



**SINGAPORE
HERITAGE
SOCIETY**
Research • Education • Advocacy

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 August 2014

The Singapore Heritage Society was established in 1986 as a Society. It was registered under the Charities Act on 12 March 1987 and was granted Institution of Public Character status on 14 January 2009.

OBJECTIVE

The Society is dedicated to the preservation, transmission and promotion of Singapore's history, heritage and identity. The Society further aims to promote active interest in the cultural life and history of Singapore and to initiate action on research, evaluation, documentation, publication, collection, display, and preservation and restoration of skills and items of historical interest.

UEN Number:

S87SS0042J

Registered Address:

Singapore Heritage Society
50 East Coast Road
#02-73 Roxy Square
Singapore 428769

CONTENTS

Management Committee and Advisors	3
President's Message	4
Research and Advocacy	8
Outreach	17
Media Coverage	21
Events	24
Publications	26
Membership	27
Review of Financial State and Explanation of Major Financial Transactions	28
Appendix: Statement of Accounts for FY Ending 31 March 2014	

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE & ADVISORS

Management Committee	<p>The Management Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 28 September 2013 is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dr Chua Ai Lin (President)2. Dr Terence Chong (Vice-President)3. Dr Yeo Kang Shua (Hon Secretary)4. Mr Timothy Pwee (Hon Treasurer)5. Mr Tan Wee Cheng (Advisor on Finance & Governance)6. Mr Alex Tan Tiong Hee (Member)7. Mr Tony Tan (Member)8. Mr Dinesh Naidu (Member)9. Mr Siva Krishnasamy (Member)10. Dr Christina Loong (Member)
Trustees	NIL
Banker	OCBC Bank
Auditor	Louise Neo & Co 1 Fifth Avenue #03-08 Guthrie House Singapore 268802
Investment Advisor	NIL
Other Advisor(s)	NIL

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR THE YEAR 2013–2014

The first year of my term as president of the Singapore Heritage Society has passed too quickly, as can be expected in fast-paced Singapore. More importantly, demands and expectations of the Singapore Heritage Society have been growing. No longer is it enough to have a full calendar of specialist talks and books on lesser-known aspects of Singapore's past, we are now facing an unprecedented interest in local heritage and nostalgia. The amount of work is an increasing challenge for our fully volunteer-run Society.

What we stand for

If heritage is 'the living presence of the past', then SHS's role today must be to enter into public conversations and policy-making deliberations to provide an informed perspective that upholds a commitment to authenticity and integrity in representing the past, a respect for local communities, and advocating where possible, continuity of both tangible and intangible aspects of Singapore life. Contrary to the common assumption that development and heritage are at odds with each other, we argue for heritage as an *integral part* of sustainable development. Our tagline of 'Research, Education, Advocacy', is a succinct reminder that research is made meaningful by putting it out into society, through public awareness and then advocating for what we feel is a better way of doing things.

What we do

At a closed-door session at the Institute of Policy Studies in May 2014, the participants – among whom were Deputy Secretaries of various ministries – discussed the palpable sense of nostalgia amongst Singaporeans and desire to preserve spaces that provide a link to the past, as well as the 'ugly side' of nostalgia and how to channel these sentiments in a more positive direction. The past twelve months has seen an overwhelming list of places in Singapore faced with imminent, massive change as indicated in the new URA Master Plan 2014: Bukit Brown cemetery, the Central Catchment Area, sites in Thomson affected by construction for the North-South Expressway, public housing estates at Tanglin Halt and Dakota Crescent, the Sungei Road flea market, Zouk nightclub and rustic Bottle Tree Park in Yishun. Each case has provoked a wave of anxiety and cumulatively they add up to a growing sense of displacement within one's own country.



Exhumation notice at Bukit Brown, opposite Sikh guards statue at the tomb of Chew Geok Leong.

Hence there are two main fronts of action for our Society: the general public as well as policy-makers and public servants. In terms of the former, our social media following has seen a spike in engagement since the second quarter of 2014 with up to 6000-odd views on the most popular Facebook posts and over 3470 Likes on the Facebook Page. In the last twelve months, we have also chalked up 55 mentions in the mainstream media, mostly through interviews where we commented on heritage-related current affairs. Our talks and forums are free and open to the public, though these reach a much smaller, albeit more engaged, audience. With respect to communicating with the state, SHS has the advantage of twenty-seven years' experience in advocacy, and the current team is fortunate to find itself facing a more open political climate and a new generation of administrators. Government agencies now actively seek to engage stakeholders and we hope this trend will establish the practice of public consultation in a deeper and more consistent fashion throughout the system.

The proliferation of specific historical sites that face irreversible change are too numerous and diverse for SHS's small, volunteer team to actively champion every case. Instead, our approach is to advocate for the adoption of heritage impact assessments (HIA) as an essential tool for policy-making. This involves firstly, the systematic gathering of data about tangible, as well as *intangible*, values of a site, and then distilling what is the significance of the site before assessing how proposed changes would impact those values. The last stage would then be to propose a course of action to limit the impact of change on valuable elements of the site as well as to monitor the mitigation actions after they have been implemented. In identifying places and practices of value, the local community must necessarily be involved, and it is the duty of impact assessment researchers to incorporate this ground-up perspective. In the words of SHS's founding president, William S.W. Lim, at the time when the Old National Library was facing demolition in 2000,

Memories of the people cannot be quantified and assigned an exchange value. Cities have enormously complex communal histories and memories. Urban life is actually based on the perpetual struggle between rigid routinised order in pleasurable anarchy. The inclusion of memories as an essential urban design criterion can be problematic for many policymakers. However, it is an essential condition of our experience. We must consciously elevate the value of visual memories in the urban environment before beyond the criteria of commodification.¹

Our future goals include capacity-building through training in specialised skills required for HIA, as well as cultural mapping skills for use at the professional and community level. This is the best approach for multiplying and consolidating SHS's national impact.

Our members

Singapore Heritage Society members are those who share our vision and commitment to speaking up for local heritage and individuals with a zeal for new knowledge. This year, we mark another milestone, with the highest number of members in the history of the Society – a grand total of 264 today, a fifth of those joining since January 2014. Not only is this an important sign of support for our work, memberships are an important source of funding to defray the running costs of the society.

Our members enjoy exclusive access to specialist-led heritage tours both within Singapore

¹ Singapore Heritage Society, *Memories and the National Library: Between Forgetting and Remembering* (Singapore: Singapore Heritage Society, 2000), p. 7.

and an annual overseas trip. In December this year, we look forward to visiting Myanmar with the well-known urban historian, Dr Lai Chee Kien.



Kampung Gelam cemetery tour with Dr Imran Tajudeen, 16 August 2014.

