian Restaurant.

The event sold a total of 107 tickets. The last PAC concert of the year will be held on 3 November. Stay updated at www.eurasion.org.sg!



One half of Eurasian Family Band, 'The Lesslars' (Chris and Monica) pose for a photograph with Ramon Cedillo



Ramon Cedillo and the De Cottas entertaining the crowd with their hit tunes

Kickstart **EA@100** with New Year's Eve 2018 Dinner & Dance!

Fiesta de Gala

Date: 31 December 2018

Time: Cocktails commence at 6.30PM
and party ends at 1.00AM

Venue: Orchard Ballroom, Orchard Hotel



EARLY BIRD TICKETS

(Valid until 30 Nov 2018)

Members: \$140 nett* | Non-Members: \$145 nett*

STANDARD TICKETS

Members: \$150 nett* | Non-Members: \$155 nett*
Children (8-11 years old): \$70 nett

DONATION TABLE

\$3,000 for 10 pax table (eligible for 2.5x tax rebate)

ENTERTAINERS

Band: The Music Men | DeeJay: Bernard Jeremiah
Guest artistes: Ernesto Valerio & Gregory Anderson

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*A member must be present at the event to enjoy the member's rate

*All guests' names must be provided when making the payment

*No walk-ins will be allowed

*No corkage charge on duty-paid hard liquor brought in

Contact Hazel Soe at 6447 1578 (ext 206) or email hazel@eurasians.org for tickets!

The Joys of Exam Success

School pupils explain how extra tuition has helped them to achieve their goals

Nine Eurasian students have received awards at the Joint Tuition Awards Ceremony for acing their exams after participating in the Collaborative Tuition Programme run by the four self-help

as Singaporeans to honour and motivate our talents on the path to success."



Ng Chee Meng, Minister in Prime Minister's Office having a discussion with the JTA Award Winners

(SHG) groups. The awards ceremony – now in its 15th year – was held recently at Singapore Polytechnic on 25 August 2018. Ng Chee Meng, Minister in Prime Minister's Office, was the guest of honour and handed out certificates to students to celebrate their success in national examinations, including PSLE, 'N' levels and 'O' levels. It was a truly momentous occasion that was witnessed by hundreds of staff and students from the four SHGs.

Before presenting the awards, Mr Ng praised the recipients.

He said: "This is a celebration of our young and promising minds. Most importantly, it is a platform for us to come together

The Eurasian JTA winners are:

PSLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saunders Tamami Claire • Hana Raihan Coules • Nur Ananisa Ridhwan De Cruz

'N' LEVEL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ines Wen Ting Michaud • De Costa Francesca Anne • Jansen Aalyssa Jade • Natasha Daniella Bte Daud Wyse

'O' LEVEL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew James Aeria • Neil Chen Yi Lun Macalevey



Ng Chee Meng, Minister in Prime Minister's Office with the four Self-Help Group heads and JTA Award Winners from the SHGs.

Award winner Matthew James Aeria said, "Success consists of going from failure to failure without losing hope. I thank the EA for not giving up but instead guiding and showing me constant encouragement every step of the way."

Another of our award winners, Jansen Alyssa Jade added, "Dreams don't come true unless you work on it and the EA has never stopped believing in me and supporting my aspirations. I will continue to work hard in order to pay back the trust that has been shown to me."



Ng Chee Meng, Minister in Prime Minister's Office together with the EA JTA Award Winners

Education for all

Self-help groups set up learning centre for children from all family backgrounds



Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education and Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources officially open Vibrance @ Yishun together with EA President Alexius Pereira and the Self-help Group heads

workshops and multicultural events for both students and parents. With centres like these, Singaporeans can attend all programmes, no matter their ethnicity or financial constraints.

These include enrichment programmes from kindergarten to 'O' Levels, such as a coding course for students in collaboration with Google. The centre is a joint initiative by the Chinese Development Assistance Council, Eurasian Association, Singapore Indian Development Association and Yayasan Mendaki. Since its soft launch in January, more than 600 students have attended programmes at Vibrance @ Yishun, 57 percent of whom are from households in the lowest income percentile.

Similar centres may be opened at other locations across Singapore, depending on the success of Vibrance @ Yishun.

Many children miss on school and basic learning because of various factors, such as the lack of adequate family income. To ensure that education, a fundamental human right, is available to all children, the four self-help groups have joined hands to set up Vibrance @ Yishun – a centre that offers a range of learning programmes. Together with Minister for Education, Ong Ye Kung, EA President Alexius Pereira joined the heads from the other Self-Help Groups to officially open the centre on 5 August 2018 in a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The new centre, which is located at the previous location of CDAC @ Yishun, is the first such collaboration between the SHGs and is equipped with five classrooms with seating for 14 to 20 people, a computer laboratory for 12 people, a mini library, an Internet surfing

corner and a self-study area. It will offer educational programmes as well as



Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education tries out activities at the EA booth

Code in the Community 2018 Graduation & Project Showcase

This event was held on Saturday, 8 September 2018, at Google's Head Office. Dr. Janil Puthuchear, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of Transport graced the occasion, which celebrated the graduation of SHGs beneficiaries for both the March and July sessions this year. One student beneficiary, Danial Alexander DiDonato, did a showcase of his project to Dr. Puthuchear and heads of the SHGs.



