

## Synopsis & Learning Outcomes of each strand

### Landscapes and Mindscapes: Connecting the Dots of Ubin

*Kok Heng Leun, Khong Weng Keong & Tan Beng Chiak*

To the untrained eye, Ubin appears as a motley collection of quaint sights. This trail uncovers varied perspectives and contemporary interpretations of some of the island's cultural and physical (e.g., geological) markers. By exploring what Pulau Ubin means at different times and space, we will begin to appreciate what Ubin has to offer to enrich one's imagination (e.g., geographical, cultural, socio-economic, historical) and critical thinking skills in order to further a sense of place (e.g., needs, relationships, identities (e.g., "indigenous people of Ubin") and tensions) in our students.

### Learning Outcomes

At the end of the trail experience, participants will be able to:

1. identify and recognise interesting historical, cultural and physical features along the trail.
2. relate to the demographic, socio-economic and environmental changes and realities of Pulau Ubin.
3. relate to the impact that Ubin's transportation has on the perception and experience of the island as a place by its residents and visitors.
4. connect the relevance of and development in Pulau Ubin to narratives and aspirations about Singapore's national development and nation-building.
5. reframe Pulau Ubin as a place of significant (educational) value that can support inter-generational connections, sustainable development, and nation-building.

### Pre-Symposium Reading

- [Local Custodians of Pulau Ubin's Intangible Cultural Heritage by Dr Vivienne Wee](#)
- [https://www.paralimes.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Vivienne-Wee\\_PS.pdf](https://www.paralimes.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Vivienne-Wee_PS.pdf)
- [Life on Ubin](#) was produced by NHB, which presents the memories and experiences of current and former residents of Pulau Ubin. This the Pulau Ubin Cultural Mapping Project led by Dr Vivienne Wee
- [Pulau Ubin Cultural Mapping Project](#)
- [Standing Firm: Stories of Ubin](#)
- [ST report: 5 kampung homes in Ubin to be restored](#)
- ["Balik Pulau" - Exploring Singapore's island heritage video report \[2014\]](#)
- [Visiting The Malay Kampong Sungei Durian, Pulau Ubin, personal blog by Andrew Nelson](#)
- [The festive face of Ubin](#) on the Long and Winding Road blog by Jerome Lim
- CNA report and video ['If we can, we will keep going': The Pulau Ubin provision shop that opens 365 days a year](#) (2022)
- [Urbanizing Islands: A Critical History of Singapore's Offshore Islands by Creighton Connolly and Hamzah Muzaini](#) (2021)
- Anthropology, Islands, and the Search for Meaning in the Anthropocene by [Justin Armstrong](#)

Change in mobility over time. Movement of people and even gods - lateral movement of human and spiritual movement of gods

1. 8.45am Changi jetty
2. Bumboat
3. 9.05am Main Ubin Village,  
Introduces Bee Choo's Indian helper, Doreen movement of gods.  
(Wayang stage & Bin Kiang School + residents to speak about their festivities and place names. Share how villagers obtain the water & electricity. Also trash disposal. New initiative to use solar rather than diesel - micro-grid.  
Pekan quarry - movement of granite stones from the ground to the surface
4. 10.15 from Pekan quarry to Kg sungei durian - Visit the **well** and the washing point

## Ubin Resource - Mobility

Mobility : on the move... to some where... for rest ... for some purpose ... to achieve a task...

where mobility signifies change... where mobility signifies

What moves, how they moves, when they move, why they move?

Speed, tempo, rhythm, time, duration

Stop 1: Preparation to move:

1. The jetty...- the travellers, the people who works there
2. The time/the space

Stop 2: The Boat ride : an island moving... an isolation... a state of being leaving n while u are here... u change your set of mind

(Hearing the audio)

Stop 3: The Chinese village

- movement of people... what the village previously was - where business daily livelihood are done... where ammunitions are kept... now where tourists make pit stop before they go to another place
- Now, who are these people? The Vietnamese, people from mainland, people from Malaysia, people who were not the original Ubin residents

Stop 4: The Temple

- movement of god - Dua Pek Gong, moving from hilltop to village square
- Doreen as people from mainland now coming to live here

Stop 5: Pekan Quarry - the net work of things moving - of Granites from the deep underground to the various parts of Singapore - how it evolves through time, then the site become covered with water - about the underground (10:15am)

Stop 6: The Malay village - Kampong Sungai Durian

- Water point and the Well... the movement underground - the water... the life source (Weng Kheong: about how water accumulates - the geography)
- How people move and live...

