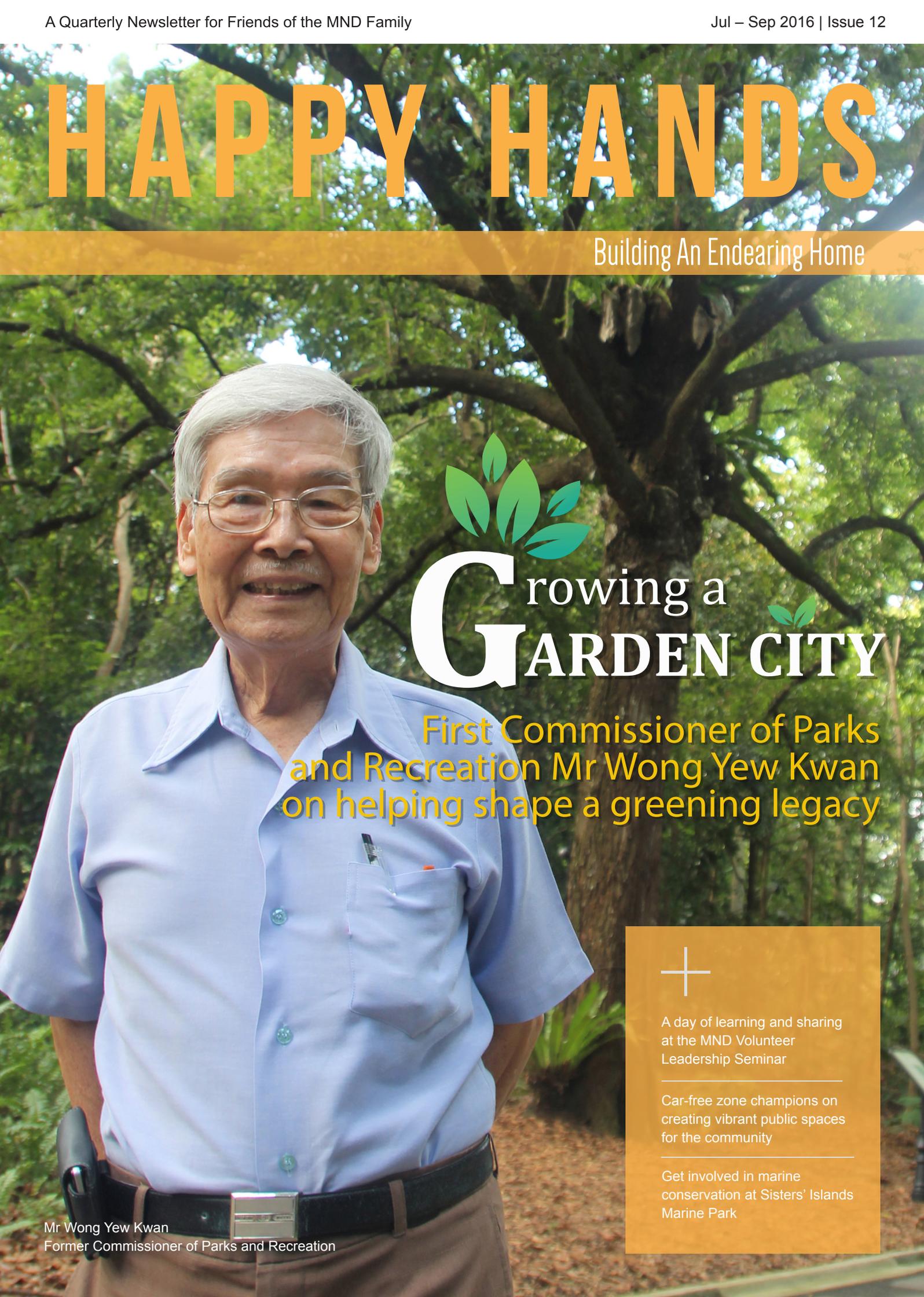


HAPPY HANDS

Building An Endearing Home



Growing a GARDEN CITY

First Commissioner of Parks
and Recreation Mr Wong Yew Kwan
on helping shape a greening legacy



A day of learning and sharing
at the MND Volunteer
Leadership Seminar

Car-free zone champions on
creating vibrant public spaces
for the community

Get involved in marine
conservation at Sisters' Islands
Marine Park

Mr Wong Yew Kwan
Former Commissioner of Parks and Recreation

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SHARE A STORY

Share with us a story today! We would love to hear your inspiring stories and personal journeys about volunteering with the MND Family. Whether it is in the form of an article, an illustration or a photograph, we welcome your contributions. Do drop us a note at happyhands@mnd.gov.sg!

