



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD TO LAUNCH SECOND HERITAGE ACTIVATION NODE IN CLEMENTI IN COLLABORATION WITH Ngee ANN POLYTECHNIC

Singapore, 10 September 2024 — Clementi is a modern, bustling neighbourhood, but just beneath its cosmopolitan surface lie heritage gems, like the former Malaysian Railway tracks, Ang Chee Sian Ong Temple, and Masjid Tentera Di-Raja; and tales of its evolution from an area of forests and swamps to one of the earliest HDB towns in Singapore and the vibrant heartland it is today.

2 The National Heritage Board (NHB)'s latest ***Heritage Activation Node (HAN)*** in Clementi aims to celebrate Clementi's rich history in partnership with Institutes of Higher Learning, the local community, and volunteers from across the island – ***HAN Heritage Champions*** – who will develop and present heritage offerings tailored for the neighbourhood. Highlights include a weekend launch festival, a refreshed heritage wall at Clementi Public Library, and a new heritage mural at Clementi MRT Station.

3 NHB's HAN initiative aims to enable the community to celebrate and champion their neighbourhoods' heritage in a sustained manner through partnerships with community groups. The long-term commitment, strong community ownership and anchor partnerships, as well as a greater focus on capability development for the community, make the initiative unique among NHB's other ongoing work with the community.

4 HAN will showcase a neighbourhood's unique heritage and enliven them through three complementary strands: ***Heritage Spaces***, encompassing heritage and cultural infrastructure; ***Heritage Programming***, including guided trails, workshops, exhibitions, etc.; and the aforementioned ***Heritage Champions***, comprising volunteers who will be involved in various projects and programmes. Each HAN will be unique, with offerings that differ according to the place, history and heritage of individual neighbourhoods, and the contributions from community partners.

5 Mr Gerald Wee, Director (Education & Community Outreach), NHB, said: “Clementi is a town with a long history and a vibrant, youthful energy, due largely to the many schools and Institutes of Higher Learning in the neighbourhood. Each *Heritage Activation Node* is unique, and *HAN@Clementi* harnesses Clementi’s mix of old and new, which presents a great opportunity for the young to express their feelings about heritage. Working together with our anchor partner Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP), other schools, businesses and community partners, we hope that this will bring new perspectives to Clementi’s history, and inspire more Singaporeans, especially youth, to get involved in heritage.”

6 NHB’s HAN initiative is a key part of its ongoing efforts under *Our SG Heritage Plan 2.0* to empower the community to be involved in the exploration and celebration of our heritage, and to provide more opportunities for collaborative creation of heritage-related content and projects.

***HAN@Clementi* – Partnering the community with a focus on youth**

7 Clementi is a hub for Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs), and NHB has collaborated with Ngee Ann Polytechnic to give *HAN@Clementi* a youth focus, which offers opportunities and resources to young individuals to conceptualise and develop heritage offerings in Clementi. As the anchor partner for *HAN@Clementi*, NP will co-develop heritage programmes and work closely with NHB to recruit, train, and mobilise community volunteers. Over 130 student and community volunteers were involved in *HAN@Clementi* and its launch festival.

8 Ms Sandra Toh, Director of the School of Humanities & Social Sciences, NP, said: “As the anchor partner for *HAN@Clementi*, Ngee Ann Polytechnic has empowered our students to take on key roles in real-world projects that facilitate the preservation and celebration of Clementi’s heritage. Apart from the opportunity to apply their domain skills, our students gained a deeper appreciation of how collaborations unlock optimal project outcomes. As a champion for social sustainability, we are pleased to drive social impact efforts through partnerships with businesses, the community, and youths from other institutions.”

9 Beyond the involvement of NP, NHB has also collaborated with other IHLs including Singapore Polytechnic and the Singapore University of Social Sciences, schools, heritage businesses, and community partners in the neighbourhood to provide a diverse range of heritage experiences, including installations, guided tours and talks in Clementi. As *HAN@Clementi* is a multiyear initiative, NHB and NP will continue to work with their partners to offer regular heritage programmes in Clementi for Singaporeans to enjoy even after the launch weekend.

HAN@Clementi Launch Festival

10 To celebrate the launch of *HAN@Clementi*, a launch festival will be held from 13 to 15 September 2024. It will feature over 25 activities and programmes co-organised with 18 community partners, including skate-through heritage tour *Rollin' Through West Coast Park*, *My Clementi Heritage Tour* commissioned by Heartland Enterprise Centre Singapore, *Our Clementi Home* heritage village with community activity booths, community music and dance performances, a *pasar malam* at the Clementi Town Centre, an interactive exploration of Clementi through the *JourneyX* web app, and more!

11 To commemorate the launch of *HAN@Clementi*, a mural designed by Ashley Goh, a Year Three student at NP, will be put up at Clementi MRT Station. Titled *Echoes of Clementi*, this mural celebrates Clementi's multicultural blend of communities while showcasing the area's transformation from a humble *kampung* into the bustling town it is today.

12 *Echoes of Clementi* will be officially unveiled at Clementi MRT Station at the *HAN@Clementi* launch ceremony on 13 September 2024. The ceremony will include the symbolic exchange of a memorandum of understanding between NHB and SMRT Trains with Stellar Ace, which covers areas of mutual support to provide more heritage content and the co-organisation of events in the MRT stations near historic districts for better community engagement.

13 Ashley Goh, NP student and Designer of *Echoes of Clementi*, said, "I am grateful for the opportunity to create a piece that celebrates Clementi's rich heritage that can be enjoyed by all.



Throughout the creative process, I've gained a deeper appreciation for the neighbourhood's past and present. I hope this work inspires everyone to treasure our heritage and find meaningful ways to engage with it.”

14 A public Call for Collaborations will also be jointly issued by NHB and NP, and interested community groups and individuals may submit their ideas and proposals for consideration. More details will be published on the HAN website (go.gov.sg/nhb-han) at a later date.

15 Following the launch, various offerings centred around Clementi's heritage will be made available regularly. For more information on *HAN@Clementi* and the launch festival, please visit go.gov.sg/hanclementi-festival, and refer to:

- [Annex A](#) — *About Our Clementi Home: HAN@Clementi Launch Festival*
- [List of festival offerings](#)

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About National Heritage Board

The National Heritage Board (NHB) was formed on 1 August 1993. As the custodian of Singapore's heritage, NHB is responsible for telling the Singapore story, sharing the Singaporean experience and imparting our Singapore spirit.

NHB's mission is to preserve and celebrate the shared heritage of our diverse communities, for the purpose of education, nation-building and cultural understanding. It manages the national museums and heritage institutions, safeguards and promotes intangible cultural heritage, and sets policies relating to heritage sites, monuments and the national collection. Through the national collection, NHB curates heritage programmes and presents exhibitions to connect the past, present and future generations of Singaporeans. NHB is a statutory board under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. Please visit www.nhb.gov.sg for more information.

About the *Our Clementi Home: HAN@Clementi* Launch Festival

13 – 15 September 2024

Embark on an enriching journey through Clementi's history and share in the cherished memories of past and existing residents at the *Heritage Activation Node (HAN) @ Clementi* launch festival!

A collaborative effort between the National Heritage Board and Ngee Ann Polytechnic, *HAN@Clementi* offers youths opportunities to actively participate in developing and presenting heritage. Join us in vibrant youth-led programmes that celebrate and highlight the heritage of Clementi, while also contributing to the thriving community spirit!

Visit go.gov.sg/hanclementi-festival for more details!

