

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1

# MUSE S G

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# Foreword

At its very core, heritage is about shared stories. The passing of our founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew on 23 March reminds us that the story of our nation's past has been a remarkable one. Hundreds of thousands of Singaporeans queued to say goodbye, and to remember. The same can be said of those visiting *In Memoriam: Lee Kuan Yew* at the National Museum of Singapore, a memorial exhibition chronicling the life and political career of Mr Lee, that is inextricably linked to Singapore's transformation into a bustling city-state.

By telling stories, we keep the past alive; we continue an age-old tradition that reminds us of where we come from, to help us learn and appreciate more of who we are today. Beyond the national narrative, we celebrate the stories that make up our collective heritage. Let's rediscover our diverse cultural spaces and modern everyday structures that we encounter in our daily lives.

Delve into the past of an iconic neighbourhood such as Queenstown, where tour guides and residents freely share their tales. Listen to the passionate voices of heritage lovers and find out what motivates them to collect, create and donate.

Create new memories with your family and friends by joining heritage activities happening all around you. Check out the Singapore HeritageFest 2015 and take your pick from plenty of exciting events and activities in our newly beefed up Event Listings section.

It is in this spirit of story-telling that we have been inspired to refine our ideas. Launched in 2007, BeMuse is Singapore's first quarterly magazine to feature heritage as a lifestyle. This year, we refresh our line-up of content and turn the spotlight on our shared heritage. To reflect this renewed focus, we are now MUSE SG.

This magazine is about all of us — a collective, common heritage that connects all Singaporeans. A part of who we are.

Share your story with us at [nhb\\_muse@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:nhb_muse@nhb.gov.sg)

# IN MEMORIAM: LEE KUAN YEW 1923–2015

By Daniel Tham

## INTRODUCTION

Lee Kuan Yew was the founding father of modern Singapore. The Japanese Occupation had shaped his political thinking and led to his involvement in the anti-colonial struggle. Soon after returning to Singapore in 1950 with a law degree from the University of Cambridge, he began working with the unions. He later founded the People's Action Party together with a group of like-minded men in 1954.

Mr Lee was elected to the Legislative Assembly of pre-independent Singapore in 1955, and became Prime Minister of self-governing Singapore in 1959. He led the country through the merger with Malaysia in 1963, and separation from it in 1965. He was the driving force behind Singapore's transformation from a Third World country to First. After stepping down as Prime Minister in 1990, Mr Lee continued to serve in the Cabinet until 2011 when he was 87 years old. He has been recognised as Asia's pre-eminent statesman — one among the giants who spurred Asia's rise in the 20th century.

Our cover story is a tribute to Mr Lee's contributions to Singapore, his international stature, and the ideals and convictions that shaped him and his generation of leaders.

## THE FORMATIVE YEARS (1923–1950)

Lee Kuan Yew was born on 16 September 1923 in Singapore. He was the top student from Raffles Institution in the Senior Cambridge examinations of 1940. He then entered Raffles

College with the hopes of going on to study law in London, but his plans were interrupted by World War II.

After the British surrendered to the Japanese on 15 February 1942, Mr Lee narrowly escaped being killed in *sook ching* ("purge by cleansing") — the Japanese army's anti-Chinese operation which took the lives of many Chinese. He had gone to the Jalan Besar *sook ching* screening, but sensing something was wrong, he excused himself from the line-up. He hid with his gardener's help and fortuitously cleared the screening the next day. He later recalled that he did not choose to enter politics; it was the Japanese Occupation that brought politics to him. The brutal occupation forced him to realise that unless Singaporeans took their fate into their own hands, they would forever be at the mercy of major powers.

### University of Cambridge and the Malayan Forum

Lee Kuan Yew resumed his studies after World War II. He first enrolled at the London School of Economics, and then moved to the University of Cambridge in 1947. He graduated from Cambridge with "Double First" honours in Law and received the only star for distinction in his year. While in England, Mr Lee joined the Malayan Forum together with Goh Keng Swee and Toh Chin Chye, who would later form the PAP with him. The Forum was a group of politically conscious Malayan students in Britain who were working towards an independent Malaya, which would include Singapore. Mr Lee returned home after being called to the Bar in June 1950.

1 | Lee Kuan Yew with Kwa Geok Choo, before he left for England to study, 5 September 1946

2 | In the Cambridge University Law School Library, 1947 to 1949

3 | Reading by the River Cam at Cambridge University, 1947

4 | Lee Kuan Yew with Kwa Geok Choo at Cambridge University, where they both studied, 1947 to 1949

5 | Lee Kuan Yew and Kwa Geok Choo at dinner with fellow students from Singapore and Malaya at Cambridge University, 1949.

Among those present were E. W. Barker (top row, fourth from left) and Yong Pung How (seated, second from right). Barker served as a Cabinet Minister from 1964 to 1988, while Yong was Singapore's Chief Justice from 1990 to 2006.

Mrs Lee Kuan Yew Collection,  
Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



“The time has come for Malaysians to unite, for we can’t stop this exploitation unless we are masters in our own country. So that is the first thing that has to be put right. We’ve got to have independence.”

- Lee Kuan Yew, at an election rally, 21 March 1955

## ROAD TO MERDEKA (1950–1965)

### Legal adviser to trade unions

In 1952, Lee Kuan Yew represented the Postal and Telecommunications Uniformed Staff Union in its salary negotiations with the colonial government. He exposed the high-handedness with which the postal workers had been treated, but advised them to adopt a peaceful, moderate approach in the negotiations. Mr Lee gained wide publicity after he succeeded in negotiating a better deal for the postal workers. Soon, more trade unions and clan associations began approaching him to be their advocate.

### Formation of the People’s Action Party (PAP)

Together with a small group of students who had recently returned from England, Lee Kuan Yew developed the idea of forming a political party to fight for independence through constitutional means. This group — Toh Chin Chye, Goh Keng Swee, S. Rajaratnam and Kenneth Byrne, joined later

by Samad Ismail and Devan Nair — met regularly in the basement dining room of Mr Lee’s home in Oxley Road.

### The *Fajar* trial

In 1954, Lee Kuan Yew was approached to defend eight University of Malaya students who had been charged with sedition for publishing an article in *Fajar*, an undergraduate magazine. Together with Queen’s Counsel D. N. Pritt, Mr Lee defended the students successfully. Soon after, he represented Chinese middle-school students who were appealing their conviction for rioting over National Service registration. This was Mr Lee’s introduction to the Chinese educated world. As he described it, it was “a world teeming with vitality, dynamism and revolution”.

### Inauguration of the PAP

Through these students, Lee Kuan Yew became acquainted with Lim Chin Siong and Fong Swee Suan, two influential figures in the Communist United Front. Mr Lee told them of his plans to form a political party, and they soon joined the Oxley Road group. On 21 November 1954 the PAP was inaugurated at the Victoria Memorial Hall.

### The 1955 Legislative Assembly Election

The PAP put up four candidates, including Lee Kuan Yew. The PAP won three seats, with Mr Lee himself winning the largest number of votes cast for any candidate. He had emerged as the natural leader of the anti-colonial movement.

1 | Greeting Queen’s Counsel D. N. Pritt at the airport, 1954. Pritt had flown in to represent eight University of Malaya students charged with sedition for an article published in *Fajar*, an undergraduate publication. All eight were acquitted.

2 | At the Singaporean Union of Postal and Telecommunication Workers’ premises for the PAP’s Special Party Conference, 13 February 1955. It was decided at the meeting that the PAP would contest the upcoming Legislative Assembly Election. Four candidates, including Lee Kuan Yew, were fielded.

3 | Shouting “*Merdeka!*” (Independence in Malay) at a rally at the Padang, 15 April 1957. Lee Kuan Yew had just returned from London. He had been a member of the all-party delegation attending constitutional talks on self-government for Singapore.

4 | Lee Kuan Yew with his supporters on the eve of his first electoral triumph, 1 April 1955

Ministry of Communications & Information Collection, Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



“Once in a long while in the history of a people, there comes a moment of great change. Tonight is such a moment in our lives... We begin a new chapter in the history of Singapore. The powers of the people through their elected government are limited to our internal affairs. It is not what we really want. It is but a step forward towards merger and *Merdeka*.”

- Lee Kuan Yew, at a mass rally following the PAP's victory in the 1959 Singapore General Election, 3 June 1959

**Open front alliance**

Lee Kuan Yew and his non-communist colleagues in the PAP felt they had to forge an alliance with the communists to fight colonialism. But this meant a constant tussle for control within the PAP. Mr Lee secretly met Fong Chong Pik, a representative of the Malayan Communist Party whom he named “the Plen”, short for Plenipotentiary, in his Battle for Merger talks.

**The 1959 General Election**

The PAP took 43 out of 51 seats in Singapore's first general election for a fully-elected legislature. It was a landslide win. Lee Kuan Yew became the first Prime Minister of self-governing Singapore. He began immediately implementing the far-reaching social and economic policies that transformed the island over the next few decades.

**Independence through merger**

In May 1961, the Prime Minister of the Federation of Malaya, Tunku Abdul Rahman, announced the possibility of a merger with Singapore. Disagreement over this issue prompted a split in the PAP in July 1961. The pro-communists led by Lim Chin Siong first tried to bring down the government in the Legislative Assembly. When they failed, they broke away to form the Barisan Sosialis. The trade unions also split — those loyal to the PAP formed the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC), while the pro-communist unions set up the Singapore Association of Trade Unions (SATU).

This resulted in a fierce battle for the hearts and minds of Singaporeans. Lee Kuan Yew made a series of radio broadcasts to expose the communists — their aims, methods and organisation — and visited all 51 constituencies. A referendum was held in September 1962 in which the PAP's proposal for merger with the Federation won 71 percent of the votes. A year later, on 16 September 1963, Singapore became part of Malaysia. Five days after Merger, the PAP won 37 seats in the 1963 General Elections, compared to the Barisan Sosialis' 13. The PAP — with Mr Lee's “superb political generalship,” as Dr Goh Keng Swee later described it — had survived the communist onslaught.

**Separation**

Merger, however, turned out to be an unhappy experience. The PAP contested the 1964 Malaysian General Election, but won only one seat in the peninsula. Racial riots broke out in Singapore on 21 July 1964. Relations between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur deteriorated as Lee Kuan Yew campaigned for a non-communal “Malaysian Malaysia”. On 9 August 1965, Singapore separated from Malaysia. The image of Mr Lee on television crying over this “moment of anguish” was something no Singaporean would forget.



1 | Speaking on the steps of City Hall at the installation of Yusof bin Ishak as Yang di-Pertuan Negara (Head of State), 3 December 1959

2 | Urging residents of Tanjong Pagar to help make Singapore “one of the cleanest and healthiest cities in Asia” during a mass drive to spring clean the city, 23 November 1959

3 | Listening to residents of Geylang Serai in the wake of racial riots, 24 July 1964. On television the same day, Lee Kuan Yew pledged to help victims of the riots and said his government would dispel fear and restore confidence.

4 | Addressing the crowd at Fullerton Square during a lunchtime election rally, 25 September 1963

Ministry of Communications & Information Collection, Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



“I have a responsibility for the survival of the two million people in Singapore... my overriding, my paramount duty is the survival of my own people... I am determined that they will survive and I think they’ve got enough grit in them.”

- Lee Kuan Yew, interview with foreign correspondents, 14 August 1965

## SURVIVAL AND NATIONHOOD (1965–1990)

This period has been closely identified with Lee Kuan Yew’s leadership and strength of character. Assisted by a group of exceptionally able colleagues, he transformed Singapore into a progressive, open and economically successful nation.

### Obtaining international recognition for Singapore

Lee Kuan Yew believed that it was most important to position Singapore in the international system. Before Singapore’s independence, he had already been meeting key figures of that time (including Nehru, Nasser and Tito) and leading missions to Africa and Australia on behalf of Malaysia. He put this experience to good use as soon as Singapore became independent.

### Rule of law and non-corrupibility

Lee Kuan Yew initiated constitutional changes and adapted the rule of law to the local context. He insisted on high standards of probity in government and was relentless in fighting corruption. He believed the success of the country depended on the strength and integrity of its institutions, particularly the civil service and the judiciary.

### A Singaporean Singapore

Lee Kuan Yew envisioned a meritocratic, multiracial, multi-religious and multi-lingual society, where no one would be favoured or discriminated against because of their race, language or religion. He shunned race-based political parties and stressed the importance of racial and religious harmony.

In education, he instituted bilingualism with English as the medium of instruction and with Mandarin, Malay and Tamil as the mother tongues. There shall be no majorities or minorities in Singapore, he declared soon after Separation. He combated chauvinism in all its forms.

### Building a defence force

To ensure Singapore’s security, Lee Kuan Yew worked closely with Defence Minister Goh Keng Swee to build up the Singapore Armed Forces. In 1967, he introduced compulsory National Service for all 18-year-old male citizens. 900 full-time National Servicemen were enlisted in the first batch that year.

### Surviving without the British military

In the 1960s, the British military bases contributed about 20 percent to Singapore’s Gross Domestic Product. After the British announced in 1968 they were withdrawing their forces “East of Suez”, Lee Kuan Yew negotiated with British leaders a generous aid package and a postponement of the date British forces would leave Singapore, from March to December 1971. He also set up the Bases Economic Conversion Department, led by Hon Sui Sen, to oversee the conversion of British military bases and facilities into commercial use. In this way, by boldly turning crisis into opportunity, Singapore survived the British withdrawal. That was to become a hallmark of Mr Lee’s leadership as Singapore tackled the crises of the 1970s and 1980s.

1 | Proposing a toast to Senior Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping of China when he visited Singapore, 12 November 1978

2 | Meeting President Suharto of Indonesia at the Merdeka Palace, Jakarta, 8 September 1982. Over the years, the two leaders held many such private meetings, which Suharto called “empat mata” (“four eyes”).

3 | Speaking at the Victoria Memorial Hall after his victory in the 1963 General Elections, 22 September 1963

4 | Lee Kuan Yew and Economic Development Board Chairman Hon Sui Sen surveying the site which would become Jurong Industrial Estate, 27 October 1962

Ministry of Communications & Information Collection, Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



“We cannot go backwards in time, to the old trading port of Singapore. We have to move forward and upwards, diversify our economy, upgrade technology in factories and offices, and increase our knowledge and skills.”

- Lee Kuan Yew, National Day Message, 8 August 1982

**Establishing Singapore’s economic base**

Unique among leaders of developing nations of his time, Lee Kuan Yew welcomed multi-national companies. He saw them as a means of industrialisation and to link up Singapore to the world. Central to his economic vision was the establishment of industrial harmony. Mr Lee worked closely with Devan Nair and the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) to promote tripartism. The National Wages Council was set up in 1972 with representatives from unions, management and government to achieve a consensus on wage issues.

**A stake for each citizen**

Giving every citizen a stake in the country was of primary importance to Lee Kuan Yew. His vision was a nation where every citizen owned a home. So he set up the Housing and Development Board to build and sell flats to Singaporeans. As wages rose, Mr Lee also raised the Central Provident Fund contribution rates to help Singaporeans buy homes and ensure they have adequate retirement savings. In 1984, he initiated Medisave, a national medical savings scheme. These schemes and institutions — HDB, CPF, Medisave — remain the bedrock of Singapore’s social policy today.

**Creating a financial centre**

Together with Dr Goh Keng Swee, Lee Kuan Yew helped make Singapore a global financial centre. In 1967, the Board of Commissioners of Currency was established to issue the Singapore currency. In 1971, the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the country’s de facto central bank, was established. And in 1981, the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation (GIC) was formed to invest government reserves. Mr Lee served as GIC chairman from its founding till 2011.

**Organising the grassroots**

To nurture confidence and trust between the people and the government, Lee Kuan Yew set up the People’s Association and became its first chairman. Community Centres were built all over the island to bring people together. In addition, Mr Lee launched many campaigns — from “Keep Singapore Clean and Green” to “Speak More Mandarin, Less Dialect”. He and his Old Guard colleagues considered themselves to be public educators as much as political leaders.

1 | Visiting the Rollei camera factory in Braunschweig, West Germany, 30 September 1970. Lee Kuan Yew later met the first batch of Singaporean technicians undergoing training there.

2 | Touring the newly opened Singapore Time factory set up by Seiko, 19 March 1976. With an investment of \$30 million and employing 1,500 workers, the Japanese company became the first to make watches in Singapore for export.

3 | Visiting a home at Cantonment Road in Tanjong Pagar soon after it was built, 10 April 1964. Lee Kuan Yew chose Tanjong Pagar as his constituency in 1955 because he wanted to represent the working class population then living there.

4 | Mingling with young residents during his tour of the Queenstown housing estate, 2 May 1965. Built first by the Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) and later by HDB, Queenstown became Singapore’s first satellite town.

5 | Chatting with a young boy during a walkabout in Nee Soon, 24 July 1966

6 | Stopping to chat with a student at St. Joseph’s Institution’s Founder’s Day celebrations, where Lee Kuan Yew was the guest of honour, 15 May 1967

Ministry of Communications & Information Collection, Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



“ People must feel that Singapore is worth being part of and worth defending. Otherwise, we cease to exist... We can make Singapore a vibrant and thriving society, with opportunities for a rewarding and fulfilling life.”

- Lee Kuan Yew, National Day Message, 8 August 1989

**Establishing international relations**

Lee Kuan Yew helped Singapore establish strong relations with major powers like the United States, China, India, Japan and the United Kingdom. He welcomed the United States as a stabilising force in the Asia-Pacific region. His rapport with Deng Xiaoping led to the strengthening of ties with China from the 1980s. Mr Lee was well received by the top world leaders of his time.

**A clean and green Singapore**

Mr Lee believed in a clean and green environment. He was the inspiration and chief architect of Singapore’s transformation into a “garden city”, and later into a “city in a garden”. The clean-up of the Singapore River and the Kallang River basin — a massive project that took 10 years to complete — together with the waterways, parks and trees that dot Singapore’s landscape are among the most enduring of Mr Lee’s achievements.

**The Commonwealth and ASEAN**

Lee Kuan Yew ensured Singapore’s voice was heard on the world stage. Singapore hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 1971, with Mr Lee as the chairman. Together with his Foreign Minister S Rajaratnam, Mr Lee was a strong supporter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which he viewed as important to regional stability.

**The water story**

Singapore’s dependence on Malaysia for its water was a matter of profound importance. Lee Kuan Yew was the key figure in all bilateral talks with Malaysia over water. Thanks to his leadership, Singapore focused on developing its own water resources. This included converting more than three-quarters of the island into water catchment areas, developing desalination plants and introducing NEWater or reclaimed water.

**Placing Singapore on the world map**

Mr Lee took a personal interest in Singapore Airlines (SIA), and urged it to focus on international rather than regional routes. His decision to build Changi International Airport, which opened in 1981, helped Singapore become the air hub of the region.

**Leadership succession**

Lee Kuan Yew believed that the continued success of Singapore depended on having capable people in government, especially its political leadership. After the 1988 General Elections, he paved the way for Goh Chok Tong to succeed him as Prime Minister. He saw this as his final duty as Prime Minister before stepping down in 1990.



- 1 | Planting a yellow flame tree sapling at the Tanjong Pagar Community Centre, 12 December 1971. The first tree Lee Kuan Yew planted to start Singapore’s tree-planting campaign was a Mempat tree at Farrer Circus on 16 June 1963.
- 2 | Meeting United States President Ronald Reagan at the White House, 19 June 1981. Lee Kuan Yew had met every US president since Lyndon Johnson.
- 3 | Taking the salute at the National Day Parade at the Padang, 9 August 1987

- 4 | Inspecting the Singapore River, 2 September 1987. Lee Kuan Yew considered the decade-long project to clean up the river one of his most ambitious undertakings.
- 5 | Speaking at the Hokkaido Forum on the importance of free trade to Singapore in the 21st Century, 11 July 1988

Ministry of Communications & Information Collection, Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore





“... my values are for a government which is honest, effective and efficient in protecting its people and allowing opportunities for all to advance themselves in a stable and orderly society, where they can live a good life and raise their children to do better than themselves...”

