

HAPPY HANDS

Building An Endearing Home



Recognising and appreciating volunteers and partners at the annual MND Huddle

Find out how NParks Community In Bloom Ambassador Gina Ong turns her passion into a gift for others

Meet AVA community outreach officer Chong Poh Choo, whose love for animals keeps her motivated



*Reimagining
a city to love* 

“ We need to redefine “responsibility” as “response-ability”. Every one of us can play a part in responding to our environment. ”

CONTENTS

04

**SPECIAL
FEATURE**
MND Huddle 2017



06

PEOPLE
Reimagining a
city to love



Dr Chong Keng Hua



Gina Ong

09

PEOPLE
Paying it forward
with passion

10

PEOPLE
For the love of animals

12

PROGRAMME
Back to school to go green

13

IN THE NEWS

15

UPCOMING EVENTS

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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!



Chairman of MND Family Volunteer and Alumni Network, Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for National Development Desmond Lee (centre), with MND Huddle guests at the annual appreciation event for volunteers and partners at Gardens By the Bay on 17 November 2017.

Dear Friends of the MND Family,

We often hear from our volunteers that sharing their ideas and applying their skill sets for the benefit of the wider community brings an unmatched sense of satisfaction and purpose. Across our MND Family agencies, we strive to offer a variety of programmes and opportunities for citizens to partner us and contribute in meaningful ways to improve our shared living environment.

I am thankful to all of you for the valuable roles you play as volunteers which bring us closer every day to a more caring and inclusive society. From bringing smiles to the faces of elderly residents, to creating spaces for families and communities to bond, your contributions help us make a meaningful difference to Singaporeans every day.

In this issue, we feature some inspiring ways our volunteers and partners are working with us. For example, Dr Chong Keng Hua lends his interest and expertise in collaborative place-making and participatory design to enliven public spaces for residents and communities, in partnership with HDB and URA. And Gina Ong, one of our long-time Community In Bloom Ambassadors, turns her passion for gardening into a gift for others in her estate, in partnership with NParks.

Each time we meet, I am inspired by the passion, commitment and dedication to the causes that our volunteers and partners champion with us. And in spite of the diversity of areas and causes that we work on, what binds us together is a shared sense of purpose and desire to build a better home in Singapore. I look forward to continuing this collective effort of building a culture of care - for our neighbours, for our environment including our natural and built heritage, for the greater community, and for our shared future for generations to come.

Yours sincerely,

Desmond Lee
Minister for Social and Family Development
and Second Minister for National Development
Chairman of the MND Family Volunteer and Alumni Network

SPECIAL FEATURE

MND Huddle 2017

Recognising our Valued Volunteers and Partners

As the year came to a close, the Ministry of National Development (MND) recognised significant contributions of 46 MND Family volunteers and alumni at the sixth annual MND Huddle, held on 17 November 2017 at the Gardens by the Bay, Flower Field Hall.

Hosted by Minister for National Development and Second Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong, about 400 guests enjoyed an evening programme organised in appreciation of their time and effort in support of various areas of MND Family's work over the past year.

MND Awards Presentation Ceremony

Minister Lawrence Wong presented the MND Awards to volunteers who have served MND Family with distinction. The MND Medallion for distinguished service was presented to recently retired board members and committee members of MND Family agencies and the MND Dedicated Service Award was presented to long-serving volunteers.

Recipients of the MND Medallion included Mr Tan Gee Paw and Mr Lee Tzu Yang, both of whom had served with distinction on the Centre for Liveable Cities Advisory Board since 2008.



A warm welcome by Minister for National Development and Second Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong at MND Huddle 2017.



Minister Lawrence Wong presenting the MND Medallion to Mr Tan Gee Paw (left) and the MND Dedicated Service Award to Professor Leo Tan (right) in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the MND Family.

One of the MND Dedicated Service Award recipients was Professor Leo Tan, who was recognised for 20 years of inspiring service with the National Parks Board.

Appreciating our Volunteers and Partners

As part of the programme, MND Huddle guests enjoyed a pre-dinner guided tour of the Flower Dome conservatory. Decked out in a seasonal Christmas floral display themed "Poinsettia Wishes", the



Guests enjoyed a guided tour of the spectacular “Poinsettia Wishes” Christmas display in the Flower Dome conservatory at Gardens by the Bay.



Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for National Development Desmond Lee (rightmost, standing) with MND Huddle guests.



A beautiful rendition of “Heal the World” by soprano soloist Lauren Yeo accompanied by Lil’ Wings dancers from Very Special Arts Singapore.



Watch the MND Huddle 2017 video featuring volunteers and partners [here](#).

winter wonderland showcase brought a wistful touch of magic to the evening.

As dinner was served, the MND Huddle 2017 video was screened. The video showcased MND Family volunteers and partners sharing what home means to them and what inspires them to work with MND agencies to shape a better home in Singapore.

Watch the video [here](#).

Guests were also treated to a beautiful rendition of “Heal the World” by local soprano soloist Lauren Yeo accompanied by Lil’ Wings dancers from [Very Special Arts Singapore](#), which provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities to participate in the arts.

PEOPLE

Reimagining a city to love

Architecture and Sustainable Design Assistant Professor Dr Chong Keng Hua encourages everyone to reimagine city spaces as meaningful places for communities



The process may come in different forms, but participatory design's underlying values of shared responsibility and empowered citizenry is what makes the designs more responsive and sustainable.



*Dr Chong Keng Hua
Assistant Professor, Architecture and Sustainable Design
Singapore University of Technology and Design*

Keng Hua's passion for social architecture and collaborative place-making stems from a desire to do more for society by harnessing the power of place to strengthen communities. An Assistant Professor of Architecture and Sustainable Design at the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) and co-founder of [ReallyArchitecture](#) (re:ACT), a society that advocates socially sustainable architecture and urban design, Keng Hua partners community and government organisations in empowering citizens to shape the places where they live, work and play.

How did you first develop an interest in social architecture and collaborative place-making?

It began back when I was a graduate student. A group of us questioned whether architects could do more for our society, so we put together a public exhibition called "Let's TAP (Talk About Place)" focusing on the power of place and the role of architects as place-makers. The overwhelming response motivated us to co-found re:ACT. We held talks and workshops on place-making with schools and government agencies. At the same time, I began my research on public spaces, which gradually built towards my deep interest in social architecture and collaborative place-making today.

What is place-making and why is it important for Singapore?

According to Schneekloth and Shibley (1995), place-making is "the way in which all human beings transform the places they find themselves into the places where they live". But there is no fixed way, as places can be as diverse as people, and people need choices.

In an urban environment like Singapore, the buildings and spaces are often already planned for and designed. Place-making, with its underlying conditions of diversity, adaptability, fluidity, and human-centricity, thus becomes an important counteractive force to improve our quality of life and to live comfortably in a planned city.

What is a great public space like?

It allows adaptability, promotes diversity, and makes people want to stay. A place that has a lot of people passing by is not necessarily a good public space; a great public space makes you want to pause, slows you down, and shows you around. A great public space is never formal and does not require you to fit in; everyone feels welcomed. It offers surprise because it's ever-changing and never the same – it allows many things to happen and unfold over time.

Could you share an example of this in Singapore?

One vivid example is a local hawker centre or coffeeshop. They may be commercial spaces, but they are also great social spaces where people meet to catch up over coffee or meals, play chess, or discuss business. Whether you are wearing office attire or a casual shirt, you feel at ease. And there are always activities taking place, adding sounds, smells, and colours to the place.

If we can learn from these qualities, other places can become successful public spaces too. Marina Barrage, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, and Enabling Village are excellent examples of how civic, healthcare or social infrastructure projects can be transformed into places well-loved by community when public spaces are integral parts of the designs. Some of these projects will be featured in the Singapore Pavilion, which I'm curating for the Venice Biennale 2018.

How can participatory design make our city more liveable, and loveable, for people?

Often we feel that responsibility for a space or a city lies with the authorities. That was probably the right approach in the past as we needed to solve many urgent issues at a very fast pace. Today, I think we need to redefine "responsibility" as "response-ability", i.e. "ability to respond". Every one of us can play a part in responding to our environment, and this is where participatory design comes in. The process may come in different forms, but participatory design's underlying values of shared responsibility and empowered citizenry is what makes the designs more responsive and sustainable. When people feel more ownership, they love the place more, whether it is their neighbourhood or the city. And they would want to do more for it.

