

THE NEW EURASIAN

www.eurasians.org.sg

APRIL – JUNE 2015



2002
Esplanade –Theatres on the Bay opens

2004
Lee Hsien Loong becomes the third Prime Minister

2006
Christopher de Souza and Michael Palmer are elected as Members of Parliament.

2011
Dr Tony Tan is sworn in as the seventh President

2014
The new National Stadium opens

2015

2002
Jazz musician Jeremy Monterio is awarded the Cultural Medallion

2003
Biopolis, a major research centre, opens



2004
Eunice Olsen becomes the youngest Nominated Member of Parliament

2010
Singapore hosts the inaugural Youth Olympic Games

2014
Swimmer Joseph Schooling becomes the first Singaporean to win a medal at the Commonwealth Games, taking silver at the games in Glasgow

1997
John de Payva becomes President of the National Trades Union Congress



1981
Singapore Changi Airport begins operation

1972
Stanley Toft Stewart leaves the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to join the National Stadium Corporation

1994
The EA is accorded self-help group status

1991
Rex Shelley publishes his first novel, *The Shrimp People*, at the age of 61

1980
Herman Hochstadt is appointed Deputy Managing Director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS)

1972
Pulau Belakang Mati is renamed Sentosa and designated a tourist attraction



1919
The inception of the EA

1963
John Le Cain becomes the first Asian Commissioner of Police



1965
George Bogaars is made Permanent Secretary to the Minister of Interior and Defence

1967
Maurice Baker begins his illustrious diplomatic career



1967
The National Service Bill is passed by Parliament

1970
Edmund W Barker becomes the first President of the Singapore National Olympic Council

1972
Singapore Airlines is formed



1900

1959
Lee Kuan Yew becomes Singapore's first Prime Minister

1965
Singapore becomes independent after separating from Malaysia

1966
Kenneth Byrne becomes Singapore's first High Commissioner to New Zealand

1967
The first Singapore dollar is issued



1968
Joseph Conceicao becomes a Member of Parliament

1971
Dr Benjamin Sheares becomes Singapore's second President

PLUS

TRIBUTE TO MR LEE KUAN YEW

The EA salutes his lifelong commitment to multiculturalism

MR SR NATHAN'S TEA FOR STUDENTS

The former President's educational awards

CHOW FOR CHAMPIONS

Kenneth Francisco's SEA Games food

50 Years to Remember

The Eurasian community's contributions to Singapore's jubilee year

Patrons
Herman Hochstadt
SR Nathan
George Yeo

Trustees
Oscar Oliveira
Barry Desker
Timothy de Souza
Joseph Conceicao
Gerald Minjot
Gerard de Silva

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Boris Link
Helen Lee
Lim Yih Chyi

FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE

Francis Remedios
Ralph Stanley

LEGAL ADVISORY PANEL

Martin Marini (Chair)
Susan de Silva
William da Silva

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President
Benett Theseira

1st Vice President
Carla Barker

2nd Vice President
Yvonne Pereira

Honorary Secretary
Geoffrey da Silva

Honorary Treasurer
Paul Leong

Committee Members
Francesca Eber
Angelina Fernandez
Alexius Pereira
Kevin Aeria
Charlene Lee

SECRETARIAT

General Manager
Lester Low

Admin Executive
Bridget Basnayake

Assistant Manager (Education & Heritage)
Jacqueline Peeris

FSS (Family Support Services)
J Ramakrishnan

Corporate Communications
M Revathhi

Accounts
Bernadette Soh
Albert Pok

Events
Lestrine Tan

Operations/Events
Helmi

EDITORIAL TEAM

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

CONTRIBUTORS

Yvonne Pereira (Balut, Easter Sunday Lunch and Toastmasters)
Colin Bolton (various stories)

MCI (P) 168/04/2014

CONTENTS

AT THE HELM

03 President's message

TRIBUTE TO MR LEE KUAN YEW

04 Remembering the achievements of Mr Lee Kuan Yew

NEWS

06 Dice days for the baluteers
Knock, knock... it's the Toastmasters
Contribute to the Care & Share Fund

07 The EA plays host to VIPs
Lunch with friends from the SRC
Eggs on the menu for Easter Sunday lunch



EDUCATION

08 Dr Melissa Fullwood's cancer research success
Get an educational boost with the CTP

09 Taking tea with Mr SR Nathan
Educational ceremonies at the ECH

COVER STORY

10 A Eurasian take on SG50

FSS

17 Financial help for disadvantaged families
EA help for a struggling single mum

CULTURE AND HERITAGE

18 A history of Peranakan jewellery

19 Immerse yourself in culture and history on
The Eurasian Experience tour

18



YOUTH AND SPORTS

20 Young people have their say on Singapore's future

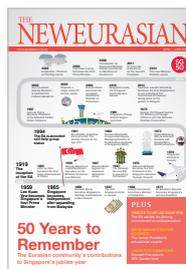
21 Christopher van Huizen's career is on target for success



PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY

22 Fun and Games in Chef Kenneth's kitchen

23 Former national player Melanie Ann Martens looks back on her hockey career



On the Cover

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
Type area: 185mm x 255mm

Inside front cover: \$1,200
Inside back cover: \$1,200
Outside back cover: \$1,500

Loose inserts: \$1,500

Inside: Colour
Full page: \$1,000
Half page: \$600
Quarter page: \$300

Series discounts, twice a year: 5% discount

Series discounts, four times a year: 10% discount

How to place your ad

Call the EA at 6447 1578 or e-mail Revathhi at revathhi@eurasians.org

Deadline

Copy must be submitted two weeks before publication date.



(Established July 1919)

139 Ceylon Road, Singapore 429744

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

President's Message

It was with great sadness that on 23 March we learned of the death of Mr Lee Kuan Yew, our nation's founding Prime Minister. On behalf of the Eurasian community and the Management Committee, Trustees, Patrons and Secretariat of the EA, we offer sincere condolences to Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and the family of the late Mr Lee.

Mr Lee Kuan Yew was a man whose unprecedented vision and determination led us out of adversity and into building the successful nation that Singapore is today. Many of our Eurasian pioneers worked with Mr Lee and his team to help build the foundations of Singapore's world-class civil service. His leadership was built on his commitment to creating a model multiracial society believing that, regardless of our race or religion, Singapore belonged to all of us. While he led us to become one Singaporean people, his philosophy was not to do this at the expense of our individual identities, resulting in the rich tapestry of cultures that makes up the Singapore fabric of today. It was because of Mr Lee and his strong sense of justice, meritocracy and values that we have a cohesive and multi-ethnic society. This has ensured that despite the small size of our community, Eurasians have continued to receive strong support from the government over the decades, EA has been accorded the privilege of being one of the four self-help groups in Singapore and we have our Eurasian Community House to call home.

On behalf of the Eurasian Community, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to Mr Lee, for all he has done for us and Singapore. Perhaps it is apt that we are now at the cusp of our 50 years of nationhood; a significant milestone for us to reflect on the past and celebrate the success of Singapore. While we should celebrate this success in Mr Lee's honour, the best tribute we can pay

him is to come together as a community and as one Singaporean people to ensure his legacy is well preserved and commit to building on this success for future generations.

This issue of *The NewEurasian* is dedicated to the SG50 celebrations and how the EA and others in the Eurasian community are putting in their best efforts commemorate this milestone. We are working on a book to commemorate the contributions of Eurasians to our 50 years of nationhood. There are several events that are also being organised, which you can read about in our cover story.

Among the Eurasians that played a significant role in Singapore's development was George Edwin Bogaars, who helped to build the Ministry of Defence and was one of the first heads of the Civil Service. The EA will be supporting the National University of Singapore in its fund-raising efforts to establish the George Edwin Bogaars professorship in History. You can read more about this on page 11.

In this issue, we also highlight key education events that took place in the last quarter, such as the Temasek Cares Awards Ceremony held in March, which recognises students who have made special efforts to succeed in their education. In addition, former president Mr SR Nathan attended the Eurasian Community House to distribute the S R Nathan Education Award for outstanding students, who had a chance to meet with him. Mr Nathan, himself, received a bursary in his youth and set up the awards to recognise the value of a good education.

The Government's Care & Share scheme, which matches donations made to the self-help groups, has been extended; this means our donors will see even greater value for their money and the EA will be able to plan



more ambitious schemes to help deserving youngsters with their education and extend our help to the community's disadvantaged members. See the difference your donation will make on page 6.