FEEDBACK

Tell us how we are doing! Did we meet your expectations? Do you have suggestions that could help us make this newsletter interesting and relevant to you? Let us know via happyhands@mnd.gov.sg!



Image: National Parks Board

Chairman of the MND Family Volunteer and Alumni Network, Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs and National Development Desmond Lee (rightmost), joined the community in planting mangrove species at Ubin Living Lab's mangrove arboretum on 22 May 2016.

Dear Friends of the MND Family,

What a fruitful year it has been so far! Just recently I caught up with some of our MND Family volunteer leaders at the MND Volunteer Leadership Seminar. I think we all gained useful insights from our guest speakers, A/P Ho Peng Kee and Joway Tan from the Home Team and Marcus Chee from the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre. I was glad to see many familiar faces, and also happy to welcome new volunteer leaders. It is heartening that many of you are coming forward to partner with us in driving meaningful causes that seek to improve our living environment and enhance our communities.

In the heartlands, residents are initiating activities for neighbours to come together as a community. From art workshops at the void decks to friendly curry-cooking contests, the Good Neighbours Projects truly bring out the spirit of neighbourliness and sense of community that makes a place home. Our community gardeners also outdid themselves – we now have over 1,000 community gardening groups! Community gardens not only beautify our environment, they help foster *kampong* spirit and put us well on our way to becoming a City in a Garden.

Over at Pulau Ubin, the month-long Pesta Ubin celebration was a resounding success, thanks to the dedication and combined efforts of many volunteers from the Friends of Ubin Network; various organising groups including nature, heritage and adventure groups; Red Cross and CD Lionhearters as well as the Ubin community. This is a fine example of what we can achieve when communities and agencies come together in the spirit of collaboration and work towards a common vision for a greater good.

The groundswell of enthusiasm to initiate ground-up projects is encouraging. I hope that more of you will tap on opportunities like HDB's Friendly Faces, Lively Places fund and URA's Our Favourite Place scheme – these are great resources that support community-led initiatives and bring them to life. I look forward to more rewarding collaborations as we work together towards a shared aspiration of a better Singapore, for ourselves and our future generations.

Yours sincerely,

Desmond Lee
Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs and National Development
Chairman of the MND Family Volunteer and Alumni Network

SPECIAL FEATURE

MND Volunteer Leadership Seminar 2016

MND Family volunteer leaders and managers learn and share insights on volunteerism with experts and one another at the MND Volunteer Leadership Seminar.



Chairman of the MND Family Volunteer and Alumni Network, Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs and National Development Desmond Lee hosted guest speakers and participants at the biennial MND Volunteer Leadership Seminar held on 9 July 2016 at MND Complex.

“

Our volunteers, and volunteer leaders like you, are full of creativity, energy and initiative. When you partner with us and share with us your passion for the causes that you champion, it helps us sharpen our policies and programmes for a greater good.

SMS Desmond Lee in his welcome address at the MND Volunteer Leadership Seminar on 9 July 2016

”

On 9 July 2016, 94 volunteer leaders, volunteer managers and senior management from across the MND Family came together for the 2nd MND Volunteer Leadership Seminar. Held once every two years, the seminar brings together MND Family volunteer leaders, partners, and

volunteer management experts and practitioners to share and learn from one another.

This year, volunteer leaders also got the opportunity to join exclusive learning journeys



Welcome address by Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs and National Development Desmond Lee