Donations

Our members have also demonstrated their generosity and support in both cash and kind. We hope more will come forward to support the Society with a growing awareness of SHS's status as a charity with Institution of Public Character (IPC), which offers tax rebates to donors. More uniquely, we have had members sharing their passion for the past in other ways: Mr Hsien Yoong How and Mr Lim Kheng Chye produced a calendar for SHS featuring their collection of historical postcards, while Mr Ng Seng has given the Society twenty copies of his new book, *Culture in Clay: Symbolism and Iconography in Chinese Ceramics*. We are offering a copy to any individual donating \$500 and above; in this way, a single act of charity can spark off a chain of giving.

Government grants are another source we have begun tapping into. This is the second year that the National Heritage Board have nominated SHS to receive funding from the Tote Board's President's Gold Cup Charity, and a new Cultural Matching Fund from the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth offers generous donation matching grants which we will be applying for. Moving forward, we hope our rising public profile will enable us to attract more corporate donors and sponsors.

Future Plans

With more funding, we will be able to tackle our advocacy, capacity-building and public outreach efforts by expanding our organisational manpower, commissioning research and policy proposals from professionals in specific fields, inviting local and overseas experts to share their knowledge and being able to pay for the operational costs of holding events.

Firstly, for our main advocacy issue of Bukit Brown, we will require funds to (a) commission proposals for the research, curation and display of artefacts salvaged from exhumed graves and (b) proposals for how the rest of Bukit Brown, if preserved in situ, can function as a meaningful community space that continues to contribute to the needs of Singapore and Singaporeans in the future. These plans will be put forward to the authorities in order to continue to make a strong case for saving Bukit Brown.

Secondly, to build capacity in Heritage Impact Assessments and cultural mapping, which are fields relatively new to Singapore, it will be necessary to invite local and overseas experts to conduct training workshops and talks. These would be targeted at different audiences:

industry professionals and public administrators, as well as the amateur enthusiasts and the general public.

Thirdly, we will continue with the interesting schedule of specialist historical talks, seminars and tours that SHS has become known for, but more resources will enable us to have better administrative and logistical support, better venues and a more diverse range of activities.

With thanks to our supporters and volunteers

My appreciation is first of all to SHS immediate past president, Dahlia Shamsuddin, under whose leadership and guidance I learnt the ropes of managing the Society, in my post as vice-president for the preceding two years. The successful funding application to Tote Board overseen by Dahlia has been very important for SHS this year, and she was also responsible for events planned during the handover period to the new Executive Committee.

Although 'skills-based volunteerism' has only recently become the buzzword in the VWO sector, SHS has always been fortunate to attract experts and professionals who lend their brains, voice and time to our mission. The current Executive Committee, our ex-officio who continue to advise and assist as well as many of our volunteers are no exception. The work involved is immense but we have been able to achieve much and punch above our weight, as recorded in this Annual Report, only because of their efforts. For a fully volunteer-run organisation like ours, we would be nothing without these dedicated individuals. I would like to express my sincere thanks to them, on behalf of all SHS members.

Our Society is also extremely grateful to Ms Wendy Chua for her hard work and dedication in providing administrative services, as well as her lively and caring personality that makes the work of the Executive Committee less burdensome.

Last, but certainly not least, we are deeply indebted to the generosity of individuals and corporations who have donated their time, effort, or resources in cash or kind. In particular to our venue sponsors, without whom our Society's activities would not have been possible: Select Books, Urban Redevelopment Authority, Asian Civilisations Museum, National Library Board, Newton Circus and The Private Museum.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chua Ai Lin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chua Ai Lin
President

RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

Advocacy in its broadest sense is the key work of the Singapore Heritage Society. We advocate a deeper understanding of Singapore's past, amongst a broader spectrum of society, and also advocate for best practices in heritage management. The research and public education work we do are the building blocks for heritage advocacy. While we do take up advocacy for the preservation of specific historical sites which are under threat, our larger objective is to emphasise the *underlying principles* behind the meaning or management of such sites. We believe that greater stakeholder engagement in the planning process will result in more robust solutions that fulfil the social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainable development.

We conduct this advocacy at several different levels:

- Tours for SHS members and the public
- Talks, forums and seminars open to SHS members and the public
- Scholarly articles and conference papers
- Publications for the general public
- Disseminating information on social media
- Interviews with the media (see section, 'Media Coverage')
- Representation on governmental advisory committees
- Participation at government feedback sessions

In 2013-2014, our activities have addressed the following advocacy issues:

1. Bukit Brown

- a. *Representation on the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA)'s Bukit Brown Documentation Project Advisory Committee.*

This committee oversees and advises on the Documentation Project's Working Committee, which documented the graves being exhumed to build an 8-lane road. The bulk of the documentation work has been completed and can be viewed at the official website <http://bukitbrown.info>.

- b. *Recommendations made to the National Heritage Board (NHB) on artefacts of value and conservation best practices.*
- c. *On-going discussions with relevant agencies on the preservation of artefacts and the value of preserving remaining sections of Bukit Brown in situ.*
- d. *Feedback to the Ministry of National Development (MND) on the Draft Master Plan on 16 December 2013.*

In line with the Planning Act which mandates a period for public feedback on the Draft Master Plan, SHS wrote to MND objecting to the proposed 8-lane road through Bukit Brown, calling for the public release of all relevant studies and impact assessments done on the Bukit Brown area as well as for a hearing to enable a fuller discussion with a broader range of stakeholders, before making a decision.

- e. *Presentations on 'Policy Trade-Offs: Live Case of Bukit Brown Cemetery' to participants in the NUS Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy Senior Management Programme (7 June 2013) and Executive Seminar (28 November 2013).*

Through presentations and a guided walk, SHS explained the Bukit Brown case in terms of policy making and public consultation to audiences of management-level public servants and journalists.

- f. *'The Multiple Spaces of Bukit Brown' by Terence Chong and Chua Ai Lin with photographs by Terence Heng, published in William S.W. Lim (ed.), Public Space in Urban Asia (Singapore: World Scientific Publishing, 2014).*

This scholarly paper examined the different meanings of Bukit Brown as a colonial space, a ritualised space, an authentic and transcendental space and a local space gone global.

- g. *Forum on 'Globalising the Local: World Heritage in Singapore' (Sun, 10 November 2013, Ngee Ann Auditorium, Asian Civilisations Museum).*

This forum compared two sites in Singapore with claims to world heritage significance: the Singapore Botanic Gardens which has been nominated by the Singapore government as the country's first UNESCO World Heritage site and Bukit Brown, which was selected by the World Monuments Fund for its 2013 Watch List of endangered sites.

