

# THE neweurasian

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OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2017



## The New ★ Eurasians

*The nation's next generation  
of mixed-race families*

### PLUS

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Honours go to EA stalwarts

#### **RAISING EXPECTATIONS**

Thurston Arlando's students are baking their way out of trouble

#### **LIFE IN A HOSPICE**

Patient Alan Lee's inspiring photographs

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## CONTRIBUTORS

**Yvonne Pereira**  
**Julia D'Silva**

## THE neweurasian

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(Established July 1919)  
139 Ceylon Road, Singapore 429744  
Tel.: 6447 1578  
Fax: 6447 3189  
Email: secretariat@eurasians.org



## President's Message

As we celebrated Singapore's National Day in August, I was surprised and honoured to learn that I had received a National Day Award, the Public Service Medal, for my work with the EA. I am grateful to receive this award and glad that the work the EA has done to advance the Eurasian community in Singapore has been recognised. I am thankful for the support from our Patrons and Board of Trustees, the hard work of the many Management Committee members I have served with over the years, the EA Secretariat and the numerous volunteers and donors without whom our achievements and this award would not have been possible.

I was also pleased to learn that our Trustee Judith Prakash was awarded the illustrious Public Service Star this National Day. Judith has been a long-time supporter of the EA and serves the Singapore community in many capacities. I would like to congratulate Judith and the many other Eurasians who received awards at this year's National Day and thank them for their service to the community.

In terms of accolades, one of the most notable Eurasians is Dr Noeleen Heyzer, who has been recognised on numerous occasions for her sterling work with the United Nations. I would like to congratulate Noeleen on her appointment to the newly established and high-profile United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Mediation, to encourage peace settlements throughout the world (page 6). Nearer to home – over the border in KL – seven Eurasians did Singapore proud by taking their place on the podium as medallists at the recent SEA Games (page 14). Their victory is a testament to their hard work and discipline, and I wish them continued success.

The highlight in our annual calendar was the Eurasian Community Fund (ECF) Education Awards Ceremony (page 7) held in September. A total of 360 awards were given out to deserving students this year – the largest number the EA has disbursed. Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills), was our guest of honour and highlighted in his address that the Eurasian community had made many contributions to Singapore despite our small size.

Over the course of the year, we have been stepping up our efforts in youth engagement and development. A few initiatives were held in the last quarter including a youth dialogue (page 14) with Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Adviser to Tanjong Pagar GRC Grassroots Organisations, who shared his opinions on several national issues and the future of the economy. The EA's Heritage and Youth Committees also

jointly organised the Cooking for a Cause (page 17) culinary event at 112 Katong, which gave shoppers an opportunity to sample authentic Eurasian food and learn how to cook it themselves.

Our feature article for this issue is on first-generation Eurasians (page 9). With the increasing number of mixed-race marriages, there is a growing population of Eurasians in Singapore. However, most of them, and even many of our younger Eurasians, do not share the same pull factors or traditional ties that brought Eurasians together as a community in Singapore over the past generations. This is a subject the EA is grappling with, as we look to strengthen our relevance to the evolving Eurasian community in Singapore. One of our key strengths has been our multicultural heritage and sociable nature, which has allowed us to work well in culturally diverse situations – circumstances that we are increasingly facing in schools and work-places in Singapore and abroad. This open and adaptable nature allowed Eurasians to play key roles in Singapore's transition to independence as well as to achieve success in many careers such as the foreign service, education, communications, arts and media among others.

To examine this topic further, a youth dialogue is being organised in November to discuss how we define the Eurasian identity in today's (and future) context. We also hope to collect more feedback and input on this topic in the coming months as we intend to include in the revamp of our Heritage Centre a section on our 'strength in diversity', which will have a forward-looking perspective to complement the historical exhibits in the other galleries.

As we close in on the end of the year, the EA has in store a slew of Christmas festivities: the Christmas Light Up and Dinner and Dance on 2 December, Children's Christmas Treat on 10 December, FSS Christmas Lunch on 3 December and the New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance on 31 December. We hope to see more of you at these events, which are organised to provide the opportunity for us to come together as a community.

Wishing all of you and your loved ones, in advance, a Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'James' followed by a surname, written in a cursive style.

# Rolling Home – and Away

The EA's baluteers have been busy battling with Lady Luck recently, with in-house and external competitions. Two EA teams played away at the Indian Association in the Inter-Club Balut Tournament in September, which was won by the home team, so they are hoping for better luck

## EA In-House Balut Competition 2017 Results

Champion	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
3,692 <sup>pts</sup>	3,673 <sup>pts</sup>	3,616 <sup>pts</sup>	3,613 <sup>pts</sup>	3,548 <sup>pts</sup>
SK JOHN	Sandra Ross	The Ban Khi (Yang)	Jessie De Souza	Oliver Hoeden



*In-House Balut Competition Finalists*



*Yvonne with In-House Balut Competition 2017 champion SK John and Evelyn Rodrigues*

at the next scheduled event in October at the Singapore Cricket Club.

In between, the EA In-House Balut Competition played out its final session to reveal the 2017 champion. After seven rounds of intense play, 24 players competed in the eighth round. The Ban Khi was the champion for October, and

her score helped earn her third place for the year. But it was SK John who took the top honour, followed by runner-up Sandra Ross.

### High Score (Single Game):

- 1st – Hyacinth D'Silva – 152 points
- 2nd - Helen Joseph - 150 points
- 3rd - Louisiana Thomas - 147 points

### High Aggregate Score (Single Game):

- 1st – The Ban Khi (Yang) – 672 points
- 2nd – Yvonne Pereira – 669 points
- 3rd – Yvonne Pereira – 663 points

Balut convenor Yvonne Pereira says: "I would like to thank Mrs Evelyn Rodrigues for presenting the prizes to all winners for the year. I would also like to thank her, Mr & Mrs Quentin Pereira and Mdm Yang for their sponsorship, the EA Secretariat for their support and all our players for keeping our balut section active and happy!"

The next in-house balut tournament will begin in March 2018. New members are welcome and should contact Denise Pinto at [denise@eurasians.org](mailto:denise@eurasians.org) or 6447 1578 (ext 206).

## Red, White and Fifty-Two

Decked out in patriotic red and white, more than 100 people enjoyed a lunch of multi-racial cuisine prepared by Quentin's restaurant on 20 August to celebrate Singapore's 52nd birthday.

The afternoon continued with games and prize draws and the singing of the national anthem and reciting of the pledge, after which the guests danced to the music of Chato & Qamal, aka D'Highlights.

Organiser Yvonne Pereira thanked the community engagement members and their friends for supporting the event, with special thanks to Quentin and Kristine Pereira for the food and for sponsoring dining vouchers.



