



*Milestones and
Achievements*

History of Girl Guides Singapore



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- Guiding Lights

Mrs Elizabeth Choy
Mrs Anna Tham
Dr Eileen Aw
Ms Lim Soo Hoon
Professor Koh Tai Ann



*...a Movement which knows
no bounds of race, culture and
religion... May all Guides continue
with their splendid activities and
help make our nation not only a
rugged but an indestructible one...*

Puan Noor Aishah, 1967

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Breaking Frontiers

- Firsts and Milestones

Every day of Guiding in Singapore is history in the making.

Dedicated Commissioners, Trainers and Guiders never cease to look at new opportunities for self-training in character development and services to the community for the girls.

New frontiers were discovered and milestones set when members from different races and with special needs were initiated into Guiding in Singapore. The Movement's first steps overseas, achieving international awards, the tireless social services and taking centre stage internationally are some of the firsts and milestones recorded.

Beyond Creed, Race and Nationality

Just as Singapore is a multi-racial country, being all-inclusive was a mantra instilled in the early Guiding days.

Though the Movement was started primarily by expatriates, Miss Jessie Kilgour, the first District Commissioner of Singapore, was an advocate in encouraging Malay girls to join the Movement.



Miss Jessie Kilgour

In 1932, three all-Malay Brownie packs were formed and the girls were described as "keen and happy".

Chinese membership also started to increase when the first three Chinese-speaking Companies started at Nan Hwa, Nan Chiau and Nanyang Girls' School in 1954.

Boundless Guiding

- Guiding for Members with Special Needs

Girls from all walks of life and with different needs were given the opportunity to be part of the Guiding family.

A new field of Guiding began when the First Extension Pack was registered at St. Andrew's Orthopaedic Hospital in 1935. Six girls, all victims of tuberculosis, made the Brownie Promise lying in their beds. Campfire songs were sung around a charcoal bucket "camp fire" in the ward.



First Extension Pack

A Guide Company for deaf children was started at Canossa Convent in 1967.



Guide Company for Deaf children

The First Overseas Delegation

In 1950, the first overseas delegation of eight Guides attended the International Friendship Camp in Perth, Western Australia. This marked the first of the Movement's international interaction effort.



The First Overseas Delegation

The Glory

- First Recipients of Queen's Guide Awards

In the first of a series of accolades to follow in the Singapore Guiding history, Miss Anna Yong, Miss Wendy Geiki and Miss Katherine Wong did Singapore proud by becoming the first Singapore Guides to be presented with the Queen's Guide Awards in 1951.

Social Responsibility

Throughout Singapore Guiding history, social service projects and programmes were given strong emphasis.

- As early as the Second World War in 1939, members contributed to the war effort by knitting, collecting foil, rolling and packing bandages and medical supplies.
- In 1963, Singapore Guides made the first contribution of 1,000 rupees to Sangam Asian Training Centre in Poona.
- Special interest activities like a nation-wide project to canvass for kidney donors and running a day-programme for children living in public housing were organised (1977 – 1984).

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Queen's
Guide Awards
Recipients

- 1981 was designated “The International Year for the Disabled Persons”. Members received training with the Volunteer Service Scheme by the Singapore Council of Social Service.
- In 2001, Trefoil Guild members, together with the Young Adults, did a good turn at Mother Teresa’s Home (Missionaries of Charities) at Thomson Road.



Trefoil Guild Members together with the Young Adults

- Social responsibility was extended beyond the Singapore shores when GGS collected “tsunami pennies” (\$1677.65) which went to help the Guides in Sri Lanka and Thailand affected by the tsunami of 26 December 2004.

Centrestage

As the Singapore Movement grew from strength to strength, it started organising and hosting international events. The Guiding communities from the other countries were invited to Singapore.

- In 1990, Singapore hosted the 27th World Conference of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.



27th World Conference

- International projects, such as the Round Robin Project 2000, which involved Adult Leaders from Malaysia, New Zealand, Australia and Hong Kong were held in Singapore.



Round Robin Project 2000

Breaking Records

Members continued to do the Movement proud by raising the bar on what could be accomplished each day.

- In 2002, one hundred Guides assisted Raffles International to break the Guinness Book of World Records for the most participants at a Ribbon-Cutting event.
- In 2007, Ms Sophia Ng, a President's Guide Award recipient from St Anthony's Canossian School, became the first Girl Guide and Singaporean girl to successfully complete the climb to the Baden-Powell Peak in Nepal.