- Lee Kuan Yew, keynote speech at the Create 21 Asahi Forum in Tokyo, 20 November 1992

### HIS LEGACY

#### Senior statesman

Lee Kuan Yew stepped down as Prime Minister in 1990, but remained in the Cabinet as Senior Minister. He was appointed Minister Mentor in August 2004, when Lee Hsien Loong succeeded Goh Chok Tong as Prime Minister. He served in this position till 2011, when he retired from the Cabinet. Mr Lee had an active post-Prime Ministerial career, and his presence was felt both at home and abroad. One of the highlights of these years was the publication of his two-volume memoirs. It was translated into many languages, including Spanish, Portuguese and French, reflecting the worldwide interest in the views of Asia's pre-eminent elder statesman.

#### Legacy

Lee Kuan Yew's legacy is Singapore. He devoted every fibre of his being, the full measure of his considerable talents and energy, to the betterment of his fellow citizens. He believed in a fair and just society, one in which every citizen had a stake. He believed we could be "one united people, regardless of race, language or religion". He believed government had to be honest and strong if it was to be a force for good. He thus insisted on the rule of law, meritocracy and zero tolerance of corruption. It is upon these solid foundations laid by Lee Kuan Yew and his generation of leaders that Singapore will continue to thrive in the decades to come.

*The In Memoriam: Lee Kuan Yew exhibition is currently showing at the National Museum of Singapore until 24 May 2015.*

1 | Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and President Wee Kim Wee witnessing the swearing in of Lee Kuan Yew as Senior Minister at City Hall Chamber, 28 November 1990

2 | Visiting residents at Ghim Moh housing estate, 8 September 1991

3 | Speaking at the launch of the second volume of his memoirs, *From Third World to First*, 16 September 2000

4 | President S. R. Nathan presenting Lee Kuan Yew with his instrument of appointment as Minister Mentor at the Istana, 12 August 2004, witnessed by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

5 | Thanking a supporter on Nomination Day in the 1997 General Elections, 23 December 1996

Ministry of Communications & Information Collection, Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

# WE

## DEFINING STORIES

By Priscilla Chua and Stefanie Tham

Stories grow in our minds; we embellish and imagine them, connect the dots and try to make meaning from them. Everyone has different versions of a remembered past. Each of us experiences and remembers Singapore differently. Yet key historical reference points circulate, endure and blend into a shared consciousness, defining stories that in different ways make us who we are.

Featuring photographs from the archives of The Straits Times and the collection of the National Museum of Singapore, *We: Defining Stories* is a collaboration between the National Heritage Board and The Straits Times of headline photographs that document significant moments of Singapore history. A travelling version has been adapted from the full 2014 exhibition presented at the National Museum of Singapore to bring these stories to the heartland.

Presenting 'Merdeka', the first of four chapters in *We: Defining Stories*. The following photographs capture defining events as



The word "Merdeka" (freedom in Malay) is suspended from balloons over a People's Action Party (PAP) Independence Rally at Farrer Park. Photo: Chew Boon Chin / The Straits Times

Singapore marched towards independence against a backdrop of riots, political activism, and uncertainty about the future. This exhibition will be travelling monthly to various libraries across Singapore to celebrate SG50, Singapore's Jubilee anniversary. See page 76 for more information.

### Merdeka

*Merdeka* is the Malay word for freedom. In post-war Singapore, *Merdeka* was the rallying cry for a population bursting at its seams with the desire for freedom — freedom from colonial rule, injustice, domination, inequality, and a myriad of other shackles. Riots and protests broke out frequently in the 1950s as Singapore's residents expressed their political discontent.

The identity of the islanders underwent seismic changes in the space of a few short years: from being long-time Malayan British subjects, they became Malaysians in 1963 and then citizens of a new nation on 9 August 1965. But independence and freedom were not met with jubilation; rather, they came

with the realisation that Singapore was in uncharted waters. Singaporeans had to come together and forge a new nation in this time of uncertainty.

Post-war Singapore was rife with anti-colonial sentiments, which bubbled over during the 1950 custody battle for Maria Hertogh. Riots broke out over what was perceived to be a lack of understanding by the colonial authorities towards the religious and racial sensitivities of the locals. Violent strikes and demonstrations were also widespread in the 1950s, as industrial workers and students protested against colonial rule. But the unrest that pervaded the 1950s was eventually quelled by the local government, proving to the colonial authorities that Singapore was capable of restoring stability. This led to the resumption of negotiations with the British over allowing self-governance in Singapore.

“It was absolute madness. People coming out from the Cathay cinema were attacked for no reason. People were being pelted with stones and brutally attacked with sticks... It was frightening the way people were mindlessly beating up one another. There was no reason or rationale behind their behaviour... We were sleeping on the carpeted floors and desks in the studio, and many of us did not have a bath or change of clothes for the whole week. But lucky for us, one Malay staff member brought his *sarong* and *songkok* (Malay headgear) so that he could leave the station to buy food for the crew without getting beaten up.”



Maria Hertogh standing behind her foster mother Aminah at the Supreme Court on 19 May 1950, after the overturning of previous ruling that gave custody of Hertogh to her natural parents. Photo: The Straits Times

- Vernon Palmer, a former radio presenter, was on duty at the radio station when news of the riots broke on 11 December 1950. (source: The Straits Times, 14 July 1998, p. 28)



Hundreds of people outside the Supreme Court, moments before the Maria Hertogh verdict was delivered, 11 December 1950. Photo: The Straits Times



Aftermath of the Maria Hertogh riots, at the junction of North Bridge Road and Arab Street, 13 December 1950. Photo: The Straits Times

There were more than 270 strikes in 1955, a year that has been termed Singapore’s “blackest year of industrial unrest”. A particularly significant labour dispute took place at the Hock Lee Bus Company. The company’s workers began striking peacefully in April, but events took a violent turn in May and escalated into a full-blown three-day riot. Four people were killed and 31 were injured.



Police officers attempting to separate Chinese middle school students during their protest against the National Service Ordinance, 13 May 1954. Photo: The Straits Times

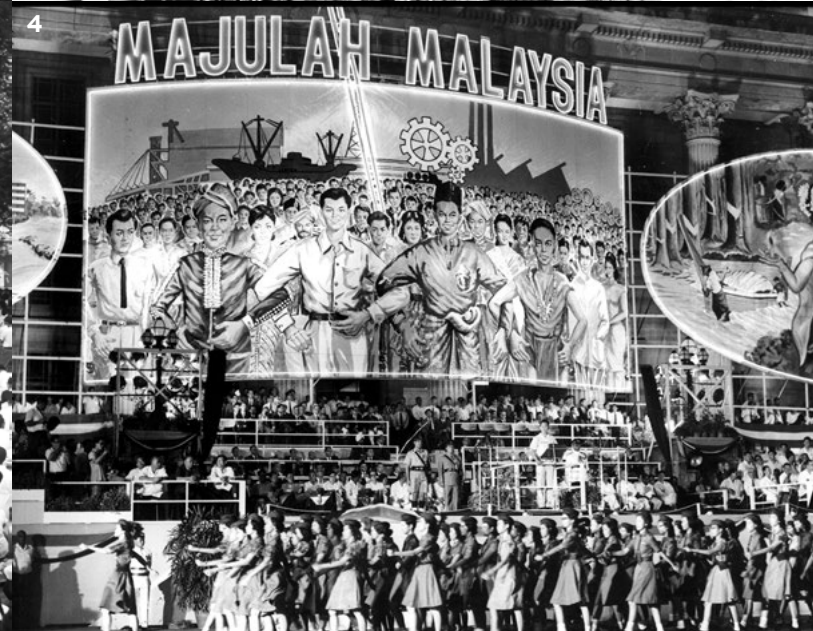
The students in Singapore’s Chinese-language schools in the 1950s and 1960s were also given to political activism, which occasionally led to clashes. In 1954, some students held a demonstration to protest serving the colonial government under the National Service Ordinance and disrupting their studies in the process. They also organised a sit-in at the Chinese High School and Chung Cheng High School in 1956 to protest against the closure of a students’ union that was alleged to be pro-Communist. In 1961, a student boycott of the Chinese Secondary Four examination — introduced by the Ministry of Education in a move that was seen by the students as interfering — led to scuffles between students, parents, and police at the Chinese High School.



Chief Minister David Marshall, with finger raised, ordering Singapore Harbour Board picketers to leave the Government House entrance at Orchard Circus, 30 May 1955. Photo: Chew Boon Chin / The Straits Times



Student picketers halt a vehicle at Paterson Road to plaster it with posters denouncing the changes to the examination system, 29 September 1961. Photo: Low Yew Kong & Han Hai Fong / The Straits Times



“We were excited because we were going to rule our own country, and we can have our voice. Although we didn’t know what was going to happen — Will there really be a change from the British rule? — the fact was that we were going to be the boss of our country.”

- Tan Kok Kiong had come from Chung Cheng High School with a few friends to attend the victory rally at the Padang on 3 June 1959. (source: The Straits Times, 30 May 2009, p. D2, D4-5)

A successful agreement was made with the British and on 3 June 1959, Singapore became a self-governing state under the leadership of the People’s Action Party (PAP), which had been voted into power during the General Election held earlier that year. Many excited and curious people made their way to the Padang for a victory rally on the afternoon of 3 June, which ended with roars of “Merdeka! Merdeka!” from the crowd of about 80,000. The PAP championed a merger with the Federation of Malaya and in 1963, following a referendum, Singapore joined the Federation to form Malaysia.

2 | Political detainees, from left (with garlands), Fong Swee Suan, S. Woodhull, Lim Chin Siong and C. V. Devan Nair, celebrating their release, 4 June 1959. Photo: Mak Kian Seng / The Straits Times

3 | The Barisan Socialis Rally at Lim Tua Tow Market, Upper Serangoon Road, 8 October 1961. Photo: Chew Boon Chin / The Straits Times

The merger with Malaysia was short-lived; Singapore and the Federal Government of Malaysia had fundamental ideological differences and opposing approaches to governance. Singapore eventually separated from Malaysia on 9 August 1965, marking the birth of an independent nation.

4 | The Girls’ Brigade marched past the City Hall steps on Malaysia Solidarity Day in 1963, just weeks before Singapore merged with the Federation of Malaya, North Borneo (Sabah) and Sarawak to form Malaysia. Photo: The Straits Times

5 | Scene at the press conference announcing Singapore’s separation from Malaysia. 9 August 1965. Photo: Ali Yusoff / The Straits Times

“Most people were dismayed as we had always been part of Malaysia. Everything seemed so uncertain. I could still feel the electricity as [Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew] spoke. His voice broke a few times. He also used his handkerchief to wipe his tears. It really moved me.”

- Dr Robert Low’s memories of the day Singapore’s separation with Malaysia was announced. (source: The New Paper, 8 August 1996, p. 17)

6 | Former Parliamentary Secretary Lee Khoon Choy sworn in as Minister of State for Culture by President Yusof Ishak, 18 September 1965. Photo: Mak Kian Seng / The Straits Times

# MODERNS IN OUR MIDST

A PHOTOGRAPHIC TRIBUTE TO SINGAPORE'S MODERN ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

By Ho Weng Hin and Tan Kar Lin

A new exhibition borne from a landmark book project on Singapore's early Modern architecture will be held at the National Museum of Singapore from 17 April to 18 May as part of the Singapore HeritageFest 2015. Organised by National Museum of Singapore in partnership with Singapore Heritage Society, the exhibition is a showcase of the late Jeremy San Tzer Ning's remarkable photography.

In documenting Singapore's modern architectural heritage, the award-winning architectural photographer's pictures pay tribute to the often overlooked, everyday structures that form the backdrop of our daily lives: public flats, places of worship, schools, markets and workplaces. Taken over 10 years, these selected photos capture the struggles and achievements of the *milieu* and Singapore's endangered early Modernist architecture as it stands in the first decade of the 21st Century.



Photo by Jeremy San Tzer Ning

## NATIONAL LIBRARY

Inauguration: 1960  
Architect: Public Works Department, Singapore

The modest red-bricked structure, designed by Public Works Department architect Lionel Bintley, was inaugurated in 1960 by Singapore's first Yang di-Pertuan Negara (or Head of State) Yusof bin Ishak. While the institution originated in 1823 as a private collection, philanthropist Lee Kong Chian gave a seed donation in the 1950s and rallied for a public library with publications in "vernacular languages". Generations have since passed through its brick porches, as the understated Stamford Road library evolved into one of the few post-war civic spaces that Singaporeans, across class and ethnicity divides, identified with. Captured before the building's demise, the photograph shows the library courtyard, an urban oasis graced by shady trees and a fountain, well-loved for poetry recitals and nursing a cup of coffee.

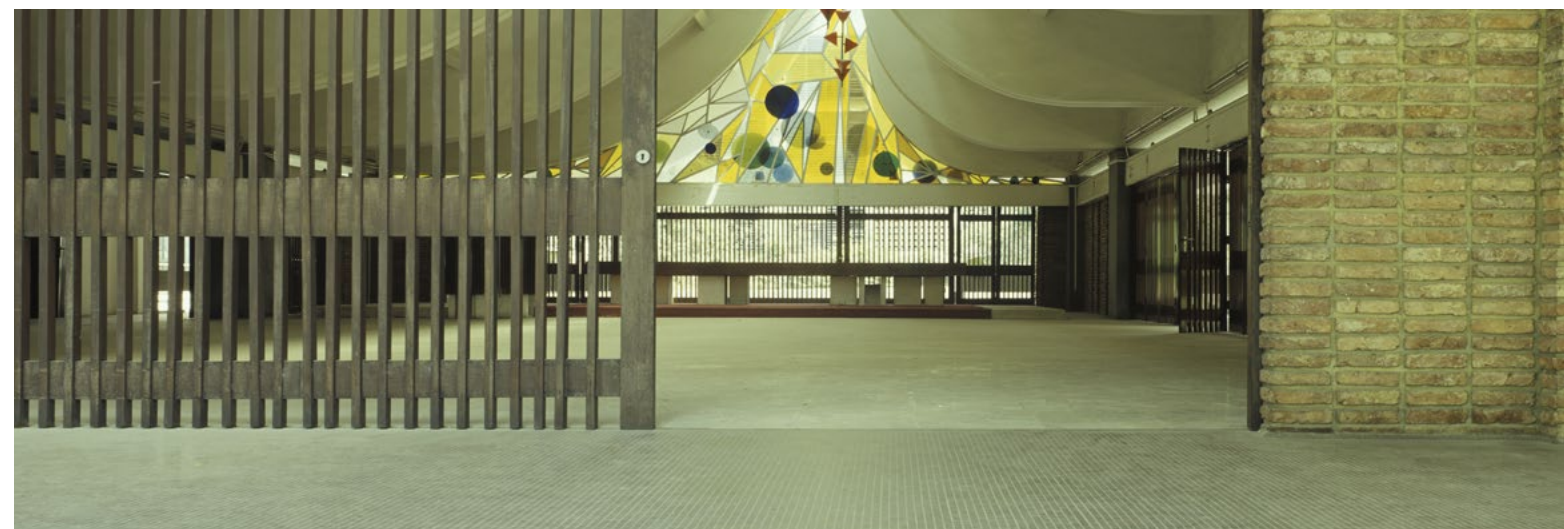


Photo by Jeremy San Tzer Ning

## TRINITY THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE CHAPEL

Inauguration: 1970  
Architect: Chan Kui Chuan

The Trinity Theological College Chapel is an excellent example of later modern tropical church design that evolved from the 1950s. The building is replete with layers of religious symbolism. Occupying a wooded, undulating site on Mount Sophia, the chapel is a simple rectangular pavilion capped by a sculptural roof form, derived from the Chinese character 人 ("human") — chosen as an appropriate representation of the chapel's role as an interdenominational gathering space.



Photo by Jeremy San Tzer Ning

**TANJONG PAGAR  
RAILWAY STATION**

Inauguration: 1932  
Architect: Swan & Maclaren

The former Tanjong Pagar Railway Station is gazetted as a National Monument, following the landmark June 2010 agreement that saw the transfer of the former Malayan railway land from Malaysia to Singapore. Underneath the graceful arches, inset panels with arabesque motifs are subtle local inflections in an otherwise internationalist design devoid of overt ethnic symbols, unlike the contemporaneous Federated Malay States Railway Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.



Photo by Jeremy San Tzer Ning

**NATIONAL STADIUM**

Inauguration: 1973  
Architect: Public Works  
Department, Singapore

Designed by the Public Works Department of Singapore, the National Stadium was conceived as the centrepiece of the Kallang Park Sports Complex, a comprehensive mass spectator sports, leisure, and exhibition centre that would occupy the former landing grounds of Kallang Airport. For the subsequent three decades, the edifice was the unrivalled venue of numerous memorable matches and spectacular National Day Parades.



Photo by Jeremy San Tzer Ning

**CLIFFORD PIER**

Inauguration: 1933  
Architect: Public Works Department, Singapore

Clifford Pier was inaugurated by Straits Settlements Governor Cecil Clementi in 1933. It was one of the three major transportation 'gateways' of interwar Singapore — the other two being Tanjong Pagar Railway Station (1932), and Kallang Airport (1937). Replacing the mid-nineteenth-century Johnston's Pier, Clifford Pier was an engineering feat of its times, with its 10 reinforced concrete arched trusses 36 feet high and spanning 60 feet across, resulting in a column-free space that facilitated passenger traffic flow.



Photo by Jeremy San Tzer Ning

**PEARLBANK APARTMENTS**

Completion: 1976  
Architect: Archurban Architects

Sited atop Pearl's Hill and towering over the densely populated shophouses of Kreta Ayer, the visionary project achieved several breakthroughs when it was built in 1976. As Singapore's first urban renewal residential development, Pearl Bank was among the world's most densely populated apartment blocks and the tallest apartment in Asia.

*Ho Weng Hin and Tan Kar Lin are founding partners of Studio Lapis, an architectural heritage conservation and research consultancy based in Singapore, and are members of the Singapore Heritage Society.*

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# TELOK AYER STREET

## A STREET NAMED DIVERSITY

By Sarah Teo and Foo Min Li

Universally, light is a symbol of life and hope and all things good. On the evenings of 8 and 9 May 2015, special lights will bring to life some of the National Monuments along Telok Ayer Street to commemorate and celebrate the thanksgiving and joy the early migrants found in coming upon the shores of Singapore.

Telok Ayer Street has the honour of being the street with the largest number of National Monuments in Singapore — six out of a list of 68.<sup>1</sup> With its name meaning “water bay” in Malay, this street used to hug the coastline of Singapore, and was the landing point of migrants looking to start life anew here. After long sea-tossed journeys, they would give thanks to their gods for watching over them and providing safe passage. That explains the many places of worship dotted along the street.

19th and early 20th-century Singapore street life would seem very foreign today — with traders and coolies occupying the shophouses, schoolchildren hurrying to lessons in the neighbourhood and *wayang* operas taking place on the stage opposite Thian Hock Keng on special occasions.

Despite being designated a “Chinese area” in the Town Plan of 1822, Telok Ayer Street was and remains a street of diversity. Though the area was inhabited by the Hokkiens, Indian Muslims worshipped at the mosque there while missionaries toiled to plant the seeds of Christian faith among the Chinese community.

<sup>1</sup> As of 24 February 2015, Singapore has 68 gazetted National Monuments. The six along Telok Ayer Street are: Ying Fo Fui Kun (98 Telok Ayer Street), Nagore Dargah Indian-Muslim Heritage Centre (140 Telok Ayer Street), Former Keng Teck Whay Building (present-day Singapore Yu Huang Gong, 150 Telok Ayer Street), Thian Hock Keng Temple (158 Telok Ayer Street), Al-Abrar Mosque (192 Telok Ayer Street) and Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church (235 Telok Ayer Street).