EA President Alexius Pereira with Dr. Janil Puthuchear, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of Transport talking to Danial who showcased his project

Motivation to Succeed

This year's Eurasian Community Fund ceremony to support students also saw the EA announcing the Joseph Schooling Sports Grant

The Eurasian Association (EA) handed out awards to 261 students at its annual Eurasian Community Fund (ECF) Education Awards Ceremony at Temasek Polytechnic on 1 September 2018. Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore was the guest of honour.

Baccalaureate Diploma (IB) in 2016. Sara has represented SOTA in various Geography competitions such as the Tourism in Action competition held by Ngee Ann Polytechnic in 2014 and the Ministry of Education Singapore Press Holdings Big Quiz competition in



EA President Dr. Alexius Pereira addresses everyone present at the Awards Ceremony

of Joseph, and to inspire young Eurasians to strive for sporting excellence.

The Grant, which is a cash award of S\$5,000, primarily serves to defray training and equipment costs that a Eurasian athlete might incur in pursuit of high standards of achievement in his or her chosen sport.

The Grant will be awarded competitively to the most deserving young Eurasian sportsperson that meets the following criteria:

- Aged between 14-19 years (inclusive) in the calendar year of the application
- Has won a medal (bronze, silver or gold) in the National Schools Competition, SEA Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Olympic Games.
- In full-time education, and able to be promoted to the next academic year.

Applications for the inaugural Joseph Schooling Sport Grant opened on 1 October 2018. The first Grant award will be announced in January 2019.

EA President Dr Alexius Pereira said, "The EA is grateful to the Schooling family for its investment in the Grant. With this sports grant and all our ECF awards, we hope to encourage our young Eurasians to always reach for the stars. And when you have got there, remember those who have helped you on your journey and pay it forward."



ECF Education Awards

Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore with the EA's Excellence Award (Secondary) Winners



"I am grateful to the Eurasian Association (EA) for believing in me and assisting my family with the education expenses."

Cook Elray Danish was one of the ECF 2018 award recipients. He was the Top Graduate in ITE College Central's School of Engineering in 2017 and achieved a GPA score of 4.0 for NITEC in Aerospace Technology. He is currently pursuing a Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering at Singapore Polytechnic and has aspirations to carve a career in the aerospace industry. Despite the initial setback in his PSLE score, his resilience, hard work and determination to succeed helped him to soar throughout his studies in ITE. Cook Elray Danish said, "I am grateful to the Eurasian Association (EA) for believing in me and assisting my family with the education expenses. It is my dream to become a licensed aircraft engineer in the future and the EA have empowered me to work towards it!"

Nicholas Sarah Ann received the Oscar George da Silva University Scholarship. She graduated from the School of the Arts (SOTA) with an International

2015. She was also awarded the Best in Geography Award in 2016. Sara's wide accomplishments in academics, sports, leadership and community service also helped her win the prestigious Dr Lee Boon Yang Student of the Year Award in 2013, given to the top student in the cohort who displays all-round excellence.

The ECF Education Awards also recognizes students' achievements in non-academic spheres.

This year, the EA has launched the Joseph Schooling Sports Grant. The Association decided to set up the Grant after Joseph Schooling won Singapore's first Olympic gold medal at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, to recognise the achievements



Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore presents Cook Elray Danish with his Award

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IT TAKES A VILLAGE:

BUILDING OUR EURASIAN HERITAGE TOGETHER

The Eurasian Association (EA) has been the voice of Singapore's Eurasian community, actively raising awareness of Eurasian culture and heritage in a city that hosts a melting pot of cultures.

As the EA celebrates its centennial year in 2019, top on the association's wish list is developing a stronger link between the Eurasian community's identity and heritage to that of Singapore's brief but rich history.

"We are often mistaken for foreigners, or asked what a Eurasian is, even though we are the fourth racial group in Singapore," said Julia D'Silva, current Heritage Chairperson of the association. "We have been here as long as anyone, and have suffered just as much during the Japanese Occupation. We have contributed to this country's political and social development, and security and defence ever since the colonial days. Our cuisine is really the most Singaporean as it reflects the cultural melting pot that Singapore is."

Jacqueline Peeris, manager of the EA's Heritage & Culture division, agrees on the common "confusion" Eurasians faced from other races. "Many have asked what the difference between Peranakans and Eurasians is. While both are Straits-born, Peranakans are generally of Chinese-Malay mix – both Asian ethnicities – while Eurasians are a mixture of European and Asian. The European ancestry differentiates us."

Home is Singapore

The Eurasian heritage is as unique as melting pots go, with roots far and wide between the East and West, marrying traditions and practices from around the world. In Singapore, these practices may have become less distinct recently, as intermarriages with other local races have led to further cross-cultural influences.