Our annual general meeting was held on 10 April and on behalf of the Management Committee, I would like to thank members of the community, our Patrons, Trustees and members of EA for their support. We look forward to your continued support and active participation in EA's programmes and activities in this SG50 year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benett Theseira'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large loop at the end.

Benett Theseira
President

Remembering

Mr Lee Kuan Yew

(16 September 1923 - 23 March 2015)

On 23 March, Singaporeans awoke to the news of the passing of Mr Lee Kuan Yew. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong declared a period of national mourning, during which countless people queued – often for periods up to 10 hours – to pay their respects. We take a look at Mr Lee’s life and how he contributed to the Eurasian community



National Museum of Singapore Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

“Mr Lee was committed to the idea of building a model multiracial society, quite unlike what he had seen in other countries or experienced as a student in the United Kingdom, or growing up in pre-independence Singapore”

HIS LIFE

Born in 1923, Lee Kuan Yew was the eldest of five siblings. In his formative years, he was educated at Telok Kurau Primary School. He later gained admission into Singapore’s premier secondary school, Raffles Institution. In his junior years, he attained scholarships to attend Raffles College (now National University of Singapore) and emerged as the top student in Singapore and Malaya for the School Certificate Examinations. However, the Japanese Occupation interrupted his university education. Mr Lee learned Japanese and was employed by his grandfather’s friend, a textile importer. He tapped into Japanese airwaves and knew that the Japanese were losing the war. He aroused suspicion and abandoned plans of fleeing lest the Japanese captured him. Mr Lee would have met his demise if he hadn’t excused himself to get his clothes when he was segregated with fellow Chinese men during the Sook Ching massacre.

When the war ended, he studied briefly at the London School of Economics before moving to the University of Cambridge, where he studied law at Fitzwilliam College, obtaining a rare double-starred first-class honours. He drove a lorry while his friend David Widdicombe campaigned for the Labour Party. His stay in Britain persuaded Mr Lee to fight for self-rule in Singapore.

When he returned, he worked at John Laycock’s law firm and was the company’s election agent in the 1951 legislative council elections. Three years later, he gathered a group of English-educated middle-class men and formed the People’s Action Party. In 1955, he won the Tanjong Pagar elections and went on to overthrow pro-communists

and become Singapore’s first Prime Minister. After that, he dedicated his life to building a world-class metropolis.

As Prime Minister, Mr Lee was a friend of the Eurasian community. In a speech at the Community Memorial Tribute on 27 March, EA President Benett Theseira said of Mr Lee: “Our pioneers such as Benjamin Sheares, Kenneth Byrne, Maurice Baker, Stanley Stewart, George Bogaars, Joe Conceicao, Herman Hochstadt and others played significant roles in the new government. They were attracted to serve by his visionary leadership and call to mission; many became his close friends.”

MULTICUTURALISM & BILINGUALISM

In his speech, Benett added that Mr Lee “was committed to the idea of building a model multi-racial society, quite unlike what he had seen in other countries or experienced as a student in the United Kingdom, or growing up in pre-independence Singapore. He was a pragmatic person who was able to understand the challenges that minority groups faced and yet the value that their diversity could bring to Singapore.”

One of Mr Lee’s notable achievements was his push for multiculturalism in his governing agenda. Mr. Lee founded multi-racialism in Singapore at the start of his 31-year tenure as Prime Minister. Despite the 75 per cent Chinese majority in Singapore, he was determined to preserve the other cultures and the collective heritage of Singapore. “One thing we should not do is try and stifle the man’s culture, his language, his religion, because that is the surest way to bring him

“Mr Lee founded multi-racialism in Singapore at the start of his 31-year tenure as Prime Minister”

to abandon reason and rationality and stand by his heritage”, he said. This move enabled Singapore to be internationally recognised for its unique multiculturalism and set it apart from mostly homogeneous nations.

Mr Lee made English Singapore’s lingua franca in the wake of the 1965 separation from Malaysia. Adopting an international language of business and diplomacy gave our resource-scarce country a fighting chance of survival post-separation. Using a non-native language also gave everyone an equal chance at succeeding. With English as the official language of commerce and administration, a meritocratic Singapore was on the rise.

Mr Lee also established the self-help groups to make sure that no one was left behind in Singapore’s progress. Although some feared the divisive effects that strengthened communal pulls might have, self-help groups still exist today and extend their service to needy members in their respective communities. They have implemented education programmes to spur students on their academic journey. These self-help groups assisted Singaporeans of all races to progress at an equivalent pace for a better future.



Mr and Mrs Lee Kuan Yew with Dr and Mrs Benjamin Sheares at a NTUC Congress dinner



Lee Kuan Yew and Law Minister EW Barker at the reopening of the Singapore Recreation Club



Lee Kuan Yew greeting the Eurasian community during a tour of Serangoon Gardens constituency

Dice 'n' Easy

This year's EA balut season got off to a boisterous start when 20 stalwarts of the game turned up after a five-month break to do battle again with the die that might – or might not – tumble out of the buck in the desired combinations.

The competitors first enjoyed a nasi lemak dinner before putting their trust in Lady Luck at the balut tables. The place echoed with shrieks of glee when a desired score – and especially a top score of balut – was achieved, while other players kept glancing at the scoreboard in the hope of edging to the top by the end of the evening. This month, Zoe Lazaroo emerged as the champion with 657 points, with Yvonne Pereira a mere five points behind on 652 points and, in third place, Rosemary Tessensohn with 647 points. Zoe won a bottle of wine, which was kindly



Competitors hope to shake a top-scoring balut

sponsored by Quentin's restaurant. The winner for the high score in a single game category was Wijay Kumar, who scored a credible 161 points.

The balut section members would like to thank Evelyn Rodrigues and Mr and Mrs Quentin Pereira for their continuous sponsorship and for the kind donations by The Ban Khi and May Swan.



The baluteers with their die mascots

It's Time to Speak Up

The EA Toastmasters were back in full voice when they took part in their International Prepared Speech and Table Topic contests on 7 March.

Peter Rodrigues, acting as Sergeant-at-Arms for the afternoon, hit the gavel to start the contest, and once the contest's chair Yvonne Pereira had read out the rules it was time for the first contestant to deliver her speech. After the prepared speeches came the Table Topic (impromptu speeches) section. Four contestants put their oratory skills – and their nerves – to the test by competing in both categories.

Saint Yi Htet's speech, Knock Knock, earned her the title of Champion in the International Prepared Speech Contest. Her speech discussed 'emotional hygiene' and the importance of not neglecting your emotions as this can lead to negativity and low self-esteem.

Thinking on his feet for the table topic speech What Is Time To You?, Peter Lee chose to talk about the value of time over money and the need to make best use of the time we have left.



Toastmasters (from left): Tay Yak Keng, Peter Lee, Yvonne Pereira, Michael Rodrigues, Saint Yi Htet and Kevin Sim

He ended by encouraging everyone to go home and hug their nearest and dearest and tell them how much they loved them. His efforts made him the Champion of the Table Topic Contest. The two were also runner-up in their other contest.

Trophies were presented to the two winners (who will represent the EA in the next area contest) and tokens of appreciation and certificates were presented to all the contestants and appointment holders by Chief Judge and Distinguished Toastmaster, Michael Rodrigues, to whom the EA Toastmasters extend their sincere thanks.

Join in and Make a Difference

The Care & Share fund, established in 2013, is a national fund-raising and volunteering movement led by the Community Chest to help the social services sector. The fund aims firstly to bring individuals together to make a difference to the lives of disadvantaged members of society. Secondly, it wants to create awareness about voluntary welfare organisations and the difference they can make to those in need.

As the smallest of the self-help groups, the EA is largely dependent on donations and works closely with its volunteers to implement its programmes. The association is currently stepping up its fund-raising efforts as eligible donations raised by the EA from now until 31 March 2016 will attract increased match-funding from the Government. For the first \$1 million raised by the EA, the Government will provide a grant of \$1.25 million via the Care & Share fund. This money will go towards ensuring that the EA can give help more efficiently to those who need it and the association is also looking at long-term programmes to help beneficiaries.

Many of the people the EA helps are elderly; others come from a low-income, single-parent family. Many of the students we help are discouraged by their family circumstances and often also face financial difficulties. The EA aims to ensure that they remain motivated and meet their full potential.

