

Interview with Albert Liu

Albert Liu is the co-founder of Accessible Ubin, a ground-up initiative to make Pulau Ubin safer and more accessible for the elderly, families and wheelchair users. He has loved the great outdoor in Ubin since his teenage years. Of late, he's been getting acquainted with its community and living heritage. He shares his "Ubinspiration" with us!



What sparked your interest in founding Accessible Ubin?

My friend Colin Chew and I started Accessible Ubin for two reasons. Firstly, we want to share this national treasure with the less mobile and less privileged. Our last kampung, Ubin offers rich biodiversity, the great outdoors as well as many educational experiences. We want to make Ubin an inclusive experience.

Secondly, we want to make it easier for Ubinites to return home after going to Singapore. Many are aged and travel to the mainland by ferry for medical attention or to visit family. On their return, their mobility is impeded by the steps at the Ubin jetty. We value Ubinites as stewards of the island and we owe it to them to enable them a safer and more accessible way home.

What's your hope for Pulau Ubin in ten years?

I hope to see an Ubin for All – inclusive infrastructure and activities for visitors with special needs, sustainable livelihoods for residents and an accessible kampung for all. For Ubin folks, new livelihoods like small-scale farming, guided walks or workshops so they can diversify their income sources and reduce their dependency on the sale of drinks and bike rental.

We hope Ubinites will embrace the spirit of inclusivity and community living, and help one another, and that visitors will respect and care for the island and its residents and environment so everyone can enjoy Ubin and contribute to it.



For all of our friends, Ubin Day 2017 was their first time on Ubin. Photo credit: Tammy Wong

How does being a member of the Friends of Ubin Network (FUN) contribute to improving accessibility on Pulau Ubin?

Being a member of FUN connects us to the varied expertise and experiences of many committed and talented people who love Ubin. This collective wisdom allows us to refine ideas and strengthen our cause for inclusivity in Ubin. FUN members with their wide networks give us the opportunity to engage stakeholders like bumboat and van operators who are valuable resource partners in our work.



Ubin is our national treasure; it is ours to treasure. Come experience Ubin's magic and charm for yourself. You will love Ubin. Then protect the Ubin you love. May Ubin remain forever relevant and special in our hearts.



For more info on Accessible Ubin, visit www.facebook.com/AccessibleUbin.

[f @AccessibleUbin](https://www.facebook.com/AccessibleUbin) [i @accessible_ubin](https://www.instagram.com/accessible_ubin)



During Wheels@Ubin 2018, many participants signed posters to show their support for Accessible Ubin and the future of the island.

For more information on Pulau Ubin, visit www.ubin.sg or contact us at nparks_pulau_ubin@nparks.gov.sg

Ubin Tides



Species Recovery Programme in Pulau Ubin

About Asian Small-Clawed Otter (ASCO), *Aonyx cinereus*

- Sightings: Only 16 sightings since 1999, at Pulau Ubin and Pulau Tekong
- Habitat: Mangroves near rivers on both islands
- Behaviour: More active in the evening and very shy
- Ecological importance: Role of top predator and with niche feeding behaviour (feeds on crustaceans and small fishes)



Family of four ASCOs at the otter holt.

Recent Observations

- In 2016, we constructed the first artificial holts in mangroves near the rivers where otters are known to frequent in Ubin
- In 2018, through monitoring via camera traps at the otter holt, we observed a family of four ASCOS
 - o Enter and exit using the pipes
 - o Mark their territory with their spraint (dung of otters)
 - o Drag vegetation into the holt, possibly for use as bedding material

About the Species Recovery Programme

- Aim: To stop the decline of target species and support their recovery to maximise their chances of long term survival.
- Other initiatives:
 - o Constructing bat boxes and houses
 - o Creating bird nesting habitats for Blue-throated Bee-eater (*Merops viridis*), Red-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*) and Baya weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*)
 - o Planting of native orchids



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Celebrating the Ubin Spirit



Hi Ubin Residents!

I am a descendant of the Ubin community, the grandchild of Awang Minyak of Kampong Surau. Since I found my grandparents' house in April 2018, I have been returning often to learn more about our island and sharing my experiences on my blog, Wan's Ubin Journal.

While there are fewer kampungs today than in the past, one thing remains - the strong kampung spirit within the Ubin community.

To celebrate this, I organised a simple mini Balik Kampung event for former Ubin residents of the Malay community last November as a way of thanking them for reconnecting me to my roots.

I will continue to play my part to give back to the community. In return for the community's help to my family in times of need, I will come up with more community projects such as the monthly kampung clean-up I started in January this year.

Thank you to all Ubin residents for championing the kampung spirit. Let's all work together to lift our kampung spirit even higher so that Pulau Ubin can thrive again, with residents in its heart.

Syazwan Majid
Writer, Wan's Ubin Journal
(<http://wansubinjournal.blogspot.com>)



Members of the public also joined in the fun by playing some traditional games!
Photo credit: Jeffrey Cheng



Former residents brought old photos from their childhood to reminisce about the good old days growing up on Ubin.
Photo credit: Jeffrey Cheng



Pesta Raya @ Ubin

Sunday, 16 June 2019, 4pm - 8pm

Calling out to all former and current Ubin residents. Let's get together as a kampung and celebrate Raya at Ubin!



DINE : Indulge in authentic Malay cuisine



DO : Take part in ketupat weaving, traditional games, dressing up in traditional Malay costumes



SEE : Delight in a showcase of Malay arts performances and a light-up at Kampong Sungei Durian!



Bring your families and neighbours along. Transportation is **FREE** from 2pm onwards. Wheelchair-bound friends are welcome!