



### **A Media Release by My Community**

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## **RECOUNT THE TRANSFORMATION OF SINGAPORE'S FIRST SATELLITE TOWN FROM A MODERN RESIDENTIAL TOWN IN 1959 TO THE FOUNDING OF THE PORT CITY IN 1819 WITH OUR BICENTENNIAL GUIDED TOUR**

**Singapore, 28 January 2019** – The Dawson neighbourhood in Queenstown is known for its stylish Built-to-Order (BTO) projects, but do you know that the precinct was home to several key British administration and military offices between the 1860s and 1960s? Nicknamed the “Little Whitehall,” these colonial institutions played a pivotal role in coordinating economic activity and the distribution of essential food supplies within Southeast Asia, Singapore’s fight against communism in the 1950s, and the formation of Malaysia in the early 1960s. The significant role Dawson has played in Singapore’s political and social history will be included in the upcoming bicentennial guided tour, My Dawson Heritage Tour.

2 My Dawson Heritage Tour recounts the history of Singapore’s first satellite town from a modern residential town in 1959 to the founding of the port city in 1819. The guided tour weaves in interesting anecdotes and stories from the nutmeg and rubber plantations, botanic garden and military encampments. The tour also provides an excellent opportunity for residents in Tanglin Halt undergoing Selective Enbloc Redevelopment Scheme (SERS) to explore their new neighbourhood. The tour is one of the eight guided tours developed and organised by civic society My Community and takes place on every 1<sup>st</sup> weekend (both Saturdays and Sundays).

3. Mr Kwek Li Yong, Founder and President of My Community, said, “Every community has a story to tell. Through heritage walks, we wish to narrate the endearing story of the common man, celebrate the little things which makes the neighbourhood special and reconnect individuals to the social networks in the

community. Our popular guided tours are heavily curated with sensory cues that evoke the past, layered with personal accounts and experiences which took place on site. My Dawson Heritage Tour forms a convergence between collective memories and individual biographies and is essential to how we interpret and negotiate our colonial past through familiarity, sensory recollection and community ownership.”

4. Dr Chia Shi-Lu, Member-of-Parliament (MP) for Tanjong Pagar GRC (Queenstown) agrees, “The bicentennial tour at Dawson comprises landmarks and experiences which serve as visual and experiential reminders of how our colonial past is engaged in embodied meanings. Through this guided tour, we can reflect on our journey as a young nation and explore how people from different backgrounds, different ethnic groups and different nationalities come together to build a prosperous and multicultural nation.”

### **A walk back in time – Queenstown’s transformation from a nutmeg and rubber plantation to a military encampment and public housing estate**

5. When Tengku Hussein wore a plumed and dignified aiguillette for his inauguration as the Sultan of Johor on 6 February 1819, Singapore was plentifully bestrewn with myrtle shrubs and rhododendrons. By offering the Sultan and the Temenggong a thousand dollars, rolls of yellow and black cloth, and a lifetime allowance to build factories, plantations and settlements, Sir Stamford Raffles secured a strategic location at the southernmost tip of the Malayan Peninsula to establish a trading port for the British East India Company. On the basis of free trade and competition, Raffles and his compatriots developed banking and legal systems, cracked down on smuggling and built an extensive network of infrastructure in the port city. These policies bestowed Singapore with an absolute monopoly of free trade in the Malay Archipelago as Singapore emerged as the “Clapham Junction of the Eastern Seas.” By the 1830s, Singapore had supplanted Penang and Batavia (now known as Jakarta) as the focal point of the Chinese junk trade and the chief export gateway for gambier, pepper and other spices.