Ms Sophia Ng

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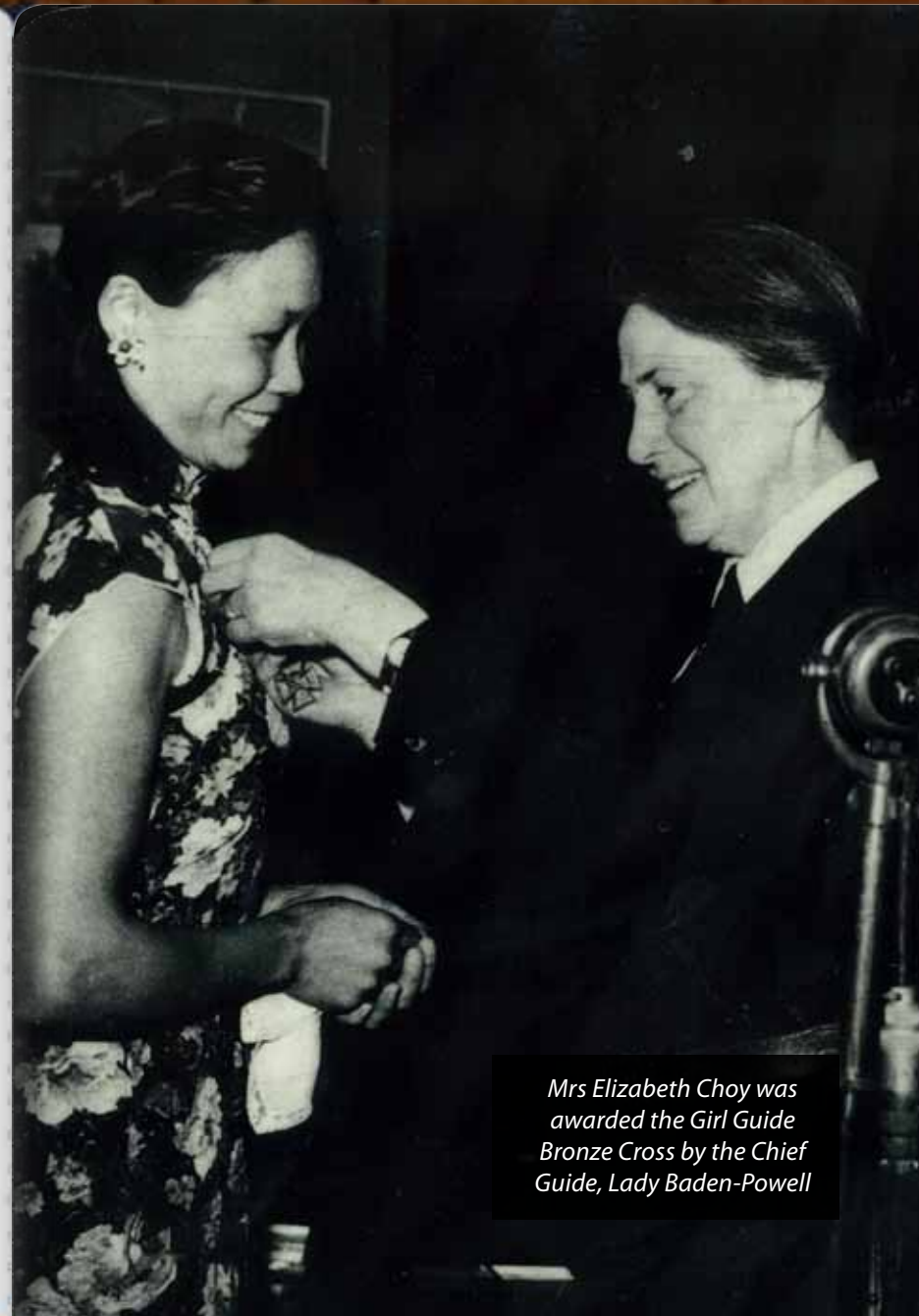
Setting Records

- Awards and Accolades

Singapore Guiding history was marked by the numerous awards and accolades presented to the Movement's leaders and members. These are testimonies of the members' "can-do" attitude and being the best at everything they do. Members continue to take the lead and keep the Singapore Guiding flag flying high.

