



Just for the record

BY JEAN QINGWEN LOO

SOME six years ago, a group of close friends who shared a common interest in the Guinness World Records decided to take that passion a step further and create their own version of the book.

As a result, the Singapore Book of Records was born in 2006. It is published yearly by the Singapore Book of Records Club (SBOR), a non-profit society established to compile, administer and create national records.

“We offer a platform for people to compete in different areas and have their achievements recorded,” says the club’s president Ong Eng Huat, who works in the publishing industry. “More importantly, we believe in creating a more vibrant environment where people learn to push their limits through friendly competition.”

Other than the laborious task of building a database of records which feature Singaporeans from Minister Mentor Lee Kwan Yew to the man on the street, Mr Ong and his team are constantly on the run to certify new records and provide consultation to organisations using record-breaking to add buzz to their events.

The records found in the book are either factual records compiled through research or organised records like mass participation, amazing feats and super-sized feats.

Take for example, the titles of “most number of people in a bus” and “fastest SMS texter” which were accorded to students from Temasek Polytechnic and Jeramy Sng Gim. They showcase an alternate side of Singapore’s history yet are no less important the likes of Thum Ping Tjin, the first Singaporean to swim the English Channel and Tampines North Community Centre’s creation of the largest pyramid made from kaya toast.





Having been brought up in a system of meritocracy, most Singaporeans are familiar with this desire for recognition and results. Perhaps what's commendable is that more individuals and organisations are making use of this motivation as a vehicle to raise funds and awareness for their respective causes.

"It gives the volunteers a common goal and helps add excitement to the event," says undergraduate Tan Hui Wen, a member of the organising committee behind the National Youth EnvirOlympics Challenge, which aims to educate the youth and public about the values leading environmentally friendly lifestyles. In its third year running, the annual event has created records of the longest thumbprint trail, a world record for the largest sheet of handmade recycling paper and the longest banner of footprints.

For the team behind the Singapore Book of Records, this project has evolved from a mere idea into a labour of love. Moving forward, the search is on for new partners interested to develop the potential of the book, which Mr Ong hopes will be a standard reference point of Singapore's history in time to come. "The book is a passion that gets refuelled each time I see the effort behind each record," he says. "It is also a celebration of the human spirit in our time."



QUIRKY RECORDS of recent times

LONGEST HELMET CHAIN

Over 16,600 helmets were chained up into a continuous line measuring 5.664km for Keppel Marine and Offshore's Family Day at Sentosa in 2007.

FASTEST SQUEEZING OF ORANGE JUICE

1,447 students from Compassvale secondary school manually squeezed 150 litres of orange juice into a 150-litre cup in less than 12 minutes in 2004.

FASTEST EATING OF HALF A WATER MELON

Yeong Chee Hoi took less than 10 minutes to eat half a watermelon at the GE Aviation Service Convention in 2006.

WORLD'S BIGGEST STIR-FRY

Former TV chef Nancy Lam stir-fried a 700 kg dish of cabbage, carrots, baby corn, pak choi and bean sprouts in a giant wok at Leicester Square in London in 2004.

Smallest Mosque in Singapore – Tasek Utara Mosque, located at 46 Bristol Road can accommodate around 120 people in a congregation prayer.

MOST BANKRUPTS IN A YEAR

The number of people made bankrupt in Singapore reached a record 2,904 in 2001 during the economy's worst recession since independence.

The Singapore Book of Records retails at \$38 at major bookstores. The organisers can also be contacted at <http://www.singaporebookofrecords.com/>