*The community engagement team fly the flag*

## Charlene's Big Fat Speech



*Charlene Lee receives her winner's trophy from Area E4 director Felicia Ong*

Charlene Lee's account of her battle with 'The F Word', which described her experiences at a spa trying to lose some 'Fat', won her first prize for the humorous speech at the Area E4 Toastmasters Humorous & Evaluation Speech Contests on 5 September.

Peter Lee was the first runner-up with a light-hearted speech entitled 'Dear God, I Am Waiting', on the imperfections of married life.

The EA's TMC chapter meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month. If you are keen to join, please contact Ms Denise at [denise@eurasians.org](mailto:denise@eurasians.org) or call 6447 1578 (ext 206).

## Two Appointments for EA Members

The EA's second Vice President Yvonne Pereira has been reappointed as a member of the OnePeople.sg Management Committee until 2020 and Simon de Cruz, non-resident ambassador to Ukraine, has been appointed to the South East Community Development Council.

# National Day Awards for EA Stalwarts

EA Trustee Judith Prakash and EA President Benett Theseira have both been honoured in the National Day Awards. Thirteen other Eurasians also received awards.



Judith Prakash



Benett Theseira

EA Patron Herman Hochstadt says: "The congratulations of the EA are certainly due to our Trustee, Judith, and President, Benett, on their recognition at the highest level of their

contributions to public service in Singapore by way of the Public Service Star to Judith and Public Service Medal to Benett. Both of them have done the EA and our community proud and serve as shining examples to the youth."

Judith, who received the Public Service Star says: "I received the award for doing something I enjoy, and which at the same time is important for our society, and that is helping to give girls the best possible education in all fields – academic, sporting and community service. My involvement has in itself been a source of tremendous satisfaction and the award is the icing on the cake."

Benett, who received the Public Service Medal, says: "It is a honour to receive this award. It's recognition of the hard work that we've done at the EA to look after the needs and advancement of the Eurasian community in Singapore. Credit must go to our Board of Trustees, Management Committee members and the many volunteers and donors, without whom all our achievements would not have been possible."

## The Public Service Star

**Justice Judith Evelyn Jyothi Prakash, PBM**  
Chairperson, Raffles Girls' School  
Board of Governors  
Ministry of Education

## The Public Service Medal

**Benett Maximillian Theseira**  
President,  
The Eurasian Association, Singapore  
Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

## The Long Service Medal

**Audra Juliana Cardoza**  
Year Head  
St. Anthony's Canossian Primary School  
Ministry of Education

## The Public Administration Medal (Silver)

**Melanie Ann Martens**  
Academy Principal  
Physical Education and Sports  
Teacher Academy  
Ministry of Education

## The Efficiency Medal

**Trevor Gerard Bamanshaw**  
Senior School Counsellor  
Kheng Cheng School  
Ministry of Education

**Jennifer Valerie Conceicao**  
Teacher  
Keming Primary School  
Ministry of Education

**Shayne Jerome Pinto**  
Senior Technical Officer  
Central Building Plan Department  
Environmental Protection Division  
National Environment Agency  
Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources

## The Commendation Medal

**Denise Carrie-Anne Pereira**  
Counsellor (Economics)  
Jakarta Mission  
Ministry of Trade and Industry

**Sharon Ann Cardoza**  
Head of Department  
Farrer Park Primary School  
Ministry of Education

**Lynette Fernandez**  
Vice-Principal  
Marymount Convent School  
Ministry of Education

**Beins Michael Wesley**  
Senior Staff Sergeant  
Criminal Investigation Department  
Singapore Police Force  
Ministry of Home Affairs

**Clint Lionel Nonis**  
Warrant Officer 2  
Civil Defence Academy  
Singapore Civil Defence Force  
Ministry of Home Affairs

**Sharon Ann Cardoza**  
Head of Department  
Farrer Park Primary School  
Ministry of Education

## The Public Service Medal (Military)

**ME3 Joseph Donovan Matthew, PBS**  
Flight Warrant Officer In Charge  
805 Squadron  
Republic of Singapore Air Force

## The Long Service Medal (Military)

**2WO Desmond Ignatius Fernandez**  
Singapore Armed Forces  
Ministry of Defence

**MWO Morier Morris Gilford, PB**  
Singapore Armed Forces  
Ministry of Defence

## Representing the EA on National Day



EA President Benett Theseira attended two National Day events on behalf of the association – the National Day Observance ceremony held on 6 August at Pasir Ris East Community Club organised by the Association of Muslim Professionals (pictured third left, back row) and the National Day reception held on 10 August at the Istana.

Photo courtesy of Association of Muslim Professionals

## New UN Appointment for Dr Noeleen Heyzer



Dr Noeleen Heyzer has been appointed to the newly established United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Mediation for a term of two years, it was announced on 13 September.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres said the board was part of the "surge in diplomacy for peace" he has consistently advocated, and will work with regional organisations, non-governmental groups and others involved in mediation around the world.

Dr Heyzer, a social scientist is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of the National University of Singapore as well as Distinguished Fellow at the Singapore Management University and S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore, and has held numerous high-level positions in the UN.

## A Generous Benefactor

Mary Boswell, a member of the EA for more than 25 years, left the association a generous donation following her death aged 94 in September last year.

Mary taught English and Mathematics at Bukit Panjang English School before becoming its principal, a position she held until her retirement.

EA President Benett Theseira, says: "We were very touched to receive this extremely generous donation from the late Mary Boswell. Mary was one of our most long-standing members and her passion for education is one shared by the EA."

## Diversity and Togetherness



*Making waves: the Eurasian community dancers*

The annual Inter Racial Inter Religious (IRIR) Harmony Nite was held on 8 July to acknowledge the need to continue building trust and understanding between people of different races and religions. The theme for this year was 'Diversity Makes Us One: A Celebration of Togetherness.'

The event, held at Marina Bay Sands Grand Ballroom, was attended by President Dr Tony Tan and his wife, Mary. The Eurasian community was represented by 17 dancers, who performed New Waves, an urban contemporary dance piece choreographed by Syarul Ezuan that depicted a story of strength and courage in a strong community. Shanice Hedger represented the Eurasian community to recite the pledge.

Photo courtesy of Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society

# Motivation to Succeed

*This year's Eurasian Community Fund ceremony to support successful students included three new awards*

The Eurasian Community Fund (ECF) ceremony – the EA's annual key education event – presented 360 Eurasian students with awards in recognition of their academic success. Held on 16 September at ITE College Central, it dispensed Merit, Excellence and Distinction awards to students who had achieved outstanding academic results at their level of education plus Bursary awards to help defray the cost of education for students from lower-income families.

improvement in her studies in the faculty of Arts & Social Sciences at the National University of Singapore. She said: "I

*"I am more motivated, knowing that the EA sees potential in me"*

after acing the examinations. Fabian added that he wanted to be an architect and was pleased that the award would help his parents to pay for his tuition fees.