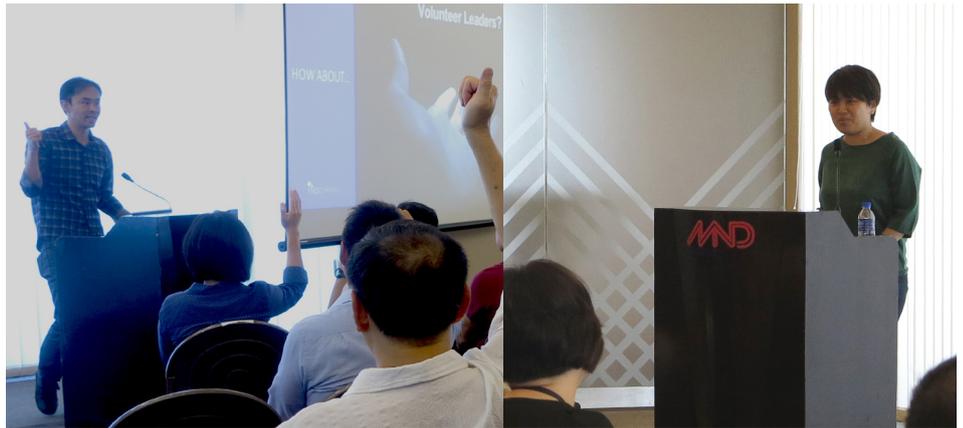
to The Pinnacle@Duxton as well as the Civil Defence Heritage Gallery and Emergency Preparedness Centre at Hill Street.

**Volunteer Leadership
- Making a Difference!**

Two invited speakers, experienced practitioners in the volunteering sector Mr Marcus Chee from the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) and Ms Joway Tan from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Home Team Volunteer Network Secretariat, shared useful insights from their work areas and experiences in understanding and motivating volunteers as well as managing volunteer programmes.

Following that, special guest speaker Associate Professor Ho Peng Kee – Chairman of the Home Team Volunteer Network, or as he says “Chief Volunteer” of the Home Team, and Mr Marcus Chee joined Senior Minister of State (SMS) Desmond Lee for a dialogue session with participants.

The discussion ranged from ways to get volunteer leaders involved in strategy development for the organisation, to the need for volunteers versus the need for communities (“We need them both!” was SMS Desmond Lee’s opinion). It was an engaging and meaningful session.



Mr Marcus Chee from the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre provided insights into volunteer mindsets.

Ms Joway Tan from the Home Team Volunteer Network Secretariat shared about the Home Team’s volunteer programmes.



Home Team “Chief Volunteer” A/P Ho Peng Kee (holding the microphone) and Mr Marcus Chee (leftmost) joined Senior Minister of State Desmond Lee on the panel for a dialogue session moderated by Senior Director for Community Engagement at MND’s Municipal Services Office, Mrs Ong-Chew Peck Wan (rightmost).



Learning from guest speakers and engaging in fruitful discussions at the MND Volunteer Leadership Seminar 2016.



An exclusive learning journey at The Pinnacle@Duxton, the world's tallest public housing development, at 50 storeys high!

Scaling new heights at The Pinnacle@Duxton

After the morning seminar and networking lunch, participants proceeded on a learning journey to The Pinnacle@Duxton. The visit included a tour of the Heritage Garden and 50th storey skybridge. The Pinnacle's two 500-metre-long skygardens, located at the 26th and 50th storeys, are the longest sky gardens in the world. During the learning journey, participants learned about the historical significance of the site and award-winning design features of the development.



Stepping into a vacant unit at The Pinnacle@Duxton to get an idea of what it might be like to live in the multiple award-winning HDB project.

Understanding our Civil Defence capabilities at the CD Heritage Gallery

The next stop on the learning journey was the Civil Defence Heritage Gallery at Hill Street. The Gallery is housed in a National Monument, the Central Fire Station. Gallery guide Mr Segar Suppiah provided a special tour of the Gallery, sharing about significant historical events such as the Bukit Ho Swee fire and Hotel New World collapse which transformed the Civil Defence service into a well-trained and well-prepared force today.

Picking up life-saving skills at the Emergency Preparedness Centre

At the Emergency Preparedness Centre, participants learnt how to respond quickly and effectively during emergency situations such as fire and natural disasters. Through interactive exhibits, they also picked up life-saving skills including the Heimlich manoeuvre and tried their hands at operating a fire extinguisher using the P.A.S.S. method (Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep).



An experiential learning journey at the Civil Defence Heritage Gallery gave participants a better understanding of our Civil Defence capabilities.

As the programme came to a close, here is what some of the participants had to say:



Image: Chong Teng Kok

HDB Senior Heartland Ambassador Mr Chong Teng Kok (rightmost) meeting with residents during The Pinnacle@Duxton learning journey.

“

It was good to share different perspectives in volunteer leadership and I enjoyed the tour very much.