"Eurasians stood out distinctly in the past because of where we lived, our religion, the

It's time for Eurasians to share and preserve our identity for future generations.

schools we went to, the English we spoke, our dressing, our preferred jobs and careers. However, as former EA president Benett Theseira puts it very well, Eurasians have become more Singaporean and Singaporeans today have become like us," said Julia.

She also observed that over time, many of the old traditions have been diluted or even forgotten by the younger generation as modernisation marches on in the young nation.

The Eurasian community faces even further diminishing visibility with an influx of new immigrants entering the country. There is now a need for Eurasians to raise their profile, and have their identity recognised in the society they have lived, served, and loved for generations.

Among the EA's numerous efforts is the Eurasian Heritage Centre, at the Eurasian Community House on Ceylon Road.

A tour group at the Eurasian Heritage Centre that is now closed for renovations



Past. Present. Future.

As the home of Eurasian history and culture in Singapore, the Eurasian Heritage Centre was set up in three stages in the Eurasian Community House.

The first gallery was 'The Eurasian Showcase', established in 2003 by EA Heritage Committee member Gerry de Silva and a team of volunteers, in consultation with the National Museum of Singapore.

We are often mistaken for foreigners, or asked what a Eurasian is, even though we are the fourth racial group in Singapore.



Dragonware tea set, common in many Eurasian homes, showing our Asian roots

This gallery focused on the three main European origins of the community – Portuguese, Dutch, and British. It also featured exhibits related to sports, religion, lifestyle, and World War II. The contributions of prominent Eurasians, such as Benjamin Sheares and E.W. Barker, were also highlighted.

Exhibits in this gallery included a tea set with Chinese dragon designs, a common sight in the Eurasian household, and sport trophies. "Eurasians were active in sports, especially hockey, where they had represented Singapore in competitions," said Jacqueline.

Other treasures were family heirlooms such as a baby's christening robe that was refashioned from a bride's veil. This was a common tradition in Eurasian families to symbolise continuity in the families' heritage. Another was a three-tiered cake stand, a wedding gift in 1913, passed down through generations to serve sugce cake at Christmas.



Christening robe with bonnet, made from the veil of the bride's wedding gown, to show continuity in the family

'World War Two – The Eurasian Story' was added in 2006, to complement the existing collection in The Eurasian Showcase. Launched by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, this gallery tells the story of Eurasians during the Japanese Occupation, highlighting their courageous contribution to the colony's defence by the 'D' Company of the Singapore Volunteer Corp, and their plight in Bahau, a town in Negri Sembilan, in then Malaya. The Japanese relocated thousands of Eurasians on the pretext that they would have a better life there. The centrepiece of this gallery was a model of the Bahau camp. This gallery was set up by volunteers under the leadership of the late Dr Barry Pereira, former chairperson of the EA Heritage Committee.



3-tier cake stand (circa 1913) which is more than 100 years old and was used to serve sugce cake during Christmas

The third gallery, 'Roots of Our Community', was set up in 2011 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Portuguese presence in Malacca. This initiative was led by Burton Westerhout, the chairperson of the Heritage Committee at that time, in consultation with Tan Huism of the National Heritage Board (NHB). In 2012, the gallery also included the history of the British and Dutch.



Students discovering the story of Bahau at the World War II Gallery

A call to action for the community

The EA is currently revamping the three galleries to consolidate them into one seamless and cohesive presentation. The Heritage Committee, chaired by Julia, is driving this exercise, with the NHB's Singapore Philatelic Museum serving as consultants to develop the content. The centre will be renamed the Eurasian Heritage Gallery, and is targeted to open in July 2019, with the official launch in September.

This effort aims to update and enhance existing exhibits with more photos, artefacts, and oral histories from the community. The EA is looking to upgrade the galleries with interactive and multimedia presentations, where possible.

The Heritage Committee is reaching out to the Eurasian community nationwide to step forward and help develop a stronger narrative for the Singapore Eurasian story. Julia urges Eurasians to donate artefacts or photos for the repository, or share their personal stories for the oral history archives.

The association also collaborates with Quentin's Eurasian Restaurant, located at the Eurasian Community House, which introduces authentic, traditional home-cooked cuisine from recipes passed down in Chef Quentin Pereira's family.

The Eurasian Heritage Centre receives an average of 2,000 visitors annually. Most visitors are primary and secondary school students, groups from local organisations and community centres, and some tourists. When the new Eurasian Heritage Gallery is completed, the EA plans to boost promotion and publicity, and enhance tour activities to bring in more local and foreign visitors.

The association became a member of the Museum Roundtable under the NHB in 2015, and the Eurasian Heritage Centre has been included in the Singapore Museum Guide booklet, and the Roundtable website.

EA's Heritage Committee at the weekly meeting with NHB Consultants



Kindergarten kids learning the Jinkli Nona Eurasian folk dance after a guided tour of the galleries



A student dressed up in a Eurasian costume at Raffles Girls Primary School's racial harmony celebration.