6. Singapore's success as the region's trading, banking and insurance headquarters put a strain on the urban centre as immigrants from all parts of the region congregated in the city-state. They included Malays, Chinese merchants and coolies, Bugis sailors, Indians and Arabs. The upsurge in house prices and perennial congestion in the city centre had convinced a few to seek refuge in a quieter and more spacious environment to the west of the Singapore town. Beyond the urban crescent of old Singapore, new residential suburbs in rural hilltop locations were constructed as residences for the owners of nutmeg plantations. Situated at the southern tip of Tanglin Road at the western end of the city fringe were nutmeg plantations and country villas owned by the Leicester family, Edward Snr (b. 1793 - d. 1876), Edward Barnaby (b. 1818 – d. 1885) and John Barnaby (b. 1828 – d.1876), who were among the first Europeans to move into present-day boundaries of Queenstown. In the 1840s, the Leicester family grew nutmegs on three hills west of Tanglin Road, namely the Sri Tanglin Hill, Rosemary Hill and Suka Ramy Hill.

7. After the nutmeg plantations succumbed to the canker disease in the 1850s, nutmeg planters like the Leicesters began to dispose their agricultural holdings to gambier and rubber traders including Tan Yoke Nee and Wee Kay Siang (b.1858 – d.1925). In Wee's estate, *rotan manau* were intercropped with rubber trees at the western slopes of Rosemary Hill as the tall rubber trees provided support and shade for the vine-like rattan, which relied on the sturdy rubber tree trunks to reach the light-rich environment of the upper canopy. Wee's rubber plantation was eventually acquired by the Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) to develop Singapore's first satellite town to tackle severe housing crunch in the city fringes after World War II. Named after Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 to mark her coronation, Queenstown's development borrowed heavily from two related urban planning movements in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, namely the Garden Cities and the New Towns movement. Both urban planning movements campaigned for the development of purposefully planned self-contained towns as a remedy to congestion and temporary settlements. The colonial public housing authority hopes that "Queenstown will eventually have an identity of its own and a strong community existence."

8 The highlights of My Dawson Heritage Tour:

- **Our early public housing history**

The Dawson neighbourhood in Queenstown, formed from the amalgamation of Princess and Duchess estates, was home to Singapore's tallest residential block Forfar House in 1955, Housing and Development Board's first headquarters at Princess House in 1960, Singapore's first technical school at Queenstown Secondary Technical School, and first special needs school at Lee Kong Chian Gardens School. At Princess House, the HDB launched its first Five Year Programme in 1960, the "Home Ownership for the People" scheme in 1964, and the Public Housing Scheme in 1968, where Singaporeans could purchase a public housing using their Central Provident Fund (CPF).

- **Our political and military history – Hock Lee Bus Riots, Phoenix Park and Tanglin Barracks**

The deadly 1915 Sepoy Mutiny at Tanglin Barracks and 1955 labour strikes at Hock Lee Bus Depot took place in Dawson. At Phoenix Park, the British administration complex was home to several key institutions including the headquarters of the Commissioner-General and British Far East Command. The complex hosted a series of international conferences in the 1950s and early 1960s including "Rice Talks," think-tanks to combat communism and roundtable talks on the formation of Malaysia.

- **Our early plantation history**

Singapore's ascension as the crown colony in the British Empire could be attributed to botanist and former Director of the Singapore Botanic Gardens, Sir Henry Nicholas Ridley, who formulated commercially viable techniques for harvesting rubber plants. He planted the first rubber trees at the Singapore Botanic Gardens in June 1877.

9. For more information, please refer to:

- Annex A: Seven things you probably don't know about Dawson
- Annex B: List of heritage sites on My Dawson Heritage Tour
- Annex C: List of free guided tours developed and organised by My Community

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**About My Community**

My Community is a civic society which documents social memories, celebrates civic life and champions community arts and heritage. We believe in and strongly advocate for greater community involvement in cultural management and urban governance. We aim to shape and transform community spaces through arts, culture and heritage.

Before My Community was established as a society on 26 August 2010, the community group began organising tours in 2008 and blogging in 2009. My Community was registered as a charity under the Charities Act on 12 December 2015 and conferred with the status of an Institution of Public Character on 13 December 2016.