Members who donate their cash or time help the association to explore a variety of new programmes to introduce. By volunteering your time or donating to the EA, you are not only empowering beneficiaries in the Eurasian community but are also providing them with an opportunity to escape from a downward spiral. With the Government's matching funds, this is now more important than ever.

In 2014, EA raised some \$1 million (including ECF contributions) which was matched with around \$650,000 by the Care & Share fund. Even the smallest donation could mean an extra meal or an extra book to someone.

Your donation will enable the EA to continue its good work in meeting the needs of the Eurasian community. To be a part of our fundraising efforts please visit: <http://www.eurasians.org.sg/contributions/fundraising/>

The EA Plays Host to Distinguished Guests

The EA welcomed two VIPs to the Eurasian Heritage Centre in January. An appreciation lunch was held for Lim Boon Heng, Chairman of Temasek Holdings, and Tan Kian Chew, GCEO of NTUC Fairprice Cooperative Ltd, to thank them for their time and contributions to the association's Charity Golf Tournament 2014. The donations made were greatly valued by EA beneficiaries.

The EA was also honoured to host the Ambassador of Portugal to France and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, HE José Filipe Mendes Moraes Cabral. The visit provided the ambassador with an opportunity to learn more about the Portuguese influence and legacy in Singapore. He was accompanied by Singapore's Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, Ambassador Andrew Toh.



José Filipe Mendes Moraes Cabral (second from left) and Andrew Toh



The appreciation lunch with Tan Kian Chew (third from left) and Lim Boon Heng (fifth from left)

Lunch with the Singapore Recreation Club



EA management committee members hosted an informal lunch for their Singapore Recreation Club (SRC) counterparts at the Eurasian Community House on 18 March, where they enjoyed a meal at Quentin's restaurant.

The EA and SRC have long-held ties and were pleased to catch up on various projects.

An Eggceptionally Good Time



Tiny tots in their Easter bonnets



Cedric Monteiro (seated, third from left) and his family enjoying their Easter lunch

More than 200 diners thronged to the Eurasian Community House for the Easter Sunday lunch organised by the Social Circle and Quentin's restaurant. Those wishing to chat relaxed in the restaurant while the energy levels were ramped up a few notches in the Multi-Purpose Hall, where guests danced to the music of Gerard Danker and Nicholas Bulner.

Tombola sessions and a card draw added to the fun and a colouring contest was judged by Quentin Pereira. The participants with the most colourful bunny at their table won a jar of Easter eggs, and Easter eggs were also presented to three children decked in Easter bonnets.

Yvonne Pereira, who chairs the Social Circle, says: "We would like to express sincere thanks to all who helped make this a success: to Quentin & Kristine Pereira, for their sponsorship of prizes and for their cuisine; their staff for their excellent service; to the EA Secretariat for their contribution; management committee members Paul, Alexius and Francesca for kindly sponsoring a table for FSS clients and to sub-committee members Dorothy, Pamela and Melanie for their sponsorship of prizes and all guests for their support."

Cell-Out Success

Award-winning research scientist Dr Melissa Fullwood talks about what drives her curiosity, and her passion for supporting other budding students

It has been more than 20 years since Melissa Fullwood, 31, received an education award from the EA. Today, she has more than fulfilled that early promise of a successful career. A Junior Principal Investigator at the Cancer Science Institute with a combined appointment as an Assistant Professor at Yale-NUS and a joint principal investigator at the Institute for Molecular and Cell Biology, A*STAR Singapore, she is making huge strides in processing the structure of DNA and its application to cancer treatment.

Her work has recently earned her the A*STAR/SNAS Young Scientist Award, which is administered by the Singapore National Academy of Science (SNAS) and supported by A*STAR. This prestigious award is presented to young researchers aged 35 and below who are actively engaged in R&D in Singapore and have shown great potential to be world-class researchers in their field of expertise. Melissa says: "I am thrilled that my science has received recognition and I am very motivated to continue my work with the goal to eventually translate my work into the clinic."

“As an ambassador, I hope to reach out to girls from disadvantaged backgrounds”

Melissa has enjoyed science since she was very young. During Junior College, she represented Singapore in the International Biology Olympiad and describes it as an eye-opening experience that allowed her to meet many

like-minded students from all over the world. She is now the President of the Singapore Institute of Biology, which, among other activities, organises the Olympiads and trains the Singapore team. "I am happy to provide support to the next generation of Singapore students," she says.

Melissa's work largely focuses on better understanding the role of 3-dimensional (3D) DNA structures in cancer in order to design and advise on better treatments for cancer patients. Her biggest achievement to date has been to develop a method for high-throughput analysis of the 3D structure of

DNA, which she employed to demonstrate that these 3D structures may regulate our genes. This achievement has been profiled not only in the scientific community, but also in newspapers from *The Straits Times* to *The New York Times*.

Despite her several important roles, she makes time to contribute as a United Nations Women ambassador for Science, Technology and Mathematics under its 'Girls2Pioneers' programme. "As an ambassador, I hope to reach out to girls from disadvantaged backgrounds. I am currently planning workshops on the theme of cancer together with my undergraduate students at Yale-NUS for 2015," she says.

Melissa encourages more women to take up a career in science. She says that it is very important to find a topic that one is truly passionate about and that one believes will lead to wonderful new discoveries. She believes firmly in teaching and mentoring students from different levels so that that they can try and find their passion in science. Her advice to young students: "The science path is not for everyone. It involves many sacrifices. Explore the field and try to find the special topic that will drive you."

Preparing for the Exams

The self-help groups offer subsidised tuition for needy students

The Collaborative Tuition Programme (CTP) is jointly organised by the four self-help groups to give disadvantaged children a leg-up with their education. Extra classes are offered to schoolchildren whose families have a per capita income of \$800 and below.

More than 60 CTP centres are located island-wide for convenience. The programme is highly subsidised, with fees of only \$8 per subject/per month for English and Mathematics at Primary level and \$12 per subject/per month for English, Mathematics and Mother Tongue (Chinese/Malay/Tamil) at Secondary level.

If your kids need help with their classes, more information is available at: <http://www.eurasians.org.sg/education/>



Tea and Technology

Hardworking students earned the opportunity to chat with former President SR Nathan over a cup of tea

Two Eurasians were among eight recipients of the SR Nathan Education Award following their acceptance into tertiary education courses. Mr Nathan met the recipients at a tea session at the ECH on 17 January.

The former president, himself the recipient of an educational bursary in 1952, set up the awards in 2011 to acknowledge the positive impact of a good education; the awards are given to outstanding students who have been accepted into an ITE or any of the five polytechnics and are administered by the Community Foundation of Singapore (CFS).

The award covers the full cost of tuition and a book stipend to enable the students to complete the required tenure of study, and the tea session was organised under the guidance of the SR Nathan Education Upliftment Fund Grant Advisory Committee with the CFS and the four self-help groups.

Five of the eight successful students – who were chosen for their tenacity and resilience – attended the tea session.

EA recipient Rolf Gregory Krusemann, 18, is pursuing Aerospace Engineering at Temasek

Polytechnic and is currently completing his internship at ST Aerospace. His mother works long hours to support the family so is rarely at home. Rolf says: “I know she is doing it for our own good and I try to speak to her on the phone in order to stay close.” He says the financial reward has allowed him to concentrate fully on his studies. “I do not have to worry about money, school fees or finding a job yet. I have been given a golden opportunity to excel in my studies.” Rolf’s ambition is to become a design engineer to revamp aeroplanes and improve flying.

Rolf’s ambition is to become a design engineer to revamp aeroplanes

Fellow Eurasian Angileo Kelly, 17, is now pursuing Mechanical Technology at ITE College Central. An avid mountain biker, his passion for mechanics began when his father took him to his

workshop. “My passion for tools began there,” says Angileo. “I quickly picked up on many new skills!” He was proud to obtain a job as an assistance mechanic easily as his employer was impressed with the way he handled the tools and his extensive knowledge of bikes.

Angileo was ecstatic when he heard that he had been selected for the award. He says: “I was inspired and I also know how hard it is for money to come by!”

Both students say that they aim to give back to the community in the same way that they have been supported by Mr SR Nathan. In future, they intend to donate, volunteer and ensure that they assist students who are struggling with their education.