We have to remind the younger Eurasians of our history and heritage. We have a unique and important story to tell.

"We have to remind the younger Eurasians of our history and heritage. We have a unique and important story to tell," she said.

This initiative is even more necessary now, as the Eurasian heritage evolves in a globalised world.

"I hope that future generations of Eurasians will document their history, heritage, and stories, as we are very much an important piece of Singapore's social fabric that must not be lost," said Julia. "If we don't do it ourselves, no one will do it for us."

Experience Eurasian life

The EA offers various heritage tour packages which include guided tours of the Eurasian Heritage Centre, and experiential activities such as folk dancing, sampling of sugee cake, cooking demonstrations, and lunch. Tours stopped this October, but will resume sometime after the soft launch next year.

Sharing Eurasian culture in Singapore

The EA works with organisations, schools and community centres around Singapore to bring Eurasian culture to various events and festivals, such as Racial Harmony Day, Heritage Fest, National Education Carnival, Chingay, and the Inter-Racial Inter-Religious Harmony Night. It was a proud moment when the EA was invited to participate in the President Star Charity on 10 December 2017.

Some of the efforts at cultural events include setting up booths with information panels, and interactive activities like badge-making, food postcard colouring, and traditional games such as five stones and pick-up sticks. Books and other merchandise related to Eurasian culture are also available for purchase.

The EA also organises traditional dance performances, workshops, and heritage talks at schools, and cultural events.

The EA is calling for the Eurasian community to step forward as volunteers to help at the various events. Help shine a light on Eurasian culture, and share it with fellow Singaporeans.



Eurasian dance performance at President Star Charity (December 2017) - It was EA's first time performing at this event.



EA's booth at Sparkletots at Rivervale on 24 July 2017



Eurasian Folk Dance at the Inaugural Eurasian Festival @ Tampines Hub in April 2017



Kids singing Christmas carols with Christopher de Souza at the Eurasian Christmas Festival @ Ulu Pandan Community Club in December 2017



Minister Heng Swee Keat making a Eurasian cultural badge at the EA booth during the One Community Fiesta at Tampines Hub in September 2017

Interested parties can contact Jacqueline at jacqueline@eurasians.org or 64471578 ext. 202 for details.

Celebrating our Eurasian heritage

In collaboration with the People's Association (PA), the EA began a series of large-scale festivals to boost Eurasian heritage awareness across the island in 2017. Four festivals were planned as a run-up to the EA's centennial celebration in July 2019.

The inaugural Eurasian Festival kicked off in April 2017 at Our Tampines Hub. The event was graced by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, with 1,500 participants in attendance.

The second event was held in December 2017 at the Ulu Pandan Community Club, which was attended by Eurasian MP Christopher de Souza. About 500 people joined in the festivity.

The most recent festival was organised at the Henderson Community Club in July this year, and was graced by Eurasian MP Joan Pereira.

The next event will be held this November at the West Coast Community Centre, hosted by Minister for Communications and Information S Iswaran.

Finally, everyone can look forward to the grand Eurasian Festival, scheduled for 27 July 2019 at Our Tampines Hub. This festival will celebrate the EA's centenary.

Volunteers are needed for this festival. If interested, email Jacqueline at jacqueline@eurasians.org or call her at 64471578 ext. 202.

Capturing living history

The EA is helping the National Archives of Singapore (NAS) to expand its collection of oral history from the Eurasian community. An advisory committee chaired by Gerry de Silva guides the NAS on topics to be covered and Eurasian personalities to be interviewed.

Volunteers such as Melanie Rodrigues Smith and Brian Richmond have been trained as interviewers for this initiative. Interviewees so far include Derek Pereira, the retired Senior Assistant Commissioner of the Singapore Civil Defence Force

Eurasian Community Oral History Committee with NAS at their first meeting in August 2017



Melanie Rodrigues Smith interviewing Geraldene Lowe

and Christina Theseira, an art teacher who grew up during World War II in Singapore.

The country has seen progressive development over the past 53 years, and Melanie felt the oral history initiative was a great project to record stories of the past.

We are fast losing the memories of our loved ones as they pass on. Even Singapore's landmarks are disappearing as the old make way for the new.

"My first interview with Joan Pereira made me realise how important these stories were. I now want to interview as many people as I can, so that we could recognise their contributions," she said.

This was a learning experience for Melanie as it helped her recall how the Eurasian community had lived in the past, their sense of kinship, and how their lives had mainly revolved around church and family.

She also saw how the interviewees would go the extra mile to make a difference: "They were very inspiring and I was humbled to be able to interview them. They made great strides in various aspects of our society."

EA volunteer interviewers at an NAS oral history training session



Melanie hopes that the oral history collection will cover a wider spectrum of the Eurasian community. "Not only the community leaders," she said, "but also those who affected our community in intangible ways that often go unnoticed."