Today, My Community organises guided tours, exhibitions, festivals and other art, heritage and place-making programmes in Queenstown, Bukit Merah and Tiong Bahru. In 2018, the non-profit heritage group has organised 84 tours and 29 programmes which attracted over 12,000 participants.

## Annex A: Seven things you probably didn't know about Dawson

1. Whitehall is a road in London where important government buildings including the Houses of Parliament, the former War Office and the Ministry of Defence are situated in. Within Dawson, the "Little Whitehall" refers to the Phoenix Park complex, constructed by the British colonial administration in 1949 to house several key institutions including the headquarters of the British Far East Command and Commissioner-General. The complex hosted a series of "Rice Talks" and several think-tanks to combat communism in the 1950s and roundtable talks on the formation of Malaysia in the early 1960s.
2. The fringes of Dawson were home to Singapore's first infantry battalion camp. Completed in 1861, Tanglin Barracks were the focal point of the 1915 Sepoy Mutiny where more than 40 British officials and local residents were killed. After the British surrender in 1942, 15,000 Australian troops in the encampment became prisoners-of-war and participated in a 14-hour "nightmare march" to Selarang camp in Changi. The barracks became the headquarters of the Ministry of Defence after the British withdrew in 1971.
3. A national monument in Dawson? The beautiful St George's Church started as a garrison church within Tanglin Barracks in 1912. The iconic red-brick church followed the classical Basilica style of the Romanesque tradition, where the open arched windows and arcaded verandahs allowed for maximum ventilation in the hot and humid tropical condition.
4. The Hock Lee bus riots took place at the junction of Dawson Road and Alexandra Road between 23 April and 12 May 1955. The strikes, which started as a peaceful protest against long working hours, poor working conditions and low pay, escalated into a violent confrontation when the riot police attempted to break up the strikes using water cannons and tear gas. The riots resulted in the death of 4 people and 31 people injured.
5. The Dawson neighbourhood of Queenstown was once home to Singapore's tallest residential block known as Forfar House. The fourteen-storey tall building had a distinct zig-zag appearance and towered over three-storey apartments and kampongs in the 1950s. Forfar House was colloquially known as *Chap Si Lau* (Hokkien: 十四楼 14-storey) and its surrounding blocks were affectionately called *Lam Por Lay* (Hokkien: 蓝玻璃 Blue Windows) for its iconic blue window glass.
6. The Housing and Development Board's (HDB) first headquarters was located at Princess House. The seven-storey building in Dawson was where HDB launched their First Five-Year Programme in 1960, the "Home Ownership for the People" scheme in 1964, and the Public Housing scheme in 1968, where Singaporeans can purchase public housing using their Central Provident Fund (CPF)
7. Singapore's first technical school and first special needs school were constructed in Dawson in 1956 and 1969 respectively. The all-boys Queenstown Secondary Technical School (now known as Queenstown Secondary School) was established to answer Singapore's "desperate need" for skilled workers as the city-state diversified its entrepot economy in the mid-1950s. Lee Kong Chian Gardens School, on the other hand, is a full-facility school committed to equip and train intellectually disabled students so as to empower them to lead a purposeful life.