Stop 7: The Pekau Tree and the School n the Surau, Ghosts, Hantu

Passing by: Chek Jawa - the tides, the migratory birds

## Connecting with Ubin villagers

**Dr Vivienne Wee, June Wong & Pillay P Krishnan**

Pulau Ubin is the last inhabited island of Singapore with what is left of *kampung* life. The former population of some 2000 people before 1992 have dwindled to less than 150, with only 38 or so persons there every day. Nevertheless, the *kampung spirit* lives among the remaining villagers, as exemplified through their inherent trust of others, families helping each other through generations, neighbours sharing resources like their well water, sharing of each other's special skills like building a *kampung* house, crab catching etc.

Connecting with Ubin villagers means connecting with the *kampung* way of life where sharing is a norm of everyday life.

### Learning Outcomes

At the end of the trail experience, participants will be able to:

1. experience what it means to be part of a living and learning community who are sensitive to their daily environment.
2. learn from the people of Ubin their knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe (e.g their knowledge of the various plants and their uses, and their skills to repair and maintain their houses, eke out a living)
3. experience the *kampung* spirit through conversations with Ubin villagers (e.g their sharing of knowledge to foster a sense of community, building trust and intergenerational tradition of cooperation)
4. discuss how Ubin's living community heritage can become a cultural asset for Singaporeans and global citizens e.g achieving balance between biodiversity/heritage conservation and development.

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- [Pulau Ubin Cultural Mapping Project](#)
- [Life on Ubin](#) was produced by NHB, which presents the memories and experiences of current and former residents of Pulau Ubin. This the Pulau Ubin Cultural Mapping Project led by Dr Vivienne Wee
- The Art of Advocacy in Singapore edited by Constance Singam & Margaret Thomas
- [Standing Firm: Stories of Ubin](#)
- [ST report: 5 kampung homes in Ubin to be restored](#)
- ["Balik Pulau" - Exploring Singapore's island heritage video report \[2014\]](#)
- [Visiting The Malay Kampong Sungei Durian, Pulau Ubin, personal blog by Andrew Nelson](#)
- [Today's interview with Ahmad Kassim about the Japanese Occupation and his house](#) (2017)
- [Urbanizing Islands: A Critical History of Singapore's Offshore Islands by Creighton Connolly and Hamzah Muzaini](#) (2021)

## Cycle of Our Landscape

*Ethan Chung, Lim Cheng Puay & Chua Yong Liang (ex-villager)*

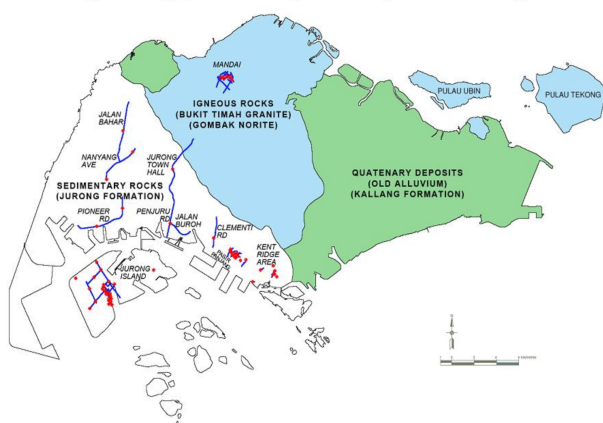
Pulau Ubin provides a multi-faceted educational experience, and this trail covers the delicate cycle in the use of natural capital provided by Pulau Ubin and will discuss the changes seen in Pulau Ubin's natural landscape over the years. This trail will first cover the granite quarries and its post-historical use such as the rehabilitation strategies to restore the natural environment. Secondly, the mangrove ecosystem in Puaka will be introduced with focus on its biodiversity and ecosystem services. The human and physical geography of mangroves will be highlighted, from its use as a prawn farm to its rehabilitation back to a mangrove forest. From a pedagogical perspective, this trail will explore options of organising field studies and field trips to Pulau Ubin with possibilities of inquiry-based learning focusing on the lifecycle of economic activities such as prawn farming and granite quarrying. Another possible project will be the geographical investigation on mangroves and water quality of quarry lakes. Schools can explore citizen scientist projects investigating cultural and ethnographic research for the remaining structures and kampung practices. Possible ways to frame the content to make it applicable for group investigation will be discussed.