Weaving a visual tapestry

Long-time Heritage Committee member, Geoffrey Morris, has been digitising and storing old photos for posterity. So far, he has converted about 2,000 family snapshots into digital format, of which 80 are suitable for the EA archives.

"We are fast losing the memories of our loved ones as they pass on. Even Singapore's landmarks are disappearing as the old make way for the new," Geoff explained. Among the photos that he has digitised is a 1912 snapshot of his mother-in-law and her younger siblings in a garden setting.

Last year, he and other like-minded enthusiasts set up the Eurasian Heritage Collection in collaboration with the NAS to "preserve the cultural and historical views of our Eurasian community".

Geoff described his most memorable photo, a street scene taken from a second storey window from the 1920s. "It was a truly typical moment in Singapore's colonial history with white-collar workers walking to offices, coolies repairing the road, cars alongside a bullock-drawn cart and electric tram lines."

He strongly encourages other Eurasians to contribute to this rich visual tapestry and submit their old photos for digitisation for the Eurasian Heritage Collection.

Geoff Morris scanning old photographs for the Eurasian Heritage Collection Project





Euylyth Fernandez sharing the Roots Of Our Community at the Level 4 Gallery which is now closed for renovations

When there was a call-out for volunteer guides, I signed up as I felt it was a good way to give back to the community.

Find a storyteller

The love for history and a thirst to delve deeper into the Eurasian culture was what prompted Sharon Miller and Euylyth Fernandez to volunteer as tour guides at the Eurasian Heritage Centre.

"When there was a call-out for volunteer guides, I signed up as I felt it was a good way to give back to the community," said Sharon. "I met the team of experienced guides who were warm and welcoming mentors and I learnt much from them. It's been very enjoyable and rewarding as visitors are always so positive, friendly and keen to learn about us!"

As volunteer guides, they bring visitors through the galleries and speak on Eurasian heritage and history. "We speak about our participation in World War II and how the early Europeans came to the Far East and into Singapore, namely the Portuguese, Dutch and English," said Euylyth.

Sharon believes that guides are storytellers for their culture with the power to "bring to life" stories from the Eurasian pioneers, war heroes and the everyday Eurasian who has contributed to Singapore.

Being a tour guide is not about remembering historical dates and details. "Visitors are more interested to learn about our roots, culture, lifestyle and personal stories," said Sharon.

"For example, many younger Singaporeans have not met a Eurasian. So they are curious to know where our European-sounding surnames come from, and they are often surprised to discover that we eat rice every day, and that sambal belacan is a must-have at the Eurasian dining table," she said.

Sharon personally found the World War II gallery to be most meaningful and poignant as it highlighted the courage and fortitude of the Eurasian spirit as the forefathers fought to defend Singapore, their motherland. This gallery resonated more with older Singaporean visitors, many of whom were keen to share their own experiences about the war.

"These are often very touching and it creates an immediate bond, a kinship to know that our communities stood side by side defending our country in its darkest hours," she concluded.

There are many storytellers among the Eurasian community. Do join the EA as volunteer tour guides and share our rich heritage with visitors.

Interested parties can contact Jacqueline at jacqueline@eurasians.org or 64471578 ext. 202.

Sharon Miller introducing the history of Eurasians to a tour group



No one is left behind

Family Support Services Inaugural Family Day

The Eurasian community is made up of individuals from every walk of life but the love of a good party is something most of us share. Plenty of food and drink, upbeat music coupled with a stimulating locale will turn any group of Eurasians into a rowdy and raucous bunch having a good time into the small hours. It's a part of who we are, as much as our love of Sugee cake is and is something most of us take for granted as we enjoy various events on our social calendar.

We so easily forget that there are those among our small yet vibrant community who cannot partake in this cornerstone of our cultural way of life. Everyone, regardless of their circumstances deserve some fun and frivolity every now and then; it's good for the soul. Fully seized with this ideal, the Family Support Services Sub-Committee led by Mr Edmund Rodrigues, decided to organise a Family Day for members of the community in our charge. A party to give everyone who is a client of the FSS an opportunity to let their hair down and have a good time like all Eurasians know how to do.

Some might say the FSS was being frivolous but Mr Rodrigues and the FSS know it is never enough to simply feed a stomach but to also feed a soul. Events like these help boost morale, bring the community together and remind them that no one is left behind.

The FSS would like to thank donors and supporters for their tremendous

generosity in helping us raise the resources required to successfully execute the Inaugural Family Day so quickly after its inception. Its success and the positive impact on members of the community we support would not have been possible without their contributions.

The Inaugural Family Day took place at Quentin's Restaurant at the Eurasian Community House and was attended by 100 clients of the FSS and supported by 20 FSS volunteers and the staff of Quentin's Restaurant led by Mr Quentin Pereira.

The day began with a variety of well-loved Eurasian dishes paired with a selection of wine and beer. After everyone had their fill, Mr Rodrigues led the party in a round of games which were well received. A lively if rather unconventional round of Tombola number calls filled Quentin's with laughter and was no doubt memorable to many.