- h. *Nomination of All Things Bukit Brown (atBB) for the inaugural Singapore Advocacy Awards by SHS.*

In August 2014, atBB were shortlisted for the award. All Things Bukit Brown have been tirelessly championing the Bukit Brown cause, having led free volunteer tours weekly for about 12,000 visitors and successfully nominated Bukit Brown for inclusion in the World Monuments Fund's World Monuments Watch for endangered sites.

- i. *Letter to the Straits Times (15 May 2014), 'Bukit Brown: No consultation to extract concessions'.* Jointly-written with All Things Bukit Brown, this letter pointed errors in a Straits Times feature article by clarifying that no consultation was conducted with respect to development plans for Bukit Brown, and no significant changes were made to design of the 8-lane road as a result of consultation.

- j. *Aerial videos of Bukit Brown.* Two aerial videos were filmed by Joel Chan for SHS before the exhumation and road construction works began. These provide a unique visual documentation of the landscape. The videos can be viewed at the SHS YouTube channel at

<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC90OJYiDW2vu1VKecq7P3Yw>

2. The Rail Corridor

- a. *Rail Corridor Interactive Map*

This map is available free on the SHS website:

<http://singaporeheritage.org/railcorridor>. Based on a research and documentation project of the railway heritage of Singapore conducted by SHS. As part of this exercise, a team of architectural conservators, photographers and geographer undertook a systematic

photo-documentation and GIS mapping of the former railway line (the main north-south line from Tanjong Pagar to Woodlands). This fieldwork establishes a baseline visual record and inventory of the railway landscape at this point in time prior to future developments. SHS hopes that making the railway heritage interactive map available as an online resource will stimulate public interest and discourse, inform sensitive development plans, and spur further research into this important part of Singapore's history.



Rail Corridor interactive map screenshot from SHS website.

- b. *Rail Corridor Oral History Project.*
 With the support of the National Library Board, SHS carried out interviews with fifty individuals who were selected to provide accounts of institutional, community and passenger histories of the KTM Railway in Singapore. These oral histories complement the gazetting of the Tanjong Pagar Railway Station with the intangible memories and experiences of the railway line. These interviews have been added to the collection of NLB's Singapore Memory Project.
- c. *Rail Corridor visitor's map marking heritage and nature highlights.*
 A project in progress, this map is being compiled and designed by Dr Lai Chee Kien, jointly supported by SHS and the Nature Society (Singapore).
- d. *Representation on the URA's Rail Corridor Partnership committee.*

3. Pulau Ubin

- a. *Friends of Ubin network set up by the Ministry of National Development (MND).*

In December 2013, SHS was invited by Minister of State for MND, Desmond Lee, to be part of this network aimed at brainstorming and discuss proposals for the appropriate management of Pulau Ubin in order to maintain its rustic character and sustainability as a recreational site. The network includes MND, National Parks Board, Urban Redevelopment Authority, National Heritage Board as well as invited representatives with nature and heritage interests, and people with deep experience of Pulau Ubin.

Members of SHS with specific knowledge and interest in Pulau Ubin have attended three sessions since December 2013, emphasising the need for consideration of the human settlement on the island in tandem with the natural landscape and promoting cultural mapping as an essential tool in

policy making. At the session on 25 July 2014, SHS President, Chua Ai Lin, gave a short presentation on the usefulness of cultural mapping as a policy-making tool.

- b. *Draft proposal recommending a scope of work for cultural and ethnographic mapping of Pulau Ubin.*

This was submitted by SHS to MND in June 2014 with the intention that such data would form an important basis for future planning.

- c. *Facebook group on Pulau Ubin.*

This was set up by SHS members in May 2014 and is jointly managed with Ria Tan of Wild Singapore. The objective is to provide a common platform for the sharing of news and information and photographs by the public. There are 394 members as of 26 August 2014.

- d. *Curator's Tour of Balik Pulau exhibition for MOS Desmond Lee, 23 July 2014.*

This exhibition at the National Museum of Singapore for HeritageFest 2014 presented the history of Singapore's offshore islands from cultural, economic and environmental perspectives. With its relevance to Pulau Ubin, SHS arranged for a private tour by the curators, Marcus Ng and Yu-Mei Balansingamchow, for MOS Desmond Lee, who is in charge of MND's Ubin Project.

4. Chinatown-Kreta Ayer

- a. *Background.*

In 1998, SHS raised public objections to major plans by the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) to makeover Chinatown. The resulting debate, heated public forum and subsequent moves towards working together by STB and SHS became the subject of a case study on public consultation written up by Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and is taught in the Singapore Civil Service College. SHS's position paper and documentation of the unfolding of events were published as *Rethinking Chinatown and Heritage Conservation in Singapore* (Singapore: Singapore Heritage Society, 2000). The position paper recommended taking stock of the tangible and intangible assets of Chinatown-Kreta Ayer and using a more community-driven approach to development.

On 25 June 2013, SHS was invited to give a presentation on 'Public Participation: Case of Chinatown in Singapore' and guided visit to Chinatown for participants in the NUS Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy Senior Management Programme. The lessons learnt in 1998-99 and SHS's recommendations for Chinatown remain equally relevant today. Recent events in 2012-2013 including the redevelopment of Food Street in by the Chinatown Business Association and the plans for revamping of the Chinatown Heritage Centre owned by STB. This makes it timely to revisit the earlier work of SHS to ensure that what was achieved in 1999 are not reversed by developments today.

- b. *Chinatown Heritage Centre.*

In December 2013, SHS was invited by STB to sit on the evaluation panel for selection of the Visitor Experience Design contract tendered out for the

revamp of the museum, and subsequently invited to attend a 'Chinatown Heritage Centre Rejuvenation Engagement Session' (29 April 2014) on the proposals by the company appointed. Throughout, SHS has emphasised the importance of a community-based approach to presenting the history of the area. STB hopes to continue to work with SHS to provide programming for the museum.

c. *'Chinatown CoLAB' hackathon (28-30 March 2014).*

Organised by UP Singapore and STB, this event was planned to solicit innovative IT solutions to improve the visitor experience in Chinatown. SHS worked closely with UP Singapore to conceptualise the programme and provide historical and heritage content in presentations to the participants and the mentoring of project groups.

d. *'The People's Chinatown Tour'.*

Developed by SHS ExCo member and professional heritage guide, Tony Tan, this tour gives an in-depth look into the everyday residential, community and commercial spaces of Chinatown-Kreta Ayer in HDB blocks and shopping malls, presenting a very different experience of Chinatown from the tourist stalls along the streets of conservation shophouses. This tour has been run several times for different audiences: SHS members, the general public and upon request for school groups.