## Annex B: List of heritage sites on My Dawson Heritage Tour

No.	Site	Brief History and Description
1	Former Forfar House	<p>The former Forfar House was Singapore’s tallest public residential building. Built at a cost of \$585,000, the 14-storey block of Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) flats was officially opened on 24 October 1956 by then Minister for Local Government, Lands and Housing, Inche Abdul Hamid bin Haji Jumat, as the apex of architectural massing in Queenstown estate.</p> <p>Designed in the Modern style, <i>Chap Si Lau</i> (Hokkien: 十四楼 14-storey) had a distinct zigzag appearance which played an important structural role in resisting wind pressure. The building was constructed with a reinforced concrete frame where its foundation of strip footings ran transversely across the block and held by longitudinal beams to give rigidity to the structure. The building also had a modern sanitary system where each unit was served by built-in asbestos cement refuse chutes running the full height of the block and discharging into removable bins at ground level.</p> <p>High-rise living posed a challenge for <i>kampong</i> residents. Rising above the agricultural environment of Queenstown at the time, Forfar House was an urban fear factor for residents afraid of heights. Kwan Swee Meng (b. 1955) commented, “The flats were tall. When we first moved in, we were afraid to look out of the window for fear of slipping and falling from the building.”</p> <p>Kwan also witnessed several suicides there. He said, “I had one relative who committed suicide at Forfar House. She went to the eleventh floor and jumped down.” A non-fatal incident of falling from Forfar House etched into Kwan’s mind. “A man fell when he was sleepwalking. From the sixth floor to the ground floor – and he survived. At that time he was studying in the pre-university and the rumour was that he was saved by his mother. Because the mother just passed away. Because the mother just passed away, people believed that the spirit of his mother mother had carried him away. I don’t know how he can sleepwalk until he fell off.”</p>
2	Princess House	<p>Princess House is a 7-storey building along Alexandra Road which was designated as the new office for the Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) and later, as the first dedicated headquarters for the Housing and Development Board (HDB). Built at a cost of \$478,000, Princess House was opened in 1957 as a multi-purpose office building which housed the Social Welfare and Licensing departments in the western wing and offices to be rented to the public in the eastern wing.</p>

		<p>The overall form of Princess House follows the aesthetics of 1950s Modern architecture where its simple design and economic use of materials and decoration, adheres to the "form follows function" dictum in the articulation of the building elements. The building also features an innovative shallow "U-shaped" roof which can be used as a viewing deck. Various foreign dignitaries such as Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh; Princess Margaret; Edward Heath, then Prime Minister of Australia, had visited Princess House to learn about Singapore's housing programme.</p> <p>After Singapore gained internal self-governance in 1959, the Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) was dissolved and the Housing and Development Board (HDB) was subsequently established. In May 1960, the HDB moved its main offices from Upper Pickering Street to Princess House. At Princess House, the HDB launched its first Five Year Programme in 1960, the "Home Ownership for the People" scheme in 1964, and an extended scheme which allowed Singaporeans purchase a residential apartment using their Central Provident Fund (CPF) in 1968.</p>
3	Hock Lee Bus Riots	<p>The Hock Lee Bus Riots, which started at a bus depot located at the junction of Dawson Road and Alexandra Road, was one of the major riots in Singapore during the 1950s.</p> <p>The riots began as a peaceful demonstration on 23 April 1955 by disgruntled bus drivers from the Hock Lee Amalgamated Bus Company against long working hours, poor working conditions and low pay. These bus drivers locked themselves in the bus depot at the junction of Dawson Road and Alexandra Road and stopped buses from leaving the depot. Students from several Chinese middle schools joined in the protests by offering food and money to these bus drivers.</p> <p>The riots became violent when the Riot Police attempted to break up the riots using water cannons and tear gas on 12 May 1955. The infuriated rioters threw stones at the policemen and torched vehicles along Alexandra Road. Two police officers died as a result, including a Detective Corporal, who was burned to death, and a Constable who was severely beaten by the rioters. Hundreds of protestors were also injured.</p> <p>The violent commotion ended the next morning when Hock Lee Bus Company and the Singapore Bus Workers' Union reached an agreement to reinstate the bus drivers and increased their monthly remuneration.</p>
4	Former Queenstown Secondary Technical School	<p>Queenstown Secondary School (former Queenstown Secondary Technical School) was Singapore's first technical school. Built at a cost of \$1,000,000, the all-boys School was</p>