Thian Hock Keng (天福宮, “Temple of Heavenly Happiness”)





In celebration of Chinese New Year this year, the temple was lit with red lanterns and the complex radiated jubilation and festivity



Chongwen Ge, built beside Thian Hock Keng, used to house the Hokkien Association and Chong Hock Girls' School (present-day Chongfu School)

### Thian Hock Keng Temple

Thian Hock Keng, Singapore's oldest Hokkien temple, started out as a joss house in the early 19th Century, serving the Hokkien community even before Raffles' arrival in Singapore. When Singapore became a British trading post, many South-Chinese immigrants came to the country to find work and escape famine in China. Not all survived the arduous sea journey. Those who landed safely thanked their gods, one of whom was Mazu, the Goddess of the Seas.

A grander edifice replaced the joss house between 1839 and 1842, with leaders of the Hokkien community contributing funds for its construction. Among them was Tan Tock Seng, who was the largest single donor. In 1840, a celebratory procession was held to announce the arrival of the statue of Mazu from China. This statue can still be seen today in the main prayer hall.

A traveller, Eugen von Ransonnet, wrote of the illuminated Thian Hock Keng in 1876:

"As we enter the courtyard, which is surrounded by a covered passageway, a magical glow blazes through the open facade of the temple. There is a colourful confusion of lights, enormous lanterns painted with figures and characters, glittering gold, and dark red draperies, and in between mysterious gloom. Around it surges a throng of the Buddha's disciples, with their long plaits, through which we have to make our way to reach the sanctuary. Our eyes are so dazzled that we are unable to see all the magnificently coloured mosaic flowers on the roof... one can only see what glimmers through the hazy darkness. The Chinese, more than any other people, know how to use subtle lighting as an ornament to obtain a picturesque effect..."<sup>2</sup>

Ransonnet's description of the coloured mosaic flowers on the roof refers to the ceramic ornamentation, known as *jian nian* (剪粘, "cut and paste"). These, together with the ornaments of dancing dragons, peonies and phoenixes on the roof, as well as the motifs around the temple, show that everything has been deliberately designed and decorated.

<sup>2</sup> Eugen von Ransonnet, *Skizzen aus Singapur und Djohor (Sketches: Singapore and Johore)*, Braunschweig: George Westermann, 1876, pp. 9-10

### Former Keng Teck Whay Building (present-day Singapore Yu Huang Gong — Temple of the Heavenly Jade Emperor)

Thian Hock Keng forms a larger ensemble of Hokkien architecture along Telok Ayer Street, together with Chongwen Ge and the Former Keng Teck Whay building.

The Former Keng Teck Whay building is the only surviving Peranakan ancestral hall and clan complex in Singapore. It used to house an association (Keng Teck Whay, 庆德会), which was founded by 36 Peranakan merchants in 1831 as a self-help organisation. The name itself is symbolic. "Keng Teck" (庆德) means "Celebration of Virtues", and the association reflects these immigrants' spirit of self-help and solidarity.

Membership in the association is exclusive to male descendants of the founding members. However, the founding members, as Hokkiens, also made contributions outside of the association

— such as to the construction of Thian Hock Keng and Chongwen Ge. While the former Keng Teck Whay building resembles Chongwen Ge (both have pagodas), its octagonal-shaped pagoda rests on a square plan. The shapes themselves are also symbolic: the square represents the earth and the octagon represents heaven.

In 2010, ownership of the building was transferred to the Taoist Mission of Singapore which transformed it into a Taoist temple, renaming it Yu Huang Gong (玉皇宫, "Palace of the Yu Huang Shangdi"), in honour of Yu Huang Shangdi (Jade Emperor), the highest divinity in Taoism. The temple officially opened its doors to the public in January 2015. Today, one can view the main prayer hall, which features scenes of the 24 paragons of filial piety, and the names of the founding members of the public inscribed in the granite plaque in the rear hall.



Al-Abrar Mosque

### Al-Abrar Mosque

The Hokkien ensemble is flanked by two landmarks that stand as testaments to the contributions of South Indian Chulia immigrants to colonial Singapore. The landmarks, both bearing minarets that rise toward the sky, can be seen in Percy Carpenter’s painting of Singapore from Mount Wallich, 1856.

The mosque, Al-Abrar Mosque, has a name meaning “the pious, who fear Allah and avoid evil”. It originated as a thatched hut in 1827, thus earning its nickname “Kuchu Palli”, which means “small mosque” in Tamil. It was also known as Masjid Chulia, named for the Indian Muslims from the Coromandel Coast of southern India. Mostly traders and money changers, these early Indian migrants conducted their trading businesses in Chinatown and along Telok Ayer Street.

Simple and unassuming in form, the mosque exemplifies classical European features in its fanlights and the Doric columns that line the prayer hall. It also has a five-foot way — a pedestrian walkway sheltered by overhanging upper levels, mainly used in shophouse architecture.

For HeritageFest 2015, Al-Abrar Mosque will be lit up in mesmerising shades of blue to bring out the glory of the mosque’s rich history and its identity as a sacred place of prayer. The pavement in front of the mosque will see a re-creation of the sea in glowing waves of sapphire and foam.



Nagore Dargah Indian-Muslim Heritage Centre

### Former Nagore Dargah (present-day Nagore Dargah Indian Muslim Heritage Centre)

Located at the junction of Boon Tat Street and Telok Ayer Street is Nagore Dargah, an eclectically-styled building constructed between 1828 and 1830 in remembrance of a “holy man”, Shahul Hamid, who was also known as the God of Nagore. The name “Nagore Dargah” refers to a place in Tamil Nadu, India (Nagore) and an Islamic shrine built over the grave of a revered person or mausoleum (*dargah*).

However, no relic or grave is enshrined in this building. It is purported that Chulia immigrants, who hailed from the Coromandel Coast of southern India, constructed Nagore Dargah to be able to continue venerating Shahul Hamid in Singapore.

In the past, the niches of the minarets were lit with candles during the Kandoori festival, held annually in the Tamil-Muslim mosques in Singapore and in Nagore to commemorate Shahul Hamid. He was said to have performed many miracles, including curing many people in Nagore of serious diseases.

Singapore’s Nagore Dargah resembles India’s although it is smaller in size and much more eclectic in style — a result of the interchange of architectural styles in the British port of Singapore. Round arches line the side of the building facing Boon Tat Street, a feature commonly seen in Greco-Roman buildings. Today, the building is much more ornate, with elaborate plasterwork on the front facade and pillars that are decorated with Corinthian capitals.



Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church

### Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church

The first Chinese Methodist Church in Singapore, Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church was founded in 1889 in a shophouse clinic started by Dr Benjamin West, an American missionary and medical doctor. To cater to a growing congregation, the church moved into a tin hut, and then finally to this building, which was completed in 1925 as a permanent home for the mainly Chinese worshippers.

Designed by Denis Santry of Swan & MacLaren (who was also responsible for the design of the Cenotaph and Sultan Mosque), the building is eclectically-styled. But what is most striking is its Chinese style pavilion roof, which made the church building more familiar and welcoming to the newly-converted Chinese.

Like Al-Abrar Mosque, the church incorporates a five-foot way in its design. The wall is noticeably thick as it was reinforced during World War Two, when the church was a refuge for hundreds. The wall protected those within from stray bullets and shrapnel.



Ying Fo Fui Kun (before the restoration process commenced)

### Ying Fo Fui Kun

Ying Fo Fui Kun, Singapore’s oldest Hakka clan association, was founded in 1822 to cater to the needs of Hakka immigrants from different villages in the Guangdong province of China. The name “Ying Fo” (应和) reflects the founders’ aspirations of mutual support and peaceful co-existence among the Hakkas in Singapore.

The double-storey building, constructed between 1843 and 1844, might have been influenced by Hakka architecture in China. The ground-floor windows are positioned high above an adult’s height — similar to windows in Hakka architecture (*tu lou*, 土楼) in China that are placed high above human height, to prevent intruders from entering the compound. The building is currently closed to the public for restoration works.

Much development has taken place around and along Telok Ayer Street, but with six National Monuments (none can be demolished, by law) and a history spanning more than two centuries, the street brims with hidden secrets and stories.

# THE QUEEN OF ESTATES

## THROUGH HER RESIDENTS' STORIES

By Kwek Li Yong

Queenstown today is known as one of Singapore's oldest housing estates. But back in the day, the housing project was one of the nation's most ambitious, designed to give residents convenient access to all the living amenities that they needed. A new guided tour, called My Queenstown Heritage Trail, hopes to take participants on a walk down memory lane by sharing the estate's story through its landmarks and the memories of its earliest residents.

Its story began on 27 September 1953, when British officials from the Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) named the new town after Queen Elizabeth II to mark her coronation the previous year. The colony suburb was the most ambitious project initiated by SIT to create a self-contained and financially independent new town with factories, shops, markets, schools and clinics away from the congested downtown — but close to residents.

Bounded by Ridout Road, Tanglin Road, Alexandra Road, Holland Road and the Malayan Railway, the satellite town comprised 11,000 flats housing 70,000 people, at a cost of about \$80 million — a princely sum at that time.

Construction began at the former Buller Camp in Princess Estate and the former Normanton Barracks in Queens' Crescent Estate. The former burial ground and farmland at Boh Beh Kang village (Hokkien: 无尾港; No Tail River) were later cleared to make way for public housing. When the Housing and Development Board (HDB) took over from the colonial government's SIT in February 1960, work had begun in three out of the five planned neighbourhoods in Queenstown, namely Neighbourhood One (Princess Estate), Neighbourhood Two (Duchess Estate), Neighbourhood Three (Commonwealth), Neighbourhood Four (Tanglin Halt) and

Neighbourhood Five (Queens' Crescent). HDB later added two more neighbourhoods in Neighbourhood Six (Mei Ling) and Neighbourhood Seven (Buona Vista).

A myriad of social institutions were pioneered in Singapore's first satellite town. As a satellite estate, each neighbourhood came with its own amenities while larger facilities such as the library and sports complex were shared by the entire town. In 1956, the first technical school was opened at Queenstown Secondary Technical School to equip future generations of Singaporeans with technical knowledge and skills to carry Singapore through its decade of industrialisation.



Arches commemorating the Queen's coronation, 1953  
Photo courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

In 1963, Singapore's first polyclinic was built along Margaret Drive to provide access to subsidised healthcare. Two years later, the standalone Venus and Golden City theatres were opened to the public. In 1970, the estate's first branch library and sports complex were completed.

Despite the upgrades to the estate, Queenstown's oldest flats were 30 years old by 1980 and soon mirrored the greying of their original occupants. The next generation of residents who grew up in Queenstown moved away, opting for newer estates due to a lack of development in Queenstown and various government restrictions on owning flats in mature estates. Demolition works in the ageing residential estate commenced in the 1990s and 2000s, and many iconic landmarks such as Forfar House, Tah Chung Emporium, Queenstown Japanese Gardens, Queenstown Remand Prison and Margaret Drive Hawker Centre were torn down.

Rejuvenation in Queenstown took the form of the Selective Enbloc Redevelopment Scheme (SERS), where high-density precincts were envisioned for Queenstown's older neighbourhoods. In June 2014, HDB announced that 31 residential blocks at Tanglin Halt Road and Commonwealth Drive would be redeveloped under SERS.

Retiree Alice Lee, 66, has been living in a three-room flat on the 10th storey of Block 33 Tanglin Halt Road since she got married 44 years ago. She remembers her first visit from her

A second guided tour across the Dawson and Alexandra neighbourhoods commenced in March 2015. Called My Queenstown Heritage Trail (Dawson + Alexandra Tour), it explores Queenstown's rich colonial history and *kampung* heritage. Both free guided tours take place on the last weekend of each month. Both tours are open to the public and interested participants can register online at [www.myqueenstown.eventbrite.sg](http://www.myqueenstown.eventbrite.sg), by emailing [myqueenstown@gmail.com](mailto:myqueenstown@gmail.com) or by calling Queenstown Community Centre at 64741681. At time of printing, both tours are fully booked until 2016.

For more information on self-guided tours, please visit [www.nhb.gov.sg/NHBPortal/Places/Trails/Overview](http://www.nhb.gov.sg/NHBPortal/Places/Trails/Overview)

grandfather's shophouse at Tras Street to her matrimonial home vividly: "I was extremely petrified when I walked out of the lift on the ninth floor. This was my first experience in a high-rise building and I clung onto my husband's shoulder tightly as I inched up to my flat. I dared not open my eyes because I was very afraid of losing my balance and falling over the parapet."

Besides the historical landmarks, Madam Lee's recollection of her memories at Tanglin Halt is one of the key highlights in a new guided tour of Singapore's first satellite estate. Organised by the civic group, My Community, and supported by the National Heritage Board and Queenstown Citizens' Consultative Committee, My Queenstown Heritage Trail (Duchess + Tanglin Halt Tour) uncovers poignant stories from generations of residents, shopkeepers and librarians who live, work and play in the estate.

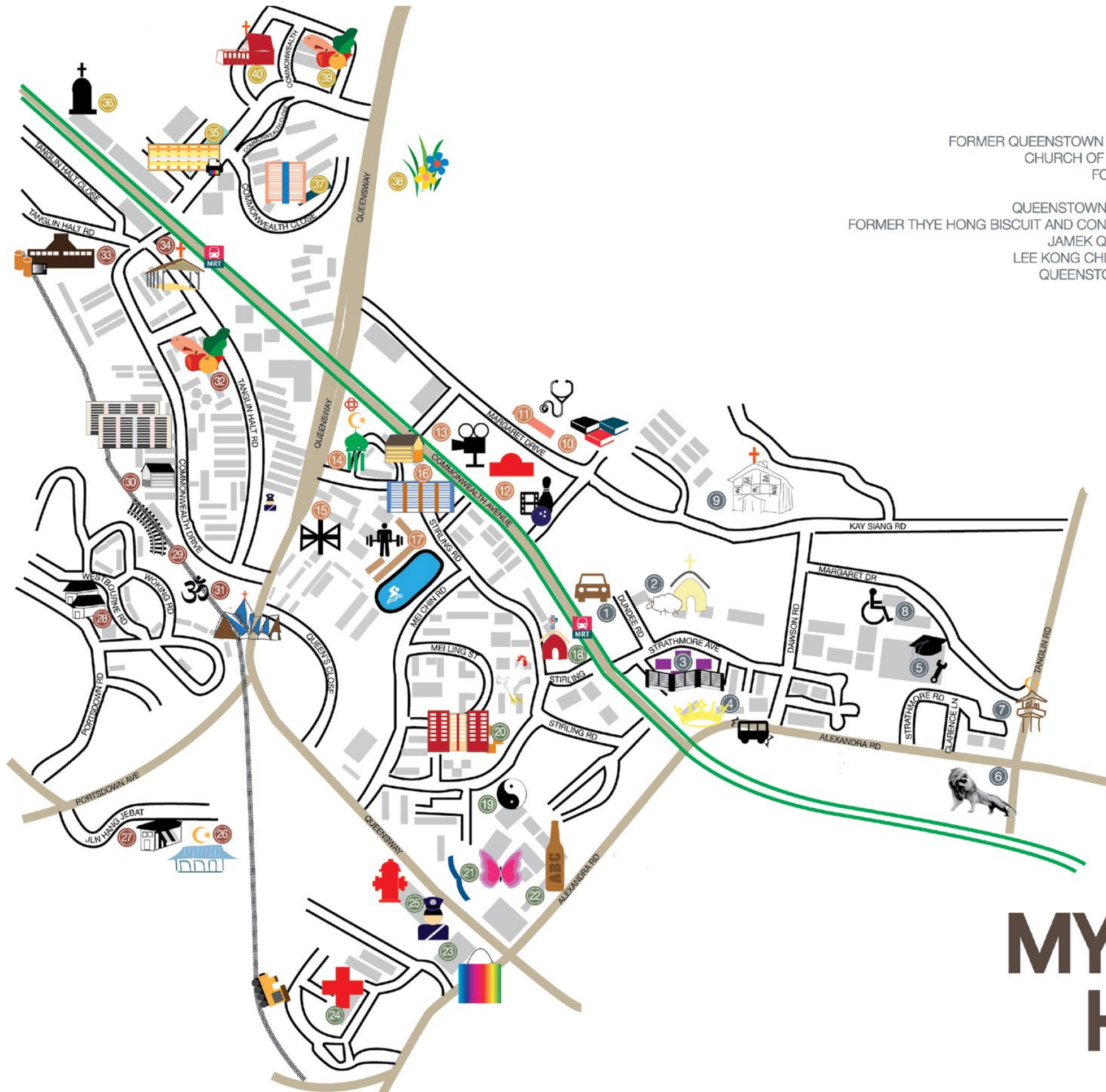
Dr Chia Shi-Lu, Member of Parliament for Tanjong Pagar GRC (Queenstown Division), says: "This is the first heritage trail in Singapore which introduces the history and heritage of the estate by having residents, shop owners and librarians tell their own stories and personal encounters. Although Queenstown is small in size, our stories are big in heart and soul, and certainly speak volumes of life in the 1960s and 1970s. We are thankful to have been able to collaborate with many different individuals and organisations to bring this interactive Heritage Trail to fruition."

***Kwek Li Yong is President of My Community and Chairman of Queenstown Heritage.***



Mahmood Tamam, a long time Stirling Road resident sharing his memories during the heritage tour  
Photo courtesy of Johnny Chen

# DESTINATIONS



- PRINCESS TRAIL**
- FORMER QUEENSTOWN DRIVING TEST CENTRE 1
  - CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD 2
  - FORMER FORFAR HOUSE 3
  - PRINCESS HOUSE 4
  - QUEENSTOWN SECONDARY SCHOOL 5
  - FORMER THYE HONG BISCUIT AND CONFECTIONARY FACTORY 6
  - JAMEK QUEENSTOWN MOSQUE 7
  - LEE KONG CHIAN GARDENS SCHOOL 8
  - QUEENSTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH 9

- DUCHESS TRAIL**
- QUEENSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY 10
  - QUEENSTOWN POLYCLINIC 11
  - FORMER COMMONWEALTH AVENUE WET MARKET 12
  - FORMER VENUS AND GOLDEN CITY THEATRES 13
  - MUJAHIDIN MOSQUE 14
  - FORMER BAHARUDDIN VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE 15
  - THE FIRST HDB FLATS 16
  - QUEENSTOWN SPORTS COMPLEX 17

- MEI LING AND ALEXANDRA TRAIL**
- TRUE WAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 18
  - TIONG GHEE TEMPLE 19
  - THE FIRST POINT BLOCKS 20
  - BUTTERFLY BLOCK 168A QUEENSWAY 21
  - FORMER ARCHIPELAGO BREWERY COMPANY 22
  - QUEENSWAY SHOPPING CENTRE 23
  - ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL 24
  - ALEXANDRA FIRE STATION & 25
  - QUEENSTOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE CENTRE

- WESSEX & TANGLIN HALT TRAIL**
- HANG JEBAT MOSQUE 26
  - COLONIAL TERRACES AT JALAN HANG JEBAT 27
  - BLACK AND WHITE APARTMENT BUILDINGS 28
  - FORMER MALAYAN RAILWAYS 29
  - FLATS DESIGNED BY SINGAPORE IMPROVEMENT TRUST 30
  - AND TANGLIN HALT ESTATE
  - SRI MUNEESWARAN TEMPLE AND 31
  - CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
  - TANGLIN HALT NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE 32
  - FORMER TANGLIN HALT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE 33

- COMMONWEALTH TRAIL**
- THE FIRST FLATTED FACTORY 35
  - SHUANG LONG SHAN WU SHU ANCESTRAL HALL 36
  - THE VIP BLOCK 37
  - RIDOUT TEA GARDEN 38
  - COMMONWEALTH CRESCENT 39
  - NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE
  - QUEENSTOWN LUTHERAN CHURCH 40

# MY QUEENSTOWN HERITAGE TRAIL

# THE ATTAP VALLEY BUNKER

## ‘FORGOTTEN’ PLACES IN SINGAPORE:



John Kwok guiding participants outside the Attap Valley Bunker

By John Kwok

On 28 January 2015, the National Heritage Board (NHB) announced the activities planned for the commemoration of the 73rd anniversary of the fall of Singapore. The guided tours to the Attap Valley Bunker attracted a lot of attention from the media and the general public. This is because the bunker is sited on restricted land and it was the first time a guided tour could be organised to take the public through the pre-war military structure constructed by the British to transform Singapore into an impregnable fortress. This was made possible through the efforts of NHB, Singapore Land Authority (SLA) and Singapore Police Force (SPF). The guided tour would take participants inside the well-preserved bunker, an unprecedented move. But the larger story surrounding the Attap Valley Bunker may be that there are still other similar sites that have been “forgotten” and are waiting to be found.