A third new award, the Excellence and Distinction award, recognises students acing the International Baccalaureate examinations. Sabrina Theseira, 19, who scored a full 45 out of 45 for her exams, said: "I am honoured to receive this award and it's good to see that the EA



NUS student Renee Leong receives her award from the Minister



Minister Ong captures a selfie with students from St Patrick's School who volunteered their help at the event



Fabian Teo with his father and younger brother



Ace International Baccalaureate student Sabrina Theseira



Kevin Martens Wong successfully delivers the vote of thanks

In his speech, guest-of-honour Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills), said: "For a small community, helping people requires a big heart, and fortunately there are many Eurasians with big hearts. That is why many of the education awards came about from donations by individuals."

He then revealed two new awards that have been named after their donors: the Herbert Schoon Progress Award and Mads A. Lange and Pansy Theseira-Lange Education Bursary Awards.

The Herbert Schoon Progress Award was presented to Renee Daphne Leong Poh Li, 19, who had shown significant

would like to thank my donor and the EA for granting me this award. The money will help me with my daily expenditures in school, allowing me to remain in top form for all my lectures and tutorials. I will definitely work hard and am more motivated, knowing that the EA sees potential in me."

The Mads A. Lange and Pansy Theseira-Lange Education bursary award was presented to Fabian Teo, 12, a pupil at Beacon Primary School, who could not contain his excitement afterwards. He said: "PSLE is approaching and this award has motivated me to perform better." Giggling cheekily, he added that he was looking forward to gifts from his relatives

recognises the IB programme. It affirms all the hard work that I've put in to get this grade and motivates me to work harder in my academic pursuits." She will soon be leaving for the UK to pursue a law degree at the University College of London.

Kevin Martens Wong, 25, a graduate of NUS, who has done much to revive the Kristang language, received the Henry David Hochstadt award for the Outstanding Eurasian University student and delivered the vote of thanks, in which he emphasised the importance of failure. "Failure is messy, and terrifying. It is something that we as a people are so afraid of. But without failure you cannot have entrepreneurship and enterprise, that spirit of going forward where no Singaporean appears to have yet gone before. I hope you always walk with strength, speak with conviction, and live with courage enough to lose your way, and find your dreams in the process," he said.

For more information on educational assistance programmes or awards, contact Jolvin at jolvin@eurasians.org or 6447 1578 (ext 205).

# The Joys of Exam Success

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

Eight Eurasian students have received awards for acing their exams after studying in the Collaborative Tuition Programme run by the self-help groups. The awards ceremony – now in its 15th year – was held recently at Nanyang Polytechnic.



From left: Nicholas Oliveira, Chia Lay Chin with her son, Hans Van Huizen, Vanya Minjoot, EA President Benett Theseira, Alfred and Radit Taye, EA First Vice President Alexius Pereira and EA Education Sub-Committee member, Edmund Rodrigues



MCs for the event, Renee Leong and Viaano Spruyt

Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills), was guest of honour and handed out certificates to students to celebrate their success in national examinations, including PSLE, 'N' levels and 'O' levels.

Eurasian award winner Hans Gerhard Van Huizen, 13, says he feels honoured by the award "especially since I received the best overall academic performance for the PSLE category. I believe that I deserved it as I worked very hard to get three 'A's for PSLE."

But studying hasn't always come easy to him. "I was part of the EA's Maths Intensive Programme. I used to be very distracted as I was always reading books about

*"With the help of the Maths Intensive Programme and support of my parents, I worked hard and revised daily"*

Mythology," he explains. "I was weak in maths and when I received my results for the first term, I was very disappointed and decided that it was time to build on my basic knowledge of the subject. With the help of the programme and support of my parents, I worked hard and revised daily."

Nicholas Nelson Oliveira achieved his award for success in his 'O' levels. "I am very excited about the award and also pleased that the event is being held at NYP. I am currently pursuing my diploma in Aerospace Systems and Management here. I hope to become a pilot one day!

His studying was given a boost when he took part in the EA's Homework Supervision Programme. "Viaano Spruyt was my mentor and he was very helpful. I was struggling with maths before meeting with him, and failing almost all my examinations. I managed to get a B3 with his help and still go to Viaano for help if I am facing a dilemma."

The Eurasian JTA recipients are:

## PSLE

- Hans Gerhard Van Huizen
- Radit Alvin Taye
- Henrietta Kaur Gill

## 'N' Level

- Vanya Jean Minjoot
- Alfred Kittipong Taye
- Jasmine Leandra Oliveira

## 'O' Level

- Ilarnav Chrisandra Ravichandran Beins
- Nicholas Nelson Oliveira

## Food for Thought

It has been three years since EA trustee and benefactor Edward D'Silva set up an annual scholarship in his name as a personal contribution to the association's education assistance programmes for students. This year, five tertiary students were presented with the Edward D'Silva Scholarship and four of them were free to accept his invitation to a special lunch at Quentin's restaurant on 9 September. Graham Ong-Webb, who chairs the EA Education Sub-Committee also attended.

The four recipients expressed their gratitude for the award and said that it had motivated them to perform even better.



From left: Keith Kuah, of the EA's education team, Graham Ong-Webb, recipients Esmeralda Apps and Shannon Siew Mun Yim, Edward D'Silva and recipients Nicholas Oliveira and Austin Lazaroo

# *A New Chapter in the* **Eurasian Story**

*A modern generation of mixed-race citizens is adding to the nation's ethnic melting pot*

In Singapore, the traditional Eurasians are identified as the descendants of the early European settlers and the local women they married, beginning when the Portuguese arrived in South-east Asia in the 16th century, followed by the Dutch and British colonialists.

In recent years, an influx of foreigners attracted by Singapore's rise to first-world status has led to another wave of mixed-race marriages and an increasing number of modern, 'first-generation' Eurasians. In this issue, we talk to a number of 'new Eurasians' and parents raising them, to ask how they perceive themselves and the part they play in Singapore's Eurasian story.

## **Talisha Griesbach**

Teenager Talisha Griesbach's father is a Canadian citizen of German heritage and her mother is of Chinese-Indonesian descent. The 18-year-old, who attends Temasek Junior College, feels that the term 'Eurasian' is an apt term for people like her. "It does well in acknowledging that we are all mixed-race to varying degrees and share common experiences because of our unique heritage; and also that it's important to embrace that. Talisha grew up in a household with diverse cultural experiences and enjoys immersing herself in celebrations such as New Year, Christmas and Oktoberfest. She also has a few Eurasian friends and says: "Most of them are Portuguese and one is half-Belgian".