”

Mr Stephen Beng
 Chair, Marine Conservation Group
 Nature Society (Singapore)



Image: Clarence Lee

An insightful learning journey experience and a great photo opportunity at The Pinnacle@Duxton.

“

I learnt a fair bit from the speakers' sharing during the seminar. It is a great opportunity to network and meet like-minded individuals with a passion to guide and groom potential leaders in the community.

”

Ms Charlene Tan
 Manager of Advocacy
 ACRES



Image: Clarence Lee

Volunteer leaders from Gardens by the Bay taking jump shots at the 50th storey skybridge of The Pinnacle@Duxton.

“

Learning about different mindsets of volunteers is a useful tool in managing them.

”

Ms Sylvia Chua
 Volunteer Leader
 AVA Master Grower programme

About the MND Volunteer Leadership Seminar

The biennial MND Volunteer Leadership Seminar is a platform for MND Family volunteer leaders, partners and volunteer management practitioners to share and learn about all aspects of volunteerism from and with one another. It is organised by the MND Family Volunteer Network Secretariat as part of MND's Volunteer Leaders Development programme.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Growing a Garden City

The first Commissioner of Parks and Recreation Mr Wong Yew Kwan, 83, shares his experiences in helping to shape Singapore's greening legacy.



I play an advisory role on the Heritage Tree Panel, commenting on botanical issues... I am happy to continue lending my experience and knowledge.

*Mr Wong Yew Kwan
Member, Heritage Tree Panel
Commissioner of Parks and Recreation (1974 - 1983)*

Born in Ipoh in 1932, Mr Wong Yew Kwan moved to Singapore with his family in 1970 when he joined the Primary Production Department (now the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority). He was transferred to the Public Works Department to head the Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) in 1974. When it was established as a full-fledged department under the Ministry of National Development, Mr Wong was appointed Singapore's first Commissioner of Parks and Recreation. We spoke to Mr Wong to find out what it was like to be in charge of greening Singapore at that time and how he continues to contribute to this vision.

Tell us about your background and early interests in plant ecology.

I majored in Botany at the University of Malaya, as I had always been interested in the trees and nature areas which were abundant in Ipoh where I grew up. Upon graduation in 1957, I worked as a researcher at the Forest Research Institute in Selangor, Malaysia and was sent to Oxford to study Forestry. Later, I joined Guthrie Corporation in Johor where I did oil palm research.

What was it like to be in charge of greening the city?

When I joined the PRD in 1974, I was fortunate because the groundwork had already been laid for greening up Singapore. We had the Garden City Action Committee (GCAC) which met regularly and involved several government departments and agencies; the GCAC worked closely to ensure that greenery would be an integral part of Singapore's infrastructure.

But the key driver of the greening effort was then Prime Minister, the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew, who emphasised the importance of greening to create a high quality living environment. He wanted trees planted to provide relief against the harshness of a concrete landscape that was a result of industrialisation and urbanisation. He preferred big trees with huge crowns, such as the Rain Tree and Angsana, to provide shade from the sun. Over time, as the Garden City concept was developed, we started to plant colourful flowering plants too. Mr Lee's interest was so great to the extent that he directed many of the decisions relating to greening and tree planting at that

time, such as how close to the road the roadside trees should be planted. The late Mr Wong Chooi Sen (then Cabinet Secretary) often rang me up with specific instructions from Mr Lee about an area where he wanted trees planted, or if he noticed that a tree was not doing well, and so on. It was quite a lot of pressure!

Did you encounter tensions between greening and other imperatives like economic growth?

I do recall one meeting Mr Lee called in 1978 which was attended by Ministers and top government officials. The discussion turned to the progress of the new airport development in Changi.

Mr Lee turned to me and said, "The reason I called you here is: When the first plane lands, I want visitors to see nicely planted vegetation, not rank vegetation." Knowing that the area was slated for future development, the late Mr Howe Yoon Chong (then Head of the civil service and Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office) questioned the merits of spending precious resources on growing trees there, only to remove them later. But Mr Lee was adamant. He articulated his



Image: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Mr Wong (pointing upwards) showing then Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew a plan on the reclamation progress of East Coast and progress of the Changi Airport project in 1979.

vision for the “first impression areas”, Changi and Woodlands, to be covered with well-maintained greenery. This would provide a good first impression of Singapore to visitors when they arrived.