**The Singapore Naval Base and the Armament Depot**  
The Attap Valley Bunker’s original name was a simple one: Magazine No. 4. It was part of a network of 18 underground bomb-proof storage bunkers connected by a metre-gauge railway line. These 18 bunkers made up the Armament Depot of the Singapore Naval Base. The Singapore Naval Base was the key component to a British defence plan to protect all British colonies from Hong Kong to Burma. The plan was dubbed the “Singapore Strategy”, and it led to the construction of a modern naval base in Singapore capable of providing anchorage and maintenance for the largest of the British warships.

In the event of trouble in the region, selected ships from the Atlantic and the Mediterranean would be reorganised and dispatched to Singapore. The Singapore naval base would serve as command headquarters and port for Royal Navy

ships that operated in the region. The outbreak of war in Europe and in the Mediterranean in 1939, however, meant that no Royal Navy warships could be spared for operations in Singapore. When Japanese forces threatened British interests in Malaya and Singapore, the British sent only a token force of two capital ships in December 1941 to Singapore — the *HMS Prince of Wales* and *HMS Repulse* — along with an escort of four destroyers to deter the Japanese Imperial Navy. The warships made a brief stop at the Singapore Naval Base before they were deployed to search and intercept Japanese forces along the east coast of Malaya. The Japanese sunk the warships, and the British were left with a modern naval base but no fleet.

The dockyards of the Singapore Naval Base survived the Japanese Occupation and Singapore’s modernisation after independence. The fate of the Armament Depot of the



Exploring the interior of the bunker



Flooding to the corridor to the bunker's entrance

Singapore Naval Base was less well-known to the general public. After the Japanese Occupation, the British returned to Singapore and took over the Singapore Naval Base, using it to support British operations in the region. As part of an agreement to withdraw all British forces from Singapore, the Armament Depot was handed to the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) after the British withdrew in September 1971. The site continued to operate as a depot until 2002 when it was decommissioned. All the structures that once made up the depot — including the underground storage bunkers — were demolished in phases before the site was handed back to the State. Magazine No. 4 was the only underground storage bunker that survived.

#### **The First Tour**

On 7 February 2015, two busloads of Singaporeans were taken to a remote spot along the north coast of Singapore. The location was not far from the Senoko Fishery Port. The bus travelled past an old iron gate topped with barbed wire. After travelling on a winding stony trail, the bus reached the coastline. Everyone was instructed to get off the bus. There was jungle everywhere and it did not feel like Singapore anymore. This was the start of NHB's first guided tour to the Attap Valley Bunker.

The Attap Valley Bunker is located at the foot of a hill once known as Talbots Hill, which also housed six similar underground bombproof stores that no longer exist. The tour started at the entrance of the bunker, which was a few minutes' walk along a dirt path from where the visitors disembarked. A set of rusty double metal doors partially blocked the entrance to a long corridor. The tour participants had to wade across ankle-deep mud and water along the corridor to reach the storage area. The corridor, lit only by the participants' torchlights, led to a cavernous storage space of nearly 300 square metres.

There were two gantry cranes installed inside the storage space, and each crane had a loading capacity of one and a half tonnes. Metal plates welded on the crane showed that they were manufactured and supplied by Marshall Fleming & Co Ltd in 1937. Signboards reminding operators of the crane's loading capacity were later installed on the cranes, which indicated that the cranes were still in use after the war. The tour participants were given the opportunity to explore the bunker on their own before they were guided back along the same muddy, flooded corridor to the bunker's entrance. By the end of February, 11 groups of Singaporeans had visited the Attap Valley Bunker on NHB's guided tour programme.

#### **Finding 'Forgotten' Sites in Singapore**

The 11 guided tours to the Attap Valley Bunker were part of NHB's commemorative programmes for the 73rd anniversary of the battle for Singapore and the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Singapore. The aim of the tours was to share NHB's research on pre-war and wartime sites and structures that are lesser-known to Singaporeans. Participants on the tour were baffled by the fact that a large site like the Attap Valley Bunker still existed in a highly urbanised Singapore. The question most asked by participants on the tour was if there were still more sites like Attap Valley Bunker waiting to be discovered and documented. NHB's recent work researching and documenting the Keppel Hill "forgotten" reservoir, remnants of the 1887 New Lunatic Asylum wall and the Marsiling Tunnels suggests that there are still more sites waiting to be discovered. The question is why.

Singapore was a British colony and development of the island during the colonial period reflected this. All major government buildings were located inside the city district, which was fairly well-defined. When viewed through the eyes of the British and locals, colonial Singapore had a real frontier, which stretched from the edges of the city district to the coastline. This was rural Singapore. Plantations, farms and *kampongs* shared this

rural space with British military camps and installations, as well as infrastructure buildings such as fuel and water storage facilities. As the city core expanded, it pushed its periphery to the physical edges of the island, absorbing and colonising what was once Singapore's rural space. Buildings and sites in the rural areas were either torn down or abandoned to make way for urban development.

There are no more physical frontiers on mainland Singapore today. NHB's research efforts uncovering the Keppel Hill Reservoir, the 1887 New Lunatic Asylum wall and the Attap Valley Bunker reveal Singapore's old frontiers and layers of the past. These historical sites offer a way to look at Singapore through the eyes of the British who planned the development of the island as a colony. In tracing the development of Singapore's frontiers, we are reminded of the many layers of the past we stand on. As the nation continues to develop, we will uncover more layers of Singapore's past, strengthening our identity and enriching the Singapore story beyond SG50.

# THE SONGS WE SANG

## DOCUMENTING XINYAO



Eva Tang interviewing Wong Hong Mok  
Photo courtesy of Pauline Tan

By Reena Devi

*The Songs We Sang* is a feature-length music documentary in Mandarin by independent filmmaker Eva Tang. In the film, Tang aims to capture and commemorate the spirit of *xinyao*, a uniquely Singaporean cultural phenomenon that flourished as both a local and regional music movement in the 1980s and 1990s. *Xinyao*, or 新谣 in Chinese from the phrase, 新加坡年轻人自创歌谣, literally means songs composed by Singapore youths. The songs were often about family, friendship, growing up, love, disappointments and dreams of Singapore in the 1980s and before. The spirit of *xinyao* is related to love for Singapore, a can-do attitude and looking towards a better future. Essentially, *xinyao* is an important part of many individuals' histories and Singapore's intangible heritage. As Tang put it: "The word 'heritage' has recently become a 'sellable' word in Singapore. We hope we can go beyond simply reminiscing an object or a place that our previous generations treasure. We hope we can question and seek more in-depth understanding of the intangible values that have shaped us, or that we have forsaken. Through making *The Songs We Sang*, we hope to summon up a long-lost soul of Singapore."

At its height, *xinyao* songwriters like Liang Wern Fook (梁文福), Eric Moo (巫启贤), and Billy Koh (许环良), embarked on professional music careers and gained strong regional recognition. Ocean Butterflies, a music company set up by *xinyao* pioneers, helped propel Singapore's Mandopop industry to greater heights. Many of the singers and songwriters who stopped singing continue to work in the media or schools to nurture young enthusiasts and influence many singers and songwriters in the Mandarin music scene today. Tang's documentary will feature songs, lesser-known stories and memories of *xinyao* artists and the Mandopop industry. The project aims to complement, through music and moving images, the only comprehensive textual record of *xinyao* entitled *Our Songs Are Here* (我们的歌在这里), which was published in 2004 and edited by Liang Wern Fook.

A large crowd attended *The Songs We Sang: Back to Book City* (我们唱着的歌:重返书城) concert held on Sunday afternoon, 6 July 2014 at Bras Basah Complex. More than 2,000 people

gathered for the event, and actively participated by responding to questions, laughing at jokes, waving their arms and moving to the rhythm of the music. The crowd was a good mix of people of all generations, having had their lives touched by the spirit of *xinyao* in some way. The event showcased what the documentary will be capturing—the nostalgia and celebration of this Mandopop culture. As a ground-up movement, *xinyao* has succeeded in reaching out to Singaporeans in an impactful and rare manner. The event highlighted this unique cultural phenomenon, emphasising the highly awaited release of the documentary film *The Songs We Sang*.

Tang said the process of putting the film together has been "tedious and time-consuming. A lot of research work has been painstakingly and patiently put into the making of the documentary. We hope Singaporeans can appreciate the documentary genre more, as it is an important medium that documents the changes of humans and societies." Find out more about *The Songs We Sang* on [www.facebook.com/thesongs wesang](http://www.facebook.com/thesongs wesang)



# Jack Lee

## The Art of Giving

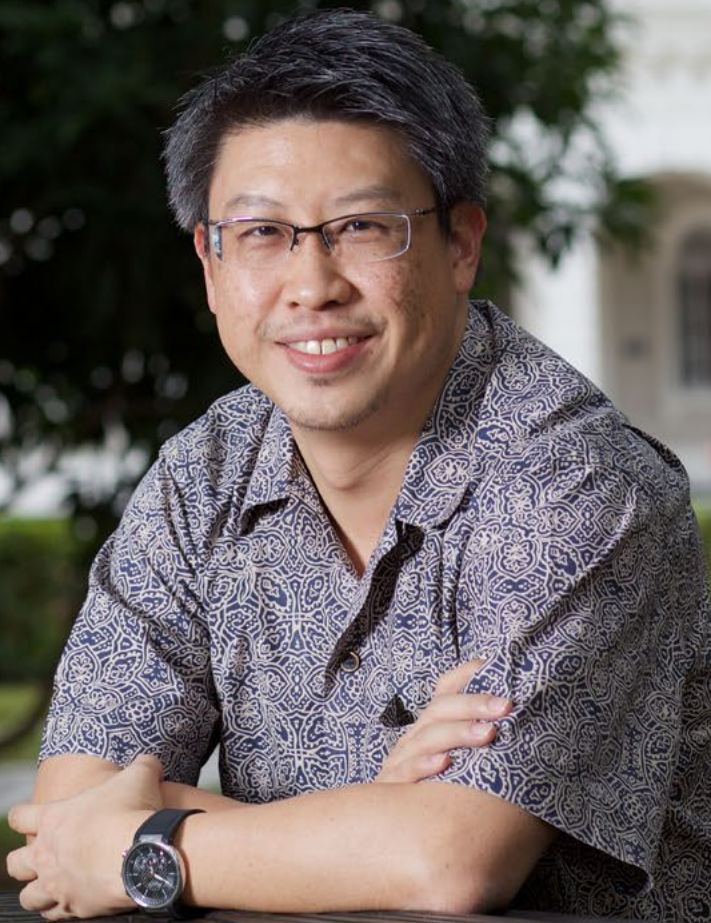


Photo by Alex Heng

Did you know you can support your favourite museum or institution with as little as \$2? Your gift goes towards exhibitions, programming and many other activities that your friends and family can enjoy at the museum. Go to <https://give2arts.sg/> to give \$2 or more to your favourite museum today! Receive a Kan Cheong Spider Watch when you give \$50 or more (while stocks last).

## MUSE SG introduces a new section on people who champion heritage in different ways.

### How and when did you begin as a heritage donor?

I have donated small items to the National Museum since I was a teenager. These were usually things belonging to my grandparents which I thought had some heritage value. When my maternal grandmother, Madam Egan Hu, passed away in 1993, my mother and I gathered up some of her old *cheongsams* and donated these to the National Museum.

I probably started making regular monetary donations around 2003 when the Asian Civilisations Museum re-opened in the Empress Place Building. I was very impressed by the collections and the high level of curation - which, I'm glad to see, has been maintained - so I responded to a call to support the museum. My name is one of the many on narrow plaques inserted into a groove on the facade of the building!

### Why do you donate? What makes giving to the museums so special to you?

I'm a 'museum person' - I love visiting museums in Singapore and when travelling abroad. I find museums fascinating, and think it's worthwhile to contribute in a small way towards their missions.

### Is there anyone in your life who inspires you to give back to the community?

My grandparents and parents have cared for and handed down heirlooms such as bric-a-brac, paintings and furniture. They probably aren't worth very much, but they are precious mementos of our past. Our national museums are doing the same thing on a larger scale, and are therefore worth supporting.

### What is your personal philosophy on giving?

I've always been impressed by the idea that we should leave the world a better place than we found it, and giving can help to achieve this. I think that the size of the gift is not so important - every bit helps - and the intention behind the gift is what really counts. Also, you might contribute in other ways too, such as volunteering with a museum.

### What do you hope to see in Singapore's cultural scene in the future?

I'm looking forward to the opening of the National Gallery. Before I became an academic at the School of Law, Singapore Management University, I used to practise in a law firm and often had to attend court proceedings in the Old Supreme Court Building and City Hall Building. I'm therefore very curious to see what the buildings will look like after they are transformed into an art gallery. Of course, I'm also looking forward to the artworks that will be on display!

### How did you come to be interested in maritime heritage?

In my younger days I served in various aspects of the maritime industry from port management to oil and gas to ship handling. Ever since I became a teacher, I have championed the maritime industry through the founding and setting up of the Youth Skipper Flotilla (YSF), Singapore first youth uniform organization. YSF represents the maritime industry just as the National Cadet Corps represents the armed forces. Through our commodore Capt Frederick Francis, YSF became involved in heritage by becoming the custodians of the maritime heritage exhibitions left by the former Sentosa maritime heritage museum. The *Taipans* — A Maritime Heritage Card Game, which I designed, will become an integral part of the future YSF Maritime Heritage Centre.

### Why did you choose to promote maritime heritage in the form of a card game?

Experiential card games are meaningful and engaging. Card games are magical as they bring people together. Imagine the hours of fun, smiles and even secret courtship over a game. This is something I have observed many times when conducting school or nationwide card game competitions. Unlike board games, cards are easy and cheap to produce and store. This makes distribution simple.

### What was the most unexpected part of creating this card game?

The card game prototype was ready one day before my three weeks of reservist training. I got my entire reservist platoon to run through the game with me and we played many rounds. We did it in our bunks and during our major exercises while holding rifles. Many of the corrections and suggestions actually came from the troopers, who insisted that I should credit them. Thank you, 613 SIR Signal Platoon.

### What would you tell other heritage enthusiasts about documenting and preserving history through games?

I think I can give some technical advice here. Creating a history game is not just an intellectual process. It is a creative process too. Initially, I hired a designer to design the cards. However, the designer could not express what was on my mind; perhaps my instructions were not clear enough. After several drafts, I realised it was more efficient if I redid the whole thing entirely by myself.

### What are your future plans for the maritime heritage game?

I am currently planning a large-scale interschool card game challenge. The *Taipans* — A Maritime Heritage Card Game will first be introduced to teachers during this year's interschool card game challenge. Approximately 30 schools will participate this year. Next year, we may invite lower secondary students from all schools to play this game at our annual interschool card challenge held in Bendemeer Secondary School.



# Winston Tham

## Creating a Heritage Card Game

Photo by Alex Heng

If you would like to learn more about NHB's grants, turn to page 72 for more information. The NHB Heritage Grants Showcase takes place at the National Museum of Singapore on 2 May 2015, so save the date and come talk to successful grant recipients who will share their experiences and projects with the public (see page 72).

# Mok Ly Yng

## A Collector's Journey



Photo by Alex Heng

### When did you first begin to collect maps and why?

I think I started in 1998 or 1999 when I was working in Mapping Unit (the National Mapping Agency of Singapore, under the Ministry of Defence). I started collecting maps to see how other mapping agencies and countries designed their maps. The web was in its infancy then and there were very few digitised paper maps online. Even if they had been available, I would have preferred to examine and study a physical map. The touch, feel and size of a map is part of the design too.

### What makes maps so special to you?

Maps allow me to travel around the world without the need to be there in person. To put it another way, I could not afford to travel so widely around the world. Maps provided the means for me to look at other parts of the world in a convenient form and format.

### What approach do you take to collecting? Do you collect by region, time period, historical significance or by aesthetics?

The criterion is 'technical' considerations. I am interested in the technical aspects of maps: the mathematical basis used for the map projection, the co-ordinates and referencing systems, the design of the symbols, the colours and so on. So, if a map could answer or satisfy my curiosity about certain aspects of the above, I would keep it. I do not actively search for maps to collect. I pick them up as and when they appear on the horizon. My geographical interest for maps is worldwide, not restricted to any part of the world or country. Time-wise, I mostly collect 20th century maps, especially those after World War One (post-1918).

### How do you conserve your collection?

Unfortunately, I do not. My plan is to digitise all of the maps, if possible. But at the moment, the cost is still prohibitive for me. Map conservation would have to be done professionally as maps have to be protected from heat, humidity, light and living organisms such as termites, lizard eggs, silverfish and fungi. They would preferably be laid out flat, unfolded and unrolled, in plan presses or shelves. They would have to be encapsulated too.

### Do you have any tips for someone who'd like to start a collection of their own?

Visit the library and take a look at the maps available there. Check out the atlases too. See for yourself what sorts of maps are being produced. You can start off with a random 'accumulation' of maps before deciding on a theme or country or concentration of types of maps to collect. Depending on your personal needs and interest, you can go online and search for maps on sites such as eBay. Specific maps would cost a lot more than a common or more general one. Your budget will help you to define your collection focus too. Ultimately, it is not what you know, it is who you know. This applies to map collecting too.

# Geo | Graphic:

## Celebrating Maps and their Stories

By Tan Huism

Maps are fascinating objects. Visual and textual, they tell us about the world they depict and provide a glimpse into the worldview of their makers. In Singapore, maps are especially significant as they are the earliest material evidence of our past.

As part of *Geo|Graphic: Celebrating Maps and their Stories*, exhibitions and programmes have been organised by the National Library that explore maps and mapping in both historical and contemporary contexts. They run until 19 July 2015 (more information at [www.nlb.gov.sg/exhibitions](http://www.nlb.gov.sg/exhibitions)).

The two historical exhibitions — *Land of Gold and Spices: Early Maps of Southeast Asia and Singapore*, and *Island of Stories: Singapore Maps* — showcase the collections of the National Library and the National Archives of Singapore respectively. They provide amazing insight into the history and transformation of Singapore's landscape, and how Southeast Asia was imagined and mapped by the Europeans.

*Geo|Graphic's* contemporary art components, *Mind the Gap: Mapping the Other*, and *SEA STATE 8 seabook: An Art Project* by Charles Lim (co-organised with the NUS Museum), invite visitors to reflect on the concepts of mapping and what maps might look like in the hands of an artist.

Here are some highlights from the exhibitions *Land of Gold and Spices* and *Island of Stories*.