'People's Chinatown' tour with Tony Tan, 12 July 2014.

e. *Mentoring of school project groups.*

From May to August 2014, SHS was approached by Hwa Chong Institution, Victoria School and Temasek Junior College for advice or collaboration on heritage projects in Chinatown-Kreta Ayer. We have shared our vision and approach through meetings with the teachers and students, a workshop on Cultural Mapping co-organised with URA, tours of Chinatown, and introduced them to local stakeholders. We will continue to work with the project groups.

f. *Community connections in Chinatown-Kreta Ayer.*

Through SHS member, Victor Yue, a lifelong resident of the area who is well-known for his blog and Facebook Group titled 'Bullockcartwater', SHS has been reaching out to organisations, businesses, clan associations, arts groups (both traditional and contemporary) as well as people who live and

work in the area to share our approach laid out in *Rethinking Chinatown and Heritage Conservation in Singapore*.

5. Tours to vulnerable or endangered historical sites.

- a. *Mun San Fook Tuck Chee temple walking tour (22 February 2014).*
Conducted by Ang Yik Han, this tour explained the history of Mun San Fook Tuck Chee, which dates from the late 19th century. It represents the history of industrial Kallang, having served Cantonese and Hakka workers at brickmaking industry. The temporary occupation license for the temple expired in June 2014.
- b. *Haw Par Villa tour (23 March 2014).*
As part of the Tourism50 series of events, SHS was invited by the Singapore Tourism Board to experience this new tour of Haw Par Villa developed by Journeys - The Original Singapore Walks. Dating from the 1950s and built on the grounds of the Aw Brothers' 1930s art deco mansion, this unique and well-loved attraction faces an uncertain future as it is not gazetted as a protected site. Under the Master Plan 2014, the Pasir Panjang Port Terminal will be relocated after 2027, making way for the 'The Greater Southern Waterfront' to become an extension of the city with new office, residential and recreational developments.
- c. *Awaken the Dragon clay workshop (14 June 2014).*
This was held at the Jalan Bahar Clay Studios' dragon kiln on by Awaken the Dragon, an independent project in its second year of promoting public awareness of Singapore's two remaining historical dragon kilns. Their advocacy led to the extension of the lease for the dragon kilns for three-years at a time, up to a maximum of nine years, after which the land is intended for redevelopment. At this session specially organised for SHS, participants were given a tour of the dragon kiln before making their own clay receptacles which will be fired with thousands of other pieces at the Thow Kwang Dragon Kiln in November 2014.
- d. *Lighthouse Tours (19 & 20 July 2014).*
These tours were researched, conceptualised and planned by SHS for the Singapore HeritageFest, organised by the National Museum of Singapore in July 2014. The tours were planned to accompany SHS's exhibition on 'Lighthouses of Singapore' for HeritageFest. In addition to giving visitors rare access to Raffles Lighthouse (1885), the tour also passed by Sultan Shoal Lighthouse (1896) which will be decommissioned in the future as a result of extensive land reclamation works currently underway. The future of Sultan Shoal Lighthouse is uncertain.
- e. *Kampung Gelam Malay Cemetery tour (16 August 2014).*
The tour was conducted by Dr Imran Tajudeen, the lead researcher who is documenting the cemetery. The graveyards around Jalan Kubor off Victoria Street, Kampung Gelam, is the only sizable cemetery connected with early 19th century Singapore – and possibly with settlements preceding 1819 – that is still largely undisturbed. It is an important part of Kampung Gelam's history but has been excluded from the "Kampong Glam Conservation District" boundary. Forming part of the old royal port town that was

developed when Tengku Long of Riau was installed as Sultan Hussein in Singapore, it is aligned along the royal axis of the town. within this compact site is the final resting place of numerous traders and individuals of diverse ethnicity from the old port towns of our region and beyond – neighbouring Riau, Palembang, and Pontianak, as well as Banjarmasin, and Javanese and Bugis ports further afield, as well as persons of Indian and Arab descent. New research by Dr Imran has revealed many details of its rich history, and more study remains to be done. This cemetery is currently excluded from the designated Kampung Gelam Conservation District and is slated for development under URA’s Master Plan.



Kampung Gelam Malay Cemetery tour with Dr Imran Tajudeen, 16 August 2014.

6. Architectural conservation

- a. *Our Modern Past book project.*
One of SHS’s long-running research projects, this book project aims to research and document Singapore’s modern architectural history and heritage from the 1930s, in order to promote awareness and appreciation of this architecture among architects, planners, policy makers and the general public. Drawing on specially commissioned photographs, original interviews with architects as well as previously unpublished archival materials, this book will be published in two volumes, with the first of two volumes for launch in 2014.
- b. *‘Collaborating to preserve the Singapore story’, an op-ed in TODAY newspaper (Thursday, 19 December 2013).*
Written by SHS Executive Committee members, Terence Chong and Yeo Kang Shua, this commentary praised the move towards greater transparency and a consultative approach by the URA in launching its My Conservation Portal and providing a list of buildings proposed for conservation for public feedback, and also called for clearer evaluation criteria for conservation particularly with respect to the distinction between the URA’s criteria for awarding conservation status and the Preservation of Sites and Monuments Board’s criteria for selection of National Monuments.
- c. *Representation on URA’s Architectural Heritage Awards committee.*

7. World Heritage in Singapore

- a. *Forum on 'Globalising the Local: World Heritage in Singapore' (Sun, 10 November 2013, Ngee Ann Auditorium, Asian Civilisations Museum).*
This forum compared two sites in Singapore with claims to world heritage significance: the Singapore Botanic Gardens which has been nominated by the Singapore government as the country's first UNESCO World Heritage site and Bukit Brown, which was selected by the World Monuments Fund for its 2013 Watch List of endangered sites.



Forum on 'Globalising the Local: World Heritage in Singapore', 10 November 2013.

- a. *'Manufacturing World Heritage in the Global City' by Terence Chong and Tan Wee Cheng.*
This is a scholarly piece being written by two of the SHS Executive Committee members to be included in a book on heritage, state policies and cultural politics in Singapore being edited by Hui Yew-Foong and Daniel Goh, to be published by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS). The chapter explores the politics of international heritage-making institutions and Singapore's experience in championing the Singapore Botanic Gardens for UNESCO World Heritage Site status.
- b. *Representation on the Singapore Botanic Garden's World Heritage Site Management Committee.*

8. Heritage impact assessments for sites facing change

- a. *Conference paper, 'Heritage Assessment: is Singapore ready?' by SHS Executive Committee members, Yeo Kang Shua and Chua Ai Lin, for the conference, State Policy and the Cultural Politics of Heritage-Making in East and Southeast Asia, held at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore, 16-17 January 2014.*
The paper is now being revised for publication in a volume based on the conference, being edited by Hui Yew-Foong and Daniel Goh, to be published by ISEAS. The paper presents a history of conservation policies in Singapore, the role of the Singapore Heritage Society in doing or calling for proto-heritage impact assessments through a series of preservation advocacy issues since the late 1990s, and the need to develop an ecosystem with the professional capabilities to carry out heritage impact assessments.