That meeting was a turning point for the PRD – after Mr Lee’s instructions to allocate adequate funds and resources for greenery, the PRD was well-funded, well-staffed and better able to galvanise the cooperation and coordination of other departments and agencies.

What are your proudest achievements as Commissioner?

That would be the creation of East Coast Park and greening up of East Coast Parkway, all the way from Sheares Bridge leading to the airport. Greening up the Changi Airport area was a challenge – we had a very short amount of time to plant trees in the entire area from scratch! We all worked very hard on this; East Coast Park was well done up with greenery, and for the areas covered in rank vegetation we managed to treat the soil and sow the seeds of the fast-growing tree of *Acacia auriculiformis*. So when the new airport opened just a few years later, these areas were all greened up beautifully.

Tell us about your research on tree communities in Singapore’s forests.

The first survey I did in Singapore was in Bukit Timah Nature Reserve as a student in the 1950s. When I returned to work in Singapore years later, I was surprised to find that nobody had comprehensively surveyed the trees in the Nature Reserve yet! So I worked with a team of researchers to enumerate the trees there. Then in 1992, I was commissioned by NParks to conduct a quantitative survey of tree communities in the Central Catchment Nature Reserve. Together with two NParks researchers, we took about 10 months to enumerate all the trees measuring 12 inches in girth and above. Our findings were published in the scientific journal, *The Gardens Bulletin*.

What do you do now as a member of NParks’ Heritage Tree Panel?

I play an advisory role on the Heritage Tree Panel, commenting on botanical issues that arise, such as whether nominated trees are suitable to be endorsed as Heritage Trees. I am happy to continue lending my experience and knowledge.

“

When the first plane lands, I want visitors to see nicely planted vegetation, not rank vegetation.

”

Then Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew envisioned for visitors to be met with well-maintained greenery upon arrival at the new Changi Airport so that they would have a good first impression of Singapore.



Mr Wong in front of a Meranti Temak Nipis (*Shorea roxburghii*), one of the Dipterocarpaceae family of trees planted at the Singapore Botanic Gardens during his time as Commissioner. It has since been designated as a Heritage Tree.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Imagining streets without cars

Where others see road closures, Ejan, Yinzhou and Mas see opportunities to create vibrant public spaces for the community under URA's Streets for People programme.



“ Our social initiative explores a scenario where money has been taken out of transactions and attendees and vendors exchange their goods and services. ”

Ejan A. Rahman, Director of We Experiment, on transforming a street into a Barter Market based on concepts of sustainability and community bonding.

With more car-free zones hitting our island city, a new breed of dynamic champions are paving the way as we aspire to be a 'car-lite' society. These individuals from different walks of life deftly take advantage of these spaces and align them with their passions, making them their own in their unique way. We spoke to three champions on how they have transformed streets into vibrant public spaces without cars.

Ejan A. Rahman
Director, We Experiment

What is The Lab SG?

The Lab SG is a Halal cafe under the umbrella of We Experiment Pte Ltd, which is run by myself and my husband, Luke, for the love of great food, good coffee and good vibes. Our Slogan is "We Experiment"; we strive to create quirky food and beverage items.

What are you guys passionate about?

Besides The Lab SG cafe, Luke and I have started a movement called MCMCMM (Macam Macam Movement). Macam Macam means "everything and anything" in Malay. This movement was created by us to support everything and anything related to local independent subculture.

I love seeing people come together to support underground local music, exhibitions and gigs. This is my reason for starting the movement. I want to continue the subculture scene in Singapore for future generations, and create a go-to event for them to experience and support local independent talent like how I used to in the past.

How have you been involved with Streets for People?

We have worked very closely with URA under the Streets for People programme and managed to close the road at Jalan

Pisang for the event in March 2016. We collaborated with Samantha Lo for an event called Barter Market, a collective effort by local makers, craftsmen, artists, musicians and other skilled individuals. Our social initiative explores a scenario where money has been taken out of transactions and attendees and vendors exchange their goods and services. Based on the concept of sustainability, the Barter Market seeks to encourage a more human bonding experience as well as a possibility of an organically progressive society, one that recognises and supports each other regardless of background.

Any upcoming plans?

Working with URA and others, we are planning to close the road on Jalan Pisang every quarter so that we may have more of these events. We will collaborate with more independent local organisers to push the sub-culture scene in Singapore – from the locals, for the locals.