How can individuals start getting involved?

It can always start at the individual level. For instance, at the block where I stay, there is a niche on the wall at the lift lobby where residents would leave stuff for neighbours to take. These include old books, old DVDs, home decorations, and even packet food! The items are usually gone within minutes. There is no sign or official announcement, but in an unspoken manner it has become an informal place of exchange among neighbours.

There are many more examples in other parts of Singapore where residents, especially older residents, work with one another to transform their void deck or lawn spaces for the community to enjoy. Some of these case studies are documented in our new book "[Creative](#)

PARK(ing) Day SG

What started in 2013 as a prototype project by a group of students, design professionals and residents to adapt a few streetside parking lots into "gateways" for pedestrians to safely cross a busy street has evolved into a large-scale annual event that promotes re-imagining of public spaces as community-centric places.



Images: Chong Keng Hua

[Ageing Cities: Place Design with Older People in Asian Cities](#)".

What inspired you to bring PARK(ing) Day to Singapore?

I first encountered PARK(ing) Day in Boston back in 2012 when I was a visiting faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. I was amazed by how people just randomly occupied parking lots in and around the campus, promoting their causes through self-made public spaces. I thought this was so simple and impactful!

Initiating PARK(ing) in Singapore was not something we had planned from the start. Working with [Participate in Design](#) and re:ACT, we just wanted to help make a street in MacPherson a little safer. After the ideation process and working with residents, we realised that the simplest way to do a prototype would be to adapt parking lots along the street to create a safe "gateway" for pedestrians to cross while alerting motorists to slow down. That was when I shared with the team about PARK(ing) Day. With support from SUTD and Archifest, the student team did the prototype, registered on the global PARK(ing) Day website, and created Singapore's first PARK(ing) Day!

How did the partnership with URA come about?

We didn't get much attention during the first year, and actually didn't think of continuing, until I was approached by URA the following year as they were keen to find out how we managed to do it by ourselves, and whether we would want to do it again. That got us excited. With URA fronting the programme and inviting the public to join, we were tasked with creating an activity hub for the second edition of PARK(ing) Day. A new batch of SUTD students from the student club SUTDIO was recruited, this time in collaboration with COLOURS, a public



A great public space is never formal and does not require you to fit in; everyone feels welcomed.

It offers surprise because it's ever-changing and never the same – it allows many things to happen and unfold over time.



space design consultancy. We made Jalan Besar the main location and attracted about 20 parks, with various shops, schools and organisations taking part.

We continued to lead this movement in subsequent years, and in the fourth year in 2016, SUTD and URA formalised an agreement to co-organise PARK(ing) Day Singapore.

You are also working with HDB on a project for "new urban kampungs" – what is your vision for this?

Singaporeans now desire a more collaborative relationship between society and government. Our aim for this research programme is to develop various conceptual frameworks and practical tools for both residents and government agencies, to promote vibrant and collaborative communities, thereby enhancing community bonding in our housing estates.

More broadly, this project urges us to rethink the future of housing in Singapore. It should be more than just a place to live in - the future of housing is collaborative and inspiring neighbourhoods where residents experience and achieve important moments in their lives: relationships, community, health, enjoyment and personal goals. It might not be possible to replicate traditional kampungs in the HDB context, but through a deeper understanding

of changing demographics and neighbourhood-based quality of life, we envision that the design of future housing would bring about new forms of collaborative and resilient living environments.

Where do you see more potential for lively, inclusive social spaces?

I think it's about time we re-think many of our urban spaces and infrastructure, especially mono-functional ones that have lived out their usefulness. We should explore new ways to make them relevant and lively for people and communities again. Beyond parking lots, we could look into underutilised buildings such as vacant warehouses, old schools, or underused spaces beneath MRT tracks or surrounding housing blocks. I was fortunate to be involved in a book project commissioned by Lien Foundation, to re-think such spaces specifically for future senior living. Our ideas were recently published in a book, "[Second Beginnings – Senior Living Redefined](#)".

Find out more about URA's [Our Favourite Place](#) programme which supports ground-up initiatives to enliven public spaces at [here](#).