- b. *Inclusion of intangible factors when assessing impact of potential landscape changes.*

SHS has always recommended that intangible factors such as social memories and a community's ways of life. These arguments have been firmly made in our publications *Our Place in Time* (Singapore: Singapore Heritage Society, 1999), *Memories and the National Library: Between Forgetting and Remembering* (Singapore: Singapore Heritage Society, 2000) and *Rethinking Chinatown and Heritage Conservation in Singapore* (Singapore: Singapore Heritage Society, 2000).

In 2011, SHS started a themed series of events called 'Cakap Heritage', which are more intimate sessions focused on a sharing of personal experiences and interaction amongst the audience and event host. The accounts of everyday experiences and intangible practices of the past discussed at these events illustrate the power and meaning of social memories for Singaporeans, and how they are often to physical locations and spaces. Hosted by SHS Executive Committee member, Alex Tan Tiong Hee with his detailed recollection of Singapore's past, the Cakap Heritage series has built up a reputation and other organisations now seek to partner SHS to organise these events. In 2014, we conducted two Cakap Heritage events with URA, and are planning for others with the National Archives of Singapore.

- c. *Consistent recommendation of impact assessment studies and cultural mapping for all site-specific advocacy projects, as listed above.*

OUTREACH

‘Education’ for SHS means creating awareness and transmitting knowledge to our members as well as the general public and specialised audiences. We have been active in conducting public outreach in various ways: producing a quarterly newsletter, maintaining an active social media profile, providing public lectures or commentary articles upon invitation, particularly to educational and non-profit organisations; and participating in nation-wide or international heritage events with partner organisations. Through the networks and public reach of partner organisations, SHS is able to convey its message to more people and more diverse audiences. In addition, for three years running, SHS has organised an annual seminar for educators and students to present their research and projects relating to Singapore history and heritage.

A. Roots – the SHS newsletter

In July 2014, ExCo members Terence Chong and Dinesh Naidu initiated the revival of SHS’s newsletter, *Roots*, as a quarterly email newsletter. The last time *Roots* was produced was in November 2005. The newsletter aims to provide SHS members and supporters with updates on key events in the heritage sector, the Society and a preview of forthcoming SHS events.

Past issues of *Roots* have been scanned and uploaded on the SHS website at:

http://www.singaporeheritage.org/?page_id=3017

B. Social Media Subscriptions

Members of the public also support and show an interest in the work of SHS by ‘Likes’ on our Facebook Page and subscribing to our Twitter account. Through these mediums, SHS provides daily updates on heritage news by linking to press reports and web pages of interest, as well as publicising our own activities. Instagram, a photo-sharing service, is now the social media network of choice for youths, so in order to reach out to new audiences, an Instagram account has also been created but this remains comparatively dormant due to lack of manpower. These social media pages are updated and maintained jointly by members of the ExCo.

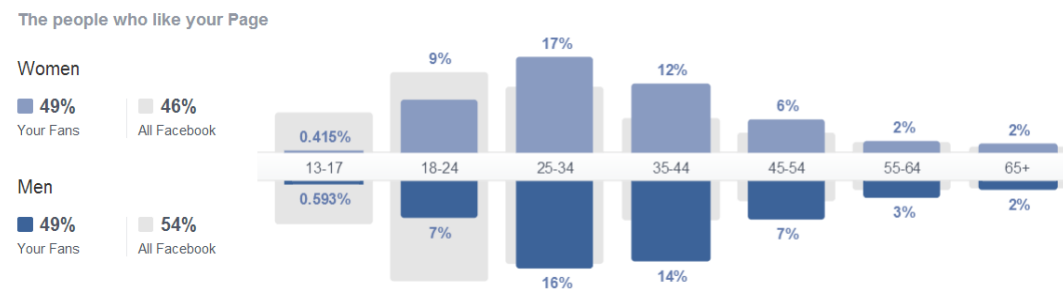
1. SHS Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/sgheritage

The SHS Facebook Page was started in July 2011. In the last one year year, the number of Likes on the SHS Facebook Page increased from 2,460 on 1 September 2013 to 3,460 on 23 August 2014. From April 2013, a faster rate of increase in the number of Likes is observable.



Most of these Likes come from people between the ages of 25 to 44.



In terms of individual posts over the last twelve months, the more ones reached over 4000 readers. SHS did not use any paid Facebook posts.



2. SHS Twitter

http://twitter.com/SgHeritage_Soc

As of 24 August 2014, the SHS Twitter feed had 100 followers and 1,385 tweets. The tweets are generated as copies of the Facebook posting.

3. SHS Instagram

<http://instagram.com/singaporeheritagesociety>

Started in February 2104, the SHS Instagram account provides a channel to reach a younger audience with interesting photographs of heritage content, particularly from SHS tours. Market research shows that Instagram is more popular than Facebook amongst teenagers. Although the SHS Instagram is not used as regularly as our Facebook and Twitter, as of 24 August 2014, there are 62 followers and 51 posts.

C. Partnerships

1. Singapore HeritageFest 2014, organised by the National Museum of Singapore (NMS), National Heritage Board.

In 2014, for the first time, SHS was approached by NMS to organise public activities for the annual HeritageFest. Enthusiastic SHS members worked to put up an exhibition on Lighthouses of Singapore, as well as tours to lighthouses, Bukit Brown, city locations connected to personalities buried in Bukit Brown, Armenian Street, Joo Chiat/Geylang and Yueh Hai Ching temple. With fresh content specially researched and curated for

HeritageFest, all the tour places were quickly filled up, in particular the lighthouse tour which was fully booked in minutes. SHS looks forward to participating actively in HeritageFest2015.

2. *Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA).*

URA's Conservation Management Department, which seeks to promote public awareness of heritage areas and conservation buildings, is co-organising with SHS a series of Cakap Heritage events which are free and open to the public. URA is attracted by the format of SHS's Cakap Heritage events, which allow for the collective exchange of personal experiences about the past, facilitated by SHS's event host, Alex Tan Tiong Hee, as these provide the intangible, experiential dimension to the tangible physical landscape. The vast collection of maps and old photographs put on display by URA has greatly enriched the experience of participants and spurred the discussion. So far, two such events have been organised in January and June 2014.