A trivia quiz saw Auntie Helen, an old grandee of the Community jumping up and calling out answers with glee. Her knowledge left her with a good prize but her enthusiasm and spirit along with those of many other attendees created a real buzz of enjoyment. Mr Jagannathan Ramakrishnan, the stalwart social worker of the FSS said there was a



Family Support Services Sub-Committee Chairperson, Mr Edmund Rodrigues with FSS client, Mr. Marshall Garnell

very palpable sense of enjoyment by the clients and has received a lot of positive feedback from them.

Mr Edmund Rodrigues and the FSS committee are encouraged by the success of this inaugural family day and have learned lessons from it to improve and ensure the Family Support Services of the EA continues to move from strength to strength and accomplishes our mission statement; No one is left behind.



FSS clients help themselves to the indulgent Eurasian food spread on offer



FSS clients and volunteers pose for a group photograph after a successful Family Day event

FSS Befrienders

Helping others for a good cause

As long as the FSS has been in existence, there has been a programme where volunteers from the community have come forth to help in the distribution of basic food items to the clients of the FSS. These items often included the basics like rice, sugar, sardines, milk and cooking oil. As the FSS became more aware of the specific needs of different families, we realized the system was not satisfactory as there were items that had to be removed from the list because of dietary constraints arising from medical issues of the clients. At this point it was thought prudent to issue restricted (not exchangeable for tobacco or alcohol products) NTUC vouchers to allow the clients a choice in the type of goods they wanted.

Most of our clients welcomed the change and till date, most of the families served by the FSS receive only food vouchers in addition to some form of financial assistance to help them cope with rental issues and other mandatory monthly payments.

Many families are still visited by FSS Befrienders who distribute the food vouchers and sit down with the clients during every



From left, EA Befrienders Christine Pereira, Patricia Rodrigues, Carol Shepherdson and Martha Fernandez at an FSS Christmas Event last year



FSS befriender Leonard de Souza and friends enjoying Eurasian food during Family Day

visit and listen to their concerns. Many of the clients look forward to the visitations of the Befrienders as it could be one of the few opportunities they get to interact with an outsider. Loneliness is a growing problem amongst the more vulnerable members of our community and the issue of suicide does arise occasionally. Our Befrienders usually report changes in attitudes to life, changes in general disposition and basic needs that can be fulfilled (like plumbing problems, minor home repair jobs etc.). The matters are then raised with the main committee and the problems addressed.

Till date, the need to meet with our clients is becoming more acute with growing expenses and the aging client population

becoming less ambulant, requiring not only assistance when going for medical treatment but also in their day to day living.

Many clients are not aware of the services and help they can receive from government agencies and we need Befrienders to make them aware of these services and how to access them. Most are not technologically savvy and require assistance in responding to offers and official queries. Many are also not confident enough to approach Hospital Social Workers to access cheaper medical care and prefer to self-medicate with cheap and dubious medication.

In short, we need to service every household the FSS is supporting with a Befriender. The Befrienders are our sympathetic eyes and ears so the FSS clients can be ably supported and properly cared for. We need more volunteers and eventually hope to achieve a ratio of one Befriender to every two FSS Clients.

Currently, we have less than 20 Befrienders and many are over-extended. Some families or individuals do not have befrienders assigned to them and have to report to the EA premises at Ceylon Road for a review of their general status. We are currently finalizing the Befrienders Protocol which is a set of recommendations to observe when visiting clients so that Befrienders are never in jeopardy.

We hope to recruit a fair number of Befrienders in the coming year and need volunteers from all districts as our clients are scattered all over the country. It would help tremendously if the volunteer possesses a car, but more importantly we are looking for people with big hearts and a dedication to serve the community.

For more information, contact the Family Support Services at 64471578/Ext 210 or e-mail fss@eurasians.org.

Stronger focus and less stress with mindfulness

Workshop helps youth focus their minds and attention

Amidst the beautiful outdoors of Singapore on 23 June, a Mindfulness workshop was delivered in a fun and relaxed manner. New and deeper connections were stimulated through the use of fun games and activities, followed by mindful exercises designed to increase relaxation and contentment in nature.

Two sessions for the Mentorship Programme took place on 24 and 25 July respectively, with a focus on helping youth discover their career passion. These sessions were held in partnership with Young NTUC. During the first session, youth completed a structured assessment and career profiling tool to help them understand their personality, skills, and values and link them to potential career matches. During the second session, youth got a chance to meet mentors from various industries and select a mentor whom they would like to guide them.