Find out more about HDB's [Friendly Faces, Lively Places Fund](#) which supports community-driven place-making projects in the heartlands at [here](#).

PEOPLE

Paying it forward with passion

Community In Bloom Ambassador Gina Ong turns her passion for gardening into a gift for others

“

I feel a sense of satisfaction knowing that the fruits of my labour bring joy and good health to the residents and staff at Foo Hai (Elderly Lodge).

Gina Ong
Community In Bloom Ambassador

”



If Community in Bloom (CIB) Ambassador Gina Ong, 58, had to be a plant, she would be a sunflower standing tall and proud, bringing a 'sunshiney' smile to everyone who looks at her. This is just as well, for every garden can do with a dose of Gina. A sprightly gardening veteran, Gina lifts the spirits of not just her plants and fellow gardeners, but the residents at Foo Hai Elderly Lodge in the Marine Parade estate as well. Since 2015, community gardeners from the Marine Crescent Ville RC Community Garden have been contributing more than 15 kg of edibles every three months to the eldercare centre. And Gina, who saw the set up and subsequent growth of two community gardens – Marine Crescent Ville RC and Laguna Park – has been leading the charge, demonstrating that it is possible to turn your passion into a gift to others.

How did you discover your passion for gardening?

I love food and cooking! But there were times when I couldn't get fresh herbs easily, which was very frustrating, or I had to buy a lot when

I needed just a small quantity. I wished I had a garden where I could harvest fresh herbs and vegetables. An opportunity came when I moved to Marine Crescent and joined the Residents' Committee (RC). The then-Chairman was keen and supportive and managed to secure an empty patch of grass for us to start a community garden. And so it began!

How has the Marine Crescent Ville RC community garden grown since?

When I first started the garden in July 2002, there weren't many resources on the Internet that we could refer to. The only places I could draw inspiration from were the herb gardens at Fort Canning Park and Sentosa. I also learnt how to design landscape gardens from library books. It was from such simple beginnings that the garden grew to become what it is today. We decided that residents of Marine Crescent should be able to enjoy the garden, so we welcomed them to cut herbs for cooking. Initially, some residents would dig up entire plants

and bring them home. But with some education, we spread the message that they should only cut what they need. To get more people involved in gardening, we implemented an "Adopt a plot" programme where volunteers could take ownership of a plot of land. They are welcome to visit and garden at any time of the day, and in consultation with the team, plant crops they like.

Since then our garden has been a great success! And when our garden entered the CIB Awards when the programme was launched, we grew from strength to strength. The garden picked up a Bronze and Diamond award at the competition. Now, our residents love to tend to our garden and even show it off to their friends and relatives, especially during occasions like Hari Raya and Chinese New Year!

How did you decide to share the fruits of your labour (literally) with the neighbourhood elderlies?

When we found out that Foo Hai Elderly Lodge needed to buy large amounts of vegetables from the market and cook for its residents daily, the Marine Parade RC Chairman suggested that



Image: Gina Ong
Marine Crescent Ville RC Kitchen Garden

NParks CIB Ambassador Rosita sharing about the types of harvest from Marine Crescent Ville RC Community Garden with a representative from Foo Hai Elderly Lodge

we share our harvest with them. So whenever we have huge harvests, we bring them to Foo Hai. I feel a sense of satisfaction knowing that the fruits of my labour bring joy and good health to the residents and staff at Foo Hai. They also look forward to our regular contributions! Our edibles are pesticide-free so the elderly can have a healthier diet while the centre saves on marketing, putting the money in other areas to improve the lives of its residents.

What do you look forward to doing in your community garden each time you visit?

I love to meet passionate gardeners who put in precious time to maintain our beautiful and bountiful garden. I also often think of what to plant and how to share our harvests with charitable organisations within our precinct, such as Foo Hai.

What advice do you have for someone interested in volunteering with CIB?

Don't worry if you don't have green fingers. More importantly, you must be passionate about gardening! Do it with your heart and everything will grow for you!

Gina was recently featured in Giving.sg's "East vs. West: The Battle of Good" video series on volunteerism in Singapore. Check out [this video](#) for a glimpse into what it is like to get involved.