3. *Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA).*

The Singapore Institute of Architects, through its SIA Press, will be publishing the two-volume book project SHS, *Our Modern Past*, which documents Singapore's modern architectural history and heritage. Sponsors from the public and private sectors have helped to cover part of the costs, and SIA Press is now raising funds to complete this project. Work is ongoing to prepare the first of two volumes for launch in 2014.

4. *Singapore Society for Social Studies Educators (SASSE).*

SASSE are partners for SHS's annual 'Centrestage' symposium for educators and students held every September since 2012. Based at the National Institute of Education, SASSE links SHS in with the community of trainee teachers as well as those already working under the Ministry of Education. This partnership also helps SHS to understand how we can best support the needs of schools, teachers and students.

5. *Urban Prototyping (UP) Singapore, organised by Newton Circus.*

UP Singapore is a movement aimed at tackling social and environmental urban challenges by bringing together technology, business and marketing communities plus government sectors. It is organised by Newton Circus, a technology company focused on making cities more liveable and sustainable. By participating in UP Singapore's Chinatown CoLAB event in March 2014, SHS was able to reach out to an audience largely unfamiliar with history to advocate our message for community-based understanding of culture in present-day Chinatown/Kreta Ayer. Subsequently, some participants from the event approached SHS to volunteer professional advice in digital marketing. In August 2014, SHS was invited by UP Singapore to be the opening speaker at the launch of the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore's SG50 event, "Data in the City: Telling Your Singapore Story Using Data" Data Visualisation Challenge, which was an opportunity to raise historical understanding amongst a large audience outside of heritage circles and including senior civil servants and policy makers. Aside from these events, Newton Circus has also been interested enough in the work of SHS as to offer the use of their crowdsourcing data-collection smartphone app for free, including conceptualising how to apply the app to heritage studies, data management and sponsoring the cost of data collection.

6. *Jane's Walk (Singapore).*

Inspired by Jane Jacobs (1916-2006), a celebrated urbanist and activist whose writings championed a fresh, community-based approach to city building, Jane's Walk is an

international movement where free, locally-organised walks are held around the world on the anniversary of Jane Jacobs' birthday to encourage placemaking and community-building. In May 2014, SHS organised participated in Jane's Walk for the first time, with Tony Tan's tour of 'The People's Chinatown', and assisted the organisers of Jane's Walk (Singapore) to connect with potential walk leaders. We are working towards a higher profile for SHS in Jane's Walk (Singapore) 2015.

7. *All Things Bukit Brown (atBB).*

With their blog, weekly volunteer tours and on-going research into Bukit Brown, atBB are a valuable partner of SHS in raising awareness and organising events about Bukit Brown. In 2013, we jointly-organised the Celebrating Bukit Brown event at the Substation, and as part of the Singapore HeritageFest in July 2014, we worked together to research, curate and lead walks in Bukit Brown cemetery as well as city locations connected to prominent personalities buried in Bukit Brown.

D. Invited lectures

1. Chua Ai Lin, 'Policy Trade-Offs: Live Case of Bukit Brown Cemetery' to participants in the NUS Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy Executive Seminar, National University of Singapore, 28 November 2013.
2. Chua Ai Lin, 'Our Chinatown', invited presentation at Chinatown CoLAB, organised by UP Singapore and the Singapore Tourism Board, 237 South Bridge Road, 28 March 2014.
3. Chua Ai Lin, 'Heritage: The Living Classroom', keynote lecture at Annual Humanities Sharing Seminar, Fajar Secondary School, 28 March 2014.
4. Chua Ai Lin, 'Place and Space in Singapore Heritage', speaker for Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Colloquium, Singapore University of Technology and Design, 25 April 2014.
5. Chua Ai Lin, 'Time Travellers and Space Explorers: How place in Singapore connects us', speaker for Humanities guest lecture series, Zhonghua Secondary School, 15 July 2014.
6. Chua Ai Lin, panellist for Cultural Heritage Roundtable at 'Asia in Motion: Heritage and Transformation', AAS-in-Asia conference organised by Association for Asian Studies (USA), at National University of Singapore, 19 July 2014.
7. Chua Ai Lin, panellist for 'My Queenstown Symposium 4: 'Is Gentrification Inevitable?', Queenstown Community Centre, 26 July 2014.
8. Chua Ai Lin, speaker at 'Inherit the Past, Live the Present, Create the Future', annual symposium organised by Civica Library Solutions and MOE, Black Box Theatre, Sports Hub, 15 August 2014.
9. Chua Ai Lin, 'Telling Singapore Stor(ies)', opening speaker at launch of "Data in the City: Telling Your Singapore Story Using Data", Data Visualisation Challenge, organised by Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore and UP Singapore, 21 August 2014.

MEDIA COVERAGE

SHS received significant coverage in the media in the past twelve months, with a total of 55 mentions, in the English and Chinese media, including of SHS-organised activities under the umbrella of larger events. Mainstream media exposure is the one of the most effective forms of advocacy and outreach as newspapers and television reach out beyond the community of heritage enthusiasts to the general public as well as policy makers. Through daily media summaries produced in-house by various government agencies, the views of SHS are highlighted to staff and management of agencies dealing with heritage-related issues.

Op-ed commentaries

1. 'Collaborating to preserve the Singapore story'
TODAY, Terence Chong and Yeo Kang Shua, 19 December 2013.

Letters to the press

1. 'Bukit Brown: No consultation to extract concessions'
Letter to Straits Times, Chua Ai Lin and Claire Leow (All Things Bukit Brown),
15 May 2014.

Television and radio appearances

1. Interview with Chua Ai Lin on URA Master Plan's identity nodes
Singapore Connect @6, Channel News Asia, 25 November 2013, 6pm.
2. Talkshow on memories and history with Chua Ai Lin as studio guest,
Voices TODAY, Channel 5, 20 February 2014, 9pm.
3. Interview with Chua Ai Lin on remembering Singapore's past
938LIVE, 3 April 2014.