		<p>opened in 1956 to answer the “desperate need” for skilled workers as Singapore diversified its entrepot economy in the mid -1950s.</p> <p>The original technical school consisted of three main blocks. The first block was a 2-storey building with 7 classrooms, 2 laboratories, a library and an administrative office. The second block contained the Assembly Hall, the Recreation Hall and a tuck shop. The third block was used as workshops for Woodwork and Metalwork.</p> <p>Tan Wee Tin, 74, was one of the 92 students from the pioneer batch who studied at Queenstown Secondary Technical School. He recalled, “When the School started in January 1957, there was a library but there were neither books nor periodicals. One of the teachers, Mr A.W. Basapa, brought magazines, periodicals and daily papers and they were properly indexed and ready for issue in the second term.”</p> <p>In 1965, a Pre-University class was started to equip students for entry into the Singapore Polytechnic. In 1971, girls were admitted to the School. In 1993, the school was renamed as Queenstown Secondary School when both academic and technical education was offered at the school.</p>
5	Lee Kong Chian Gardens School	<p>Lee Kong Chian Gardens School is Singapore’s first permanent school for intellectually-disabled children. Built at a cost of \$250,000, the School was officially opened on 29 November 1969 by then Patron for the Singapore Association for Retarded Children (SARC) and First Lady, Puan Noor Aishah, to provide employment training for intellectually-disabled children.</p> <p>The school comprised three octagonal workshops, a tuck shop and an administrative office. One of the workshops had a small industrial assembly operation where students would assemble flexes for Philips electric irons. At each work station along the assembly line, every student was required to perform a specific task ranging from taping to soldering.</p> <p>Leong Chee Weng, 57, an ex-student at the School, was responsible for the coiling which was the last and most difficult step. He recalled, “I was a fast learner. Besides attending to my own station, I would move around the assembly line to help my fellow workers. Though our earnings were low, we derived satisfaction from taking money home to our families.”</p> <p>In 1981, the school was extended to accommodate four new classrooms and increase intake from 60 to 248. In 1985, the SARC changed its name to Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS). In 2000, the School had a facelift. Today, there are 5 MINDS centres including Lee Kong Chian Gardens School.</p>

6	Jamek Queenstown Mosque	<p>Masjid Jamek Queenstown is the second mosque constructed in Queenstown. Built at a cost of \$35,000, the Mosque was officially opened on 25 December 1964 by then Malayan Minister for Agriculture and Co-operatives, Mohamed Khir Johari, to house a growing number of devotees in the estate. Designed in the traditional Javanese style, the single-storey Mosque is characterised by its imposing minaret and pitched roof above the prayer hall. The Mosque had a miniature garden filled with tropical decorative plants and wooden fences which ran along its perimeters.</p> <p>In the 1970s and 1980s, the Mosque was particularly susceptible to flooding because it was located in a low-lying area next to Alexandra Canal. The stretch of road next to the Mosque was subsequently raised 6 times and the garden had to make way for a larger drainage system. Johari bin Pardi, 61, a long-time worshipper at the iconic mosque, recalled, "The area surrounding Margaret Drive was extremely prone to flooding. There was once when the flood was knee-deep and animal carcasses were floating around."</p>
7	Phoenix Park	<p>Completed in 1949, the Phoenix Park Complex in Tanglin Road was constructed by the British colonial administration to house several key institutions including the headquarters of the Commissioner-General, and British Far East Command.</p> <p>Nicknamed, "Little Whitehall," the complex hosted a series of international conferences in the 1950s and early 1960s including "Rice Talks" organised by the International Emergency Food Committee (Rice Committee) for Southeast Asia to coordinate economic activity and distribution of essential supplies; the Southeast Asia Liaison Officers (predecessor of ASEAN) who discuss infrastructural development, financial aid and cooperative programmes, and the British Foreign Office which exchanges views with representatives from Burma, Siam, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaya and Singapore on communist propaganda and formulates policies to fight against communism. In June 1961, the complex hosted representatives from Singapore, Malaya, North Borneo, Sarawak and Brunei to discuss Tengku's "Mighty Malaysia" plan of economic and political union.</p> <p>The premises were handed over to the Singapore Government when the British withdrew in 1971. At Phoenix Park, the Internal Security Department of MHA was involved in the investigation of Singapore Liberation Organisation's activities in 1982, the local network of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in 1985, 22 Pro-Marxist activists during Operation Spectrum in 1987 and the hijack of Singapore Airlines Flight 117 by four Pakistanis in 1991.</p>