Find out more about how you can get involved in NParks' Community In Bloom programme at [here](#).

This article was originally published in NParks publication My Green Space. Read it here: [here](#).

PEOPLE

For the love of animals

It's no walk in the park, but community outreach manager Chong Poh Choo serves out of her passion for the welfare of animals.



Image: AVA

Executive Manager in the Community Relations Department of the Agri-food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) Chong Poh Choo spends her days reaching out to the community on caring for pets responsibly and with consideration for others.

What do you do at work?

I manage AVA's community outreach programme called 'Responsible Pet Ownership' (RPO). We encourage pet owners to be both responsible and considerate. When owners are responsible, their pets will benefit by being healthy, happy and sociable. Considerate and civic-minded pet owners will also contribute to a hygienic and peaceful community, where animals and humans co-exist in harmony.

What activities have you recently engaged in to educate the public on RPO?

Annually, there are two major items in our calendar – an RPO public event, and a matchmaking session between prospective pet owners and rescued animals. For example, in November 2017, we organised the Happy Pets Happy 'Hood II event to educate visitors about animal welfare, responsible pet ownership, considerate pet ownership, and stray animals. This was our second year organising a week-long event at Punggol Waterway Point together with our animal re-homing partners.

Also, from 14 to 16 April 2017, we took part in Pet

Expo and set up 'The Pawfect Match' activity. Taking the format of a speed-dating event, the 'Pawfect Match' allowed potential pet owners to interact with and learn more about the shelter animals that were available for adoption. We worked closely with our animal welfare group partners for these adoption drives. In addition, we conduct outreach via school talks, learning journeys to AVA's Animal Management Centre, and participation in events organised by the community or animal welfare groups. We also advise individuals who are considering pet ownership, and produce collaterals and materials to promote RPO.



Poh Choo taking a group of pre-schoolers through educational exhibits on Responsible Pet Ownership at AVA's Happy Pet, Happy 'Hoods II event

Could you share some lesser-known aspects of your job?

We are a very lean team. Including my Director, there are only three of us. We are seasoned event planners – from conceptualisation to grand openings, we have been through it all. Planning and running an event requires a lot of time, effort, coordination, and dexterity in handling anything unanticipated at the last minute. We stand a lot – usually at events, I am on my feet for about 10 to 12 hours a day. When we conduct learning journeys, we stand for at least two hours. Despite all our hard work, we are sometimes judged harshly by people – this happens especially when we are at public events. I have had an event visitor curse at me to my face and I have been called a hypocrite in public by people who do not agree with AVA's animal control policies. It is a lot of verbal abuse for anyone to take, but as a public-facing AVA officer I just have to keep my cool, listen patiently and, where I can, firmly explain our policies.

What motivates you at work?

It has to be my passion for animal welfare. It is a personal conviction I have towards these animals.

Do you have pets of your own? What is one piece of advice you would give anyone regarding pet care or ownership?

I have two dogs, a cat, a chinchilla, and a gerbil. They were all adopted. I am a firm believer in pet adoption. My oldest dog stays with my parents because he's very used to



The most interesting part of my job is meeting people who want to work together to improve the welfare of pets.



being there. My family and I spend a good amount of time regularly cleaning up after and grooming our pets. Annually, the animals will go to the vet for a regular check-up.

Believe it or not, I always tell people not to keep pets! I think pet ownership is wonderful, but it is really not a walk in the park – literally or not – for everyone. You have to be ready for the responsibilities. If you think someone else in the family or society is going to pick up after your pet, then I don't think you should keep one. I have counselled my friends and relatives on pet-related issues for many years and I know of so many people who give up their

pets because they cannot take the hardship of chores, training, caring, and so on.

What do you find enjoyable and satisfying about your work?

Under the RPO programme, AVA adopted nine animals, and I love caring, playing with, and checking on them. These three cats, a rabbit, two guinea pigs, two chinchillas, and one terrapin love interacting with visitors during our learning journeys and school talks. Seeing them transform from abandoned animals to beloved pets with a cause – and looking absolutely fabulous – gives me an immense sense of satisfaction. Also, I love meeting people – pre-schoolers, students, aunties, uncles... I love being able to share with them about RPO and to listen to them, be it their stories or their rants!

