

MEDIA CLIPPING

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A heritage fest by the people for the people

Most of this year's programmes have been put together by everyday S'poreans

Amelia Tan

This year's Singapore HeritageFest (SHF) comes with a personal touch. Participants can learn about the history of Seletar Airport, Singapore's coffee traditions and the culture of old estates such as Redhill by listening to stories by everyday Singaporeans who designed the heritage trails.

Given that the theme of the July 19-28 festival is "Memories for Tomorrow", organiser National Heritage Board (NHB) believes it was appropriate to get Singaporeans to share their experiences of neighbourhoods and favourite hangouts. "Heritage is not just about nostalgia. It is living and evolving, and shaped by personal experiences," said festival director Angelita Teo, who is also director of the National Museum of Singapore. She revealed yesterday that most of the festival's 20 programmes, which range from heritage trails to

talks and workshops, were put together by more than 20 community and interest groups, as well as individual Singaporeans.

Exhibitions on unique facets of the country, such as the history of magic here, and music in the 1960s, will also be held in 10 locations across the island.

Ms Teo was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a media preview of the Seletar Heritage Trail at Seletar Airport.

The trail was put together by aviation enthusiasts Ashwin Kotteri and Jerome Tan.

The pair of university students, both 22, joined the Singapore Youth Flying Club while in secondary school and are now members of Wings Over Asia, a social network for private aviators and enthusiasts across Asia.

A team of 10 members of Wings Over Asia will lead participants on the three-hour trail, which will cover the Seletar Camp, Seletar Airport and the Singapore Youth Flying Club.

Participants will visit colonial-style bungalows in the area and listen to residents' stories.

Mr Kotteri said: "Seletar holds a special place in my heart and I



University students Ashwin Kotteri and Jerome Tan with one of the planes that will take five winners of the festival's photography contest up in the air for a bird's eye view of Seletar. The students put together the Seletar Heritage Trail, which includes this colonial-style house in Oxford Street (below) as one of the stops. ST PHOTOS: MARK CHEONG



want to share its rich history with others."

The festival also features a photography contest, where members of the public can post captioned photos that showcase this year's theme, on the SHF website, www.heritagefest.sg

Five winners will enjoy a 45-minute plane ride for a bird's eye view of Seletar.

NHB hopes that this 10th edition of SHF will draw more than one million people.

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