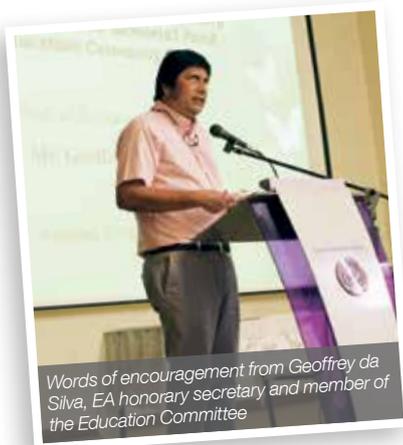


Mr SR Nathan with Rolf Krusemann (seated, second from left) and Angileo Kelly (seated, right) at the tea session



Taking Good Care of Students in Need

Temasek Cares and Coral de Cruz Memorial Fund bursaries were awarded to disadvantaged students at a ceremony at the ECH



Words of encouragement from Geoffrey da Silva, EA honorary secretary and member of the Education Committee



Secondary school recipients at the Temasek Cares ceremony

Education bursaries were issued to needy Eurasian students during an education ceremony held at the Eurasian Community House on 21 March.

The bursaries provided are by the Temasek Cares Education Bursary and the Coral de Cruz Memorial Fund. Temasek Cares awards bursaries to families to ease the burden of school-related expenses. Families who have an income between \$626 and \$1,000 and who do not qualify for the

financial assistance scheme in schools are eligible for the bursary. Among this year’s recipients were 11 primary, 14 secondary and one junior college student.

The Coral de Cruz Memorial Fund is donated by Justice Judith Prakash and her brother, Simon de Cruz, in memory of their mother. Lower-income families with an income of under \$800 are eligible for the bursary and six recipients were given the bursary at the ceremony.

Celebrating

SG
50

*in
Eurasian
Style*

Among all the celebrations to mark Singapore's landmark birthday, the Eurasian community is pitching in with a number of fascinating events

Singapore is seen across the globe as an economic miracle: a once sleepy colonial backwater transformed into a stable, peaceful, multicultural city state with one of the highest per capita incomes in the world. As we celebrate 50 years of independence, we're not just celebrating a landmark number – but the pioneering spirit, creativity and sheer hard work that has earned us such success since we became an independent nation in 1965. Events have been organised all year long to give Singaporeans a birthday that they won't forget while playing tribute to the pioneering generation that led us to the top. The EA is playing its part with a number of initiatives celebrating the Eurasian contribution to our accomplishments

GREAT THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES

A tribute to Eurasian pioneers

Numerous Eurasians have played a prominent role in Singapore's success story, in fields as diverse as politics and the civil service, education, the arts, sports and more. **Great Things Come in Small Packages**, published to celebrate this jubilee year, features 50 prominent Eurasians who have made a significant contribution to the nation's development between 1965 and 2015. We speak to some of those featured and highlight others who are no longer with us.

At the Heart of History

George Edwin Bogaars (25 October 1926 – 6 April 1992), who became head of the civil service, was one of Singapore's most illustrious figures. On his way to the top, he served in various public ministries in the country's nascent days, which made him an insider at some of the nation's most historic events. This year, an endowment for a professorship at the NUS has been made in his name.

George was educated at the Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus, and St Patrick's School, and was then relocated to Chancery Lane during the Second World War where he aided wartime efforts by recording Japanese raids. As Eurasians loyal to the British, the family were at risk and eventually they fled to Bahau for a safer future. However, hunger and malaria plagued their dream of a better life there.

He returned to Singapore at the end of the war and gained a BA and Masters degree, then at his father's insistence, he followed him into a career in public administration.

He became one of the pioneers recruited into the Administrative Service, working in the Department of Commerce and Industry and the Finance Department, before rising to Deputy Secretary in the Treasury in 1955. When Singapore gained independence, he led the Special Branch, which rounded up 114 rebels in 1963. In 1965, he was made Permanent Secretary to the Minister of Interior and Defence, where he served for five years helping the late Dr Goh Keng Swee in establishing the Singapore Armed Forces and its training institute. Three years later, he was appointed head of the Civil Service.

In 1970, he left the Defence Ministry and reprised his Permanent Secretary position in the Ministry of Finance. The same year, he also took the helm at Keppel Shipyard. During his 14-year stewardship, it became the biggest ship repair company in Singapore.

In addition to the medals he received in his lifetime for education and public service, his alma mater, the NUS is now also recognising his achievements by establishing the George Edwin Bogaars Professorship. Establishing a named professorship will enable the NUS to recruit a scholar of the highest calibre.

The EA asks the Eurasian community to donate to this cause to acknowledge the role that George Bogaars played



George Bogaars (left) sitting next to Professor Sir Gordon Arthur Ransome, former Professor of Medicine, at the University of Singapore convocation at the National Theatre

The Straits Times © Singapore Press Holdings Limited. Permission required for reproduction

“The NUS is recognising George Bogaars' achievements by establishing a professorship in his name”

in developing an educational system that made it possible for NUS to grow from a small undergraduate college into a major international research university. The NUS Department of History is seeking to raise \$3 million to establish the *George Bogaars Professorship in History of Government and Politics*. If you are a Singapore tax resident, your gift to NUS in 2015 is eligible for a tax deduction which is three times the gift value. If you would like to make a contribution, kindly use the donation form enclosed with the magazine and post it back to us at the address on the form (postage will be paid for by the EA). For more information about the George Edwin Bogaars Professorship, please contact Dawn Loh from the NUS Development Office at +65-65168241 or dawn.loh@nus.edu.sg

The Zoo Maker



Bernard Harrison giving a talk

Bernard Harrison, 63, is the man behind developing the award-winning Singapore Zoo and the world's first Night Safari, which are now recognised as world-class attractions.

Bernard's mother was Chinese and his father, British. In his book, *Naked Ape Naked Boss*, he writes that his mixed-race has allowed him to easily position himself as a global citizen. He completed a double honours in Zoology and Psychology from the University of Manchester and a Masters in Zoo Design from the National University of Singapore and started work at the zoo in 1973. He was appointed assistant administrative officer. Seven years later, he was its CEO, a post he held for 22 years.

He says: "My favourite part was developing the Primate Kingdom." In his book, he describes his relationship with Singapore's famous zoo celebrity, the late orang-utan Ah Meng, who was the 'face' of Singapore Zoo. He says when he told her "Ah Meng, you look fabulous today!" she would respond "Eeeen eeeenn," which, he says laughing, he always took to mean, "Thanks, darling!"

Bernard's mission is to educate people about animal conservation and create awareness about the joy humans can derive from learning about and playing with animals. He was also responsible for developing the Night Safari and he considers this his biggest achievement. After leaving the zoo in 2002, Bernard and his wife, Tina, set up Bernard Harrison and Friends, a company designing zoos and eco-attractions around the world.

Success and all that Jazz

Photo courtesy of Varian Monteiro



Jeremy Monteiro receives another accolade in his stellar career

Jeremy Monteiro has been a professional musician since he was 16. He started out playing as a pianist at a hotel owned by his father's friend before fate stepped in: his mother had been nursing a club owner, Mr AJ Isaac, at that time and in due course he auditioned and hired Jeremy as a full-time pianist and bandleader.

By 1988, Jeremy achieved his lofty ambition of performing at the Montreux Jazz Festival and is now regarded as a jazz icon in Singapore. He recently released a Chinese New Year album, entitled *Gong XI!*

He credits three people with his meteoric rise: his late father, his friend Eldee Young and Ambassador-at-Large Tommy Koh. His father encouraged him and reminded him never to settle for second best. Eldee Young was his musical soul mate, with whom he has played for 20 years. "He taught me to always remember that the operative word in playing music was 'play' and so although he taught me to take my music seriously, he also taught me not to take myself seriously," says Jeremy. Lastly, is Tommy Koh, who taught Jeremy to be humble in his accomplishments and sincere in appreciating those who elevated him.

A Legacy of Scholarship



Rudy (seated centre) with wife Rita, son Nigel, granddaughter Dominique and grandson Yvan

Rudolph (Rudy) Mosbergen, an avid educator, passed away in February, aged 85. He studied at St Joseph's Institution and later returned there to teach history. He headed several secondary schools, including Swiss Cottage Secondary, where he was principal from 1969 to 1975, and Raffles Junior College (now Raffles Institution), where he was principal from 1982 to 1987.