When asked about her identity, her response is that she is Eurasian on the outside and Singaporean on the inside. She says, "Growing up in Singapore I have a personality which is very Singaporean, not to forget my awesome semi-Singlish accent." She is used to being asked where is she from and sees this as part of the Eurasian identity.

Owing to her bicultural upbringing, Talisha believes that despite each Eurasian having a different background



*Family trip to Korea (Talisha 2nd from left)*

and traditions according to their racial mix, they are all part of a big Eurasian community. She says: "It's easier for me to appreciate other cultures, and get along with people from different backgrounds, as 'difference' is not the first thing that I recognise about others."

She heard about the EA through her school and attended an Oktoberfest lunch at the Eurasian Community House, where she volunteered to sing a couple of impromptu songs. Soon afterwards, she returned to the ECH to perform for other events. She is grateful to the EA and says: "It's the one place where

*"It's easier for me to appreciate other cultures, and get along with people from different backgrounds, as 'difference' is not the first thing that I recognise about others"*



*Talisha Griesbach (centre) with her siblings Alexander and Tiffany*

our diversity is not only acknowledged but also celebrated." She encourages Eurasians to make new friends with other members of the Eurasian community. "If you ever feel lost, remember you are special and loved. Come join us at the ECH!", she says.

## Andre Huber

Andre Huber, 37, has a Swiss father and Singaporean Chinese mother and he and his elder brother, Ryan, own Huber's Butchery, which they run with the help of their chef/butcher father. A first generation Eurasian, he grew up with many friends from the Eurasian community as he studied at St Joseph's Institution. He says: "While growing up, we had a chance to celebrate both the Chinese New Year and Christmas. I have some friends who are more mixed than I

am and it's good to know that I am part of the Eurasian community."

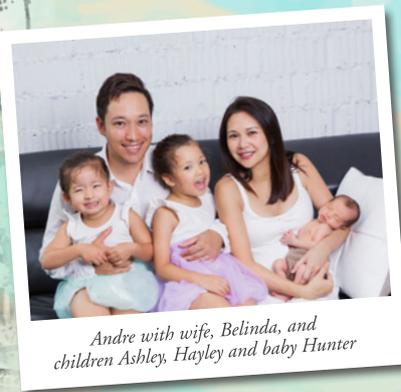
Andre believes that being a Eurasian can be a double-edged sword. He feels that they stand out because of their appearance, and often also because of their eloquence, and in his business, it's important to stand out in a crowd. However, he adds with a laugh, "Being recognisable can be a negative thing, especially if you are doing bad things!"

Married to a Vietnamese, he has added to the family's racial mix and is looking forward to educating his three children about the various cultures that surround them. He would like to take them to Switzerland to expose them to traditional Swiss cuisine in its home setting. "Growing up, food has always been central to my family. Learning from my father about Swiss food was what taught me more about my roots. I think that one of the best ways to learn about the Eurasian culture is through food."

*"Growing up, food has always been central to my family. I think that one of the best ways to learn about the Eurasian culture is through food"*



Andre with his parents, wife and daughters at his dad's 70th birthday celebrations



Andre with wife, Belinda, and children Ashley, Hayley and baby Hunter

Asked whether he considers himself to be more Eurasian or Singaporean, he shrugs. He says that he does not feel that there is much of a difference as he has always had friends from different races and religions. He has not confined himself to a clique based on a community and considers himself Singaporean first and Eurasian second.

## Yanjun Zhang-Furtado

Homemaker Yanjun Zhang-Furtado, 33, has a Caucasian-American mother and a Chinese-Singaporean father, and she is married to a Malaysian Indian. Her mother moved to Singapore nearly 40 years ago and met her father here. Yanjun used to be perplexed about the notion of being 'Eurasian'. She knew she looked different and understood that she was different when she celebrated a few festivals that her friends did not, and adds: "My name was a huge source of confusion, it being the most Chinese name. Most people expected to meet a Chinese person and within the first few minutes, two of the inevitable questions would be: 'What are you? Where are you from?'"

Growing up, her parents made it a point to celebrate their respective traditions and practices so that she and her siblings would have an understanding of and affiliation with both cultures. "With my father's family, we celebrate Chinese New Year, Mid-Autumn Festival, Dumpling

Yanjun Zhang-Furtado (third from the left) with daughter Leia and her husband, Udbay Furtado (fourth from right) with their son, Kai, at a family gathering



*"My name was a huge source of confusion. Most people expected to meet a Chinese person and two of the inevitable questions would be: 'What are you? Where are you from?'"*

Festival and Qing Ming. I remember running around my grandmother's garden with animal-shaped lanterns. With my mother, we celebrated Halloween, Thanksgiving, Easter and

Christmas. I started sharing these with my friends and soon we found ourselves having larger Thanksgiving dinners!" she says. Yanjun also counts herself lucky as her maternal grandparents moved

to Singapore and they helped her to connect with her American roots.

She adds that she did not have many Eurasian friends when she was younger. Today she has many mixed-race friends, but still only a handful are Eurasian. She says: "Being mixed, we get the best of both worlds and I have a richer heritage. I see life through two lenses as my father and mother have had such different upbringings and outlook on life." This has given her a lot of perspective. She admits that there are disadvantages, such as being marginalised. She recalls that while her older sisters were in primary school,

their classmates were unsure of how to categorise them and therefore excluded them from their activities.

If she had to categorise herself, she would consider herself Singaporean first, then Chinese American. She admits that at times she is more inclined towards her Chinese side, having grown up in Asia and being immersed in the Chinese culture. But she adds that a national identity is more important than an individual one to ensure that everyone is well integrated. "I have always wondered why there is a need to label ourselves. Even if it does help people develop a

sense of belonging, I fear that trying to pigeonhole people might create unintended barriers."

She wants her young children, Leia and Kai, to grow up knowing their heritage and their grandparents' traditions and cultures. She believes that this will expand their minds, make them more faceted and help them to be more open and respectful of all other races and cultures. She expects them to have different experiences from her as there are so many more mixed-race children now to grow up with.

## Emma Chiau

Founder of the fashion label Vespertine, and a professional photographer, Emma Chiau has a French mother and Chinese father. Her mother is from northern France and also has Scottish ancestry. Her paternal grandparents are from Hainan, China, and moved to Singapore in the early 1950s.

Emma, 36, believes that being of mixed heritage gives people a broader perspective and makes them more adaptable, but she also highlights that it is important for young people to feel a sense of belonging. She says: "Being mixed means you are neither this nor that. Some first-generation Eurasians often find themselves being the only one in any group. Culture clash is not easy, but it is gratifying if you find pride in your uniqueness."

Growing up, Emma followed both European and Chinese traditions but only recently became acquainted with the Eurasian heritage and culture through her husband, who is a third-generation Eurasian. They have both actively exposed their three-year-old daughter, Saskia Ong-Webb Jun Xi, to the customs of both sides of the family.