### Learning Outcomes

At the end of the trail experience, participants will be able to:

1. recognise how the natural landscape in Pulau Ubin has changed over time with the mass settlement of people to operate the granite quarries and the construction of prawn farms
2. understand the historical significance of granite quarries in Pulau Ubin and their impact on the natural landscape and its impact on village life
3. examine the strategies and methods used to rehabilitate the quarries and restore the natural environment
4. Identify key characteristics of the mangrove ecosystem
5. recognize the importance of the mangrove ecosystem in Puaka, including its biodiversity and ecosystem services
6. analyze the effects of prawn farms around mangroves on the local ecosystem.
7. examine the controversies surrounding future hi-tec aquaculture farms and the protection of mangroves and other habitats

Geology of Singapore and Layout of Major Site Investigations



### Pre-Symposium Reading

[Map from Geology of Singapore by Dr Cai Jun Gang, 2012]

Whole of Pulau Ubin is part of the Bt Timah Granite, age early to middle triassic (250 - 235 my)

- [Standing Firm: Stories of Ubin](#)
- [The Natural History of Pulau Ubin: Carved in Granite by Marcus Chua](#)
- [Urbanizing Islands: A Critical History of Singapore's Offshore Islands by Creighton Connolly and Hamzah Muzaini \(2021\)](#)
- [News on Reopening Ubin quarries \(2007\)](#)
- [Thesis that proposes the Quarry Collective Master Plan](#)
- [A field guide to the geology of Singapore by Oliver. Grahame J. H.](#)

## Synopsis for Trail: Conservation Efforts for a Biophilic City

*Dr Chua Ee Kiam, Philemon Foo & Jacob Tan*

As one of Singapore's offshore nature sanctuaries, Pulau Ubin has been recognised as a refugia for species threatened elsewhere in the region which includes the red-jungle fowl, straw-headed bulbul, Sunda Pangolin and southern pied hornbill. And It still continues to yield surprises. Recently, a species of flower fly known as the wasp mimic that had not been sighted for almost 200 years was rediscovered here on Pulau Ubin. Ubin can certainly play a bigger role in biodiversity education and nature conservation and not merely as an island getaway for the youths. Participants would get to experience Ubin's biodiversity through the sights and sounds on this trail. They would also get to understand how the species recovery programme on Ubin targets endemic, threatened native species in Singapore through habitat enhancement projects such as the bat houses. The place can also foster a rich learning experience for students, not easily afforded elsewhere, in enhancing their understanding of ecological systems and even how they can play a role in citizen science.

### Learning Outcomes

At the end of the trail experience, participants will be able to:

1. identify some of the flora and fauna found in Chek Jawa and the different habitats - coastal forest, mud flats, mangrove, rocky shores and seagrass meadows
2. appreciate Chek Jawa as another possible stopover for migratory birds along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway<sup>1</sup>
3. recognize the significant role of mangroves and coastal forests in providing ecosystem services and possible nature-based solutions to address sea level rise and climate crisis.
4. analyze the controversies surrounding marine foraging and coastal protection
5. acknowledge the role of communities in the conservation of Chek Jawa
6. recognize the importance of advocacy and research of Singapore's natural landscapes with its irreplaceable habitats
7. debate the future of possible land reclamation on the eastern coast of Ubin

### Pre-Symposium Reading

- [Standing Firm: Stories of Ubin](#)
- [NSS Position Paper on Pulau Ubin \(2014\)](#)
- [Biodiversity Conservation by NParks](#)
- [Chek Jawa and How It Provided for the Ubin Orang Pulau personal blog by Syazwan Majid](#)
- [Five new species of fauna recorded for Singapore at Pulau Ubin](#)
- [Land reclamation at Changi Bay to start by end-2022, near-threatened eagle & dugong feeding trails observed nearby](#) - Today
- [Land From Sand: Singapore's Reclamation Story](#)
- Pulau Ubin: Ours to Treasure by Chua Ee Kiam (2000)
- Footprints on an Island : rediscovering Pulau Ubin by Chua Ee Kiam



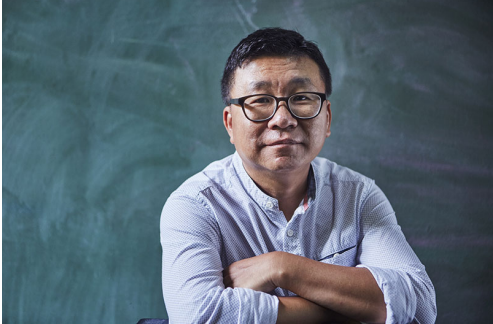
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<sup>1</sup><https://www.nparks.gov.sg/news/2018/6/five-new-species-of-fauna-recorded-for-singapore-at-pulau-ubin>