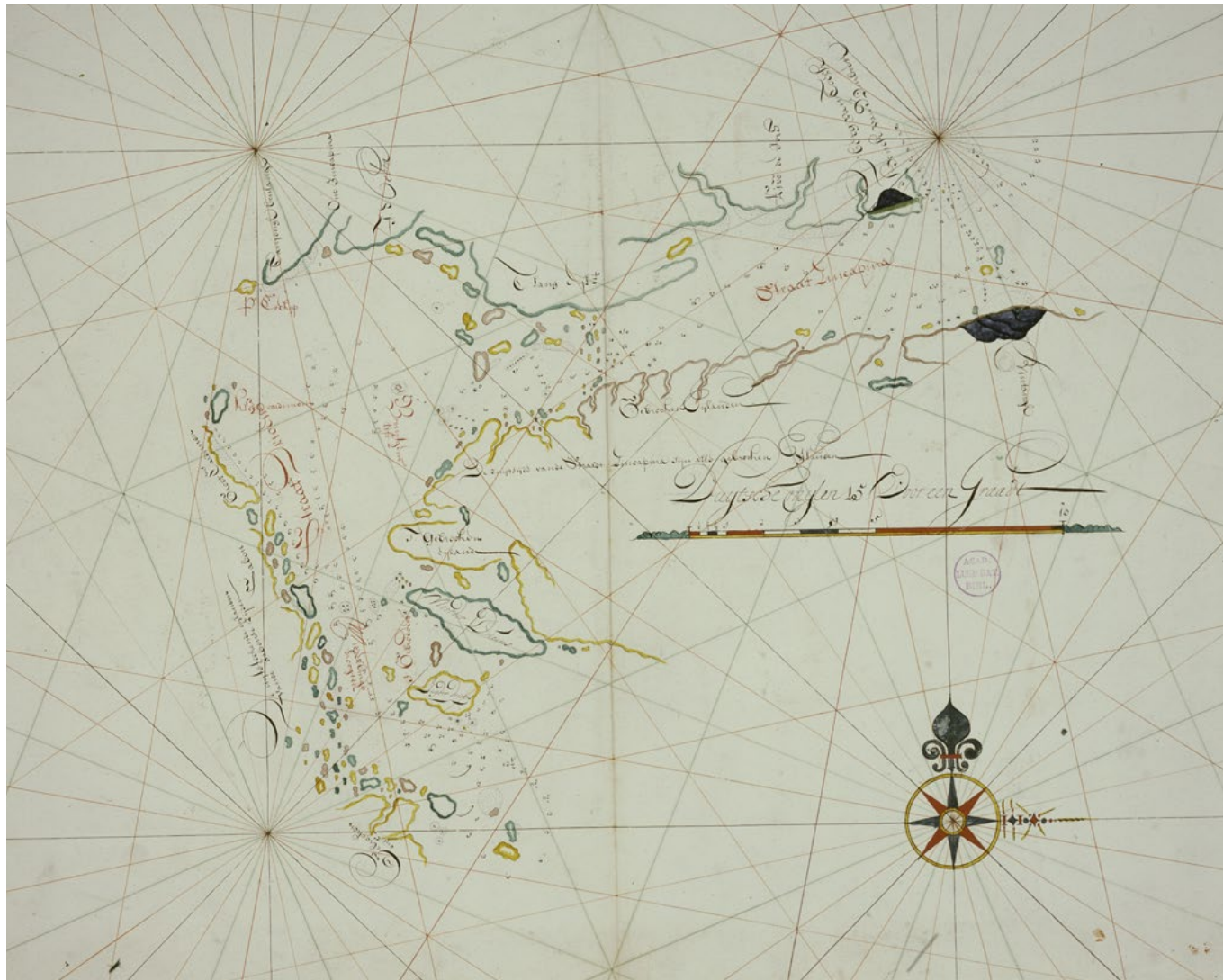
*Tan Huism is Head, Exhibitions and Curation with the National Library, Singapore.*



**Map featuring a naval battle by Theodore de Bry, Frankfurt, 1607**  
Collection of National Library, Singapore

Printed in 1607, this is a schematic map of a brutal Luso-Dutch naval confrontation that took place between 6 and 11 October 1603, in the Johor River (Rio Batusabar) and close to Pedra Branca (Pedro Blanca). The Johor fleet (allies of the Dutch) is shown waiting at a shoal off the eastern coast of Singapore. The map, produced by Flemish goldsmith, engraver and publisher Theodore de Bry (1528–98), has been drawn with the east orientated to the top.

One of the earliest representations of Singapore's coastline, the map is also significant for depicting the battle that illustrates the strategic importance of the Singapore Strait as a waterway connecting the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea.



**Strait of Singapore, circa 1675–1700**  
Collection of Leiden University Library

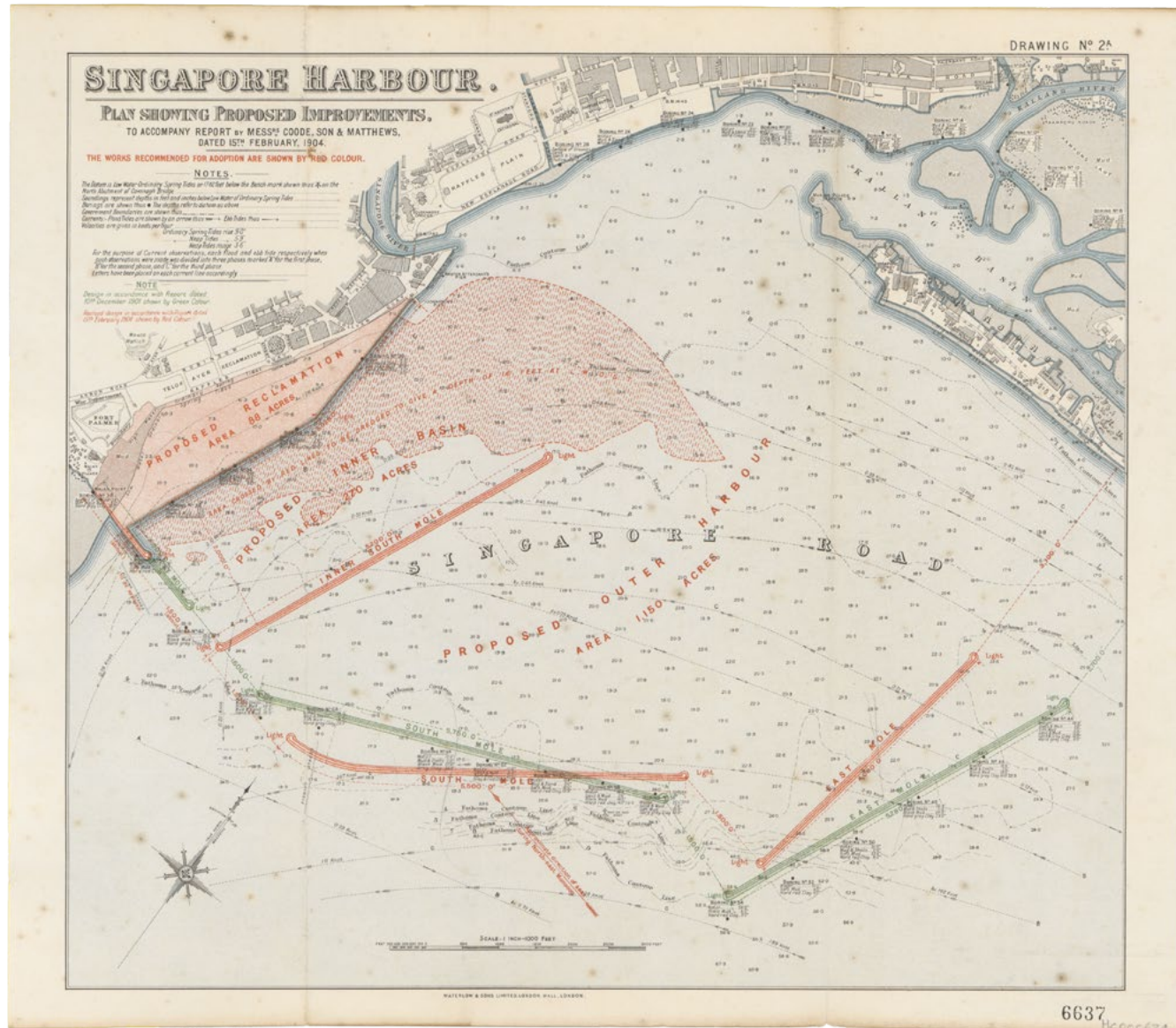
This hand-drawn chart that shows the Straat Sincapura (Strait of Singapore) is a V.O.C. (Dutch East India Company)-based chart and might have been derived from an earlier version. The outline of the Long Island (t Lang Eylant) referring to Singapore is not completed at the northern part, perhaps reflecting the cartographer's lack of knowledge of the area. To the south of the strait, a large landmass can be seen. It has a phrase stating that to the southern side of the Singapore Strait are broken islands, or *gebrooken eilanden*. The cartographer has not drawn the outline of the numerous islands, as little is known about them. This chart with soundings and compass-rose lines, however, identifies two navigational landmarks in the Singapore Strait: Johor Hill and the twin peaks of Bintan, both of which are highlighted in black ink.



**Detail of a map of Singapore and the Melaka Strait by Jacques Nicolas Bellin, Paris, 1755**  
Collection of National Library, Singapore

Jacques Nicolas Bellin (1703–72) was a French hydrographer who created maps for several key publications in the 18th century. On this map, Bellin depicts the island of Singapore and calls it Pulo or Isle Panjang (Pulau Panjang, meaning Long Island in Malay, or Panjang Island). If the main island of Singapore is named at all on early European maps, it is most often called Pulau Panjang. On this map, the Old Strait of Singapore (Vieux Detroit de Sincapour) is shown as the waterway between Singapore and Johor, which is known today as the Johor or Tebrau Strait (Selat Tebrau in Malay).

Interestingly, Bellin shows two islands on the Johor Strait: Salat Buro and Joor. It seems that Salat Buro, or Selat Tebrau, has been mistakenly depicted as an island; similarly, Joor is presumed to be Johor Lama. The two islands depicted are likely to be present-day Pulau Ubin and Pulau Tekong. The lack of knowledge on most European maps about the Johor Strait suggests that European navigators did not use this maritime route much.



**Singapore Harbour: Proposed improvements, 1904**  
Singapore Harbour Board collection  
Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

By the early 20th century, Singapore, dubbed the “Gateway to the East”, had become a major international port serving the thriving trade between Asia and Europe. The sheer volume of ships and cargo that Singapore handled strained its port’s infrastructure, which had become inadequate to meet its growing requirements by the late 19th century. This necessitated major harbour improvements, and this map of the Singapore harbour shows the proposed harbour improvement works drawn up in 1904 by the British government’s consulting engineer Coode, Son & Matthews. It contains hydrographic details, including the soundings of the harbour, and the direction and velocity of the harbour’s tides.

Some of the proposed improvements included plans to reclaim land to extend and straighten the wharf at Telok Ayer to make it easier and safer for ships to dock; to deepen the harbour; and to construct a series of moles, or breakwaters. But due to budget and technical difficulties, and public outcry against the move, only the southern inner mole was built. The one-mile-long (about 1.6 km) detached breakwater would remain a major landmark in Singapore until the late 1970s, when the waters around and behind the breakwater were reclaimed to create Marina Bay.



**Map of Syonan city, 1943**  
Port of Singapore Authority collection  
Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

The Imperial Japanese Army reprinted copies of the British Survey Department maps, and this particular reprint of the Singapore Gazetteer Map shows the main roads in the town area of Singapore renamed in Japanese script.

While most of the road names remained unchanged and were simply spelt out phonetically in the Japanese *katakana* script, public buildings, such as government buildings, hospitals and even cinemas, were given new Japanese names. For instance, Capitol Cinema, Cathay Cinema and Raffles Hotel were renamed Kyo-Ei Gekijo (共榮), Dai To'a Gekijo (大東亜劇場) and Shonan Ryokan (昭南旅館), respectively. The selective renaming of such public landmarks allowed the Japanese administration to assert sovereignty over Syonan-to — Singapore’s name during the Occupation — without causing widespread confusion.

# SARONG KEBAYA

## PERANAKAN FASHION IN AN INTERCONNECTED WORLD 1500 – 1950 BY PETER LEE

By Jennifer Quong



In Singapore, the *sarong kebaya* has been claimed by everyone from the Peranakan *nonya* to the Singapore Girl. Further afield, it's been part of Malaysian and Indonesian national dress since the second half of the 20th century. *Sarong Kebaya: Peranakan Fashion in an Interconnected World 1500-1950* offers a fresh look at this iconic style — worn for more than 500 years by the *mestiza* in Goa, the Eurasian in Batavia and the *nonya* in Penang. Across time and geography, they were bound by a common identity, shared experiences and the *sarong kebaya*. Author Peter Lee offers a new understanding of Peranakan culture and history that is in equal parts fascinating and unexpected.

A quote from the book by art historian Finbarr Barry Flood sums things up quite nicely: “...people and things have been mixed up for a very long time”. The exact origins of the *sarong kebaya* — a tailored *baju* paired with a wrapped skirt — cannot be pinpointed. Wrapped skirts worn without upper garments had been adopted in South and Southeast Asia before the Islamic period, while the *baju* is a tailored upper garment with an Islamic origin. The *sarong kebaya* was a hybrid of the two garments, mirroring the communities that were forming in the port cities of the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia.

The story of the *sarong kebaya* thus offers a rich, multilayered re-telling of cosmopolitan life in the region — of trade, education, language, communities and culture. Colonial records and

accounts by Western travellers and visitors, however coloured by fantasy and even prejudice, provide a highly readable history of the communities that were born of these European-Asian colonial encounters. The chapter “Slave Girls and Heiresses: Mother of all Peranakans” provided new insight to the “local women” so often referred to when tracing Peranakan Chinese origins. The rise of women in these early societies, some of whom were freed slaves, contributed to the development of Peranakan fashion. As inheritance laws allowed Peranakan wives to accumulate wealth, they also commissioned the type of textiles — from *kebayas* delicately trimmed in lace to intricately drawn *batik sarongs* — that justify the enduring charm of the *sarong kebaya*.

Featured in the book are beautiful images of the *sarong* and *kebaya* donated to Peranakan Museum by Mr and Mrs Lee Kip Lee. This important collection outlines the development of Peranakan fashion and much more. At the beginning of the book, Lee writes that his own investigation into the origins of the *sarong kebaya* was motivated by his dissatisfaction with the current histories of the Peranakan world, and the obsession with the contradiction that is Peranakan *jati* - the “pure Peranakan”. With this book, he has provided the links and connections that reveal a much broader history of the Peranakans and of Southeast Asian culture. *Sarong Kebaya: Peranakan Fashion in an Interconnected World 1500-1950* is available at all major bookstores.

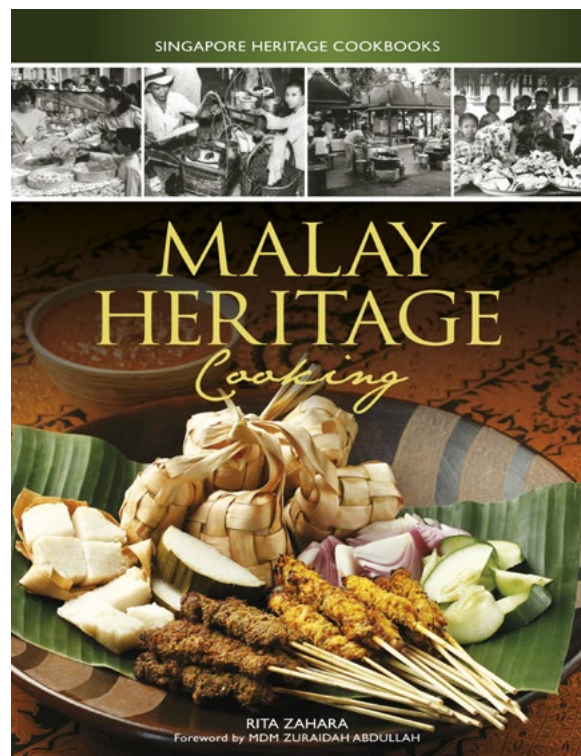


*Kebaya*, 1920s, Europe (tailored in Indonesia)  
Machine-woven cotton voile and machine-made lace  
Gift of Mr and Mrs Lee Kip Lee

# MALAY HERITAGE COOKING

BY RITA ZAHARA

By Raudha Muntadar



Food plays a tremendous role in preserving cultures and traditions. By passing age-old recipes from generation to generation, we create lasting bonds that connect not only family members but also the people we welcome into our lives. *Malay Heritage Cooking* is a collection of recipes that offers a glimpse into the culinary creations of author Rita Zahara and her matriarch mentors, namely her grandmother Che Zahara and her mother Hajjah Zabidah. The cookbook offers a mouth-watering selection of beloved Malay recipes, including *pulut kuning*, a traditional yellow glutinous rice dish.

*Pulut kuning* is a dish usually served during ceremonial events and special occasions. As important as cake in celebratory get-togethers, *pulut kuning* is a special dish often served with other delicious Malay dishes, such as *rendang daging* (beef rendang), *sambal tumis udang* (spicy prawns) and *kari ayam* (curry chicken).

In weddings, the yellow of the *pulut* symbolises the couple's status as the "king" and "queen" of the day. Rita's *pulut kuning* recipe is easy to follow, and even gives tips on how to garnish and decorate the dish with sliced red chillies and rolled omelettes. Her recipes are accompanied with personal anecdotes about her own family, which make reading the cookbook a heartwarming experience. All the recipes also come with beautiful photographs of the dishes.

With Rita playing the role of culinary guide, *Malay Heritage Cooking* promises a tasty journey of 64 family recipes. At the same time, it offers an introduction into the history and culture of the Malay community, and what each dish means to Rita and her family. *Malay Heritage Cooking* is available at all major bookstores. E-books are available at <http://www.ebook.marshallcavendish.com/malay-heritage-cooking-442.html>

## ***Pulut Kuning* recipe** (serves 4–5)

Glutinous rice	500 g (1 lb 11/2 oz)
Water	needed
Ground turmeric	1 tbsp
Eggs	2
Coconut milk	250 ml (8 fl oz / 1 cup)
Salt	1 tsp or to taste
Pandan leaves	3, tied into a knot
Banana leaves	3 sheets
Red chilli	1, sliced

1. In a basin, soak rice in some water mixed with ground turmeric (for colouring). Leave for at least 30 minutes. Drain before using.
2. Prepare eggs. They can either be cooked into omelettes, then rolled up and sliced or hard-boiled. Set aside.
3. Place rice into a steaming bowl. Steam rice for about 15 minutes or until half cooked. Remove from heat.
4. In a bowl, mix coconut milk with salt, then stir evenly into rice. Return rice to steamer and continue steaming until rice is cooked and tender.
5. Scoop steamed rice onto a tray and press lightly using banana leaves into desired shape. Allow to cool.
6. Garnish with sliced red chillies. Serve with *rendang daging*, *sambal tumis udang* and egg rolls or hard-boiled eggs.