In 1946, Mrs Elizabeth Choy was awarded the Girl Guide Bronze Cross by the Chief Guide, Lady Baden-Powell. The Bronze Cross, the highest award of Girl Guide Movement, is an award of gallantry.

Miss Jessie Kilgour received the Medal of Merit from Commonwealth Headquarters for her outstanding work in 1947.



Mrs Elizabeth Choy was awarded the Girl Guide Bronze Cross by the Chief Guide, Lady Baden-Powell

Mrs L.A. Thomas, Commissioner for Malaya and Singapore from 1935 – 1941, received the Beaver Award in 1947.

Mrs Tan Kim Toh was one of the early post-war Guiders. Enrolled in 1946, she led St Hilda's Company to win the Cavendish Shield in 1948 for being the best overall Company in Malaya and Singapore.



Mrs Tan Kim Toh won the Cavendish Shield in 1948

Ms Anna Yong, Ms Wendy Geiki and Ms Katherine Wong became the first Singapore Guides to be presented with the Queen's Guide Awards in 1951.

In 1952, the Singapore Guide Companies were awarded the Silver Standard in the Chief Guides Overseas Challenge.

Miss Norah Inge, Colony Commissioner 1948 – 1949, was presented with the Medal of Merit in 1950 and the Beaver Award in 1959 by the Commonwealth Headquarters for her outstanding service to the Movement.

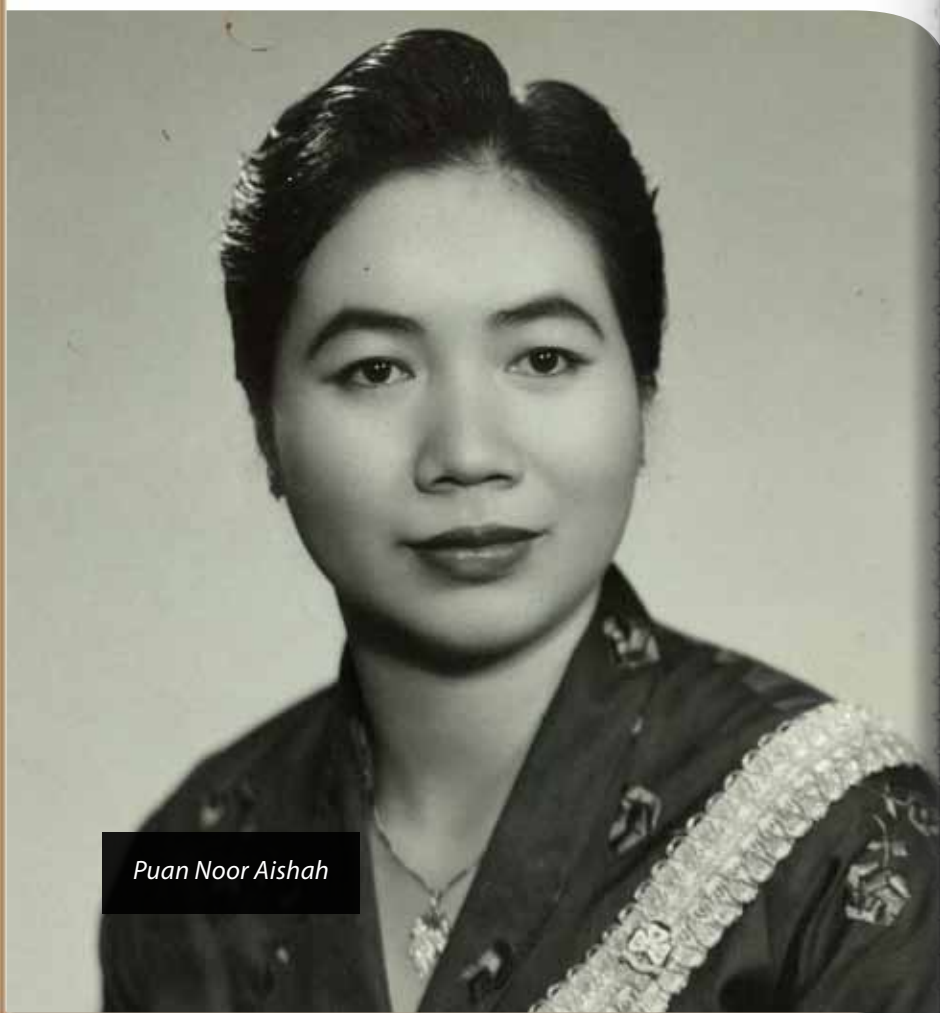


Mrs Wong Hoe Eng

In 1959, Mrs Wong Hoe Eng, Acting Chief Commissioner 1966 – 1967, became the first Asian in Singapore to receive the Oak Leaf for Meritorious Service to the Movement by the Commonwealth.