Although Rudy spent most of his life teaching and leading others in education, he devoted much of his later years putting together his most recent book, *In the Grip of a Crisis*, which details his experiences as a teenager during the Japanese Occupation of Singapore. He also found time to compose songs – despite never having taken a single music lesson in his life. Both his father and grandfather were church organists. Rudy started playing the Pipe Organ at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd and went on to be the choirmaster and organist at St Bernadette Church.

In addition to his academic life, Rudy was also a top sportsman, who represented Singapore in the national hockey team in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. He was also a national coach.

His son, Nigel, says: “Despite his many hobbies, he also spent his twilight years with my mother Rita, his rock and pillar for over 60 years, and enjoyed mentoring my daughter Dominique through her formative years in school. My teenage son, Yvan, will miss his chess games with his grandpa.”

Rudy, who was a contemporary of Mr SR Nathan at university and also taught Tony Tan at SJI, was an avid supporter of the late Lee Kuan Yew.

During Rudy’s final years, he fought tough battles with his illnesses. Many of the senior hospital doctors were his former students at RJC. Nigel said he would whisper to the doctors: “Keep him going!”

Mr Koh Boon Long, a former colleague, says setting up RJC was one of Rudy’s biggest achievements. The two men had met in late 1970 when Rudy had interviewed the younger man for a teaching position at Swiss Cottage Secondary School. Boon Long says: “I was impressed because I could sense his vision and passion as a servant-leader. He did not promise me anything except to say that he expected sacrifice during my service. Most of all he expected integrity, honesty and care for the students.” He says he will miss “a caring mentor, a witty and humorous teacher and, most of all, a warm, true and loyal friend”.

“Rudy Mosbergen was a caring mentor, a witty and humorous teacher and, most of all, a loyal friend”

Another former colleague, Leong Yew Wah, a master teacher at Raffles Institution, recalls that Rudy’s adage was that “the impossible we do at once but miracles take a little longer”. He says: “I thank Rudy for catapulting RJC to excellence.”

Several members of the Swiss Cottage Alumni are establishing a Rudy Mosbergen Scholarship at Swiss Cottage Secondary School as a pinnacle award to recognise outstanding students who exemplify thoughtful leadership, character excellence and intellectual excellence. A scholarship in Rudolph Mosbergen’s memory will spur students towards higher peaks of excellence and continue to serve his dreams of providing quality education.

To make a contribution, please make a cheque payable to Swiss Cottage Secondary School (3 Bukit Batok Street 34, Singapore 659322) and indicate ‘Rudy Mosbergen Scholarship’ on the reverse. The school will issue tax exempt receipts. For more information on the scholarship or donations, please contact Koh Boon Long at 9046 1335 or e-mail him at blkoh2014@gmail.com

CELEBRATING EURASIAN TRADITIONS

Take a tour of the Eurasian Heritage Centre



Sharon Miller with her family

There is no better way to explore the unique Eurasian history, culture and heritage than to enjoy a tour at the Eurasian Heritage Centre (see page 19). Sharon Miller, a Eurasian Heritage Centre guide, explains how she intends to make her tour a captivating experience.

Sharon, 51, started as a guide in the EA in 2014. She had often thought of training as a docent with one of the museums and had noticed a call for tour guides in EA’s e-newsletter, *The Eurasian*. She says: “The other experienced guides generously shared their experiences with me and they were very encouraging.”

Sharon’s Portuguese ancestry had led her to being intrigued about her roots. She was able to trace her mother’s side of the family back to about four generations and found out that her great-great grandfather was Portuguese and lived in Hong Kong. He and his wife were born and married in Portugal.

With the current SG50 celebrations, she feels that it is opportune to showcase the Eurasian pioneers who have helped to build Singapore. As a guide, she is researching and creating an interesting narrative for her tours. “When I engage a child with a story, or a teenager whose eyes light up as I tell them about the brave navigators who faced perils at sea, or get a sincere word of thanks from a group of visitors, it makes being a guide rewarding,” she says.

“Each of the three galleries has its own charm. The Eurasian Showcase Gallery captures the essence of being a Eurasian, from our love of music and sports to food and religion. The World War II gallery tells a dramatic story of its own. The Roots gallery tells stories about courageous sailors and navigators who made their way from Europe to Asia and created the Eurasian community.”

The Bahau exhibit holds special meaning for her. She grew up hearing stories about Bahau; during the war, her parents, maternal grandmother and relatives had spent almost two years in the Bahau jungle.



THE EURASIAN COLLECTION

A trip down memorabilia lane

To commemorate SG50, the EA is publishing a book entitled *The Eurasian Collection*, which is a compilation of stories behind artefacts and heirlooms that have been passed down through several generations. These articles have been loaned or donated to the Eurasian community and include items such as marriage and baptism certificates, medals, kitchenware, wedding gowns and jewellery. The New Eurasian talked to some of the Eurasians who kindly contributed their keepsakes.



Clockwise from above: Gerardine Donough-Tan with Johnny Tan in Johor; baju panjang; jelly moulds; Japanese banana money

She believes that it's important to pass on the Eurasian culture to the next generation and says: "I gave away many things, some to the National Archives, and discarded others. A few items were sold – the proceeds went towards masses for my late parents. Old paraphernalia may be relics to some people but rubbish to others. I still have a few boxes that will have to go one day!"

“What surfaced when the artefacts were pieced together was a walk through the life of a Eurasian, from birth to death”



All photos of artefacts on this spread courtesy of Emma Chiau

Gerardine Donough-Tan, 60, describes herself as a true 'rojak'. Her paternal great grandfather and grandmother were Irish and Filipino Spanish, respectively. Her maternal grandfather and grandmother were Straits Chinese and Scottish-Thai, respectively.

Gerardine has loaned 14 items, including a notebook with Japanese writing, Japanese 'banana money' (war-time banknotes illustrated with bananas) and a handbook of colloquial Japanese. These mostly belonged to her father, Cuthbert Donough, and aunt, Alice van Cuylenburg. Gerardine found them when she was clearing her father's apartment after he passed away.

Stepping into Valerie Scully's house is like walking into yesteryear, with its coffee shop tables and brass pieces previously used by street vendors. Valerie became an EA volunteer in 1990 and realised that she had much to offer in the way of Portuguese-Eurasian traditions. She started the first Song and Dance Troupe at the EA and was instrumental in raising awareness of Eurasian culture, now called 'The Eurasian Experience' tours, which include talks on Eurasian culture and performances to government agencies, private organisations and schools. She says: "Members of my troupe used to help source for old items that would relate to the talks. What surfaced when the artefacts were pieced together was a walk through the life of a Eurasian, from birth to death."

She has loaned several items, including porcelain, glass blancmange moulds, *baju panjang* (a Eurasian tunic), and rhombongs.





A rhombong

They were artistically woven together and came in different sizes and shapes. During the 1940s, young mothers used the large rectangle rhombongs as luggage for their baby's needs when they went to spend a day with their parents." She adds that some of the smaller boxes were used to keep sewing items.



Kevin Aeria

Kevin Aeria, who chairs the EA's Heritage Committee, has also contributed items. On the death of his great-aunt Eliza Thomazios, he inherited two boxes. Assuming they were old coins and notes, Kevin tucked them away. He says: "About 15 years later, I was clearing my wardrobe as we were moving and was astonished to find

a beautiful set of kerosang (brooches) and sanggol (hairpins) greeting me!"



Kerosang and sanggol (right)



A 1940s' tea set

Kevin remembers his aunt as a true blue Portuguese Nyonya from Jasin, Malacca. He describes her as someone who was fiercely proud of her heritage. "I can remember her immaculate baju panjang attire, with the top held by a set of kerosang. On festive occasions, she had her long hair bunned up by a set of sanggol." Excited about his discovery, Kevin decided to become a collector of Peranakan and colonial artefacts, and safe keeper of his family's heirlooms.

Kevin has loaned the EA a quaint tea set and plates, one of the oldest items in his collection. He says that a unique feature of the tea set is its trademark stamps at the bottom, which reflect its 1940s' origin.



John Conceicao

John Conceicao, 49, a history enthusiast who penned his Master thesis on the history of Eurasians under the rule of the British and Japanese, takes his passion further by amassing antiques which have cultural relevance to his Eurasian-Peranakan heritage. "Knowing our history and origins gives us our identity. It helps to explain who we are and why we behave in a particular manner," he says.