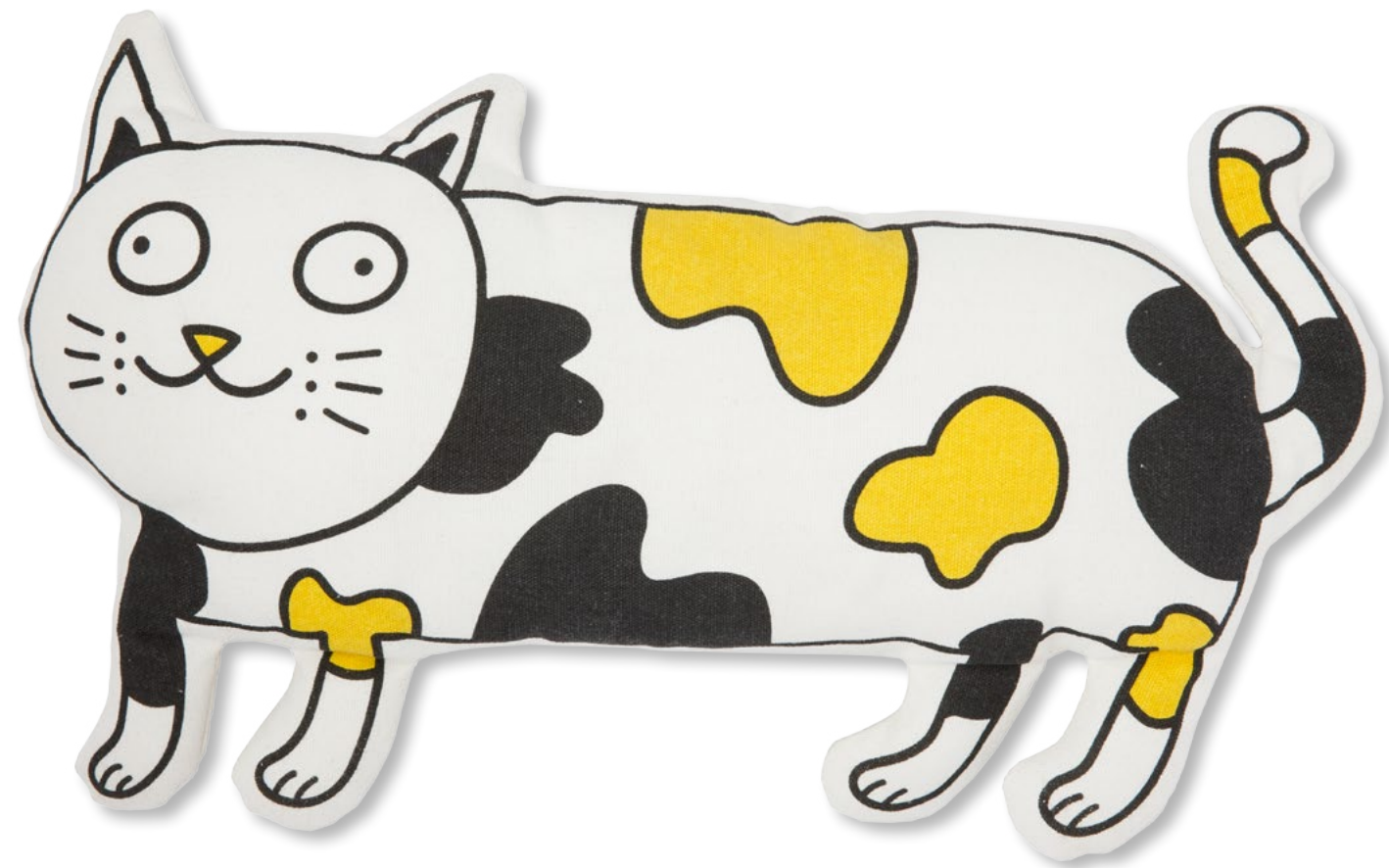
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**EVERYDAY OBJECTS:** A showcase of new merchandise designed by local talents developed for MUSEUM LABEL.

With MUSEUM LABEL, National Heritage Board tells the Singapore story through functional merchandise inspired by Singapore's National Collection, our heritage of art and culture, and who we are as Singaporeans.

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93 Stamford Road Singapore 178897  
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**Asian Civilisations Museum**  
Left Lobby, 1 Empress Place Singapore 179555  
Opening hours: Mondays | 1pm to 7pm  
Tuesdays to Sundays | 10am to 7pm.  
Fridays | 10am to 9pm



# BOSTON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

## HANDS-ON LEARNING



Parent-child bonding at the “Countdown to Kindergarten” Gallery  
Photo by Paul Specht

By Melissa Viswani

In recent years, museums in Singapore have been making their exhibits more accessible by interpreting the art or artefacts on display for museum aficionados. This is especially true for the young museum-goer: Interactive exhibits, hands-on workshops and participatory activities make Asian and Singaporean history more relevant to young children, and their parents are increasingly on the lookout for such unique and educational experiences. There are many museums with interactive and hands-on exhibits all around the world that serve as good case studies for us to learn from. One such museum is Boston Children’s Museum (BCM), and I learned a lot from my two-week work attachment at this second-oldest children’s museum in America.

The museum was started in 1913 by a group of science teachers. Their vision was to dedicate a space for both teachers and students to share and learn from new resources, and for the public to develop a love for science. The world’s first interactive exhibit, titled “What’s Inside”, was created by this group of visionaries, who started out by bringing hands-on learning to the classrooms in Boston. The teachers then developed this hands-on learning approach for children in the museum.

The ‘play’ component of the learning experience starts at the front of the museum in the form of a huge balloon figure of Arthur, from the popular American cartoon series Arthur and Friends. The balloon waves at everyone, welcoming them. Parents and children are already waiting patiently in a line before the museum opens at 10am. It is a wait that is tinged with excitement. They know they are going to have a fun time at the museum; they will learn through play.

As I enter the museum, I can hear the sound of children playing. They are touching the exhibits; they are climbing, jumping and singing. A museum traditionalist is bound to frown upon such behaviour inside the museum. But here, the interactive exhibits are curated with the sole purpose of getting children to play, explore and learn. Every gallery has been designed to be interactive for children of different age groups. All the various experiences pose very little risk to the children; it is a safe and non-judgmental learning environment.

The “Boston Black” gallery is a good example of a gallery created in collaboration with the community. The installations highlight the diverse nature of the Boston population and allow

parents and their children to have a dialogue about race and identity in a safe environment. This immersive environment also allows kids to learn about the different occupations of immigrants, and the different countries they come from.

Parents interested in finding out more about how to prepare their children for preschool can learn more in the “Countdown to Kindergarten” gallery. There are step-by-step guides on getting your child ready for the first day of school. Children are introduced to important skills, such as making friends and reading a story in a group.

“Tip Sheets” are also available for parents, who can use these to empower themselves and learn how to guide their children — whether in the galleries or at home. These sheets also validate what their children are learning through various activities.

“Playspace” is another innovative gallery geared towards infants from zero to three years old and their caregivers. The various activities allow them to pretend-play and learn concurrently. Some of the activities include pretending to put





Child engaged at the “Boston Black” Gallery  
Photo by Clive Ranger



‘See-Think-Wonder’ at the Ministry of Education kindergarten in Tampines

petrol in a car, and to climb and jump around in a tree house. The children learn life skills through these hands-on activities. The art studio proudly displays artworks done by children with their parents while at the museum. These artworks are inspired by a topic from the galleries or the theme of a special exhibition. This is an opportunity for children to feel and explore a wide variety of processes and materials. They can also proudly say that their work was displayed at the museum.

What I found most interesting was that the museum provided a venue for children to meet, play and collaborate even if they did not know one another beforehand. I noticed as well that there were children who came every day as their parents had bought them an annual pass. The other important learning point for me was observing how parents were engaged in the museum. We often speak about engaging young ones in the museum but forget about the parents. There are many activities that support parent-child collaboration. The parent is not just there as a chaperone but plays with the child and knows what to do with the child. The tip sheets guide parents on how they can continue the experience by suggesting some activities they can carry out at home.

The museum’s ground staff are young people who are very dynamic and have different skills. They could be musicians, artists or even scientists, and they are given the autonomy to plan activities for the children. BCM celebrated their 100th

anniversary this year with a conference attended by museum professionals, paediatricians and preschool educators, among others. The mayor of Massachusetts, who graced the event, spoke about the importance that the state has given to early childhood development through funding and various programmes.

One such programme is Race to the Top. The state’s Department of Early Education and Care granted BCM the funds to collaborate with other museums and libraries as well as with community specialists. The grant is called the Early Learning Challenge grant. There are 17 children’s museums across the state but not all of them cater to preschoolers or were open to collaboration. Museum educators approached these museums and explained their objectives, offering them a special kit with items that the museums can use to encourage the learning of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

BCM works with educational and research institutions, such as Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to study the children’s behaviour and development. The fun and laughter starts at 10am and doesn’t stop until the museum closes. BCM was truly an inspiring case study for me and I learned a lot about how museums can support child development and learning through play.

# PLAYTIME AT MUSEUMS

## ENJOYING MUSEUMS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

By Karen Chin

Play is essential to a child’s development. The United Nations High Commission for Human Rights recognises play as a right of every child. Museums are designing spaces and programmes to promote play. Children can now have fun at PLAY@National Museum of Singapore or participate in child-friendly programmes at many museums. With a few tips, any parent or teacher can transform even serious museums into places of wonder for young learners.



Family Treasure Trail at Peranakan Museum



Exploring at PLAY@NMS

**Tip 1: Make a plan**

What excites your child? What draws his or her attention the most in class? Choose an art museum if the little one adores painting. Select a history or science museum if you have inquisitive children who love to play detective. The Museum Roundtable website ([www.museums.com.sg](http://www.museums.com.sg)) offers an overview of more than 50 museums. You can also find out more about Children’s Season, an annual holiday programme that spans the months of May and June (and sometimes July) where museums in Singapore design exhibitions and activities for young children. Knowing your children’s interests, the museum’s opening hours, nearby parks or eateries and available programmes makes for a stress-free outing.

**Tip 2: Start being curious**

To cultivate curious minds, try the ‘See-Think-Wonder’ routine on any object with your children or students before you arrive at the museum. Created by Project Zero, an educational research group at Harvard University, this routine helps children make careful observations of artworks, explore

multiple viewpoints, and reason with evidence. “What do you see?” is usually the first question to encourage young tots to look closer at something. Questions such as “What do you think it might be?” and “What makes you say that?” present opportunities to look for clues and explore various ways of looking at an object. Inviting children to wonder about how an object was used or made encourages curiosity and creativity, which are two important skills essential for life-long learning. Try out this routine at home, in school and at the park too.

**Tip 3: Slow art + play talk**

With pre-schoolers, exploring just three objects in one gallery is a great start. Spending 30 minutes of quality time is more meaningful than going through 10 galleries for three hours. Primary school children might appreciate a trail challenge such as the Family Treasures Embossing Sheet at the Peranakan Museum. They might also relish the chance to investigate three to five objects with a parent, teacher or docent for an hour. Spend at least 10 minutes discovering each museum object with the ‘See-Think-Wonder’ routine or play

an ‘I-Spy’ game. It is more important for your child to look at and talk about the artwork than to be told what he or she is seeing. The research of Betty Hart and Todd Risley, both child development specialists, demonstrates that ‘play talk’ enhances language skills that are important for success in school and in life. Museums are perfect settings to engage in such play talk in English or in Mother Tongue languages. Parents and teachers can chit-chat about what drew the children’s attention, tell stories together, and pretend to be a statue or imagine what life was like in the past.

**Tip 4: Become keen observers**

While children play at a hands-on station or speak with peers about an object in a more traditional gallery, what can parents and teachers do? You can become a keen observer of your children’s interests. Museums have enabled young children to learn about the world around them. Observe how your children respond to different artworks, interactive stations and programmes so you can discover what really intrigues them. Then you can do more of what they find exciting at home or

in the classroom. You can also encourage curiosity by being a keen observer of museum objects as you explore together as a family or class. You can start a dialogue by sharing “I see an animal, I think it is a dragon, I wonder why this robe has a dragon on it.” Then, have the children take turns to share their own observations and questions.

**Tip 5: Museum manners through games**

You may want to start talking about what you might see at a museum before discussing what people, not just children, need to be aware of when visiting a gallery. Experiment with learning about how to behave in a museum through games. Adapt the game ‘Simon Says’ with hand or body gestures that remind children of basic museum manners. Have them come up with actions or drawings to recall the need to “Use your museum voice”, “Walk like a mouse”, “Touch with your eyes” and “Snack outside the gallery”. When it becomes a little challenging in the museum, you can also play inspector and have children place their hands behind their backs to ‘inspect’ an object on open display.

# WHAT'S ON

APRIL - JUNE 2015

## NOW ON



### Guided tour of My School is Cool Exhibition

Our Museum @ Taman Jurong  
22 Dec 2014 to July 2015  
Weekdays and weekends, via booking only  
Not available on public holidays  
Free admission

Join the free guided tours of Our Museum @ Taman Jurong's new exhibition and learn more about the history of schools in Jurong and how they have adapted over the years — dating from as early as the 1930s until the present day.

Visit [www.facebook.com/OMATTJ](http://www.facebook.com/OMATTJ) for more information and updates, or email Raudha at [Raudha\\_muntadar@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:Raudha_muntadar@nhb.gov.sg)

### My School is Cool: An Exhibition of Educational Institutions in Jurong at Our Museum @ Taman Jurong

Our Museum @ Taman Jurong  
22 Dec 2014 to July 2015, Monday to Friday, 3pm to 9pm; Saturday, 10am to 9pm; Sunday, 10am to 6pm  
Closed on public holidays  
Free admission

Learn about the changing roles of Jurong's educational institutions over the years — dating from as early as the 1930s until the present day. The exhibition also charts the various communities and historical milestones in Jurong.

### RETURN TO SENDER — An Exhibition

Singapore Philatelic Museum  
21 January to 1 July 2015  
1pm to 7pm on Monday; 9:30am to 7pm on Tuesday to Sunday. \$6 for adults and \$4 for children  
Free admission for Singaporeans and Permanent Residents

Come learn about the life of a man who defined a new music genre through his passion for singing. *RETURN TO SENDER — An Exhibition* celebrates Elvis Presley, the King of Rock 'n' Roll, who captured the hearts of millions around the world with his unique musical style. On display are items from a private collector who started the collection from Elvis's discovery till today. They include vinyl records, song sheets, movie posters, fan magazines, commemorative books, philatelic materials and memorabilia.

For more information, please go to [www.spm.org.sg](http://www.spm.org.sg)

## NOW ON

Guided tour of My School is Cool Exhibition  
22 Dec 2014 to July 2015 OM@TJ/pg 67

My School is Cool: An Exhibition of Educational Institutions in Jurong at Our Museum @ Taman Jurong  
22 Dec 2014 to July 2015 OM@TJ/pg 67

RETURN TO SENDER — An Exhibition  
21 January to 1 July 2015 SPM/pg 67

Land of Gold and Spices: Early Maps of Southeast Asia and Singapore  
16 January to 19 July 2015 NLB/pg 68

Island of Stories: Singapore Maps  
16 January to 19 July 2015 NLB/pg 68

SEA STATE 8 SEABOOK | An Art Project by Charles Lim  
16 January to 19 July 2015 NLB/pg 68

Mind the Gap: Mapping the Other  
16 January to 19 July 2015 NLB/pg 68

Weekend Guided Tour (Land of Gold and Spices)  
16 January to 19 July 2015 NLB/pg 68

Chinese Zodiac Heads: A Gift from Jackie Chan  
31 January through May 2015 ACM/pg 68

Counting Sheep, Dreaming Goats Exhibition  
16 February to 27 September 2015 SPM/pg 68

Leading Ladies: Women Making a Difference  
9 April to 21 June 2015 NMS/pg 68

## APRIL

Curator's Tour Part 1 (Land of Gold and Spices)  
Curator's Tour Part 2 (Island of Stories)  
17 April, 15 May, 19 June and 10 July 2015 NLB/pg 69

Lunchtime Concerts at ACM  
17 April 2015 ACM/pg 69

Launch of Singapore Maritime Week 2015 (10th Edition)  
19 April 2015 MPA/pg 69

Maritime Singapore: From Trading Post to Global Hub  
A Journey Through Past, Present and Future  
19 to 24 April 2015 MPA/pg 69

SINGAPURA: 700 Years  
From now until 10 August 2015 NMS/pg 69  
Dialect Tours | 19 and 26 April 2015  
In-gallery Storytelling Sessions  
25 April, 9 and 23 May, 6, 13, 20 and 27 June 2015

Neighbourhood Sketches  
24 April, and 29 and 30 May 2015 MHC/pg 69

Changing Landscapes of Singapore  
25 April 2015 NLB/pg 69

Launch of Jurong Heritage Trail & My School is Cool Exhibition launch  
25 April 2015 OM@TJ/pg 70

Nadi Singapura — *Yok Sembang Gendang!*  
25 April, 23 May and 27 June 2015 MHC/pg 70

*Gema Dikir dan Gendang* (Echoes of Chants and Drums)  
25 April 2015 MHC/pg 70

School Heritage Corners Open House  
25 April 2015 various schools/pg 70

A Lighter Side of History  
25 April, 16 and 30 May and 27 June 2015 NMS/pg 71

Geylang Serai Foot and Food Heritage Trails  
25 April and 9 May 2015 Geylang Serai INC Committee/pg 71

Tiong Bahru - Queenstown Heritage Trail:  
Early Public Housing in Singapore  
26 April 2015 My Community/pg 71

## MAY

Guided Tours of the Istana Building (Istana Open House)  
1 May 2015 Istana/pg 71

Night Under The Stars  
1 and 2 May 2015 SYSNMH/pg 71

Saturdays@ACM  
2 May 2015 and 6 June 2015 ACM/pg 71

Balestier Heritage & Food Trail  
2 and 9 May 2015 (English)  
3 and 8 May 2015 (Mandarin) SYSNMH/pg 71

*Bustan: Sastera & Budaya di Taman Warisan*  
9 May 2015 MHC/pg 72

Straits Family Sunday  
10 May, 14 June, 12 July, 9 August, 13 September,  
11 October, 8 November and 13 December 2015 TPM/pg 72

Planning for Singapore: How Do We Do It?  
16 May 2015 NLB/pg 72

*Marantau: Dima Bumi Dipijak Di Sinan Langik Dijunjuang*  
31 January through May 2015 MHC/pg 72

Great Peranakans - Fifty Remarkable Lives  
23 May 2015 to 31 March 2016 TPM/pg 72

*ter-ba-BOM!*: Children's Season 2015  
30 May to 13 June 2015 MHC/pg 73

Children's Season: Masak Masak 2015  
30 May to 10 August 2015 NMS/pg 73

Children's Season Open House at Singapore Philatelic Museum  
31 May and 7 June 2015 SPM/pg 73

## JUNE

Amazing Stamps  
2, 9, 16 and 18 June 2015 SPM/pg 73

Challenge for the Urban and Built Environment (Cube)  
5 June to 30 June 2015 URA/pg 73

Movie Matinee: Collaboration with National Library Board  
11 June 2015 SYSNMH/pg 73

Straits Family Sunday-Supersized!  
14 June 2015 TPM/pg 73

Children's Season 2015  
20-21 June 2015 SYSNMH/pg 74

Dr Sun Yat Sen and His Family  
20 June to 18 October 2015 SYSNMH/pg 74

Dumpling Festival @ Wan Qing Yuan 2015  
20 June 2015 SYSNMH/pg 74

SG50 @ Thow Kwang Dragon Kiln  
19 to 20 June 2015 Thow Kwang Dragon Kiln/pg 74

Night Out at NMS  
27 June 2015 NMS/pg 74

## JULY

Saturdays@ACM - Supersized  
4 July and 3 October 2015 ACM/pg 74

## DAILY

Victoria Theatre and Victoria Concert Hall:  
A Monument to Our History Heritage Gallery VTVCH/pg 74

Our Museum @ Taman Jurong OM@TJ/pg 75

Climate Change Climate Challenge Exhibition SCS/pg 75

Bookcross @ Taman Jurong OM@TJ/pg 75

Guided Tour of Malay Heritage Centre MHC/pg 75

Our Museum @ Taman Jurong Daily art and craft activities OM@TJ/pg 75

Tuning In: Brain & Body Exhibition SCS/pg 75

PLAY @ National Museum of Singapore NMS/pg 76

## WEEKLY

Let's Play! Traditional Malay Games Every Tuesday MHC/pg 76

Galleries Alive!  
Traditional Malay Music:  
Every second Wednesday of the month  
*Wayang Kulit*:  
Every second Thursday of the month MHC/pg 76

WE: Defining Stories travelling exhibition  
Various dates various libraries/pg 76

Singapore Maritime Trails  
First Saturday of the month MPA/pg 76

Night Under The Stars  
First Saturday of the month SYSNMH/pg 76

My Queenstown Heritage Trail (Dawson + Alexandra Tour)  
Every last Sunday of the month My Community/pg 77

My Queenstown Heritage Trail (Tanglin Halt + Duchess Tour)  
Every last Sunday of the month My Community/pg 77

## BY APPOINTMENT

The Intan Tea Tour and The Intan Dinner Tour The Intan/pg 77

Birthday Celebrations SPM/pg 77

Mailbox Workshop  
3 and 10 June 2015 SPM/pg 77

Overnight Adventure  
4 to 5 June 2015 and 11 to 12 June 2015 SPM/pg 77

**NOW ON**

**Land of Gold and Spices: Early Maps of Southeast Asia and Singapore**

National Library, Singapore Gallery, Level 10  
16 January to 19 July 2015  
10am to 9pm  
Free admission

Take a look at how Southeast Asia was conceived of, perceived, and mapped by the Europeans from the 15th to early 19th centuries. The fascinating exhibition, held in conjunction with the Geo|Graphic Festival, features printed and hand-drawn maps. These include rare indigenous Southeast Asian maps on special loan from European libraries and displayed for the very first time in Singapore.