Emma believes that it's quite possible to feel Eurasian Singaporean simultaneously. She feels that it's important to note that the 'new Eurasians' will naturally have a stronger connection to either the occidental or oriental part of their heritage because of their parents' distinctive cultures. She suggests: "The EA can make them feel more inclusive by demonstrating that being a Eurasian is not only about heritage but also about embracing cultural transformations."

Emma Chiau, with fellow Eurasian Graham Ong-Webb and their daughter, Saskia

*"The EA can make 'new Eurasians' feel more inclusive by demonstrating that being a Eurasian is not only about heritage but also about embracing cultural transformations"*



Emma's mother and Chinese grandmother in the 1970s



Emma and her brother as children with their father

## Andrea Chew

Andrea Chew, 36, a Chinese Singaporean who works in the banking and finance industry, is married to a Belgian and they have two children Michaela, five and Eliza, one. With the rise in inter-racial marriages, she has many friends whose children are of mixed parentage "In our case, the kids were born and bred in Singapore so they largely identify as Singaporeans," she says.

One way in which she and her husband, Francis, educate the children about their cultural differences is through language. Since her mother-in-law's tongue is Dutch, which is not widely spoken throughout the world, it was decided that the children would learn French, Belgium's other language, in which her mother in law is fluent. Andrea says: "Michaela went to a French school for two years and speaks French and uses it to converse with her dad. We have also enrolled her in a Mandarin immersion school to prepare her for primary one. Knowing multiple languages is definitely an advantage."

The family also enjoys celebrating various festivals such as Chinese New Year, Easter and Christmas. Andrea says that she is not sure whether, at the moment, the children understand there are cultural differences between their parents, but she works with them to inculcate the best of values from both cultures. And she is happy that in Singapore her children can easily fit into the social fabric.

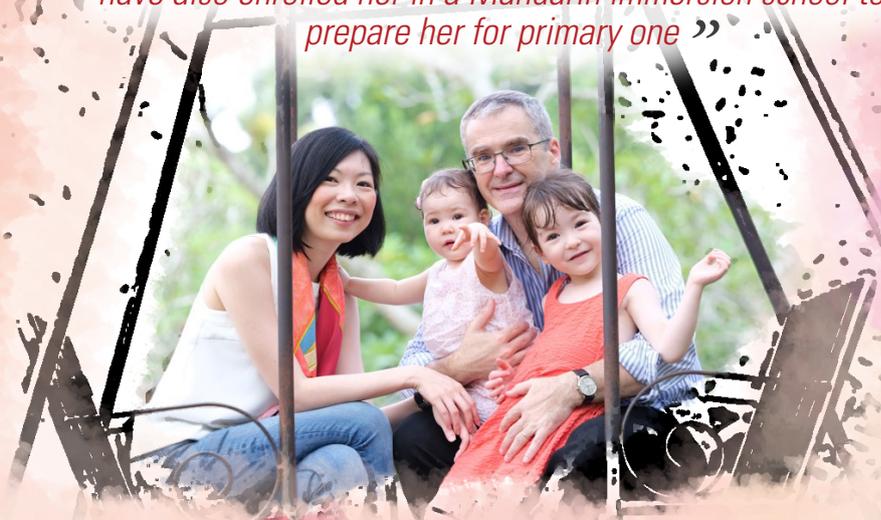


Andrea Chew with Belgian husband, Francis, and children Michaela and Eliza

*"Michaela went to a French school for two years and speaks French and uses it to converse with her dad. We have also enrolled her in a Mandarin immersion school to prepare her for primary one"*



Kids Michaela and Eliza are new-generation Eurasians



## The Whole Story?

Singapore citizens can identify as Eurasian as their official identity, but most automatically opt for their father's race, so mixed-race citizens are not always statistically identifiable. This is what our interviewees' IC cards say:

- Talisha Griesbach : Holds a foreign student pass, which does not state her race
- Andre Huber : Caucasian
- Yanjun Zhang-Furtado : Chinese
- Emma Chiau : Chinese
- Michaela and Eliza : Caucasian-Chinese

# Caring for the Carers

*Looking after a loved one with a mental health condition is difficult. But help is at hand*

One in 10 people in Singapore is likely to suffer from a mental health condition at some stage in their life. And as difficult as it is for the person experiencing the symptoms, it is equally hard for the friends and family trying to support them.

Caregivers Alliance Limited (CAL), a non-profit organisation formed in 2011 in Singapore, is dedicated to meeting the needs of families and caregivers of people with mental illness and is now present in six hospitals island-wide.

Renay Pereira has been working at CAL for more than a year as a community outreach/caregiver support specialist. "I joined CAL as it has stellar programmes that provide families with the necessary skills and emotional support to negotiate a challenging journey. In the process, it often alters the lives of caregivers and their loved ones for the better. I wanted to make a difference by being a part of that."

One of CAL's most beneficial programmes is the free 12-week

'Caregiver-to-Caregiver Education Programme'. "It covers a variety of topics that assist caregivers to better understand the diagnoses, medication, functions of the brain and behaviours relating to illness. It also teaches caregivers crisis management, problem solving and communication skills, while encouraging self-care so that they can care optimally for themselves and their loved ones," says Renay. The programme is taught by professionals and trained caregivers who themselves are providing care for loved ones experiencing mental health concerns.

Caregivers can approach CAL at any stage of their loved one's illness and are encouraged to be a part of the CAL community where they can share their experiences while learning how to manage their situation," says Renay.



Renay Pereira conducts a training course at CAL



She says that caregiving can be difficult and stretches families in every possible way. Caregivers need to have adequate knowledge to help them manage their own thoughts and reactions while caring for their loved one, and not take behaviours and comments born from illness personally. But, she adds: "You are not alone. There is a whole community here to support you."

For more information about CAL visit: <http://cal.org.sg>

# When Eating Is a Pain, Not a Pleasure

*A serious illness can turn a whole family's life upside down. But two parents are determined to help not only their own son, but also other sufferers of the same disease*

Two years ago, Caleb Samuel Smith was a healthy, active eight-year-old boy when his health took a dramatic downturn. He suffered from fevers that could last for weeks, nose bleeds and a huge weight loss and was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease, a lifelong inflammatory bowel disease with recurring bouts. Caleb's father, David says: "I used to hang around with him at the skate park for three to four hours, but after his diagnosis it was saddening to see that he could not even eat properly for two months." His mother, Agnes, adds that Caleb felt so ill that he insisted on meeting his friends "before something bad happened to him". It was an ordeal that they will never forget.

