



A Walk down Memory Lane

By Soo Yin Fung

As Singapore steps into its 4th decade of nation building, it is time to promote its heritage and remind Singaporeans of their roots.

Central Singapore CDC is working with partners such as National Heritage Board (NHB), Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), Jalan Besar Citizens'

Consultative Committee and Moulmein Citizens' Consultative Committee, to preserve our unique heritage in Balestier and Jalan Besar. Community trails that highlight the rich architectural, cultural and social heritage of these neighbourhoods have been designed. One can find markers or permanent site structures with educational information of the landmarks or the places. Maps and brochures will be made available to those who want to do a self-guided walk.

There will be a launch of the Balestier and Jalan Besar community trails on 22 July.

Jalan Besar used to be an industrial part of Singapore. Discover the transport system that was in place there until the 60s. Find out also what used to float along the Kallang River and how Lavender Street got its name.

The Balestier area, being low lying

ground, was often flooded when it rained. Children would have to take refuge on top of wardrobes. There is also the famous Sun Yat Sen Villa to explore.

The unique feature of these two heritage trails is that the historical information on the areas was put together not only from documentary records but also from the memories and experiences of the people who live there. Through these trails, the communities in Balestier and Jalan Besar share their history with everyone else where all Singaporeans will enjoy an invaluable insight into the lives and experiences of Balestier and Jalan Besar residents in years gone by.

Stories of days gone by and heritage information are being sought right up to the official launch on 22 July of the two heritage trails. Time to get in touch with our roots, wouldn't you say?