**Island of Stories: Singapore Maps**

National Library, Singapore Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, Level 11  
16 January to 19 July 2015  
10am to 9pm  
Free admission

Take a journey into the past with an eclectic mix of Singapore maps that capture intriguing moments from our country's history. Held in conjunction with the Geo|Graphic Festival, this exhibition also lets visitors overlay 19th-century maps over a contemporary map of the island in an interactive display that shows how the island has changed over the years.

For more information, please go to [www.nlb.gov.sg/exhibitions](http://www.nlb.gov.sg/exhibitions)



**SEA STATE 8 SEABOOK | An Art Project by Charles Lim**

National Library, Singapore Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, Level 11  
16 January to 19 July 2015  
10am to 9pm  
Free admission

Delve into the complex and strategic relationship that post-colonial Singapore has with the sea in this exhibition held in conjunction with the Geo|Graphic Festival. Developed with librarians from the National Library, the project attempts to bring to the fore maps, charts, manuscripts and archives from the colonial period.

**Mind the Gap: Mapping the Other**

National Library, Singapore Promenade, Levels 7 to 9  
16 January to 19 July 2015  
10am to 9pm  
Free admission

Investigate what lies beneath the surface of contemporary culture and thought with this exhibition held in conjunction with the Geo|Graphic Festival. *Mind the Gap* presents the works of three Singapore-based contemporary artists, Michael Lee, Jeremy Sharma and Sherman Ong, whose work harnesses the strategies of data mapping and collection.

**Weekend Guided Tour (Land of Gold and Spices)**

National Library, Singapore Meeting point | Outside the Gallery, Level 10  
All weekends until 19 July 2015 (except public holidays)  
In \*English | 2pm to 3pm  
In Mandarin | 2.30pm to 3.30pm

\*Except 11 April, 25 April and 16 May | 4.30pm to 5.30pm

Join this guided tour led by the National Library's librarians and volunteers, and explore the early maps of Singapore and Southeast Asia.

For more information, please go to [www.nlb.gov.sg/exhibitions](http://www.nlb.gov.sg/exhibitions)



**Chinese Zodiac Heads: A Gift from Jackie Chan**

Asian Civilisations Museum  
31 January through May 2015  
Free admission

For the first time the 12 zodiac animal heads donated by film star Jackie Chan are on display at ACM. The sculptures were designed by the Taiwanese artist aPen 阿笔, and modelled after fountain sculptures looted from the Old Summer Palace outside Beijing, also called the Yuanmingyuan 圆明园 (Gardens of Perfect Brightness). These new works of art are meant to raise awareness of cultural heritage. A similar set were used in the 2012 movie CZ12 十二生肖.



**Counting Sheep, Dreaming Goats Exhibition**

Singapore Philatelic Museum  
16 February to 27 September 2015  
1pm to 7pm on Monday; 9:30am to 7pm on Tuesday to Sunday. \$6 for adults and \$4 for children  
Free admission for Singaporeans and Permanent Residents

Celebrate the Year of the Goat/Sheep at Singapore Philatelic Museum. This is a fun and interactive exhibition for children. Discover the importance of sheep and goats in our everyday life and culture such as in food, clothes and musical instruments, as well as other interesting facts. Enjoy hands-on and multisensory exhibits, and admire over 300 beautiful goat- and sheep-themed stamps from around the world.

**Leading Ladies: Women Making a Difference**

National Museum of Singapore Stamford Gallery, Level 1  
9 April to 21 June 2015  
Daily from 10am to 6pm  
Free admission

The exhibition, *Leading Ladies: Women Making a Difference*, pays tribute to the women who were at the forefront of community service, specifically from the mid-19th century Singapore. Despite coming from different walks of life, these women shared the common goal of helping those in need. They championed causes, lent their stature, devoted their time and energy to improving the lives of many. The leading groups of women then included missionaries, as well as the wives and daughters of prominent Chinese business leaders. The former set up schools, medical and social services, while the latter formed the Chinese Ladies Association, the very first local women's organisation in Singapore.

For more information, please go to [www.nationalmuseum.sg](http://www.nationalmuseum.sg)

**APRIL**

**Curator's Tour Part 1 (Land of Gold and Spices) Curator's Tour Part 2 (Island of Stories)**

National Library, Singapore Land of Gold and Spices | Outside the Gallery, Level 10  
Island of Stories | Outside the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, Level 11  
17 April, 15 May, 19 June and 10 July 2015 | 7.30pm to 8.30pm (Part 1) | 9pm to 10pm (Part 2)  
Tours are limited to 20 participants for each session, on a first-come-first-served basis. Free admission

Join this guided tour led by the National Library's curators and be intrigued by the concept of maps and mapping. The tour is held in conjunction with the Geo|Graphic Festival.

For more information, please go to [www.nlb.gov.sg/exhibitions](http://www.nlb.gov.sg/exhibitions)

**Lunchtime Concerts at ACM**

Asian Civilisations Museum  
17 April 2015  
12.30pm to 1.30pm  
Free admission  
Start the weekend on a high note with good old classics, or march along to the tunes played by talented young musicians from the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music and the Orion Orchestra. Visit [www.acm.org.sg](http://www.acm.org.sg) for more information.



**Launch of Singapore Maritime Week 2015 (10th Edition)**

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore Event Plaza @ Marina Bay Sands  
19 April 2015, 3pm  
Free admission

Join youths, pioneers, leaders and other representatives from the maritime community for an afternoon of all things maritime in this launch of Singapore Maritime Week 2015.

**Maritime Singapore: From Trading Post to Global Hub**

A Journey Through Past, Present and Future  
The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore Event Plaza @ Marina Bay Sands  
19 to 24 April 2015  
10am to 9pm  
Free admission

Journey through a narrative about the transformation of the maritime industry in Singapore. This exhibition traces Singapore's growth from a trading post to a global hub port, and showcases the technological developments achieved in the maritime ecosystem.

Exhibition opens to public from 5pm onwards on Sunday, 19 April. For more information, please go to [www.smw.sg](http://www.smw.sg)



**SINGAPURA: 700 Years**

National Museum of Singapore Exhibition Galleries 1 and 2, Basement  
From now until 10 August 2015, daily from 10am to 6pm  
Free admission.  
Admission charges apply for international visitors. Free guided tours on the exhibition are provided in English, Mandarin, Japanese and French.

Experience Singapore's transformation through the ages as it turned from a humble fishing village into the independent nation-state as it is today. This immersive exhibition is a riveting exploration of Singapore's defining moments in history.

Dialect Tours  
19 and 26 April 2015, 10.30am (1hr session)  
Registration is required.  
Free

For more information, please go to [www.nationalmuseum.sg](http://www.nationalmuseum.sg)

In-gallery Storytelling Sessions  
25 April, 9 and 23 May, 6, 13, 20 and 27 June 2015  
12pm and 12.30pm (30min session)  
Free

On-site registration is required. Suitable for children ages four to eight.

**Neighbourhood Sketches**

Malay Heritage Centre Bussorah Mall  
24 April, and 29 and 30 May 2015, from 8.30pm, after Isya' prayers  
Free admission

Sample the rich Malay culture presented in the style of street performances, set along the vibrant esplanade of Bussorah Street. From martial arts to songs of worship, this event has something for every culture vulture.

For more information about the sessions or registration, please call 63910450 or email your contact details to [NHB\\_MHC\\_Programmes@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:NHB_MHC_Programmes@nhb.gov.sg). Alternatively, visit [www.malayheritage.sg](http://www.malayheritage.sg) for more information and updates.

**Changing Landscapes of Singapore**

National Library, Singapore Possibility Room, Level 5  
25 April 2015, 2pm to 4pm  
Free admission

Join Associate Prof Victor R. Savage from the National University of Singapore's Department of Geography as he talks about how Singapore's city-state landscapes have changed over the past 190 years, and how this impacts residents and tourists alike.

To register, sign up at [www.nlb.gov.sg/golibrary](http://www.nlb.gov.sg/golibrary)

## Jurong Heritage Trail launch and launch of My School Is Cool Exhibition



Photo courtesy of Urban Sketchers Singapore

Taman Jurong Community Centre and Our Museum @ Taman Jurong  
25 April 2015  
1.30pm to 6pm  
Free admission

Explore the story of Jurong and follow its transformation into Singapore's first industrial estate on the Jurong Heritage Trail, NHB's 13th heritage trail. In addition, discover the history of schools in Jurong through a new exhibition at Our Museum @ Taman Jurong.

An open house will be held on 25 April 2015 to celebrate the new trail and exhibition and will feature activities for participants to learn about Jurong's growth over the years.

### Nadi Singapura — Yok Sembang Gendang!

Malay Heritage Centre  
25 April, 23 May and 27 June 2015, 5pm to 6pm  
Free admission

Experience the unique vibrant drumming style originating from the Malayan Archipelago. *Yok Sembang Gendang!* is a monthly community event for all ages, dedicated to sharing the rhythms, grooves and drums of the region.

For more information about the sessions or registration, please call 63910450 or email your contact details to NHB\_MHC\_Programmes@nhb.gov.sg. Alternatively, visit [www.malayheritage.sg](http://www.malayheritage.sg) for more information and updates.

### Gema Dikir dan Gendang (Echoes of Chants and Drums)

Malay Heritage Centre  
25 April 2015  
From 2pm  
Free admission

Enjoy one of the most popular and celebrated traditional Malay art forms, *Dikir Barat*. Designed for the family, this event is held in conjunction with the Singapore HeritageFest 2015 and will feature *Dikir Barat* performances, workshops, activity booths and a drumming circle.

### School Heritage Corners Open House

Heritage Corners  
25 April 2015, 9.30am to 12.30pm  
Free admission

Celebrate Singapore's education heritage as schools open the doors to their Heritage Corners, which are dedicated spaces in schools that act as repositories of their collective memories. Experience the diverse heritage of the schools through special student-guided tours of their Corners and see how their stories weave into the larger narrative of Singapore's development.

NHB's School Heritage Corners Programme was officially launched in 2014 and aims to enable schools to create their own Heritage Corners. The Corners act as a showcase of the unique history and heritage of each school, the communities they belong to and the nation.

Please register with your name and the school(s) you would like to visit at: [nhb\\_educationprogrammes@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:nhb_educationprogrammes@nhb.gov.sg)

**Central:**  
Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Primary School, 8 Bishan Street 13, Singapore 579795

Raffles Institution,  
1 Raffles Institution Lane,  
Singapore 575954

**North:**  
Huamin Primary School,  
21 Yishun Avenue 11,  
Singapore 768857

Northland Secondary School,  
3 Yishun Street 22,  
Singapore 768578

Sembawang Secondary School,  
30 Sembawang Crescent,  
Singapore 757704

**North East:**  
Mee Toh School,  
21 Edgedale Plains,  
Singapore 828867

**West:**  
Juying Primary School,  
31 Jurong West Street 91,  
Singapore 649037

**East:**  
Bedok Green Secondary School,  
360 Bedok North Avenue 3,  
Singapore 469722

Bedok North Secondary School,  
20 Jalan Damai,  
Singapore 419612

Red Swastika School,  
350 Bedok North Avenue 3,  
Singapore 469719

Tanjong Katong Secondary School,  
130 Haig Road,  
Singapore 438796



**A Lighter Side of History**  
National Museum of Singapore  
25 April, 16 and 30 May and 27 June 2015  
Various timings  
Free admission

Enjoy the performing arts, including traditional Teochew rod puppetry, as well as Malay pop music in conjunction with the Singapore HeritageFest 2015. Keep a look-out too for the well-received Historia SG lecture coming up soon.

For more information, please go to [www.nationalmuseum.sg](http://www.nationalmuseum.sg)

**Geylang Serai Foot and Food Heritage Trails**  
Geylang Serai Integration & Nationalisation Champions Committee  
25 April and 9 May 2015  
9am to 11.30am  
Free admission

The trails highlight various places of worship and favourite food haunts of locals; when combined with stories of residents, these trails showcase the harmonious, multi-religious and multi-cultural nature of the neighbourhood.

To register, go to [www.one.pa.gov.sg](http://www.one.pa.gov.sg), or visit [www.facebook.com/gsheritagetrail](http://www.facebook.com/gsheritagetrail)

Photo courtesy of Geylang Serai Integration & Nationalisation Champions Committee

### Tiong Bahru - Queenstown Heritage Trail: Early Public Housing in Singapore

My Community  
26 April 2015, 9am to 4pm  
Free admission

From the pre-war Singapore Improvement Trust flats in Tiong Bahru to Singapore's first polyclinic, sports complex and branch library in Queenstown, this heritage trail traces the evolution of public housing in Singapore through the personal stories of generations of residents who live, work and play in the estates.

For more information, please go to [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)



## Old & New Happy Together in Tiong Bahru

The Tiong Bahru programme for Singapore HeritageFest 2015, on 24 and 25 April, will take you on a journey of aesthetics, history and experience through the performing arts, a *nonya kueh* masterclass and a heritage walk.

The Tiong Bahru Heritage Volunteers will lead walking tours of the estate and share little-known anecdotes and history nuggets about the rich heritage of the neighbourhood.

For those interested in spoken word performances, the organiser's PAP — "Party Action People", not the political party — will quiz, tickle and entertain with their brand of

MAY

### Guided Tours of the Istana Building (Istana Open House)

The Istana  
1 May 2015, 9am to 3pm  
(45 minutes for each tour)  
Register at the Istana Building Guided Tour booth on the Open House day.  
Fees apply.

Hear interesting stories about the Istana, a well-loved National Monument and the official residence and office of the President of Singapore. Led by volunteer guides from the Preservation of Sites and Monuments (PSM) Division, this tour will interweave human interest stories and information about architectural details of the neo-Palladian style building.

For more information, please go to [www.nhb.gov.sg/psm](http://www.nhb.gov.sg/psm)

### Night Under The Stars

Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall  
Zhongshan Park, 16 Ah Hood Road, Singapore 329982  
1 and 2 May 2015  
7.30pm to 9pm  
Free admission

Come and sing along with local *xinyao* singers in this event held in conjunction with the Singapore HeritageFest 2015.

For more information, please go to [www.wanqingyuan.org.sg](http://www.wanqingyuan.org.sg)

### Saturdays@ACM

Asian Civilisations Museum  
2 May 2015 and 6 June 2015  
Free admission

Be captivated by fascinating performing arts, go on a journey across Asia with incredible storytellers, or make and take home a masterpiece of your own creation.

\*Programme line-up may change at short notice. Please check the website for periodic updates at [www.acm.org.sg](http://www.acm.org.sg)

### Balestier Heritage & Food Trail

Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall  
2 and 9 May 2015 for guided tours in English  
3 and 8 May 2015 for guided tours in Mandarin  
3pm to 6pm  
Free for Singapore citizens and Permanent Residents

Join in the Balestier Heritage & Food Trail to explore the neighbourhood's different heritage sites, and learn about the stories behind historical buildings while hunting for the area's famous food places. This event is held in conjunction with the Singapore HeritageFest 2015.

Registration is on a first-come-first-served basis. Each tour is limited to 30 participants, who will be organised into two separate groups. For more details or to register, please visit [www.heritagefest.sg](http://www.heritagefest.sg).

wit and humour. The night programming will feature local performers, including the multitalented Tim De Cotta, a bassist, songwriter, vocalist and producer whose recent performances include Getai Electronica, The Henderson Project, Unleashed Vol.5 and SGMUSO Songwriters Night.

And what better way to truly celebrate Tiong Bahru's *gotong royong* than with an outdoor concert at the Seng Poh Community Garden, where everyone can savour a perfect blend of heritage and modernity! Joget with your neighbours to the sounds of DelphianRose, Variasi Performing Arts and the soulful tunes of Seyra.

Social Media Hashtag #SGHeritageFest

URL [www.heritagefest.sg](http://www.heritagefest.sg)

## Heritage Grant Schemes

Singapore's thriving heritage scene continues to grow with a variety of publications, events and exhibitions that help to cultivate an appreciation of our heritage.

The Heritage Participation Grant (HPG) aims to support and enable a wide range of participants to step forth and take the initiative to promote and foster a deeper sense of appreciation of our shared heritage.

Concurrently, the Heritage Project Grant (HP) aims to provide a higher level of support for projects with the potential to make a significant and lasting contribution to Singapore's heritage scene.

If you are interested in learning more about the Heritage Grant scheme, please visit <http://www.nhb.gov.sg/NHBPortal/AboutUs/Grants/Overview> or email [NHB\\_heritagegrants@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:NHB_heritagegrants@nhb.gov.sg) for more information.

The Maritime Heritage Fund (MHF), jointly administered by the Maritime Port of Authority and National Heritage Board, aims to foster a deeper appreciation of Singapore's rich maritime heritage and encourage community-led maritime themed projects including exhibitions, programmes, events or others that are engaging, original and innovative.

For those who are interested in learning more about MHF and how you can play a part in preserving our maritime heritage, please visit [www.mpa.gov.sg/sites/maritime\\_singapore/mhf/maritime-heritage-fund.page](http://www.mpa.gov.sg/sites/maritime_singapore/mhf/maritime-heritage-fund.page) or contact [Adeline\\_Niah@mpa.gov.sg](mailto:Adeline_Niah@mpa.gov.sg) for more information.

### Bustan: Sastera & Budaya di Taman Warisan

Malay Heritage Centre  
9 May 2015  
2pm to 4pm  
Free admission

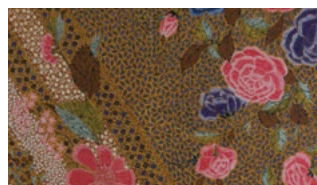
Learn more about the different roles literature has played throughout Malay history in *Bustan*, a new initiative by the Malay Heritage Centre in collaboration with the NUS Department of Malay Studies. *Bustan* invites speakers from the region to discuss the role of Malay literature in society.

For more information about the sessions or registration, please call 63910450 or email your contact details to [NHB\\_MHC\\_Programmes@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:NHB_MHC_Programmes@nhb.gov.sg). Alternatively, visit [www.malayheritage.org.sg](http://www.malayheritage.org.sg) for more information and updates.

### Straits Family Sunday

Peranakan Museum  
10 May, 14 June, 12 July, 9 August, 13 September, 11 October, 8 November and 13 December 2015  
1pm to 5pm  
Free admission

Explore the colourful world of Peranakans every second Sunday of each month. Make arts and crafts based on the museum's collection, or go on a special, themed tour of the galleries. Dress up with the whole family in a *batik* shirt or *sarong kebaya*, and enjoy a fun-filled Sunday at Peranakan Museum.