Cai Yinzhou

Founder, Geylang Adventures

What does Geylang Adventures do?

We strive to debunk stereotypes about Geylang and create learning journeys and educational programmes for different organisations to find out more about the community.

How has the initiative made use of public spaces under Streets for People?

We try to make meaningful use of the back alley space in Geylang. One edition in December 2015 that we were involved in even had an art studio and food truck on site so that we could share with the community. The event was open to anyone and everyone, and more than 70 migrant workers came to mingle with Singaporeans.

“ We strive to debunk stereotypes about Geylang. ”

Cai Yinzhou, Founder of Geylang Adventures, on what he aims to achieve.



Image: Wanton Doodle

“ If you want to do something, do it, don't complain! ”

Mas Shafreen, Illustrator at Wanton Doodle, on taking action for what he believes in.

Mas Shafreen

Illustrator, Wanton Doodle

Who is Wanton Doodle and how have you been involved in car-free zones?

I'm a corporate cog by day, illustrator by night, with the dark eye circles to prove it. My illustrations are inspired by doodles borne out of sheer boredom, the desire to stay awake during meetings and the compulsion to expend office supplies. We were involved in SHINE Youth Fest where there were road closures at Orchard Road and we got to doodle over remixed photos on a long showcase.

How do initiatives like Streets for People help to foster community and culture?

We call ourselves white space bandits, as we take over walls and transform them from bland to fun. Likewise, I'm a strong advocate of communities taking control of spaces from the ground up. If you want to do something, do it, don't complain! What we as Band Of Doodlers (a group I started) do too is encourage co-creation and interaction with the community through art. For example, we leave empty spaces such as speech bubbles in some doodles, inviting the public to participate and get emotionally connected to the art. There's that community-centric element that ultimately promotes active citizenry as more feel inspired to step up and express themselves.

This is an abridged version of an article originally published in URA's publication, Skyline. Read the full story [here](#).

URA's Streets for People programme supports community-initiated projects that transform streets into meaningful temporary car-free public spaces. Many communities have come forward with innovative ideas and even held full-fledged street festivals, such as the highly popular Urban Ventures at Keong Saik Road. Visit [this website](#) for more information on car-free zones and how to set up your own.

PROGRAMME (NPARKS)

Sisters' Islands at the heart of marine conservation

More ways to get involved as NParks announces new plans for conservation, research, outreach and education at Sisters' Islands Marine Park.

Singapore's first marine park, [Sisters' Islands Marine Park](#), spans 40 hectares (about the size of 50 football fields) encompassing the two Sisters' Islands and the western reefs of nearby St John's Island and Pulau Tekukor. The park provides a safe refuge for Singapore's coral reefs, which support an ecosystem inhabited by many rare and endangered species of seahorses, clams, sponges and other marine life.

Since its announcement of the marine park in 2014, the National Parks Board (NParks) had stepped up its marine conservation efforts and rolled out new initiatives for the marine park. These included species recovery and habitat enhancement programmes to reintroduce and support the propagation of rare and endangered marine life. A Public Gallery which showcases some of Singapore's rich marine biodiversity was launched on St John's Island, and guided walks led by volunteers are conducted bi-monthly.

New plans for Sisters' Islands Marine Park

On 21 May 2016, after a one year feasibility study, new educational plans were announced to conserve the park in sustainable ways, while providing the public more opportunities to learn about Singapore's rich marine biodiversity.

Big Sister's Island will have a boardwalk, intertidal pools and a floating pontoon to offer the public up-close encounters with marine and terrestrial biodiversity. [Two Dive Trails](#) already offer opportunities for divers to appreciate Singapore's marine biodiversity. Divers may also volunteer to conduct underwater surveys for monitoring our marine environment, under NParks' Citizen Science programme.

Small Sister's Island will serve as a dedicated site for marine conservation research, with Singapore's first turtle hatchery set up through a \$500,000 donation from HSBC. A coral nursery will be sensitively established to safeguard and nurture corals before they are transplanted into reef zones.



Image: National Parks Board

Dr Karenne Tun showing President Tony Tan a diorama of the dive trails at the Sisters' Islands Marine Park at the launch of the Public Gallery on St John's Island on 15 July 2015.