During the first Awards Ceremony of the Association in Singapore, Mrs Myna Segeram and Mrs Arthur Lockwood received the Palm Leaf Award.

Puan Noor Aishah, the First Lady of Singapore and the first Asian President of Singapore Girl Guides Association, was presented with the Laurel Leaf for distinguished service to the Movement in 1970.



Puan Noor Aishah

Madam Chan Siok Fong was the Chief Commissioner from 1967 – 1977 and has an accolade of awards. She was awarded the Palm Leaf in 1970; the Silver Elephant from the Bharat Scouts and Guides in 1974; the Distinguished Service Award (Gold) from the Singapore Scout Association in 1975; and the Pingat Bakti Masyarakat from the Singapore Government in 1978.



Madam Chan Siok Fong

A new record was set when 25 Guides received the President's Guide Awards in 2000.

Making Waves - Guiding Lights

Mrs Elizabeth Choy

Mrs Elizabeth Choy was a war-time heroine during the Japanese occupation. In 1925, she and her aunt, Jessie, were the first girls to sign up in North Borneo's inaugural Girl Guides Company. When in Singapore, she served at CEZM School, now known as St Margaret's School.

In 1946, Mrs Elizabeth Choy was awarded the Girl Guide Bronze Cross by the Chief Guide, Lady Baden-Powell. The Bronze Cross, the highest award of the Girl Guide Movement, is an award of gallantry. In 1951, she went on to be the only woman member in the Legislative Council.

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Mrs Elizabeth Choy



Mrs Anna Tham (Anna Yong)

Mrs Anna Tham joined the 11th Coy in 1949. An independent and adventurous girl, she progressed rapidly through the programme. Mrs Tham was one of Singapore's first three Queen's Guides in 1951. Later as a Ranger, she served for many years as Captain on the 1st Singapore Land Rangers.

Due to her knowledge and experience of both Singapore and International Guiding, she has held offices as International Commissioner and Deputy Chief Commissioner and, for many years, served as Chairman of the Programme Committee. She believes that Guiding prepares girls for life by inculcating values and moral obligations and build independence, thus promoting the dictum "Whatever You Do, Do Your Best."

Dr Eileen Aw (Eileen Fam)

Dr Eileen Aw joined the 11th Singapore Guide Coy (Open Unit) in 1949. She became Chief Commissioner of the Singapore Girl Guides Association in May 1977. She remained Chief

Commissioner from 1977 to 1994. A keen and proficient Guide, she distinguished herself when she gained the coveted Queen's Guide Award in 1955.

Dr Aw was the editor of the Guide News from 1969 to 1972, Vice-President and later President of the Trefoil Guild from 1972 to 1977. Her enthusiasm, active involvement and dedication to the Movement made her an outstanding leader. She believes that Guiding offers the best training to girls.



*1951 - Young Eileen (left)
with Anna (Right)*



*2010 - 60 years later,
Dr. Aw and Mrs Tham are
still active leaders in GGS*

Ms Lim Soo Hoon

Ms Lim Soon Hoon is a Permanent Secretary in the Public Service Division. She was part of Raffles Girls' School 12th Coy. Ms Lim enjoyed attending and performing at campfires during her Guiding days at Raffles Girls' School. She advocates that Guiding is a good way to build self-esteem and confidence as the various activities give Guides opportunities to interact and engage with one another.

Professor Koh Tai Ann

Professor Koh is currently the Professorial Fellow of Nanyang Technology University. She was from Girl Guide 4th Open Coy, 1st Land Rangers. For Professor Koh, Guiding is an opportunity to spend time enjoyably and fruitfully, and believes that without the Guiding experiences, part of her childhood would have been lost.



Professor Koh Tai Ann





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