Press interviews

1. 'Work on Bukit Brown road set to begin next year',
Straits Times, Jermyn Chow, 6 August 2013.
2. 'NGOs happy Tan Chuan-Jin remains their govt point man'
Straits Times, Tessa Wong, 4 September 2013.
3. 'E-grocer to revive interest in wet markets'
MyPaper, Jacqueline Woo, 3 October 2013.
4. 'Heritage Society's youngest president'
Straits Times, Tan Dawn Wei, 7 October 2013.
5. 'Pulau Ubin: Rustic or just rusting away?'
Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus and David Ee, 4 October 2013.
6. 'Good Shepherd cathedral to close for revamp'
Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 15 October 2013.
7. 'New unit plays mediator on heritage issues'
Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 26 October 2013.
8. 《从关注到投入 年轻人爱上历史》
联合早报, 莫美颜, 27 November 2013.
9. 'NHB project to document Malay cemetery'
Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 4 January 2014.
10. 《文物局增设影响评估与调节司 学者：政府或将推行文化遗产影响评估制》
联合早报, 谢燕燕, 19 January 2014.
11. 'Listen to voices from the past via online portal'

- Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 21 January 2014.
12. 'New history syllabus covers Singapore's very early years'
TODAY (Singapore), Ng Jing Yng, 6 February 2014.
《受访议员与学者： 不该忘记沉痛历史》
联合早报, 何惜薇, 8 February 2014.
 13. 'Sensitive, not sweeping, change for Seletar please'
Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 21 February 2014.
 14. 'Turn Ubin into ecotourism spot?'
Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 15 March 2014.
 15. 'Heritage, environmental assessments could help in preserving Pulau Ubin'
Channel NewsAsia, 15 March 2014.
 16. 'Kallang Wave returns in choice of bench designs'
Straits Times, Lee Jian Xuan, 19 March 2014.
 17. 'Nuns bid haven farewell after 64 years'
Sunday Times, Melody Zaccheus, 23 March 2014.
 18. 'Saving icons of Singapore'
Straits Times, Bryna Singh, 6 April 2014.
 19. 'What future for our past?'
Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 21 June 2014.
 20. 'Worth keeping'
Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 21 June 2014.
 21. 'Architects keen on conservation status for Pearl Bank'
Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 8 May 2014.
 22. 《莱佛士登陆前已是繁荣贸易港 教科书新加坡史推前五百年》
联合早报, 沈越, 13 May 2014.
 23. 'Bridges in need of a spruce-up'
Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 26 May 2014.
 24. 'Experts identify 45 'sacred' heritage sites'
Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 3 June 2014.
 25. 《很多人都不知道 50 年代巴西班让 早有'星加坡动物园' 园内动物逾 1000 品种》
联合晚报, 林心惠 潘万莉, 3 June 2014.
 26. 'Zouk has to fit into its location'
The New Paper, 21 June 2014.
 27. '2016 "expiry date" for Dakota Crescent flats'
Straits Times, Janice Heng, 25 July 2014.
 28. 'Sungei Road flea market will have to go'
Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 31 July 2014.
 29. 'Nostalgia: A force for good, but a double-edged sword?'
TODAY, Lousia Tang, 9 August 2014.
 30. 'Heritage buildings given a new lease of life'
TODAY, Lee Yen Nee, 9 August 2014.
 31. 'New tour-guide laws hit heritage group activities'
Straits Times, Audrey Tan, 11 August, 2014.
 32. 'Tell the Singapore Story with data'
Channel News Asia, Alice Chia, 21 August 2014.
 33. 'Pulau Ubin coast faces erosion risk'
Sunday Times, Melody Zaccheus, 24 August 2014.
 34. 'Food stalls may return to old railway station'
My Paper, Toh Yong Chuan, 25 August 2014.

Press reports of SHS's activities

1. 'Heritage elements to be incorporated in Bidadari'
Channel NewsAsia, 4 September 2013.
2. 'Public consultations begin on Botanic Gardens World Heritage Site bid'
Channel NewsAsia, 11 September 2013.
3. 'Help in Botanic Gardens' Unesco site bid'
Straits Times, Melissa Lin, 12 September 2013.
4. 'Guiding with passion'
Straits Times, Jennani Durai, 15 September 2013.
5. 'Digging up where soldiers dug in during the war'
Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 16 October 2013.
6. 'Botanic Gardens gets boost in UN bid'
Straits Times, Feng Zengkun, 14 December 2013.
7. Seniors steal the show at student forum'
Straits Times, Laura Si-Shuen Ng, 21 February 2014.
8. 'Come Walk with Me',
Straits Times, Lydia Vasko, 2 May 2014.
9. 'HeritageFest to focus on our isles'
My Paper, Gurveen Kaur, 27 June 2014.
10. 'HeritageFest tour shines a beacon on Singapore's lighthouses'
Channel News Asia, 4 July 2014.
11. 《文化遗产节免费活动 从展览认识灯塔看守人》
联合早报, 王舒杨, 4 July 2014.
12. 《文化遗产节反应热烈 灯塔导览活动将“加场”》
我报, 王舒杨, Friday, 4 July 2014.
13. 《守莱佛士灯塔 免费看世界杯 灯塔之旅 大受欢迎》
联合晚报, 卢凌之, 4 July 2014.
14. 'SUTD's architecture lecturer gets tenure from Hokkien clan'
Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 21 August 2014.

Newspaper editorials supporting recommendations of SHS

1. 'Facelift for tourism'
Straits Times, Sunday, 13 April 2014.
2. 'Cherished memories of life's milestones in old malls'
Straits Times, Loh Keng Fatt, Sunday, 6 July 2014.

EVENTS

SHS has gained a reputation for a full calendar of stimulating events for members and the public conducted by invited subject experts, where attendees acquire new knowledge about aspects of Singapore history, become exposed to fresh ways of thinking about heritage and historical issues and have a platform to discuss them with like-minded individuals.

In addition to talks and seminars by academics and specialist researchers, the Cakap Heritage series of events introduced by SHS in 2011 has proven to be very popular. This series takes a more informal, conversational approach, where participants are invited to exchange knowledge and experiences on specific topics. Most of our Cakap Heritage events are hosted by ExCo member, Alex Tan Tiong Hee, whose lively personality and detailed memories contribute greatly to the success of these events.

Talks, Forums and Seminars

1. Talk: 'World Heritage: A Responsibility or Endorsement?', by Assoc Prof Johannes Widodo, 24 August 2013, Possibility Room, National Library Building.
2. 'Art Conversation with Sunar Sugiyono and Prof Kwok Kian Woon', 6 September 2013, The Fullerton Hotel, East Garden Foyer [co-organised with Maya Gallery].
3. Seminar: Home@Centrestage: Inquiring into our Built Heritage & the Memories that make up our Home – a seminar for educators and students [co-organised with Singapore Association for Social Studies Educators].
14 September 2013, URA Function Hall (Level 5), The URA Centre
4. Talk: 'Building Consensus and Community Capacity: The George Town Grants Programme in Penang', by Dr Neil Khor, 13 October 2013, Select Books, Armenian Street.
5. Talk and Book Signing: 'East Indies – The East India Company and the Founding of Singapore', by Ian Burnet, 9 November 2013, Select Books, Armenian Street
6. Forum: Globalising the Local: World Heritage in Singapore, with Ms Faizah Jamal, Dr Kevin Tan, Dr Lai Chee Kien and Dr Ian Chong.
10 November 2013, Ngee Ann Auditorium, Asian Civilisations Museum
7. Seminar: Controversial History Education in Asian Contexts, with Ms Annaliza Bakri, Ms Lisa Li, Ms Samanta Wan and Justin Ng, 3 December 2013, Possibility Room, National Library Building.
8. Talk: 'How Much is an Old Book Worth?' by Robert Yeo and Alex Teoh, 11 Jan 2014, Select Books, Armenian Street [co-organised with Select Books].
9. Cakap Heritage: 'All About Chinese New Year', hosted by Alex Tan Tiong Hee, 25 January 2014, URA Centre Auditorium [co-organised with URA].
10. Cakap Heritage: 'Schooldays in Bras Basah', hosted by Alex Tan Tiong Hee, 28 June 2014, The Private Museum, Waterloo Street [co-organised with URA].