		After MHA vacated the complex in 2001, Phoenix Park was put up for lease as office space in 2008.
8	Chatsworth Park Conservation Area	<p>Chatsworth Park is a conservation area which consists of 27 conserved bungalows and Good Class Bungalows. Built in the 1920s and the 1930s, the bungalows were designed predominantly in the Black and White and Art Deco architectural styles. The bungalows were rented by British and American companies including the Straits Trading Company and Cable &amp; Wireless for their expatriate staff.</p> <p>Among the myriad of prominent bungalows in the conservation area, No.5 Chatsworth Park stood out. The two-storey Art Deco bungalow was designed by preeminent English architect, Frank Brewer, whose portfolio of works including the Cathay Building and Command House had shaped Singapore's architectural landscape.</p> <p>5 Chatsworth Park features large overhanging roof caves, timber louvres and oriole casement windows – elements which allows for natural maximum ventilation critical for hot and humid tropical living. The Art Deco building also incorporates exposed brick pillars, buttressed walls and flared eaves popular in the 1920s and 1930s.</p>
9	Henry Ridley and Ridley Park	<p>Henry Nicholas Ridley (b.1855 – d.1951) was the former Director of the Singapore Botanic Gardens who was responsible for establishing the rubber industry in Singapore and Malaya.</p> <p>Born in 1855, Ridley arrived in Singapore in 1888 and made collection trips around Southeast Asia to learn about little-known tropical flora. He collected living plants for the botanic gardens and dried plants for the Herbarium and recorded his observations and assessments in the five-volume Flora of the Malay Peninsula (1922 – 1925) and Agricultural Bulletin of the Malay Peninsula.</p> <p>In the 1890s and early 1900s, Ridley formulated propagation techniques and discovered a commercially viable method to harvest large quantities of latex without damaging the rubber trees. This paved way for large-scale rubber cultivation in Malaya.</p>
10	Tanglin Barracks	Under the supervision of then Chief Engineer of the Straits Settlement, Captain George Chancellor Collyer (b.1814), Tanglin Barracks was constructed in 1861 to house Singapore's sole infantry battalion comprising 26 officers and 661 men. The 210-acre encampment was built on William E Willian's nutmeg plantation and Chinese businessman Hoo Ah Kay's land estate as a response to the Crimean War in 1854, the Indian Mutiny in 1857, increased pirate activities in the Malacca and Singapore Straits, and growing unease over the influence of Chinese secret societies. The British colonial