Watch a video of Poh Choo introducing herself and her work at [here](#).

Find out more about Responsible Pet Ownership [here](#).

This is an abridged version of an article originally published in the AVA Vision publication. Read it [here](#).

PROGRAMME

Back to school to go green

Student interns return to their alma maters to spearhead sustainability initiatives.

Homecoming takes on new meaning for students under the Back to School (B2S) programme run by Building and Construction Authority, Ministry of Education and private industry partners. As part of the internship programme, students from Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) work to help their former primary or secondary schools achieve Green Mark certification.

Known affectionately as “GREENterns”, the students return to their alma maters to spearhead sustainability initiatives and enhance their environmental programmes and infrastructure.

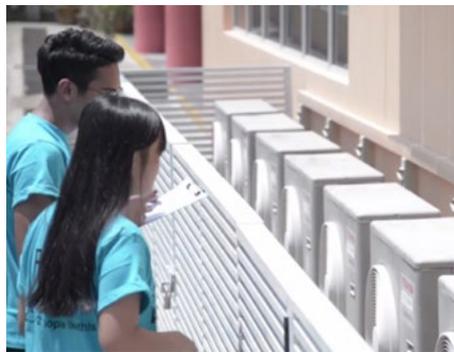
By enhancing the green features and sustainability education framework within the school, the B2S programme is just the start of many schools’ green building journey. This collaboration hopes to trigger a ripple effect to stir up greater ground-up participation and initiatives on environmental sustainability within and beyond school walls.

Journey of a GREENtern



As part of the internship, BCA mentors show GREENterns how to identify green features and areas for improvement in schools. They then work together with the schools to identify implementable recommendations to close these gaps.

Last year, the programme was further enhanced to welcome green-minded built environment firms on board as mentors to help train up the next generation of our green collar workforce. Industry mentors share their insights on the built environment sector and expose GREENterns to a range of job scopes in the industry.



GREENterns conduct health checks on school building systems to identify areas for improvement in energy efficiency, water efficiency, sustainable awareness and educational programmes, and indoor environmental quality.



Workshops are great opportunities for GREENterns to share their knowledge on environmental sustainability with their juniors, have meaningful interactions and exchange innovative ideas.



In a display of passion and initiative, GREENterns went beyond their call of duty to conduct sustainability workshops for their alma mater. In conjunction with Earth Day, they shared with their juniors the importance of playing a part for a more sustainable world.



Putting up recycling posters to enhance waste management practices of the school.



Industry and IHL partners' appreciation session at the International Green Building Conference 2017.



Through the collective efforts of public agencies, private firms, and schools, more than 40 GREENterns from 7 IHLs have been deployed to nearly 70 schools to assist with their Green Mark certifications.

In 2017, the B2S programme and GREENterns received recognition both locally at the Institute of Engineers, Singapore (IES) Prestigious Engineering Award and internationally with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Energy Smart Community Initiatives Gold Award.

Images courtesy of BCA.

About the BCA-MOE Back to School (B2S) Programme

B2S is a collaboration between the Building and Construction Authority, Ministry of Education and private industry partners to get all schools Green Mark certified. The programme provides mentorship and deploys students from Institutes of Higher Learning to their alma maters to spearhead and enhance green initiatives. For more information, visit the BCA website [here](#).



About BCA's Green Mark Scheme

Launched in January 2005, the BCA Green Mark Scheme promotes environmental awareness in the construction and real estate sectors. It is a benchmarking scheme which aims to achieve a sustainable built environment by incorporating best practices in environmental design and construction, and adoption of green technologies. For more information, visit the BCA website [here](#).

IN THE NEWS

Punggol Digital District masterplan exhibition

The Punggol Digital District (PDD) master plan exhibition was unveiled at Punggol Waterway Point on 22 January 2018, inviting the community to discover the exciting plans for the upcoming District.

PDD will be the first District in Singapore to adopt an integrated masterplan approach that combines the planning of community facilities with a business park and a university campus.

The Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) will be housed in PDD with top technology firms in key growth areas of the digital economy such as cybersecurity and data analytics, to foster industry-academia collaboration. Community facilities will include a new hawker centre equipped with electronic payment technology and an automated tray return system, childcare centres, public transport options and a pedestrian street linking PDD to the Punggol residential district and waterfront.