On 8 September, the last Mindfulness and Mentorship sessions took place. Participants were taught to blend together various tools, skill sets and refine them to create an effective pathway to success. Everyday skills such as short and long term goal setting, time management and study structures were examined and the



Mentorship session participants pitting their wits against each other through a board game

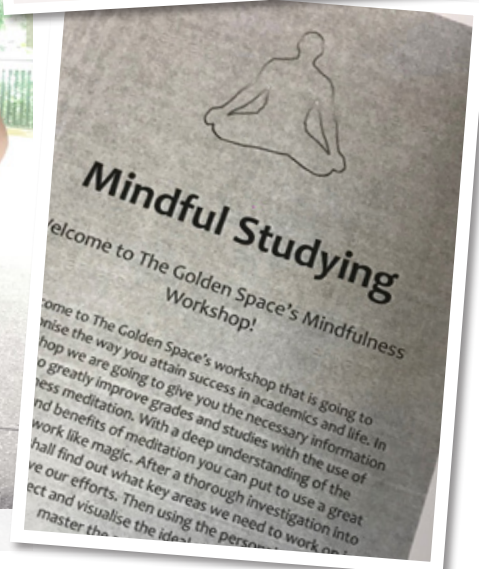
students encouraged to share their experiences and how they have adjusted their use of these skills over time, to achieve greater success in their study preparations. Students provided positive feedback on how it helped them to enhance their memory retrieval and feeling very enlightened after the session.



Mentorship session participants playing a game



Mindfulness Workshop participants with their facilitator



Take action today for a Sustainable Singapore

Our youths learn the importance of supporting environmental sustainability and building resilience against climate change

The Youth Forum on Building Resilience Against Climate Change, took place on 25th August 2018 and its key objective was to help generate awareness among youth on the importance of promoting environmental sustainability and building resilience against climate change.

The first half of the forum comprised of a series of talks by Pamela Low, Founder of Tingkat Heroes and interactive activities for the youth to create awareness of ongoing environmental challenges. This included a coffee painting workshop conducted by renowned local artist Vincent Seet, whose work has been featured at various national platforms e.g. Passion Arts Festival 2017. During the workshop, Vincent taught our participants how to recycle used coffee grounds by using it to create their own paintings. The paintings were centred on the theme of the impact of climate change on marine wildlife.



EA 1st Vice President, Vincent Schoon (from left) with Minister Masagos Zulkifli and painter Vincent Seet presenting a Coffee Painting centered on the theme of the impact of climate change on marine wildlife



Forum participants pose for a group photograph with Minister Masagos Zulkifli after an insightful session



Members of the Youth Committee all smiles as they pose for a picture with Minister Masagos Zulkifli

There was a song launch of 'We are One' by Guardians of Mother Earth which was composed by Michele Chong. The aim of

the song was to inspire people to save our mother earth together.

For the second half of the Forum, Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, had a dialogue with the youth, to discuss the importance of building resilience against climate change. Two youth panellists, Mr Veerappan Swaminathan, 33, Co-founder, Sustainability Labs & Founding Director of Singapore Makers Association and Ms Pamela Low, 22, Founder, Tingkat Heroes joined the Minister on the panel.

A total of 35 youth participated in the session. Besides Eurasian youth, youth from our fellow Self-Help Groups (SHGs) such as CDAC, Mendaki and SINDA, and other youth sector organisations under the National Youth Council (NYC) Network attended this Forum too.



EA Youth Committee Chairperson, Christopher Gordon (from left) with Minister Masagos Zulkifli and our two youth panellists

The Spirit of Volunteering

From riding his motorcycle to inspiring fellow youths, Jared Bateman explains what drives him forward

Life is all about living in the moment and few epitomise this as much as Jared Bateman does. A self-confessed adrenaline junkie, he enjoys riding his motorcycle wherever the road takes



him. Jared adds, "I do enjoy riding my motorcycle around! It's extremely therapeutic especially after a long day at school!"

A current Mechanical Engineering Major at Nanyang Technological University, Jared is also a volunteer with the EA Youth Committee. He started out by signing up for the EA's 2016 Mentorship Programme and it's one of the best decisions he's ever made. "I was involved in the EA's 2016 mentorship programme and felt the need to give back to the society. I had a chat with Christopher Gordon, the chairperson of the Youth Community and decided to step forth and volunteer with the Youth Committee" Jared fondly recalls.

Volunteering with the Eurasian Association has opened up Jared's world to infinite possibilities and immeasurably improved himself as a person too. He recalls an experience that would define his time with the EA Youth Committee, "The most rewarding experience while volunteering would have to be how I've developed into the person I am and one highlight

Jared giving a helping hand at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Riding Club's Annual Charity Wash



from this experience was when I got roped into facilitating a dialogue on empowering youth (the EA were shorthanded when it came to facilitators). Initially, I was reluctant due to my lack of experience, but Chris managed to coax me into helping out. In the end, it turned out to be a lot of fun and I would not hesitate to do it again. Challenging myself to try new things outside of my comfort zone really helped broaden my

perspective. I guess we all must start somewhere!"