		<p>administration believed that the new encampment can protect their commercial and political interests.</p> <p>The first barracks were constructed around the Loewen cluster and comprised ten service barracks for 50 military men each, cook houses, hospital wards, a school and officers' quarters. The original structures of the barracks incorporated features which kept them airy and cool in the hot and humid tropical condition. Some of these features include thatched attap roofs, raised wooden floors and wide open verandahs.</p> <p>The buildings remained unoccupied until the late 1860s due to a delay in troop deployment. In 1867, the barracks added a 240-bed military hospital known as Tanglin Hospital and welcomed troops from the 80<sup>th</sup> Foot Staffordshire volunteers.</p> <p>On 15 February 1915, a group of around 800 Indian soldiers (sepoys) from the 5<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry mutinied against the British forces in Singapore. While the troops were deployed in Europe and the ongoing Chinese New Year celebration, the mutineers stormed into Tanglin Barracks, killing officers and freeing Germans prisoners in the camp. A martial law was declared soon after and the mutiny was eventually ended by the Allied forces seven days later.</p> <p>On 12 February 1942, the 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Division HQ was shifted to Tanglin Barracks. Led by Lieutenant Henry Gordon Bennett, the Australian troops established the Australian Perimeter where they defended their position until the Fall of Singapore on 15 February 1942. After the colonial government surrendered, the soldiers defending Singapore became prisoners of war and about 15,000 Australians marched to Changi from the barracks.</p> <p>After the war, the British reoccupied Tanglin Barracks and designated it as the General Headquarters of the Far East Land forces. When the British forces withdrew in 1971, the military compound became the headquarters of the Ministry of Defence. The complex housed the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) and its different departments including the SAF Music and Drama Company, and the Central Manpower Base (CMPB), where 18-year-old Singaporean boys starting their compulsory National Service would report to.</p> <p>After Tanglin Camp was vacated in the 1989, the enclave was gradually morphed into a retail complex known for its furniture warehouses and lifestyle offering. Known as Tanglin Village, the quaint neighbourhood hosted the Singapore Biennale in 2006.</p>
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11	St George's Church	<p>St George's Church started as a Christian ministry soon after the construction of Tanglin Barracks in 1861. Under Reverend Samuel Dingley, a church building was erected in 1884 on a site further to the west of the current church. As the British military presence in Singapore grew in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to protect their economic interests and the trade routes from Britain to Australia and China, a larger church was needed to accommodate the soldiers in the barracks.</p> <p>Constructed between 1910 and 1912, the garrison church sat on a site off Holland Road and had a seating capacity for 650 worshippers. The church offered regular Bible classes, prayer meetings, choir rehearsals and confirmation preparation mainly for soldiers. The church choir was accompanied by the military band which played from the back of the church. The church was closed for three months in 1915 because of a mutiny involving Sikh and Indian battalions in the British force at the Alexandra and Tanglin barracks.</p> <p>When Singapore fell to the Japanese in 1942, St George's Church was used by the Japanese forces as an ammunition store whereas the other buildings in the vicinity were converted into storage depots for medical supplies. The chaplain was abducted as a prisoner-of-war (POW) and did not survive the conditions in the camps.</p> <p>The church was rededicated on its first Remembrance Sunday service on 10 November 1946 after the war. The church also resumed its bible classes and worship services. When the British government withdrew from Singapore in 1971, the Synod of the Diocese of Singapore obtained a temporary occupation license (TOL) to continue as an Anglican civilian church. The last military service took place on Sunday, 24 October 1971</p> <p>St George's became a civilian church under the incorporation into the Diocese of Singapore and held its first civilian services a week later on 31 October 1971. The church was gazette as a national monument in 1978.</p>
12	Rubber trees at Singapore Botanic Gardens	<p>The first rubber trees at the Singapore Botanic Gardens were planted in June 1877. These rubber plants (<i>Hevea Brasiliensis</i>), which were originally from the Amazon, were introduced and cultivated by botanist and then Director of the Singapore Botanic Gardens, Sir Henry Nicholas Ridley.</p> <p>Between the mid-1870s and 1890s, a series of experiments were conducted by Henry Nicholas Ridley, to formulate commercially viable propagation and harvesting techniques for rubber plants. In the 1890s, Ridley invented the herring-bone method of tapping, where a layer of the tree bark is sliced and peeled at regular intervals for latex. The</p>

		<p>traditional method of incision involved cutting deep into the tree core to extract the latex and resulted in over-tapping. Ridley also conducted experiments on ideal soil condition, density per acre, processing techniques and means of packing and shipping processed rubber.</p> <p>Today, one rubber tree is designated as a heritage tree at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Planted in 1923, this tree was grafted from a second-generation rubber tree planted at the botanic gardens in 1884.</p> <p>The rubber tree is about 40m tall and has a straight trunk with greyish-green bark. The tree has compound leaves with 3 leaflets that are dark green on the surface and lighter green beneath. The rubber fruit appears woody and dry and splits open with an explosive sound after it is ripened to scatter the seeds away from the parent tree.</p>
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## Annex C: List of Guided Tours Developed and Organised by My Community