### Planning for Singapore: How Do We Do It?

National Library, Singapore  
Possibility Room, Level 5  
16 May 2015, 2pm to 4pm  
Free admission

Join Daniel Leong, a planner with the Urban Redevelopment Authority, as he shares how tools developed based on the Geographic Information System (GIS) can help to create a vibrant and sustainable city of distinction for the needs of current and future generations of Singaporeans.

To register, sign up at [www.nlb.gov.sg/golibrary](http://www.nlb.gov.sg/golibrary)



### MARANTAU: Dima Bumi Dipijak Di Sinan Langik Dijunjung

Malay Heritage Centre  
16 May to 30 August 2015  
10am to 6pm  
Free admission

Learn about the history and development of the local Minangkabau community, whose ancestral home lies in Padang, Sumatra. This community co-curated exhibition is held annually as part of the centre's *Se-Nusantara* (Of the Same Archipelago) series to showcase the ethnic and cultural diversity of Malays in Singapore.

### Great Peranakans - Fifty Remarkable Lives

Peranakan Museum  
23 May 2015 to 31 March 2016  
Free for Singapore citizens and Permanent Residents

*Great Peranakans* celebrates the achievements of 50 men and women who have shaped Singaporean life and culture over the past two centuries. These pioneers made important contributions in art, culture, education, business, governance, and public service. Their stories and personal belongings invite greater contemplation of evolving Peranakan and Singaporean identities.

## NHB Heritage Grants Showcase

Gallery Theatre, National Museum of Singapore  
2 May 2015, 10am to 1.30pm  
Free admission

Take a look at how heritage enthusiasts have created content through research and documentation in a creative showcase, which invites successful grant recipients from the NHB Grant schemes to present their projects and share their experiences.

Please email [NHB\\_heritagegrants@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:NHB_heritagegrants@nhb.gov.sg) by 22 April 2015 to register your interest, or visit [www.nhb.gov.sg/NHBPortal/Awards&Grants/Grants/Overview](http://www.nhb.gov.sg/NHBPortal/Awards&Grants/Grants/Overview)



### ter-ba-BOM!: Children's Season 2015

Malay Heritage Centre  
30 May to 13 June 2015  
Heritage Hunt | Saturdays, 10am and 2pm.  
Storytelling Sessions | 6 June, 2pm and 8pm and 7 June, 11am and 2pm  
All programmes are free but admission charges to the permanent galleries may apply for international visitors.

Learn about Singapore's ancient past via a Heritage Hunt around Kampong Glam and interactive storytelling sessions. The Malay Heritage Centre's courtyard will be transformed into a retro playground for the first time, complete with swings, merry-go-round and slides. Registration is required.

### Children's Season: Masak Masak 2015

National Museum of Singapore  
30 May to 10 August 2015  
Daily from 10am to 6pm  
Free admission

Take part in the Children's Season at the National Museum of Singapore as it returns with another awe-inspiring festival to celebrate the June school holidays. Masak Masak 2015 features playgrounds, interactive installations, performances, film screenings and family-oriented activities. Suitable for children aged three to seven.

For more information, please go to [www.nationalmuseum.sg](http://www.nationalmuseum.sg)



### Children's Season Open House at Singapore Philatelic Museum

Singapore Philatelic Museum  
31 May and 7 June 2015  
9.30am to 7pm  
Free admission. Charges for programmes apply.

Explore the museum exhibitions including *RETURN TO SENDER - An Exhibition and Counting Sheep, Dreaming Goats*. Children and families can enjoy fun-filled activities including craft sessions, a magic show with stamps, dance performances and more.

For more information, please go to [www.spm.org.sg](http://www.spm.org.sg)

## JUNE

### Amazing Stamps

Singapore Philatelic Museum  
2, 9, 16 and 18 June 2015  
10am to 12pm  
This is an event for children aged 7 - 12 years old  
\$15 per participant

Join our facilitator and go on a guided tour of the museum. Learn about the world of philately, hunt for philatelic treasures, take part in a stamp-designing competition and win museum tokens.

### Challenge for the Urban and Built Environment (Cube)

Urban Redevelopment Authority  
The URA Centre, 1st Storey Atrium  
Monday to Saturday, 5 June to 30 June 2015, 9am to 5pm  
Free admission

See the results of the Challenge for the Urban and Built Environment (Cube) 2014, a four-day workshop where pre-university architecture students explored their creativity using the Pearl's Hill district as their design canvas, and learnt about urban planning from professional architects.

For more information, please go to <https://www.facebook.com/CUBESTudentWorkshop?ref=ts>

### Movie Matinee: Collaboration with National Library Board

Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall  
[Library@Chinatown](mailto:Library@Chinatown)  
(Programme Zone)  
11 June 2015, 3pm to 6pm.  
Free admission

Spend a weekday afternoon learning about the socio-historical setting of Republican China and its road to modernisation. A pre-movie screening presentation will be held to discuss the woes and difficulties faced by the protagonist in the film that continue to resonate with viewers today.

Please register for seats at a library eKiosk, or at the website, <http://www.nlb.gov.sg/golibrary/programme/Arts.aspx>.

For more information, please go to [www.wanqingyuan.org.sg](http://www.wanqingyuan.org.sg)

### Straits Family Sunday-Supersized!

Peranakan Museum  
Sunday, 14 June 2015  
1pm to 5pm  
Free admission

Move to the beat of yesteryear and dance to songs enjoyed by young Peranakans of the past. Create your own container inspired by an old gramophone and vinyl records. Dress up in *baba* and *nonya* costumes, or relax with a good book in the reading corner. Enjoy a fun-filled experience with the whole family.



**Children's Season 2015**

Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall  
20-21 June 2015, 10am to 5pm. Free admission

Learn more about Dr Sun Yat Sen through a series of fun-filled activities, such as storytelling, drama, quizzes, outdoor games and guided tours. Parents are welcome to participate in the activities with their children.

**Dr Sun Yat Sen and His Family**

Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall  
20 June to 18 October 2015. 10am to 5pm  
Free for Singapore citizens and Permanent Residents

Gain a deeper understanding into the personal life of this Chinese revolutionary in an exhibition about his parents, siblings, wives and children. More than 170 artefacts, ranging from photographs to personal belongings, will be showcased.

**Dumpling Festival @ Wan Qing Yuan 2015**

Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall  
20 June 2015, 10am to 5pm. Free admission

Learn about the origins of the Dumpling Festival and enjoy a fun-filled day making these mouth-watering delicacies. All activities and workshops at the festival are free.

For more information, please go to [www.wanqingyuan.org.sg](http://www.wanqingyuan.org.sg)

**SG50 @ Thow Kwang Dragon Kiln**

Thow Kwang Dragon Kiln  
85 Lorong Tawas (off Jalan Bahar), Singapore 639823  
19 to 20 June 2015  
From 9am, free admission

Join the two-day wood-firing event at the Thow Kwang Dragon Kiln and help in the wood-firing of *golis*: clay balls of various sizes. These will be assembled in September to form a community sculpture dedicated to SG50 celebrations. Interested participants can sign up for this event via the Thow Kwang Facebook Page from April 2015.

For more information, please go to <https://www.facebook.com/tkpotteryjungle>

**Night Out at NMS**

National Museum of Singapore  
Stamford Green  
27 June 2015, 6pm till late  
Free admission

Make a date with your loved ones for a fun-filled evening of outdoor cinema, gallery visits, retail therapy and an indoor picnic right here at the National Museum of Singapore!

For more information, please go to [www.nationalmuseum.sg](http://www.nationalmuseum.sg)

**JULY**

**Saturdays@ACM - Supersized**

Asian Civilisations Museum  
4 July and 3 October 2015  
Free admission

Supersize your Saturday! Join us for special treats and more.

\*Programme line-up may change at short notice. Please check the website for periodic updates at [www.acm.org.sg](http://www.acm.org.sg)

**Victoria Theatre and Victoria Concert Hall: A Monument to Our History Heritage Gallery**

Victoria Theatre and Victoria Concert Hall  
Level 3  
Daily, 10am to 9pm  
Free admission

Visit the Victoria Theatre and Victoria Concert Hall's newly opened heritage gallery and learn more about the building's rich history and outstanding architectural features through a display of photographs and memories from members of the public, organisations and schools.

For more information, please go to [www.nhb.gov.sg/psm](http://www.nhb.gov.sg/psm)



**Trails Portal**



Have you always wanted to explore Singapore but don't know where to start? Or perhaps you're looking for something fun to do on the weekends? Visit our trails portal on the Singapore HeritageFest 2015 website. Whether you're a local or a tourist, there are many untold stories and places for you to explore. There's something for everyone! Vote for your favourite trails, take photos along the way or post your thoughts on Facebook and #sgheritage

URL [www.heritagefest.sg/explore-heritage](http://www.heritagefest.sg/explore-heritage)



**Our Museum @ Taman Jurong**

Our Museum @ Taman Jurong  
1 Yung Sheng Road, Singapore 618495 (next to Taman Jurong Community Centre)  
Monday to Friday, 3pm to 9pm; Saturday, 10am to 9pm; Sunday, 10am to 6pm  
Closed on public holidays  
Free admission

Our Museum @ Taman Jurong(OM@TJ) is Singapore's first community museum — the result of a collaborative effort between the National Heritage Board, Taman Jurong Citizens' Consultative Committee, Taman Jurong Community Arts and Culture Club and the People's Association. The museum showcases artworks and personal memories co-created by the residents of Taman Jurong, schools within the Jurong district, as well as volunteer groups from the community. Since its opening as Taman Jurong's arts and heritage node, OM@TJ has received generous municipal as well as public support for its efforts to explore and educate others about the neighbourhood's distinctive heritage.

Visit [www.facebook.com/OMATTJ](http://www.facebook.com/OMATTJ) for more information and updates, or email Raudha at [Raudha\\_muntadar@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:Raudha_muntadar@nhb.gov.sg)



**Bookcross @ Taman Jurong**

Our Museum @ Taman Jurong  
Monday to Friday, 3pm to 9pm; Saturday, 10am to 9pm; Sunday, 10am to 6pm.  
Closed on public holidays  
This is a year-long event  
Free admission

Borrow and donate books to spread the love of reading at Our Museum @ Taman Jurong, one of the hotspots for Bookcross@SG, an initiative supported by the National Library Board.

Storytelling sessions are conducted every day at the request of visitors.

Visit [www.facebook.com/OMATTJ](http://www.facebook.com/OMATTJ) for more information and updates, or email Raudha at [Raudha\\_muntadar@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:Raudha_muntadar@nhb.gov.sg)

**Daily art and craft activities**

Our Museum @ Taman Jurong  
This is a year-long event  
Free admission

Take part in daily art and craft activities that are suitable for children and adults, and that share similar themes with on-going exhibitions.

Email [Joanne\\_chen@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:Joanne_chen@nhb.gov.sg) or visit [www.facebook.com/OMATTJ](http://www.facebook.com/OMATTJ) for more information and updates.

**Guided Tour of Malay Heritage Centre**

Malay Heritage Centre  
Tuesday to Friday, 11am  
Saturday - Sunday, 2.00pm  
All programmes are free but admission charges to the permanent galleries may apply for international visitors. Admission to the Malay Heritage Centre is free for Singapore citizens and Permanent Residents.

Join the free guided tours of the Malay Heritage Centre's permanent galleries and learn more about Kampong Glam and its significance to the Malay community from the museum docents. Registration and the starting point for the free guided tours are at the Malay Heritage Centre's Visitor Services Counter. The tours are conducted in English. Each tour lasts an hour and 15 minutes and is limited to 20 people. For groups of more than 20 people, it is advisable to book the tours two weeks in advance. For corporate or special-needs tours, please email [NHB\\_MHC@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:NHB_MHC@nhb.gov.sg).

\* The availability of the guided tours is subject to the availability of volunteer docents.

For more information about the sessions or registration, please call 63910450 or email your contact details to [NaHB\\_MHC\\_Programmes@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:NaHB_MHC_Programmes@nhb.gov.sg). Alternatively, visit [www.malayheritage.org.sg](http://www.malayheritage.org.sg) for more information and updates.



Photo courtesy of Science Centre Singapore

Science Centre Singapore  
Open daily (Permanent exhibition), 10am to 6pm  
Standard admission charge for Science Centre: \$12 (Adult), \$8 (Three to 12-year-old children), Singaporeans & PRs: free for weekdays, \$6 (Adult), \$4 (Three to 12-year-old children) for weekends, school & public holidays. Please visit website for value deals and rates for Singaporeans and Permanent Residents.

**Climate Change Climate Challenge Exhibition**

Delve into the topic of climate change. Learn about its causes, its impact on Singapore and the region, and how everyone can play a part in reducing Singapore's carbon footprint.

**Tuning In: Brain & Body Exhibition**

Discover how the brain works and evolves over time, and how it can impact a person's focus and well-being. Through interactive art, vivid brain-scan imaging and dynamic interactive exhibits, learn about the latest in neuroscience, and the brain's surprising ability to re-wire itself in response to external simulation.

## MONTHLY

### PLAY @ National Museum of Singapore

National Museum of Singapore  
Level 3  
Daily from 10am to 6pm  
Free admission

Be inspired by PLAY @ National Museum of Singapore, the first dedicated area for children to take their first steps towards museum-going with interactive exhibits and activities that encourage learning through play. Children will be encouraged to express themselves through the various programmes aimed to stimulate their minds and creativity.



### Galleries Alive! Traditional Malay Music/Wayang Kulit Malay Heritage Centre

All programmes are free but admission charges to the permanent galleries may apply for international visitors.

From May 2015 onwards

Traditional Malay Music: Every second Wednesday of the month

Wayang Kulit: Every second Thursday of the month

Watch the Malay Heritage Centre's permanent galleries come alive with live performances of traditional Malay music, or enjoy a wayang kulit performance as a dalang, or puppeteer, tells the stories of Sang Kancil and his adventures.

## WEEKLY



### Let's Play! Traditional Malay Games

Malay Heritage Centre  
Every Tuesday  
10am and 3pm  
Free admission

Learn more about traditional Malay games, such as the capteh (weighted shuttlecock), main lereng (wheel spinning), congkak (traditional Malay board game) and batu seremban (five stones). This 45-minute session will also invite participants to use their creativity to invent new and fun games.

For more information about the sessions or registration, please call 63910450 or email your contact details to NHB\_MHC\_Programmes@nhb.gov.sg. Alternatively, visit [www.malayheritage.org.sg](http://www.malayheritage.org.sg) for more information and updates.

### WE: Defining Stories

Travelling Exhibition  
Library opening hours. Free admission.

Clementi Public Library (19-30 Jan)  
Queenstown Public Library (Feb)  
Bukit Merah Public Library (Mar)  
Woodlands Regional Library (Apr)  
Ang Mo Kio Public Library (May)  
Serangoon Public Library (Jun)  
Central Public Library (Jul)  
Toa Payoh Public Library (Aug)  
Bishan Public Library (Sep)  
Tampines Regional Library (Oct)  
Sengkang Public Library (Nov)  
Bedok Public Library (Dec)



Revisit Singapore's turbulent march towards independence and appreciate the quirks that define us as Singaporean today in this exhibition featuring photographs from the archives of The Straits Times and the National Museum of Singapore Collection. This travelling visual exhibition of headline photographs documents significant moments of Singapore's history, and forms a pictorial story of home and identity 50 years since independence.

For more information, please go to <http://bit.ly/wedefining>

### Singapore Maritime Trails

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore  
First Saturday of the month,  
8.45am to 11.30am  
Free admission

Take a tour of local maritime heritage sites on Singapore Maritime Trail 1 — including Fort Canning and Boat Quay — and trace the progress of Singapore's maritime sector.

For Singapore Maritime Trail 1, participants start the tour by boarding a bus at the lobby of Swissotel The Stamford. Then, they will visit some maritime heritage sites on foot and finish the tour at HarbourFront MRT station.

For more information, please call 68366466 (Mon-Fri, 9am-6.30pm)/email [fang\\_jiayun@mpa.gov.sg](mailto:fang_jiayun@mpa.gov.sg).

### Night Under The Stars (Scheduled on every first Saturday of the month)

Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall  
Zhongshan Park, 16 Ah Hood Road, Singapore 329982  
Starting from 6 June 2015,  
7.30pm to 9pm. Free admission

Thinking of what to do and where to go on a Saturday night in June? Why not make a trip down to Zhongshan Park for some entertainment under the stars?

For more information, please go to [www.wanqingyuan.org.sg](http://www.wanqingyuan.org.sg)

### My Queenstown Heritage Trail (Dawson + Alexandra Tour)

My Community  
Every last Saturday of the month, 9am to 11.30am  
Free admission

Explore Queenstown's exciting colonial history in an unforgettable adventure across its Dawson and Alexandra neighbourhoods. The heritage tour covers iconic colonial landmarks, including Alexandra Hospital, Princess House and the former ABC beer factory, and features poignant recollections of village life at the Boh Beh Kang *kampung*.

To register, go to [www.myqueenstown.eventbrite.sg](http://www.myqueenstown.eventbrite.sg), or call Queenstown CC at 64741681, or email [myqueenstown@gmail.com](mailto:myqueenstown@gmail.com)



### My Queenstown Heritage Trail (Tanglin Halt + Duchess Tour)

My Community  
Every last Sunday of the month, 9am to 11:30am.  
Free admission

Go on an intimate journey through Singapore's first satellite town. This heritage tour covers Queenstown's historic landmarks, including the estate's first HDB flats, Queenstown Public Library and Tanglin Halt neighbourhood centre, and features the personal memories of long-time residents, shopkeepers and librarians.

To register, go to [www.myqueenstown.eventbrite.sg](http://www.myqueenstown.eventbrite.sg), or call Queenstown CC at 64741681, or email [myqueenstown@gmail.com](mailto:myqueenstown@gmail.com)

At time of printing, both tours are fully booked until 2016.

## BY APPOINTMENT

### The Intan Tea Tour and The Intan Dinner Tour

The Intan  
69 Joo Chiat Terrace  
Fees apply

Learn about the different aspects of Peranakan culture through a kaleidoscope of rare historical artefacts, intriguing personal stories, and authentic tea and dining experiences at The Intan. Founded in 2003, The Intan is a Peranakan heritage home-museum and the brainchild of antique collector Alvin Yapp. Visits to The Intan are by appointment only. To make a booking, contact them with a proposed date of visit, time and number of visitors. The house can accommodate 30 visitors comfortably.

For more information, please go to [www.the-intan.com](http://www.the-intan.com)



Photo courtesy of Ms Kendar

### Birthday Celebrations

Singapore Philatelic Museum

The Singapore Philatelic Museum carries out Birthday Bash programmes for children aged five to nine years old. These are exciting events, with fun activities that include taking part in a treasure hunt, completing stamp jigsaw puzzles, flying paper planes, designing stamps and taking part in colouring contests!

Bookings for birthday celebrations at the Singapore Philatelic Museum must be made in advance and are subject to availability of dates and times.

### Mailbox Workshop

Singapore Philatelic Museum  
3 and 10 June 2015

10am to 12pm

This is an event for children aged 7 - 12 years old  
\$30 per participant

Ever wondered what the inside of a mailbox looks like? View miniature mailboxes from around the world, discover interesting facts about postboxes and find out how mail is delivered. Participants can also paint and decorate their own tin mailboxes.

### Overnight Adventure

Singapore Philatelic Museum  
4 to 5 June 2015

and 11 to 12 June 2015

6pm to 9am

This is an event for children aged 7 - 12 years old  
\$90 per participant

Check-in at the museum for a night of adventure, games and craft. Make new friends, learn about the "King of Hobbies" and enjoy the rare opportunity of sleeping among stamps. Bring along a sleeping bag, jacket, pyjamas, fresh change of clothing and toiletries. Dinner, supper and breakfast are included in the charge.

For more details, please call Lily Samuel at 65137347 or email [Lily\\_Samuel@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:Lily_Samuel@nhb.gov.sg)