The most treasured possessions in his collection are his grandmother's brass brueder moulds. These were used to make brueder, a cake using toddy (a fermented coconut alcoholic drink). First introduced by the early Dutch settlers, it was localised by the the Eurasian community. The moulds are believed to be from World War II. When John came across a recipe handwritten by his grandfather, he made a fascinating discovery: one stage of making the cake involves wrapping the mixture in a bowl and leaving it overnight under a bed. This enables the toddy in the brueder to make the cake rise. However, toddy is no longer available and fermented tapioca liquid is used as an alternative.



Brueder moulds

Although brueder is an obscure dish, John believes that it will become popular again and that Singaporeans will experiment and develop a new recipe to suit modern palates. The brueder moulds are special to him because they remind him of his grandmother's endearing meticulousness. Dulcie Louisa Pestana-Conceicao was an excellent cook and spared no effort in food preparation. He fondly recalls her in a sarong, collecting seaweed from the beach to make seaweed agar agar.

A number of these items will be on display at the Eurasian Community House during the Singapore Heritage Festival, from 18 April to 17 May. *The Eurasian Collection* book features 100 items and will be launched on 19 September at the National Museum.

More information about *The Eurasian Collection* will be available in *The New Eurasian* and on the EA's website and Facebook in due course.



SEA-ZING THE OPPORTUNITY

Singapore hosts the South East Asian Games



Hazel Seah (second from left) with the Eurasian dancers

In June, Singapore will host the 28th South East Asian (SEA) Games. But it's not just the athletes who are in training for the big sporting event. Artistic performers from all corners of the country are also rehearsing for the opening ceremony. We spoke to Hazel Seah Hui Min, 19, about her involvement in the EA's dance performance.

Hazel says: "I feel proud and honoured to be given such an opportunity to represent the Eurasian community and to be watched by thousands of spectators all over the world." Having enjoyed participating in the 2010 Youth Olympics Games' opening ceremony, she leapt at the chance to dance at another big event. As with dancing, preparing for the opening ceremony requires intricate timing. The ITE College Central student is juggling between school and rehearsals, but says her team mates have been very helpful in making allowances for her schedule and teaching her the dance routine that she will perform on 5 June.

“I feel honoured to be given an opportunity to represent the Eurasian community and to be watched by thousands of spectators all over the world”

Asked which athlete she is rooting for, she says: "My fellow Eurasian, Joseph Schooling!"

The EA expresses sincere thanks to Elizabeth Schurmann, choreographer Syarul Ezuan and students from the EA and ISS International for representing the Eurasian community at SEA Games 2015.

DRUMMING UP ENTHUSIASM

Folk songs among the flora



Feel the beat! Drummers at Percussion 101

The first Singapore jubilee event supported by SG50's Celebration Fund was a concert called *Percussion 101*, held at the Botanic Gardens on 4 January.

The concert featured an ensemble comprising a unique blend of cultural percussion instruments that reflected the four main Singapore ethnic groups. The man behind the concert is Robert Casteels, whose programme consisted of popular folk tunes and the audience of 3,000 joined in to sing. The performers included five professional musicians, 20 music students and 25 elderly and young members from various community centres. Minister Lawrence Wong was guest of honour.

Robert is a music composer, orchestra conductor, pianist and educator. Over the years, he has written more than 100 musical works that cross cultures, genres and disciplines. Helping him with the concert was Kheng Seng, who has been a full-time percussionist with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra since 1997.

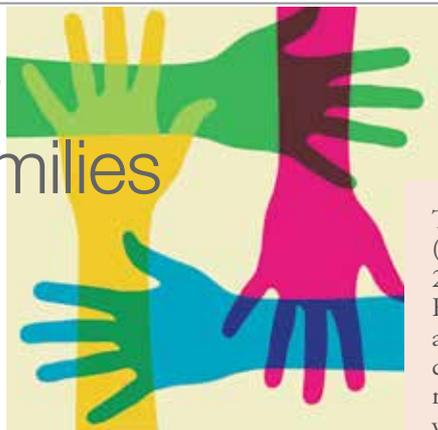
The duo had started planning as early as February last year. Robert says: "The whole idea was to enable people from all walks of life to come together to celebrate our nation's 50th birthday by drumming together. At first we aimed for 50 players, but 100 were playing their heart out!" Many first-timers, students, semi-professionals, youngsters and retirees joined them and all wore a T-shirt specially designed for the occasion.

“It is hard not to be ensnared by the driving beat of Eurasian snare drums”

Kheng Seng adds: "The Eurasian community is part and parcel of the fabric of the nation. We had decided from the start that the Eurasian style of playing was going to be a part of the programme." Eurasian drums were incorporated into the concert, which, says Kheng Seng, "are snare drums and were found in Medieval Europe. They were often used in European folk music and continue to today. It is hard not to be ensnared by their driving beat."

For Robert, his favourite Eurasian element, more than any specific instrument, was the sense of musicality of the Eurasian musicians. He adds: "Alicia de Silva was our emcee and she led a group of angklungs and was the narrator in a special composition by young Singaporean composer Wang Cheng Wei entitled *The Sisters' Islands*, which tells the legend surrounding the origins of the islands."

Financial Help for Disadvantaged Families



The EA is involved with two schemes that help needy families and the costs of their children's education. Check here to see if you are eligible

The Silent Foundation was founded in July 2010 as a registered charity and one of its primary objectives is to help the underprivileged in minority races in Singapore. It also believes that by helping the minority communities it is promoting racial harmony in society.

The Silent Minority Compassionate Bursary was set up in order to provide financial assistance for school children so that they can complete their education when a catastrophic event such as death, sickness, divorce, loss of employment or an accident strikes the family's breadwinner. The bursary for the Eurasian community has been administered by the EA since 2014. Six families are currently benefitting from the scheme.

The bursary provides financial assistance for schoolchildren when a catastrophic event strikes the family's breadwinner

To find out more about the Silent Minority Compassionate Bursary scheme, visit: <http://www.silent.org.sg/projects.html>

To find out more about the bursary, its requirements and how to apply, please contact Ram at 6447 1578 or e-mail him at ram@eurasians.org

The Home Ownership Plus Education (HOPE) Scheme was introduced in 2004 by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF). This assists young, low-income families who choose to keep their families small to receive comprehensive benefits that will help them improve their living standards. Beneficiaries are able to receive a conditional housing and/or utilities grant if they meet the MSF's requirements. They can also benefit from training and employment provision plus support for their children in the form of education bursaries and mentorship.

To find out more about the requirements for the HOPE scheme, visit: <http://app.msf.gov.sg/Assistance/Home-Ownership-Plus-Education-HOPE-Scheme>

If you wish to apply, please contact Ram at the EA: tel. 6447 1578; e-mail ram@eurasians.org



Being a single parent is a struggle at the best of times. And when money is tight – as it often is with just one salary coming in – life can get really tough.

Anne (not her real name), 36, has been a single mother for nine months. She has five children: three girls and two boys. Her youngest child, who is two, is often sick and in need of her consistent care. She says that single parents are often stuck in a rut of working in low-paid, part-time jobs that barely cover the costs of life's basic necessities. She feels that her family's entire life has been put on hold and everyday activities such as school excursions or sports

Going Solo

Turning to the EA for help has allowed a single mum to devote more time to raising her kids

are out of reach for her children. She says she was abandoned, leaving her in serious financial difficulties, and that her children have been forced to grow up early and are already learning the harsh realities of life.

Anne works part time as a cashier and relies mostly on her eldest son, who is 14. If she is on night shift, he babysits his younger siblings. She says: "I am proud of him because he helps his siblings to study."

She describes herself as hardworking. "Despite my struggles, the children are my highest priority. I want to work hard and provide the best possible future for my kids."

Fortunately, Anne learned about the EA through her aunt last year and has also sought assistance from the CDC. Since the beginning of this year she has been receiving both financial assistance and food rations. "The assistance from EA and CDC has been tremendously useful. I used to work longer

shifts. Now, I am able to work shorter shifts, especially when my youngest child is sick."

“Despite my struggles the children are my highest priority”

Anne accepts that while her children are still young, she will not be able to make huge changes to her situation. But she is determined eventually to upgrade herself in the food and beverage industry in which she works.