Find out more about the plans for PDD [here](#).



Image: URA

SIT Hospitality Business student and URA volunteer Claudia Ng sharing her excitement for the upcoming Punggol Digital District with visitors to the exhibition.

Spring cleaning with heart at Broom It! Day

On 9 February 2018, about 200 student volunteers participated in the 4th edition of Broom It! Day to add cheer to more than 100 elderly residents living in rental flats in Marsiling. Besides cleaning the elderly's homes, the volunteers also engaged the elderly through a tray painting workshop and performances over dinner. Residents received EASY tables, bedside tables designed by a group of students in consultation with seniors in 2015 to better suit elderly's needs. Thoughtful features of the EASY table include extra large knobs for the drawers, a recessed table top and a sturdy metal frame.

Broom It! Day is a joint initiative between HDB, Singapore Pools and Nippon Paint Singapore, and supported by Ministry of Education.

To find out more about becoming a change maker for your neighbourhood, visit HDB's website [here](#).



Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry & National Development Dr Koh Poh Koon greeting elderly Marsiling residents with Adviser to Marsiling-Yew Tee GRC Grassroots Organisation Zaqu Mohamad during Broom It! Day 2018.

Wheels@Ubin

On 2 March 2018, 120 beneficiaries got the chance to enjoy the rustic charm of Pulau Ubin through the ground-up community initiative “Wheels@Ubin”. Beneficiaries included wheelchair users and individuals with disabilities such as muscular dystrophy and cerebral palsy. For many participants, it was their maiden trip to the island. This is the second edition of Wheels@Ubin, which was first held in 2015. This year’s event also included a visit to the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) Museum at the Changi Naval Base. Volunteers included personnel from the RSN, SMRT Taxis and DBS Bank; students from Republic Polytechnic and Ngee Ann Polytechnic; and medical personnel. The event was also supported by NParks.



Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for National Development Desmond Lee taking a selfie with participants aboard a Fast Craft Utility vessel to Pulau Ubin as part of ground-up community initiative Wheels@Ubin.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Singapore Orchid Show 2018



Image: NParks

21 - 29 April 2018

8.30 am - 7 pm (last admission at 6 pm)

National Orchid Garden and other parts of Singapore Botanic Gardens

The Singapore Garden Festival is back, bigger and better, with two new show formats to complement the main show - the Singapore Orchid Show this year and Singapore Horticulture Show next year.

The Singapore Orchid Show, jointly organised by the Orchid Society of South East Asia and NParks, will showcase orchid landscape displays and award-winning orchid plants. Talks, demonstrations and guided tours will be organised for visitors to learn more about orchids.

Admission is free. For more information, visit the Singapore Garden Festival website [here](#).

Pet Expo 2018

6 - 8 April 2018

11 am - 8 pm

Singapore Expo Hall 7

Join the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) at Pet Expo 2018 to learn more about responsible pet ownership and meet the animals up for adoption. You will get to meet adoptable cats and dogs and have a chance to cuddle up with them at AVA's The Pawfect Match booth.

This is a ticketed event. For more information, visit the Pet Expo website [here](#).



HDB Community Week 2018

19 - 25 May 2018

Yishun Town Square (3 Northpoint Drive)

&

26 - 27 May 2018

Our Tampines Hub (Tampines Avenue 5)

The HDB Community Week exhibits the rich tapestry of our heartland experiences through an array of exciting and engaging activities. Join us in the annual celebration of community spirit in our heartlands!

[Register now](#) for the popiah-making session on 19 May 2018 at Yishun Town Square.

Admission is free. For more information, visit the HDB website [here](#).

Good Neighbours, Let's Roll!

Join us for a rolling good time with games and popiah-making!

DATE	19 May 2018, Saturday
TIME	4:00pm - 8:30pm
LOCATION	Yishun Town Square (3 Northpoint Drive)

To register, email us your full name, age, email, contact no., postal code and no. of participants at HDB_Community_Partnerships@hdb.gov.sg

Each participant will get a souvenir and the 1st 50 sign-ups will receive an additional early bird gift!

OPEN TO ALL
 Limited vacancies!
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