Caleb could manage only a liquid diet, and his siblings did their best to help. Agnes says: "Even though they are young, they understand that he is sick and did not eat at the dining table so that Caleb will not have to see them eating." Caleb needed regular treatment and this took a toll on the family. David struggled



Caleb on one of his hospital admissions

to pay the medical bills but has been helped by the Eurasian Association. "We are grateful to the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour for their support and the EA for their financial assistance, which helps defray our financial burdens tremendously," he says.

Determined to do the best for his son, he researched alternative forms of therapy for Caleb and decided to change his diet. He says: "I wanted to see if good nutrition can bring about any, even a small change in Caleb." The family made

it a point to always cook at home and even packed food when they went out.

Caleb has been on a strict meal plan for more than six months and his parents are happy to report that there are changes in Caleb and that he is visiting the hospital less frequently. With a healthy diet, they are heartened that Caleb's condition has become manageable and that he can consume solid food without being continually in pain. However they share that Caleb's condition is fluctuating and currently he is suffering from inflammation in the gut.

David and Agnes are in the process of setting up a support group to share with other sufferers how Caleb's changed diet appears to have helped him, in the hope that it may also offer help to other Crohn's disease sufferers, whose symptoms can vary from mild to severe.

# Charting the Future of Singapore

*In the inaugural Eurasian Youth Dialogue, young Eurasians addressed the tough questions facing Singapore's Future*

Some 50 young Eurasians gave serious thought to the Singapore they would like to see in the future, aided by advice from Chan Chun Sing, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Adviser to Tanjong Pagar GRC Grassroots Organisations. The event was the first Eurasian Youth Dialogue organised by the EA's Youth Sub-Committee, which aims to give young Eurasians the chance to engage with key decision makers and share their views on important national issues.

The dialogue began with a focus group discussion on three topics: Future Economy, Future Jobs, Future Skills; Living the Singapore Dream; and Future of Us – Singapore Unity and Identity in SG100 and beyond. The youngsters shared their thoughts on the kind of Singapore that they would like to see and how they could play a part in creating it. They spoke about the importance of being open to change, redefining what

success means – for example, not necessarily pursuing traditional career paths – and the importance of a strong Singapore identity and a united country.

Following the opening address by EA President Benett Theseira, EA Youth Chairperson Christopher Gordon told the participants how the work of the EA Youth Committee had been inspired by the late Barry Pereira, who had served on the EA's Management Committee. "Barry reminded us that we each have to go within ourselves to uncover that passion, that purpose in life, and use it to make a difference to the lives of the people around us.

EA Youth Sub-Committee Member Jordan Isaac, who acted as a moderator,



Older and younger generations meet to discuss the future

says: "The dialogue session was engaging and insightful. The Minister discussed issues that were pertinent for the younger community in Singapore and also pointed out the challenges that lay ahead and how young Singaporeans must be willing to adapt and grab the opportunities available to them, such as the Skills Future initiative. The session benefitted everyone who attended."

## Eurasians Bring Home SEA Games Medals

*Team Singapore achieved their best performance abroad at the SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur*

Team Singapore's 560 athletes competed in the 2017 SEA Games in KL between 19 and 30 August, the largest squad ever sent by the nation for an away Games. Among the Eurasian contingent, seven took places on the podium. Doing both the Eurasian community and the nation proud were:

Athlete's Name	Sports	Medal
Joseph Schooling	Swimming (100m Freestyle, 50m Butterfly, 100m Butterfly, 4x100m Freestyle Relay, 4x200m Freestyle Relay, 4x100m Medley Relay)	Gold in each of the six events
Mark Leong	Waterski & Wakeboard Men's Slalom Men's Overall - Slalom, Tricks, Jumps	Gold Bronze
Amitha Berthier	Fencing (Women's Individual Foil)	Gold
Xavier Laurent Ducourneau	Rugby 7s (Men's Team)	Silver
Adam Alexander Vine	Rugby 7s (Men's Team)	Silver
Kelsie Yasmin Muir	Gymnastics (Artistic Team)	Silver
Ian James Valence Vanderput	Field Hockey (Men's Team)	Bronze



Swimming superstar Joseph Schooling (second from left) with the Men's 4x100m Medley Relay team



Waterskiier Mark Leong makes a splash with a Gold medal



Fencer Amitha Berthier duelled her way to a Gold medal

Photo courtesy of David Chew/Sport Singapore

Photo courtesy of Samuel Dai/Sport Singapore

Photo courtesy of Eugene Lim/Sport Singapore

# SCORE-ing Brownie Points

*Baker Thurston Arlando's workplace is a little out of the ordinary*

The bakers working under Thurston Arlando are diligent and motivated; they not only follow his instructions carefully but are also inquisitive, proactive about trying new baking methods and share their ideas with one another. But once work hours are over, they don't go home to their family or make plans for a night out with friends. They return to their cells at Changi Prison.

*"They read up about different recipes in their cells, memorise them and ask if they can try them out at the bakery"*

For the past 18 months, 25-year old Thurston has been working as an operations manager at Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE) Bakery, where he oversees its daily operations and production. Through the bakery, he also trains inmates with market-relevant skills that will enhance their employability after their release.

Growing up, Thurston was intrigued by cooking and spent much of his time in the kitchen learning from his mother and grandmother and experimenting

with different types of recipes, although the precision needed for baking didn't appeal to him. Not surprisingly, he decided to pursue a career in catering and while studying at SHATEC for his Diploma in Culinary Skills, he undertook an internship at Raffles Hotel. There, he was assigned to the Pastry section. "With baking, each step matters," he says, but



*Sweet results from the bakery*

he discovered that far from this being the inconvenience he had imagined it would be, he found the process a pleasure.

He recalls that when he was later offered the position at SCORE, "Many people asked me if I was sure about wanting to work with inmates. I was very excited and worried at the same time." When he first started working at the bakery, he recalled having to learn to gain the trust and respect from the inmates. Understanding the challenge, he took small steps to

build up a rapport with the inmates and they eventually warmed to him. "Now, they even read up about different recipes in their cell, memorise them and ask them if they can try them out at the bakery. We now have a room dedicated to research and development, where they can provide ideas for different products which we can test out together," he says.

In the bakery, the inmates learn how to make brownies, cookies and other delicious goodies. Thurston praises their skills and says that with guidance, the inmates are able to produce good quality work that is on a par with bakers he had worked with previously. Apart from on-the-job training, the inmates are also offered WSQ-certified baking courses; the certification can help them to secure employment after release.



*Thurston Arlando*

Thurston says he sees positive changes in the inmates every day and asks the public not to reject somebody who they learn has been in prison. "Ex-offenders deserve a second chance' is not just a tagline," he says. "Treat them as per any other human and make an effort to find out more about them."