The EA largely relies on public generosity. Your donations allow us to fund our programmes that make a difference to single-parent families in our care. If you can help a needy family get on in life, please visit: <http://www.eurasians.org.sg/contributions/fundraising/>

A Sparkling Afternoon

Norman Cho, an avid collector of Peranakan jewellery, porcelain, silverware and fabrics, shared his expertise with EA members during a talk at the Eurasian Community House



Norman Cho



Butterfly intan kerosang rantay



Kerosang serong set from the early 1900s



Phoenix intan kerosang

The Eurasian and Peranakan communities of the Straits Settlements have many things in common. Both originated in Malacca, the Eurasians being the descendents of the intermarriage between the early European settlers (originally the Portuguese), and the Peranakans the descendents of the intermarriage between Chinese traders who settled in Malacca, and later Penang and Singapore.

The two communities share some similar favourite culinary dishes and similar clothing and many chose to live in the Katong and Joo Chiat areas. So EA members were keen to attend a talk on Peranakan jewellery in February by collector Norman Cho, who is himself a Peranakan. The event started with guests testing their jewellery in a Thermo Scientific Niton (XRF) Analyzer (provided by Pacific-Tec Scientific Pte Ltd), where they could discover in seconds the exact precious metal content in their jewellery, coins and other valuable products.

Here, Norman tells us more about the Peranakan community – and his precious collections.

What inspired the Peranakan jewellery talk?

Recently, many people have been taking an active interest in learning about the Peranakan culture. I think interest was aroused by the *Little Nyonya* drama serial on TV! During my talks, I like to tell my audience about the historical items that the Peranakan community used during the olden days and how they've evolved.

Back in those days, there used to be goldsmith shops which designed jewellery for the Peranakans – the 'intan' jewellery (rose-cut

diamonds) used to be very popular. I also talk about the 'kerosang', the set of three brooches that are pinned to the kebaya. The kerosang is an essential piece of jewellery for the Nyonyas.

“I believe that all my items should be able to tell a story”

When did you start becoming a collector of Peranakan items?

I collect all sorts of Peranakan items, ranging from jewellery to porcelain to fabric. I started in 1998 after receiving good grades in my GCE 'O' level examinations. My uncle had given me \$100 and I was able to buy two Peranakan tea cups, also known as 'Nyonya ware'. I bargained so hard and yet ended up paying \$100. After starting work, I was able to afford costlier pieces and started curating the items. I believe that all my items should be able to tell a story.

Do you have a favourite item?

Of course! It's the deer brooch that I show to guests during the talk. It's the first major piece of antique jewellery I bought. I had to sell off a Peranakan tea set in order to buy it as it was very pricey. I love its unusual design work.

Where can our readers find out more about the Peranakan culture?

You can always visit the Peranakan Museum. If you have more questions, get in touch with me on the Peranakan Material Culture Facebook page.

Discover Who You Really Are

Take The Eurasian Experience and learn about the fascinating history and culture of our people



Both adults and children enjoy the tour of the Eurasian Heritage Centre, together with the chance to learn a traditional dance

How much do you really know about your Eurasian background? Do you know how you and your ancestors got to be of mixed race, and the part they played in Singapore's history? In our multicultural little country a lot of us are not only ignorant about the nation's three other main cultures – but also fairly hazy about our own.

So why not take The Eurasian Experience and learn who you are and why you and your family follow certain Eurasian traditions that are unique to our culture?

Experience Eurasian culture in a variety of different ways, from food and dance performances to a tour of the galleries

The Eurasian Heritage Centre works actively to create awareness about the history of Eurasians and our lifestyle and culture, and its knowledgeable tour guides provide an interactive session about the Eurasian community in Singapore.

In 2010, the EA and Quentin's restaurant collaborated to devise an exclusive tour called

The Eurasian Experience, which provides guests with an enjoyable way to experience Eurasian culture in a variety of different ways, from food and dance performances to a tour of the galleries at the Eurasian Community House. These tours have been immensely well received by both adults and children, Eurasians and non-Eurasians.

The Eurasian Heritage Centre currently houses three permanent exhibitions. Over the next decade, the EA Heritage Committee plans to turn the Eurasian Community House into a resource centre for the Eurasian legacy, heritage and culture.

Here's what The Eurasian Experience provides:

A guided tour of the three heritage galleries, which comprise:

- The Eurasian Showcase (Level 1), where you learn about people who have contributed to the progress of the nation. The exhibit also features Eurasian history and culture.
- World War II: The Eurasian Story (Level 4). This is an exhibition on the social life of the community in Singapore during World War II. Many families have shared their stories about how they lived and survived through the war. It also features experiences of those in the Bahau community.

- Roots of our Community (Level 4). Here, you'll delve into the roots of Eurasians in Singapore and find out more about the Europeans (Portuguese, Dutch, British and others) who came to Singapore during the spice trade era and the impact they had on society through inter-marriage.
- Interactive performance of the traditional *Jinkli Nona* Portuguese folk dance.
- Sampling of a traditional Eurasian delicacy, suggee cake.

To Book a Tour

Admission is open to all. Charges are: adult: \$12; student: \$10.

Guests are welcome to enjoy an unguided tour of the galleries, without booking, but a minimum of 25 people is required for a guided tour.

Opening hours: Tuesday - Sunday (9 am to 6 pm).

For customised tours, please contact Jacqueline at jacqueline@eurasians.org or 6447 1578.

Staying Grounded in an Uncertain World

Scientist Crystal Tan discusses her involvement in a youth dialogue session organised by the Government



A recent dialogue session conducted by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) to discover young people's views on global problems such as security threats and social cohesion was exactly the kind of project to interest Crystal Tan.

The 27-year-old forensic scientist, who has carried out voluntary work abroad, believes that her mixed heritage (a Eurasian mother and Chinese father) has led her to be curious about different cultures and she enjoys travelling and gaining new perspectives by immersing herself in the culture of other countries.

She has been active in the EA since 2011 and says: "I decided to become involved with the EA as I wanted to meet young fellow Eurasians. I also wanted to contribute back to the Eurasian community."



Crystal Tan at one of the EA's education ceremonies

She was interested in taking part in the MCCY dialogue as she believes young people should learn more about current affairs: "It's important to be actively involved and protect our fragile social fabric."

Crystal says the session was engaging and more than 300 young participants split into teams to discuss issues based on different themes. She adds: "Many decided to share

their views and personal stories regarding various issues, which made the event even more enriching."

She believes that one of the biggest challenges that Singapore is facing is the sensitive subject of security threats and that it is important, especially for young people, to understand the gravity of such dangerous situations. She says: "Infrastructure damage can be easily replaced; however we must embrace and protect the trust and harmony among the races that our pioneers have painstakingly built over the past 50 years."

Crystal's greatest takeaway from the session was that there are threats everywhere and that we should never take our safety or security for granted. She believes that everyone should stick together even if they were to find themselves in a hostile situation.



Young people give their opinions at the Youth Dialogue Session



Christopher van Huizen in a relaxed mood off the pitch

Eye on the Ball

Christopher van Huizen dreams of playing for Singapore's national football team, and is training every day in the hope of achieving his goal

It was inevitable that Christopher van Huizen would have a career in sports. A promising track and field athlete in his younger days, he then decided to turn his energies to football, which he had also been playing since the age of nine.

Although he was winning medals on the track, he always felt that he was not reaching the heights that were expected of him. He says: "I did win a few medals, and of course lost a few as well. But I felt that a team sport will lead me to winning and that's my goal for every game!"

He started out with the usual football games at school like any other young boy, and recalls a few of the games that had a huge impact on his attitude towards the game. One of the most memorable was an intense game between St Patrick's and Kranji Secondary Schools. "Everyone was fast and moving! It was very difficult to focus. Suddenly, I scored the winning goal from the half-way line. I can't even describe how happy my team and I felt."

Christopher had grown up playing soccer with his father, Gerard, and the family suggested that he might be better turning his focus from athletics to football. He then got his big break when he was chosen to join MediaCorp's *First XI* reality television programme. The show gives amateur footballers a chance to realise their dream of becoming a professional footballer.

"It's ironic that I think of my dad as an inspiration and still feel that he is my biggest fan!"

"The show gave me the first taste of how professional footballers trained and what type of nutrition they required," he says. He admits that he was extremely nervous during his first game. He was not used to playing before a crowd and his touches of the ball were all wrong: "The pressure was overwhelming!"