Jared is now fully committed to the cause and has in fact seized the initiative to spearhead the Climate Action Pledge movement on behalf of the EA Youth Committee. Environmental Sustainability has always resonated strongly with him and when he had a choice to undertake a project as part of the Young Eurasian Leaders' Programme, his decision was made. Jared tells us more, "In short, the project's aim was to identify ways to improve the environmental suitability within the Eurasian Community House and to adopt the best practices such as reducing printing by adopting a paper policy where printed materials would not be provided where you could instead view meeting materials from your own personal electronic device (personally, I use a Surface pro Tablet together with Microsoft OneNote where all my written notes are stored in a cloud and are neatly organised) and limiting electricity usage by putting up friendly reminders to reduce energy wastage and highlight the importance of preserving the environment."



Jared at the North Seoul Tower during summer school in Seoul, South Korea



Jared having fun whilst participating in one of the Mentorship Programme's various games

Jared has benefited immensely from volunteering with the EA Youth Committee and hopes that others will follow in his footsteps too. He says, "If you feel compelled to give back to the Eurasian community, the EA Youth Committee is an excellent place to start your journey. So far, it has been an amazing journey that would not be possible without the leadership of our Chairperson, Christopher Gordon". Jared hopes to make a difference in the lives of others and inspire fellow Eurasian youths to step up and give back to the community.

Inspiring Others through Music

How growing up in a house of Musicians inspired Chris Lesslar to form his own band

Starting from a young age, Chris was already heavily involved with music. Growing up in a family of musicians, music was indelibly part of most, if not all aspects of their lives. He often speaks fondly of his dad, mum and brother as being role models who not just supported but played a proactive role in nurturing his interest in music. Decades later, Chris carries on the tradition by raising his own family of musicians too.



The Lesslars in a recently taken photograph for the band.

For the uninitiated, Chris is part of a family band called "The Lesslars" that comprises of his Wife (Monica – Bass/Keyboards), Daughter (Camille - Vocals) and Son (Craigston – Cajon/Drums). He says, "I guess music runs in our blood and that has rolled over to my own family band". They have been playing together since 2014 and have come a really long way since. In fact, The Lesslars are preparing to record and release their first EP soon. It will contain some of their hit singles like "This Is My Dream", "Shine Like A Star", "Where We Wanna Be" and "Make It Through". Fans of Chris will know that his hit single, "Because I Believe" has been on the iTunes store since 2015. The song talks about achieving your dreams, believing in yourself and your aspirations.

Outside of playing for the band, Chris is a full time music teacher. While most music teachers focus on just one instrument, he teaches the Acoustic, Bass, Electric

Guitars and Drums at Cristofori Music School's Punggol Oasis outlet. He has been doing this on a full time basis for 15 years now and cannot imagine doing anything else. "It's an exciting experience to teach students of all ages from 6 years and above. I conduct lessons on an individual basis or in a group of four," Chris adds. His wife, Monica, is a full time piano teacher. As husband and wife, they continue to inspire aspiring young Musicians to fulfil their potential.

About the future, Chris is extremely optimistic and with good reason too. The Lesslars have become a household name at annual Eurasian Community events like The Eurasian Festival and the Eurasian Community Fund (ECF) Education Awards Ceremony. Additionally, they have been invited to perform at various events across the island. Beaming with optimism, Chris says, "We wish to perform as many shows as possible and to achieve our aspirations to reach to the top of our ambitions. We would love to perform overseas and share our culture and heritage to our fans, friends and family and with God's blessings we hope our dreams will come true."

For those who wish to keep themselves abreast of the band's latest happenings, you may follow them on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.



The Lesslars putting on a show at the Eurasian Festival at Henderson CC on 28 July 2018.



The Lesslars wowed attendees at the Eurasian Community Fund (ECF) Education Awards Ceremony with their hit singles.



The Lesslars performing at a private event.

"We wish to perform as many shows as possible and to achieve our aspirations to reach to the top of our ambitions"



Celebrating the Eurasian Spirit with the Henderson Community

In 2019, the Eurasian Association celebrates its centenary. In the run-up to the big event, it is staging various festivals to demonstrate that despite the community's small size, it has had – and continues to have – a significant beneficial impact on the nation's history

In collaboration with People's Association (PA), EA organised a Eurasian Festival at Henderson Community Club on 28 July 2018. Graced by Eurasian MP, Joan Pereira, the theme of the festival was food. The highlight activity was Sugee Cupcake Decoration, along with other food-related games such as "Guess the Number of Sweets" and Food Postcard Colouring where children and families could colour their own sugee cake and

devil curry postcards while learning more about Eurasian cuisine. Other booths included EA merchandise, crafts and a dedicated photo booth for those who wished to capture special memories of the event.

There were also several rounds of a Food Trivia Quiz about Eurasian dishes, where participants used their mobile phones to key in the answers in the 'Kahoot' online

app, interspersed with entertainment by renowned Eurasian family band, The Lesslars. To celebrate racial harmony during the month of July, there were also 3 food carts selling ethnic snacks such as carrot cake, mee siam and roti prata. This festival is the third in the series of Eurasian Festivals which first started in Apr 2017, and will culminate with a big festival in July 2019 to commemorate the EA's 100th anniversary.