Image: National Parks Board

Guided intertidal walks conducted by NParks volunteers enable participants to gain first-hand experiences of Singapore's rich marine biodiversity which are submerged most of the time.

Play a part by supporting our corals

A new [Plant-A-Coral, Seed-A-Reef](#) programme was also launched on 21 May as a platform for individuals and organisations to support species recovery and habitat enhancement efforts at Sisters’ Islands Marine Park. Donors may sponsor a coral nubbin which would be planted in the coral nursery, or a Reef Enhancement Unit (REU) which is an artificial structure or scaffolding to attach and grow corals.

“ The Marine Park is meant for Singaporeans, and we hope our people will love it, grow it and take ownership of this park. ”

Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs and National Development Desmond Lee, at the launch of the Plant-A-Coral, Seed-A-Reef programme.

Process of reef enhancement



Image: National Parks Board

1 Coral nubbins, which are small coral fragments, will be attached to wall plugs.



Image: National Parks Board

2 Coral nubbins will be grown in the coral nursery until they are of suitable size.

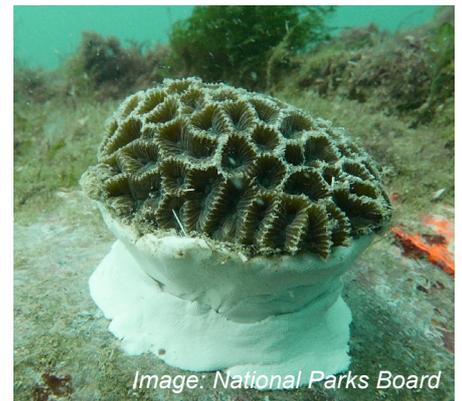


Image: National Parks Board

3 Coral fragments will be transplanted to REUs which are placed in suitable reef zones.



Image: National Parks Board

4 Corals and other marine life grow on the REUs, while fish seek refuge at the REUs, improving the biodiversity of the marine park’s reefs.

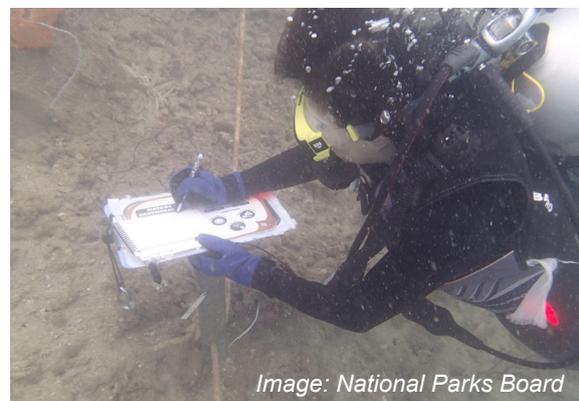


Image: National Parks Board

5 Under NParks’ Citizen Science Programme, divers can also help to monitor the growth of the REUs every six months.

About the Plant-A-Coral, Seed-A-Reef Programme

The Garden City Fund’s Plant-A-Coral, Seed-A-Reef Programme is a platform for organisations and individuals to support habitat enhancement efforts at the Sisters’ Islands Marine Park.

Find out how you can support the programme [here](#).

Volunteering with NParks

Interested in playing an active role in supporting and promoting the care of Singapore’s natural heritage? Sign up as a volunteer with NParks!

Find out about volunteering opportunities with NParks [here](#).

PROGRAMME (HDB)

Friendly Faces, Lively Places

Residents can tap on a new fund to organise community building activities in HDB heartlands.



Keen to do something for your community?

You can now apply for the HDB Friendly Faces, Lively Places Fund to enliven your neighbourhood and bring your neighbours together.

FUND CATEGORIES



ACT NOW!

To sign up or find out more, please visit www.hdb.gov.sg/FFLPfund



Infographic: Housing & Development Board

The new HDB Friendly Faces, Lively Places Fund was launched on 20 May 2016 during [HDB Community Week 2016](#) to encourage residents to initiate projects that contribute to the building of active and cohesive communities in their neighbourhoods. An expansion of the successful Good Neighbours Project scheme, the new initiative enables residents to apply for more funding – up to \$10,000, depending on the category of their project. The fund will be made available for residents to tap on all year round.