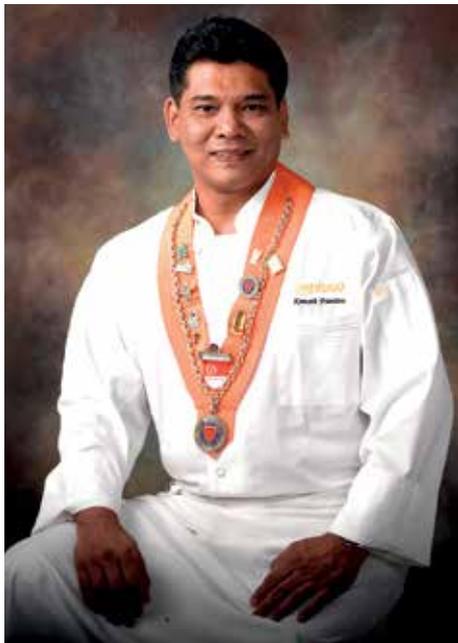
At the age of 17, he was playing for Tampines Rovers in the reserve Prime League, then after his National Service, at the age of 22, the midfielder joined the club's S. League team. Christopher says that the most challenging aspect of football is keeping up a consistent performance and that for many players it's nerve-wrecking to know that they could lose their spot in the team if they fail to perform well in a few games. His advice? "Clear your mind before each game and focus! Each and every thought must be about the game."

Christopher says he owes much of his success to his dad. "It's ironic that I think of him as an inspiration and still feel that he is my biggest fan!" he laughs. His dad often gives him tips to play better as he never fails to attend his son's games.

Christopher says he enjoys his daily training sessions and hopes to realise his ambition of representing Singapore in the national team. Let's hope he's soon on the receiving end of the Kallang Roar!

SEA Food

A true child of independent Singapore, Chef Kenneth Francisco will be celebrating his own 50th birthday this year together with the nation's landmark anniversary. But in addition to the various festivities, he has a major work project that he is busy with – supervising the food production for the thousands of international athletes and staff involved with this year's 28th SEA Games in the republic



Kenneth Francisco wearing the insignia of senior membership of the *Chaîne des Rôtisseurs*, a prestigious international gastronomic society



Kenneth with Eurasian pal Joseph Schooling

Every day, Kenneth Francisco thinks about vast quantities of food. As Sentosa Leisure Group's Executive Chef, he is responsible for more than seven kitchens and outlets across the island. But in June, he will be attached to the SEA Games Organising Committee as its F&B & Culinary consultant and since last year, he has been planning recipes to cater not just for large numbers of people from different food cultures, but for sports people and athletes whose precise food intake and required nutritional value is vital to their athletic preparations and performance. He will be working together with 20 hotels and three official caterers for the event.

Kenneth is unfazed by the challenge however, having previously worked as Head of Culinary Operations for the Singapore Youth Olympic Games (SYOG) 2010, where he spearheaded its \$18 million temporary kitchen located in NTU. Since then, he was also attached to the London Olympics Games 2012 for a month as their personal chef for the Singapore National Team.

It was home cooking that led him to his chosen career today. "I was inspired by my sister's cooking," he says. "I liked to eat and cook and just like that my passion grew. My favourite dish will never change – it has always been the devil's curry!"

When he started out, young chefs did not come armed with qualifications from culinary schools. "The only way to learn was if the chef could see that you were hard-working and was willing to teach you the skills and the tricks of the trade," he says. "A would-be chef needs to have a sense of adventure, be prepared to work long hours in the kitchen and be willing to learn, and a lot of it is taking the initiative to learn outside of the workplace and be willing to go through the journey of self-discovery through exploration and experimenting with different recipes."

Even now, he says, he continues to learn: "A good chef is someone who should believe in

and advocate lifelong learning." During the SYOG, he discovered how to handle contractors, officials and athletes. Chef Kenneth began to prepare the menu for the SEA Games last year in order to be ready for June. It was crucial to get an early start and there were lots of discussions and meetings as athletes require varied nutritional requirements and his work required him to perform a thorough analysis of each recipe. Among the challenges, he says, is that it's tricky to increase the amount of protein in a vegetarian diet. Most vegetarian dishes are low in protein, so in order to get the 25 per cent of protein necessary for the dietary requirement, you have to increase the volume.

“A would-be chef needs to have a sense of adventure and take the initiative to learn outside of the workplace”

Kenneth's current concern is that a proper system should be in place to ensure food safety at the 28th SEA Games – from purchasing, defrosting, preparing and serving. "When cooking mass amounts of food, people tend to get tired and overlook safety, thus I am here to ensure that does not happen and safety should be our utmost priority," he says.

Among their meals, athletes can expect a variety of healthy versions of local delights such as nasi goreng, nasi lemak, briyani, laksa and fried carrot cake. His favourite is chicken rice, which he describes as a favourite among many local and international teenagers and adults alike.

As a Eurasian, Kenneth is of course rooting for swimmer Joseph Schooling to win. "When he heads to the (Brazil) Rio de Janeiro Olympics, I will make him personalised healthy and yummy meals so he can win a medal for us!" he jokes.



Clockwise from above: Melanie with her parents, sister and extended family; receiving her SEA Games medal; in action on the hockey field



Hooked on Hockey

With the SEA Games nearly upon us, educator Melanie Ann Martens looks back on her playing days in the national hockey team

With parents who were both coaches of their respective school sports teams, it's not surprising that Melanie Anne Martens grew up sporty and eventually earned a place among the nation's sporting elite.

Now 55, she can still recall how she first found a love of sport and the inspirational role that her parents played.

She recalls: "I used to follow my parents to their respective school's hockey training and games. My dad cut an adult-sized hockey stick to my size and I used it to hit around." She started playing hockey at the age of 10 and used to run for her primary school athletics team. When she was young, she would watch her father, Peter, and uncle, John Martens, play. She names her favourite hockey player as the retired, 37-year-old Luciana Aymar of Argentina, considered the best hockey player of all time. Melanie says: "I love her skills and her intelligence in reading the game."

She recalls that one of her most memorable experiences as a national hockey player was the team's gold medal win during the SEA Games 1993, against Malaysia. Although they were considered the underdogs, the

One of Melanie's most memorable experiences as a national hockey player was the team's SEA Games gold medal win against Malaysia

Singapore team had prepared for two years for the game. Melanie says: "We made all the sacrifices and gelled as a team so that we'd be good enough to make it to the final. Many were stunned at our victory but we as a team knew that we were going to win."

In Melanie's day, hockey training used to take place in the late afternoons and evenings and she remembers the sessions as usually being tiring, although the intensity and quality of the training varied with different coaches. "I remember Mr VK Chelvan, who is the local coach I learnt most from; he is responsible for who I am as a hockey player," she says: "I also trained under Ms Margaret Peirce (the coach of the 1993 SEA Games team), who taught me the most about people management. She was able to bring out the best in each team player."

Like any other sport, hockey has evolved. Melanie feels that the speed of the game has changed because of the surface that it's played on. The new synthetic turf requires every person on the team to be physically fit, agile and strong. "Back then, the game was played on grass and we could rely on a little bit of luck. There was a slight unpredictability", she says.

Melanie still plays hockey occasionally and during the past two years was part of a lower division in the local league.

For hockey players who aspire to play professionally, she advises that they need to ensure that they can match the physical nature of the sport overseas and they must be open to playing in countries such as Holland, France or Spain where they have professional hockey leagues. For beginners she suggests: "Contact a club via the Singapore Hockey Federation and they will be able to match your needs with a suitable club."

DANCING TO THE CHINGAY BEAT

The Chingay Parade, held on 27 and 28 February at the F1 Pit Building, celebrated Singapore's golden jubilee. This year's event featured the highest number of international participants joining the locals.

The EA dancers, dressed in purple, blue, green, red and gold, joined forces with St Joseph's Institution International and the Peranakan Main Wayang Company to make a colourful contribution to the parade. They danced to the music of Alvin Oon's upbeat Peranakan song, *Marilah Kita Bersama*, with the inclusion of a verse of the *Jinkli Nona* for a unique Eurasian touch.

Jacqueline Pereira choreographed the steps and Richard Tan and Valerie Scully assisted in coordinating the Peranakan and Eurasian contingents respectively.