Local Tours

1. Visit to Gan Clan Cultural Centre with Diana Chua, Sat, 30 November 2013, Gan Clan Singapore, Bukit Pasoh.
2. Mun San Fook Tuck Chee temple walking tour with Ang Yik Han, 22 February 2014, Mun San Fook Tuck Chee, Sims Drive.
3. 'Stories Behind the Restoration: The Yueh Hai Ching Temple' with Dr Yeo Kang Shua Sat, 19 April 2014, Yueh Hai Ching temple.
4. Jane's Walks: The People's Chinatown walking tour with Tony Tan, Sat, 3 May 2014.
5. NHB HeritageFest2014: Lighthouse tour with Ms Tan Teng Teng, 19 & 20 July 2014.

6. NHB HeritageFest2014: Tour of Armenian Street -- Late 19th Century Hub of Education, Faith and Beliefs with Tony Tan, 19 July 2014.
7. NHB HeritageFest2014: Bukit Brown in the City Tour with Alex Tan Tiong Hee, 19 & 26 July 2014.
8. NHB HeritageFest2014: The City in Bukit Brown Tour with All Things Bukit Brown 20 & 27 July 2014,
9. NHB HeritageFest2014: Tour of Yueh Hai Ching Temple with Dr Yeo Kang Shua, 20 July 2014.
10. NHB HeritageFest2014: Geylang Serai/Joo Chiat Uncovered Tour with Tony Tan, 20 July 2014.

Exhibitions

1. NHB HeritageFest2014: Lighthouses of Singapore, 18 Jul 2014 - 27 Jul 2014, NEX Atrium, Level 1.
This exhibition, curated by SHS members Dr Kevin Tan and Lim Chen Sian, provided a look at the history of Singapore's lighthouses over the last 160 years, and featured Raffles Lighthouse (1885); and Sultan Shoal Lighthouse (1896) and older lighthouses – now decommissioned – such as the Fullerton Lighthouse and the Fort Canning beacon. Tours to Raffles Lighthouse were also conducted to accompany the exhibition.

Events offered by partner organisations especially for SHS

1. National Archives of Singapore (NAS), meeting with NAS Director, Mr Eric Chin, for academic researchers to understand declassification policies and procedures, 11 November 2013.
2. Singapore Tourism Board, Tourism50 Haw Par Villa tour, 23 March 2014.
3. Awaken the Dragon, clay workshop held at the Jalan Bahar Clay Studios dragon kiln, 14 June 2014.

PUBLICATIONS

Our Modern Past: Modern Architecture in Singapore 1920s To 1970s

This book project aims to research and document Singapore's modern architectural history and heritage, in order to promote awareness and appreciation of this architecture among architects, planners, policy makers and the general public. Drawing on specially commissioned photographs, original interviews with architects as well as previously unpublished archival materials, this book will be published in two volumes. The Singapore Institute of Architects, through its SIA Press, will publish both volumes. Sponsors from the public and private sectors have helped to cover part of the costs, and SIA Press is now raising funds to complete this project. Work is ongoing to prepare the first of two volumes for launch in 2014.

Song Ong Siang's One Hundred Years of the Chinese in Singapore

Commissioned by the National Library Board, the Society has embarked on a project to annotate, edit and re-publish Sir Song Ong Siang's classic volume, *One Hundred Years of the Chinese in Singapore*. This volume was first published in 1921 and underwent two reprints in 1968 and 1991 before going out of print. As Song passed away in 1941, the book is now in the public domain. This work is especially timely as it coincides with the current interest in Bukit Brown cemetery by providing much information on personalities buried at Bukit Brown and their families. Under the general editorship of Dr Kevin Tan, the project in the form of an e-book is expected to be completed by mid-2015, in time for the celebration of Singapore's 50th anniversary.

Oh My Geylang

The Society is working with well-known artist and caricaturist, Morgan Chua, on a graphic book on Geylang. Chua was the Creative Director of the *Far Eastern Economic Review* for 25 years and grew up in Geylang. Work on this book is on-going.

Green Ink on an Envelope

Written by our members, Ho Weng Hin and Tan Kar Lin, this book about the architect, Sonny Chan of Chan Sau Yan & Associates, was officially launched on 30 August 2013. Mr Chan is a renowned architect whose works over the last four decades include a diverse range of residential, commercial, institutional, recreational and tourism related properties and developments across Southeast Asia. The book is now into its second print-run.

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 264 members, with a notable rise of 84 members within the past twelve months. The growth may be attributed to the rising interest in local heritage, the outreach work of the society through mainstream and online media, greater efforts at soliciting for members at SHS's public events, direct approach to personal contacts, public interest in SHS's tours which are exclusive to members and the convenience of three-year membership subscriptions.

Events that are exclusive to those with valid SHS subscriptions are:

- a) Annual overseas tour
- b) Designated local tours
- c) Book sale at APD book distributors, who have kindly offered a generous discount at special once-a-year sale for SHS members. The last sale was held on 16 November 2013.



REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATE AND EXPLANATION OF MAJOR FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

The Society's main source of income is from donations and grants from government projects. Membership subscriptions alone are insufficient to meet day-to-day expenses. Major expenditure items in the Accounts for 2013–2014 relate to the Bukit Brown Exhibition, publication of books and routine governance and administrative costs. In all activities the Society has organised, every effort has been made to ensure that each event and project is self-funding. It should nonetheless be noted that subscriptions by members do not cover year-to-year operation costs and that cross subsidies are secured through money made in publishing, consulting and other ventures.

Administration

The Society has no paid staff. Since June 2006, the secretarial work of the Society has carried out by Ms Wendy Chua of Bizcomm Pte Ltd who acts as the Society's administrative secretary on a service contract.

Policy on Finance & Funding

The Society is funded by a combination of subscriptions from members, donations from well-wishers as well as through the sale of its publications and the provision of heritage consultancy services. It is the Society's policy that all new projects be self-financing. Throughout its history, the Society has never taken a loan from any individual or institution to finance its activities

Statement of Accounts

Statement of accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2014 is attached.