*Thurston Arlando photo courtesy of Ministry of Home Affairs; bakery photo courtesy of Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises*

## Learning from the Professionals

*The EA's youth career dialogues give young people a chance to learn about potential careers direct from those in their chosen field*



*From left: Dr Tan Hun Hoe, Rachel Towle and her husband; on the right Youth Sub-Committee member Noel Longue, Dr Leroy Mccully and students*

Two recent career dialogues organised by the EA's Youth Sub-Committee gave youngsters the opportunity to learn more about prospective careers from industry professionals.

The first 'Career at Crossroads' event was held in July at the Bell Jar, where Sam Chia, vice-president of the Asia Entrepreneur Exchange, shared his tips on making a successful career transition. During the session the group discussed topics such as how technology has opened up new opportunities for them to start a business and what it takes to become an entrepreneur.

The second career dialogue, held in August at Quentin's restaurant, focused on the

medical and healthcare industry. Speakers Dr Tan Hun Hoe (urologist and humanitarian doctor), dentist Leroy Mccully (specialising in Endodontics) and senior nurse clinician Rachel Towle spoke about the diverse career pathways which the healthcare industry has to offer, including via humanitarian work.

Andre D'Rozario, 21, who attended the career crossroads session commented: "I was able to see how it's not so scary to explore career changes. The session gave me an insight about my potential career timeline. I strongly encourage more working professionals to attend these types of sessions."

For more information, please contact Revathhi at revathhi@eurasians.org

## Eurasian Christmas Fun

In collaboration with People's Association, the Eurasian Association is organising a Eurasian Christmas Festival on Saturday 9 December from 5 to 8pm, at Ulu Pandan Community Club.

Join in the festivities, including playing games and making Christmas decorations as well as tucking into sumptuous food including shepherd's pie and curry devil.

Tickets are \$3.00 and can be purchased from the EA from 1 to 30 November. All registered participants will receive a Christmas goodie bag and will be entitled to enter the lucky draw. For more details, contact Jacqueline at 6447 1578 ext 202 or jacqueline@eurasians.org



## A Proud Heritage



Leah Cordeiro, 10, decked out in a Eurasian costume of yesteryear at Raffles Girls' Primary School



Mary Tan joins the Craft@EA ladies at a heritage event at the Istana

Eurasian heritage booths, talks and dance performances were held at more than 12 locations throughout the island during the past three months. They provided the EA with an opportunity to share the Eurasian heritage and culture with the wider society, especially the younger generation. During an event at the Istana, the EA's craft group was delighted to snap a picture with the then First Lady, Mary Tan.

## A Taste of Nostalgia

From veteran Eurasian chef Damian D'Silva comes a new restaurant – Folklore – with a menu that reflects the major racial cuisines in Singapore. Signature dishes include sambal buah keluak, singgang, hati babi bungkus and baked custard with gula melaka. Find out more on: <http://yourdestinationhotel.com/en/destination/restaurant-and-bar>



A heritage feast

## New Ways to See The Eurasian Past, Present – and Future

The EA is planning a major revamp of its Eurasian Heritage Centre, which is due to be completed early next year, and 20 members of the community gathered recently to brainstorm suggestions for making it attractive to a new generation of visitors.

The discussion raised the following points:

- The EHC could widen the Western influences that have become part of the Eurasian story, to include not only the Portuguese aspects, but also those of the British, Dutch and other Europeans
- Should the name of the Eurasian Heritage Centre change to reflect the spirit of the present – and future – community as well as the past?
- The exhibits should be modernised and should include some that are interactive to appeal to a younger, tech-savvy audience
- There is a dearth of exhibits depicting the Eurasian history from 1919 to 1960, which needs to be rectified
- The information in the World War Two gallery needs to be displayed more effectively than the current arrangement of wall panels
- The centre should link the past with the future, and include family trees and the contribution of prominent Eurasians before 1960
- The Eurasian identity should be highlighted, together with the strengths and values of belonging to a 'hybrid' culture

The EA's Heritage Committee will be organising more feedback sessions to hear your thoughts.

If you have any views about the upgrading project, please contact Jacqueline at jacqueline@eurasians.org or call 6447 1578.

# Cooking for a Cause

*What better way to raise funds than to entice people with food?*

In a special collaboration with I12 Katong mall, EA members came together to organise a special culinary event during the last two weekends of August.

The first weekend, organised by the Heritage Sub-Committee, provided shoppers with insights into Eurasian food – and, of course, plenty of samples to try! Eurasian professional chefs, including Mary Gomes, Kenneth Francisco, Sunny de Costa and Quentin Pereira, whipped up dishes on the spot, such as pang susie, oxtail stew, devil curry and prawn bostador for an eager audience.

On the second weekend, it was the turn of Youth Sub-Committee members to arrange live cooking sessions, where youngsters and their families could make traditional dishes from scratch. The event's success was easily judged by the smiling faces as the 'cooks' tasted the dishes of patchri, meaty cutlets and curry devil that they had concocted under the guidance of Chef Quentin Pereira.

The crowd was further entertained by music from up-and-coming young artistes Talisha Griesbach, Eric and Trevor Wong, and veterans Peter Diaz and Trevor Nerva, as well as a performance by the Eurasian Dance Troupe, who also invited some members of the audience to step up and learn a few moves. There

*Eurasian professional chefs whipped up dishes on the spot*

were also demonstrations and sales of handicrafts such as crocheting, knitting and tatting by Craft@EA. MCs Christian

Eber, Cheyene Holland, Manuella Scully and Aidan Woodford kept the sessions rolling.

The event provided shoppers with an opportunity to learn about Eurasian cuisine, and all the proceeds raised will go towards the revamp of the Eurasian Heritage Centre.



*Chef Mary Gomez shares her love of Eurasian cuisine with shoppers*



*Job done: Chef Quentin Pereira with youth members*



*Young Eurasians Danni Jay, Manuella Scully and Viaano Spruyt are pleased with their efforts*



*Double delight at I12 Katong*



*Shannon Ezrela looks forward to sampling the devil curry she's prepared herself*



*Chef Kenneth Francisco prepares to cook up a storm*

## Tea with the Stewarts – and a Trip Down Memory Lane

*At 103, Therese Stewart is Singapore's oldest Eurasian and she and her daughter, Olivia, have fond memories of early days in their local community*

Therese Stewart was born in 1914, the year before the infamous 1915 Sepoy Mutiny, when Indian soldiers rebelled against their British rulers. She has lived through the tumultuous days of two world wars,



*Therese Stewart as a young woman when she launched a ship at Butterworth*

*It seemed that there were always people in the house (particularly about 4pm, the traditional Eurasian teatime)*

the Great Depression, the end of British colonial rule, the merger, and subsequent break, with Malaysia, and the growth of independent Singapore from a third- to a first-world country. For many of those years, as wife of the late Stanley Stewart, who rose to head Singapore's civil service



*A family archive full of memories*

and died in 1992, she had close insights into the nation's most significant events and moved with her husband to live in Penang, Butterworth and Canberra as well as Singapore as they travelled for his job.