## Our Educator facilitators:

- o **Philemon Foo**, Senior Teacher, *Fuchun Secondary School*
- o **Khong Weng Keong**, HoD Character & Citizenship Education (CCE), *Valour Primary School*
- o **Lim Cheng Puay**, Lecturer, *Ridge View Residential College, National University of Singapore*
- o **Pillay P Krishnan**, Vice Principal, *North Vista Secondary School*
- o **Tan Beng Chiak**, Retired Lead Teacher, Education Comm Chair, *Nature Society Singapore*
- o **Jacob Tan**, Senior Teacher, *Commonwealth Secondary School*
- o **June Wong**, retired Master Teacher, *Academy of Singapore Teachers*

## About our Experts:

	<p><b>Dr Chua Ee Kiam</b></p> <p>Dr Chua is a Senior Consultant at the Prosthodontic Unit, Department of Restorative Dentistry, National Dental Centre Singapore. His love for photography has led him to become Singapore's foremost author of award winning books on nature. He has spent thousands of hours in Pulau Ubin photographing the wildlife in Chek Jawa when it first came into the limelight. All the amazing stories from Pulau Ubin were captured in 2 books, <i>Chek Jawa - Discovering Singapore's Biodiversity</i> and <i>Footprints On An Island: Rediscovering Pulau Ubin</i></p> <p>Dr Chua Ee Kiam prefers to ponder over how he can excite others with his observations of the natural world. He seeks answers to the things that intrigue him and with his new-found knowledge, attempts to convey the miracle of life using the medium of his choice - photography.</p>
	<p><b>Ethan Chung</b></p> <p>Mr Ethan Chung graduated with a Masters in Architecture and is an Architect in RSP Architects. Besides architecture-making, his interests are in heritage conservation and community development. He participates actively in Friends of Ubin Network and does community projects with Kawan Ubin. His past research involved the post-historical use of granite quarries in Pulau Ubin</p>
	<p><b>Kok Heng Leun</b></p> <p>Kok Heng Leun is a prominent figure in the Singapore arts scene, having built his artistic career as a theatre director, playwright, dramaturg and educator. He is known for engaging the community on various issues through the arts, championing civic discourse across different segments of society.</p> <p>Having begun his work in the theatre almost 30 years ago. His explorations with multi-disciplinary engaged arts has produced works like site-specific theatre Ubin, <i>Project Mending Sky</i> (2008, 2009 and 2012), a series on environmental issues, <i>Both Sides, Now</i> (2013, 2014 and 2017-2019), a project that seeks to normalise end-of-life conversations and <a href="#">It Won't Be Too Long</a>, which touched on the dynamics of space in Singapore. <a href="#">Tanah•Air</a></p>



	<p><a href="#"><u>水•土: A Play In Two Parts</u></a> was about the dispossession of the indigenous Malays and Orang Seletar of Singapore.</p> <p>Heng Leun's contributions to the arts have landed him awards from the National Arts Council, Singapore – the Young Artist Award (2000), Cultural Fellowship (2014), and the highest artistic accolade, the Cultural Medallion (2022). He also served as a Nominated Member of Parliament from 2016 to 2018, representing the arts sector.</p> <p>Heng Leun is currently working on a multi-years arts-based project called Project 12, that will happen in Ubin. The project will embed artists in Ubin so that artists will engage living sentients and non-living resources of Pulau Ubin, to research and create works that will explore the idea of ecological sustainability.</p>
	<p><b>Dr Vivienne Wee</b></p> <p>Vivienne Wee is an anthropologist and a public intellectual who has been doing research on the cultural heritage of Pulau Ubin since 2015. She is an active member of 'Kawan Ubin', a project of Friends of Ubin (FUN), which is a network of Singaporeans concerned about Ubin. She is currently Associate Faculty at the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS). Her anthropological research spans Singapore and Indonesia, especially the Riau Archipelago. She obtained her PhD in Anthropology from the Australian National University, MSocSc in Sociology from the (then) University of Singapore, and Bachelor's degrees in Music and Anthropology from the University of Minnesota. She previously lectured at the National University of Singapore, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and City University of Hong Kong.</p>