### C1: Heritage Tours

No.	Guided Tours	Communities/ Neighbourhood	Frequency	Duration	Description
1	My Dawson Heritage Tour	<b>My Queenstown</b>	Every first weekend (Both Saturdays and Sundays)	0830 to 1230	My Dawson heritage tour recounts the history of Singapore's first satellite town from a modern residential town in 1959 to the founding of the port city in 1819. The guided tour weaves in interesting stories from the nutmegs and rubber plantations, botanic garden and military encampments. Participants can get to meet long-time residents in Forfar Heights, Strathmore Avenue and Dempsey.
2	My Alexandra Heritage Tour		Every second weekend (Both Saturdays and Sundays)	0830 to 1230	My Alexandra heritage tour visits the military installations constructed by the British troops to defend the naval outpost at Keppel Harbour and follows the chronology of World War II from Fort Pasir Panjang to the massacre at Alexandra Hospital and its neighbouring Boh Beh Kang village. Participants also get to enter the black and white bungalows at Alexandra Park and hear first-hand accounts of the war from former Boh Beh Kang villagers.
3	My Holland Village Heritage Tour		Every third weekend (Both Saturdays and Sundays)	0830 to 1230	My Holland Village heritage tour traces the transformation of Queenstown from a rustic Hakka Village and rubber plantation in the 1870s to a bustling military village in the 1930s and a renowned expatriate centre and tourist attraction known as Holland Village in the 2000s. Participants also get to meet and hear anecdotes from long-time residents and shop keepers at Thambi Magazine, Commonwealth Crescent Market and the VIP block
4	My Tanglin Halt Heritage Tour		Every fourth weekend (Both Saturdays and Sundays)	0830 to 1230	My Tanglin Halt heritage tour traces the evolution of Queenstown as Singapore's first satellite town. The tour visits iconic landmarks including Singapore's first HDB flats

			Saturdays and Sundays)		along Stirling Road, the first polyclinic, neighbourhood sports complex and branch library. Participants also get to meet librarians, long-time residents and shop keepers along the tour.
5	My Redhill Heritage Tour	My Bukit Merah	Every 4 <sup>th</sup> weekend (Both Saturdays and Sundays)	1000 to 1200	My Redhill heritage tour recounts the legend of Bukit Merah and the interesting tales from one of Singapore's oldest neighbourhoods. Participants can visit the soon-to-be-demolished Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) flats at Redhill Close and get up close with the fascinating residents and shop keepers at Redhill Market.
6	My Mount Faber/Sentosa Heritage Tour (Launching in May 2019)		Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> weekend (Both Saturdays and Sundays)	0830 to 1230	My Mount Faber/Sentosa Heritage Tour explores the military and public installations constructed around Keppel Harbour by the British colonial administration including Faber Command Centre, Keppel Reservoir
7	My Tiong Bahru Heritage Tour	My Tiong Bahru	Every 1 <sup>st</sup> weekend (Both Saturdays and Sundays)	Various times	My Tiong Bahru heritage tour features Singapore's only conservation estate where participants explore the pre-war and post-war architecture and learn about the culture and arts, food and romance, as well as intriguing people and stories associated with the charming and picturesque neighbourhood. The tour includes an exclusive visit to Singapore's first communal civilian air raid shelter in a residential estate which saved and gave lives during world war II.

## C2: Arts Tours

No.	Tours	Type of Arts Form	Frequency	Registration	Description
1	Lens of the Past	Photography	Monthly	<a href="http://www.mycommunity.eventbrite.sg">www.mycommunity.eventbrite.sg</a>	A photography walk around Queenstown where locally and internationally renowned photographers including Joseph Nair and

					Nicky Loh bring participants to capture their sacred spots in the neighbourhood
2	Artsy Avenues	Sketch	Monthly	<a href="http://www.mycommunity.eventbrite.sg">www.mycommunity.eventbrite.sg</a>	An immersive sketch walk where participants can interpret, negotiate and form their identities and social networks through curated tours. They will also learn how to sketch, paint and draw from renowned fine arts practitioners including Tang Ling Nah, Tan Chwee Seng.