At the recent Eurasian Festival, which Therese and her daughter, Olivia, 74, attended, one of the events most heart-warming moments came when she was spotted by guest-of-honour, PM Lee Hsien Loong. Therese says of the Prime

Minister: "I've known him since he was a young boy, around seven years old!" and he greeted her with a big hug – which was captured on camera and appeared in *The Straits Times*.

After the Eurasian Festival, she and Olivia invited members of the Eurasian Association to tea to chat about the Eurasian old days. One of the guests, EA Management Committee member Julia D'Silva, says: "Apart from the scrumptious tea, they laid out for us a



*Stanley and Therese Stewart on their ruby wedding anniversary in 1975*

table of memories. There were so many old photographs and press clippings and they shared with us stories about their lives since their childhood." In return, the guests presented Therese with flowers, sugée cake and *The Straits Times* picture as a framed photograph.

Therese grew up in Queen Street, one of the earliest enclaves of Eurasians in the colonial days. Her family home was in a row of six townhouses between St Peter and Paul Church and the Portuguese Church House. Her neighbour was her cousin Fred de Souza, commonly known as 'Bullseye', who was celebrated as a world-class marksman. She was also a friend of the early members of the renowned eight-generation Tessensohn family; Edwin Tessensohn set up what became the Eurasian Association in 1919.

Therese's parents have a total of about 156 descendants, close to 35 of whom are in Singapore. After the war, many of them chose to migrate overseas. Olivia says: "The Eurasian culture is adapting to changes and endeavouring to embrace the beauty of other cultures. Out of my seven sisters, only I remain in Singapore and only one of them married a Eurasian.

It's interesting to note that people travelled from the west to the east and now people from the east are returning to the west."

Olivia admits she misses the closely-knitted community back during the kampong days. She says: "Back then, I grew up with no tensions and we used to grow up together regardless of racial differences and played with everyone." It seemed that there were always people in the house (particularly about 4pm, the traditional Eurasian teatime) and she recalls holding wedding receptions in their home with up to 40 people under one roof.

Musing on the changes in the Eurasian community, Olivia, who became a nun and spent some time in the UK, recalls that she used to have many Eurasian friends. She chuckles as she says: "I used to have a small Eurasian 'gang' and we used to play this game called 'tin kong-kong', which describes the sound of clashing stones inside a tin. After making this sound, we would all go run and hide."

She remembers a visit from Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, to Singapore in 1959, when she and her sister were involved in the parade held at Padang,



*EA members at the Stewart tea party (from left): Julia D'Silva, Benett Theseira, Olivia, Therese, Simon de Cruz, Lester Low, Yvonne Pereira and Marcel Scully*

and waving to him as he passed by Stamford Road in an open car. He was, she says, very handsome then!

Later that year, during the elections, her father sent her and her three other sisters to live with his good friend, Brin Lewis – the Superintendent of Police located at the Naval Base – and his wife, as her parents were concerned for her safety owing to the political tensions of the time.

"Now I treasure the few Eurasians that I do meet and we welcome visitors as we are mostly housebound," she says.

## Keeping in the Picture

*Photographer Alan Lee has spent the last few months proving that, contrary to expectations, life in a hospice can be a rewarding experience*

When Alan Lee's end-stage chronic obstructive pulmonary disease meant he had to go into a hospice, he decided to treat the experience as a new door opening rather than an old one closing.

The 69-year-old photographer was so impressed with the care given by the staff at the Assisi Hospice in Thomson Road, and their determination to provide a happy environment in which the residents could get the best out of each and every day, that he decided to make a photographic record of his life there.

While he accepts that the disease, which attacks the lungs and makes him struggle for breath, has foreshortened his life, he says: "I didn't come here to die; I came here to take photographs." His mission

It eventually became my profession and I used to be a photographer for Singapore Press Holdings magazines."

His exhibition, which he called *Come Walk With Me*, shows patients interacting with each other, enjoying their food or even having a massage. Thoughtful and articulate, he says he decided to create the photographs in black and white to avoid the distraction of colour. "My favourite picture is the one that is captioned 'Today in Parliament'," he says as he, himself, likes to keep abreast of what is happening in the real Singapore Parliament.



*Alan Lee with one of the Assisi Hospice volunteers*

The exhibition was a great success with more than 50 guests coming to view his work. Alan is proud of his efforts and was heartened when a patient with cancer commended his work and his positive outlook towards life. And while he admits that he inevitably has dark moments as he nears the end of his life, he is proof that he practises the philosophy that he preaches: "Live life to the fullest as you only have one."

Sadly, Alan Lee passed away shortly before *The NewEurasian* went to press.

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*A member of staff would push his wheelchair around the building while he took pictures of its day-to-day activities*

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*Today in Parliament, a discussion between the residents*

was to prove that the impression people have of hospices as gloomy places is misplaced and he wanted to find a way to showcase the happiness that the hospice could still provide.

He approached the staff – who he describes as "simply wonderful" – to tell them of his wish to photograph daily life in the hospice and to mount an exhibition of his work, and they gave their wholehearted support to the project. A member of staff would push his wheelchair around the building while he took pictures of its day-to-day activities. He admits it wasn't easy: "If it's tough breathing, it's definitely tough holding up a camera."

Born of Chinese and Scottish heritage, Alan attempts a chuckle as he says: "I pursued photography mainly to impress girls during my teenage years.



*Guests at Alan's exhibition, Come Walk With Me*



*Alan's photographs of activities in the hospice*



## The Eurasian Association

*proudly presents*

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2017

# Masquerade Ball

### Date

31 December 2017

### Time

Cocktails commence at  
6.30 pm and  
the party ends at 1 am

### Venue

Orchard Ballroom,  
Orchard Hotel

### Early Bird Tickets

*(Valid until 15 November 2017)*

- Members: \$135 • Non-Members: \$140

### Standard Tickets

- Members: \$145 • Non-Members: \$150 • Children (5-11 years old): \$70

### Donation Table

- Donation Table: \$3,000 for 10 pax (eligible for 2.5x tax rebate)

Join us for an evening of dance and music by the Music Men band, DJ Bernard Jeremiah and guest artistes! The best masked couple get to walk away with an attractive prize. For more information about the event, visit: <http://www.eurasians.org.sg/events/>

For bookings, please contact  
**Denise** at 6447 1578 (ext 206) or  
email [denise@eurasians.org](mailto:denise@eurasians.org)

- In addition to an international buffet, a free flow of beer, wines and soft drinks will be provided
- A waiver will be provided for duty-paid hard liquor
- All guests' names must be provided when making payment
- No walk-ins will be allowed