To sign up or find out more, visit the website [here](#) or send an email to HDB_Community_Partnerships@hdb.gov.sg

“The key criteria are that projects must bring diverse groups of people together, have active participation and contribution from the community. Through this project, we want to strengthen greater neighbourliness and stronger bonds.”

Minister for National Development Mr Lawrence Wong at the launch of the HDB Friendly Faces, Lively Places Fund at Bedok Town Plaza on 20 May 2016 in conjunction with HDB Community Week 2016

IN THE NEWS



Image: Building and Construction Authority

Celebrating BCA's new partnerships with schools and the industry with a group photo at BiG Day Out 2016.

Green building collaborations launched at BCA's BiG Day Out

BCA sealed two new partnerships in support of green building initiatives at Build it Green (BiG) Day Out on 24 June 2016. BCA and Keppel Land will offer new opportunities for schools and firms to collaborate on outreach efforts that champion green buildings. Meanwhile Johnson Controls, Republic Polytechnic and the Singapore Green Building Council came on board BCA's Greenovate programme which will enable secondary students to take the lead in greening their schools and tertiary students to conduct energy audits under the close mentorship of industry experts. Read the full media release [here](#).



Photo courtesy of the Housing & Development Board

HDB Cool Ideas Hack first place winners (students category) sharing about their application "JioMe" with Minister for National Development Mr Lawrence Wong.

Crowdsourcing ideas for better HDB living

The inaugural HDB Cool Ideas Hack held on 24 – 26 June 2016 saw over 200 participants from all walks of life come together at the 3-day hackathon to co-create with HDB as well as industry and tech mentors. Their aim? To develop technology-based solutions and applications to improve the quality of life in HDB estates. Vying for a total of \$20,000 in prizes, teams competed in three categories: "Start-ups", "Students" and "Open". Winning teams with solutions feasible for test-bedding will stand the chance to work with HDB on refining their ideas and test-bedding at selected sites. Find out more about the event and view the winning ideas [here](#).



17 N Parks volunteers received the Long Service Award from Minister for National Development Mr Lawrence Wong in recognition of their dedication and commitment.

Celebrating NParks volunteers at the Singapore Garden Festival

At the opening of the Singapore Garden Festival on 23 July 2016, prizes were presented to NParks Community In Bloom (CIB) gardeners for the [Gardeners' Cup](#) which comprises the following categories: Best Floral Garden, Best Biodiversity Garden, Best Innovation, Best Educational Garden, Best Eco-Friendly Garden and Champion Awards. Prizes were also awarded for the longest and heaviest fruits and vegetables in the [Community Garden Edibles Competition](#). 17 NParks volunteers were also recognised for 10 years and 15 years of service in a prize presentation ceremony. Among this year's [Long Service Award](#) recipients are Mr Ho Ah Chuan and his wife, Mrs Helen Ho, who have been volunteering as guides at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve for 15 years.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Climate Innovation Challenge

12 – 14 August 2016

JTC LaunchPad @ one-north

Join the inaugural Climate Innovation Challenge, a hackathon to develop innovative, cost-effective green solutions that safeguard our environment. Whether you're a budding eco-preneur or a tech whizz interested in combating the climate crisis, show us what you've got and stand a chance to win prizes of up to \$5,000! Visit [this website](#) to sign up.

CLIMATE INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2016

#climateinnovation

12 - 14 AUGUST 2016
JTC LaunchPad @ one-north



Find out more at www.ClimateInnovation.sg

International Green Building Conference 2016 - "Build Green: The Next Decade"



Image: Building and Construction Authority

7 – 9 September 2016

Marina Bay Sands Singapore

Join international green building experts at IGBC 2016, anchor event of the annual Singapore Green Building Week organised by the Building and Construction Authority. For more details on the conference programme, visit [this website](#) for more details.

PARK(ing) Day

16 September 2016

Everyone's invited to join the annual worldwide event where community members transform parking spots into temporary public spaces.

It's easy to create a PARK!
Simply follow these steps:



Images: Urban Redevelopment Authority

Plan where you would like to create your park and what you would like to do in the space. For inspiration, view past years' editions [here](#).

Register with us at [this website](#).

Create your PARK on Friday, 16 September 2016

Enjoy the day interacting with visitors to your PARK

Share your experience with us using the hashtags [#OurFavePlaceSG](#) [#ParkingDaySG](#)

Friday, 16 September 2016



REGISTER NOW

For more MND Family News:



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