

# The Year At A Glance

## April 2002

### Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve

Following its gazettelement as a nature reserve, Sungei Buloh Nature Park became Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve on Earth Day, 20 April 2002. Its new status grants it more protection and will help ensure that it remains a valuable education and leisure experience for its many users.

### Visit by the Prime Minister of the Republic of India

Following the visit by His Excellency, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Prime Minister of India to the Singapore Botanic Gardens on 9 April 2002, an orchid hybrid was named *Dendrobium Neha* in honour of his grand-daughter.

### Singapore Botanic Gardens wins prestigious award and medal at the 17<sup>th</sup> World Orchid Conference Show 2002

Singapore Botanic Gardens won the prestigious Grand Champion Award for the top landscape exhibit and the Gold Medal for quality at the 17<sup>th</sup> World Orchid Conference Show 2002 held in Malaysia from 24 April to 2 May 2002. In addition, the team also won 22 prizes for hybrids in the Individual Plants category including the best *Renanthera* (*Renanthera* Singapore Botanic Gardens).

## June 2002

### NParks officers attain international status as Certified Arborists

Some 30 NParks officers received international recognition following their successful certification by the International Society of Arboriculture on 21 June 2003. The certification is an endorsement from a professional body for the level of competence in knowledge and skills attained by NParks' arboriculture staff.

### Launch of upgraded Telok Ayer Green

The newly upgraded Telok Ayer Green was launched by Mr Heng Chee How, Mayor of Central Singapore District, on 21 June 2003.

The redevelopment was to enhance the green space and make it a more conducive resting place for residents, office workers and tourists. The entrances were widened to make the park more open and inviting. Wooden benches, trellises, a cascading waterfall and subtle lighting were also added.



1. Sungei Buloh Nature Park was renamed as Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve.
2. The Singapore Botanic Gardens landscape exhibit won the prestigious Grand Champion Award.
3. The *Dendrobium Neha* was named in honour of His Excellency Atal Bihari Vajpayee's grand-daughter.
4. The newly upgraded Telok Ayer Green meets diverse users' needs in the heart of the city.



## September 2002

### Seminar on Skyrise Greening in Singapore

NParks completed its joint study with the Centre for Total Building Performance, National University of Singapore, and shared its findings with more than 200 professionals through the Skyrise Greening in Singapore seminar on 7 September 2002. The study confirmed the thermal benefits of skyrise greenery in the tropical climate. Findings from the study were published in a book "Handbook on Skyrise Greenery in Singapore".

### Launch of Park Watch Scheme

The Park Watch Scheme was launched on 8 September 2002 at Telok Blangah Hill Park. This scheme aims to encourage community involvement through volunteerism in the management of public parks. In this scheme, volunteers will advise park users on the appropriate usage of park facilities, channel feedback to park managers and assist in introducing interesting programme and activities in the parks. The scheme will be launched in five other parks by end of 2003 under the pilot phase.

### Launch of the Heritage Trees Scheme

To conserve and protect mature trees, the Heritage Tree Scheme was launched on 23 September 2002 by Minister of State for National Development and Trade and Industry, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan. To engage the community, a Heritage Trees Nomination Scheme was also initiated. To date, more than 270 nominations have been received.

## October 2002

### International Federation of Parks And Recreation Administration (IFPRA) Asia-Pacific Congress 2002

NParks showcased the Garden City's ambience and shared about the policies and mechanisms that made it a success at the IFPRA Asia-Pacific Congress 2002 from 21 to 24 October 2002. Officiated by Minister for National Development, Mr Mah Bow Tan, the conference attracted more than 200 participants from 18 countries. One of the highlights of the conference was NParks' Chief Executive Officer, Dr Tan Wee Kiat's keynote speech on "Creating Value in Providing and Managing Public Open Spaces in the Information Age: The Singapore Journey".

5. Mayor for South West Community Development Council District, Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, launched the Park Watch Scheme at Telok Blangah Hill Park.



6. Minister of State for National Development and Trade and Industry, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan (centre), with Chairman of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Mr David Eldon (left) and Chairman of NParks, Prof Leo Tan (right), at the launch of the Heritage Tree Scheme.



7. NParks' CEO, Dr Tan Wee Kiat sharing his ideas at the IFPRA Asia-Pacific Congress 2002.



## October 2002

### GardenTech 2002

Held from 24 to 27 October 2002, GardenTech 2002 played host to some 40,000 visitors, twice the attendance of the last event held in year 2000. NParks also launched the e-Plant Reference Guide on NParks' website, a comprehensive pictorial database featuring more than 1000 plants, the first of its kind on the internet for locally grown plants.

### Launch of West Coast Park Dog Run Corner

NParks officially launched the West Coast Park Dog Run Corner on 6 October 2002. As a gathering place for dogs and their owners to meet, have fun and exchange tips on dog care and grooming, the Dog Run Corner covers an area of 2.3 ha.

## November 2002

### Clean and Green Week

Clean and Green Week was launched at Woodlands Civic Centre on 2 November 2002 by Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Tony Tan. To mark Tree Planting Day, a total of 79 constituencies were led by their Advisors in the planting of some 617 trees island wide during the week. To promote nature appreciation and environmental awareness, NParks organised over 140 activities and events during the week.

### Opening of East Coast Terrace Park

Mr Chan Soo Sen, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Community Development And Sports and MP for Joo Chiat, officially opened East Coast Terrace Park on 3 November 2002. Located along East Coast Terrace off Siglap Road, this 0.3 ha park features facilities such as fitness stations, modern play equipment, a community gathering point and a reflexology path.

8. Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of National Development, Prof Koo Tsai Kee touring the exhibits at GardenTech 2002.



9. Deputy Prime Minister, Dr Tony Tan planting a sapling during Clean and Green Week.



## December 2002

### Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve part of the East Asian Australasian Shorebird Site Network

Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve was accepted as a member of the East Asian Australasian Shorebird Site Network. With this, the Reserve is recognised by Wetlands International as an internationally important site for migratory shorebirds.

### New orchid hybrid, *Kagawara* Megawati Soekarnoputri

Prime Minister, Mr Goh Chok Tong presented the new orchid hybrid *Kagawara* Megawati Soekarnoputri to Her Excellency Megawati Soekarnoputri, President of Indonesia, when he visited Indonesia on 16 December 2002.

## January 2003

### Opening of upgraded Tavistock Avenue Park

Officially opened on 4 January 2003 by Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, the newly upgraded Tavistock Avenue Park now boasts of additional features such as an amphitheatre, and a skating rink for inline-skating. Upgraded Tavistock Avenue amenities include children's innovative spacenet and other play-equipment, fitness corners, and interlocking footpaths.

## March 2003

### Promoting skyrise greenery at the 6<sup>th</sup> Spring Home Exhibition

To encourage skyrise greenery among the public, NParks partnered 18 organisations and participated at the 6<sup>th</sup> Spring Home Exhibition from 29 March to 6 April 2003 to reach out to homeowners who aspire to integrate skyrise greenery into their homes.



10. The new orchid hybrid *Kagawara* Megawati Soekarnoputri was presented to the President of Indonesia by Prime Minister, Mr Goh Chok Tong.



11. The 2.3 ha Tavistock Avenue Park was well-received by residents.



12. Encouraging an appreciation for greenery at the 6<sup>th</sup> Spring Home Exhibition.