A Better Living Environment’ (ABLE) Roving Exhibition

You get another chance to visit the interactive ‘A Better Living Environment’ (ABLE) exhibition if you have missed it last year. The ABLE exhibition organised by the Municipal Services Office (MSO) will be roving to more locations this year.

Read more »

Better Ways Of Moving Goods

The rise of e-commerce worldwide has led to more delivery vehicles plying the roads, creating more traffic congestion, noise, and air pollution. How can the delivery of goods be better organised in Singapore to ensure that our city remains liveable and sustainable?

Read more »
EASE Programme to Offer Ramps for Flats with Multi-Step Entrances

Seniors living in older HDB flats with multi-step entrances can now get highly subsidised ramps that will make their lives easier. Under the Enhancement for Active Seniors (EASE) programme, HDB will offer two new improvement items — a portable ramp and a customised ramp — suitable for the majority of HDB flats with multi-step entrances.

Read more »

Making a Green Mark on International Academic Research

A research paper by BCA and NUS on Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) in Singapore’s Green Mark buildings has been published in one of the field’s most prestigious journals.

Read more »
Of Migratory Shorebirds and Mangroves

Last year, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve celebrated its 25th anniversary. In conjunction with World Migratory Bird Day (13 October) and the Reserve’s 25th anniversary, the National Parks Board (NParks) announced on 7 October 2018 that Mandai Mangrove and Mudflat will also be conserved as a Nature Park.

Read more »

SG Farmers’ Market at Cairnhill Community Club

SG Farmers’ Market is back! More than 18 Singapore farmers will gather in central Singapore at Cairnhill Community Club to bring their best produce to you. Just in time for your festive feasts this Chinese New Year (CNY), you will be able to buy the freshest veggies, eggs, fish, mushrooms and more, direct from our local farms!

Read more »

5 Things You Never Knew Your Property Agents Were Not Allowed To Do

5 Things You Never Knew Your Property Agents Were Not Allowed To Do

By DollarsAndSense.sg
Sharing a property agent between buyer and seller, or landlord and tenant for the same transaction might seem like a good way to save money on the agent’s commission. However, it’s actually illegal for your property agent to do so! Here are five things your property agent cannot do.

**A Better Living Environment’ (ABLE) Roving Exhibition**

You get another chance to visit the interactive ‘A Better Living Environment’ (ABLE) exhibition if you have missed it last year. The ABLE exhibition organised by the Municipal Services Office (MSO) will be roving to more locations this year!

The exhibition shows visitors how they can play their part to (i) **care** for their living environment, (ii) **commit** to discontinuing any bad habits that can cause inconvenience in shared spaces, and (iii) **champion** good habits within their own communities.

*The ABLE Roving Exhibition features information panels, an interactive activity, a pledge wall and a lucky draw segment.*

The exhibition brings public education messages from different agencies under one roof. It reminds visitors to bin their rubbish properly, pick up their dogs’ poo when bringing them out for walks, and keep common corridors clutter-free, among other things.
Visitors can take a test using quiz cards. If they answer all questions correctly, they stand a chance to win prizes in a lucky draw!

Visitors who take part in the lucky draw stand a chance to win grocery vouchers worth $30.

The exhibition will be held at the following locations, so be sure to visit if you are in the area!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clementi Public Library</td>
<td>2 – 31 Jan 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heartbeat @ Bedok</td>
<td>1 Feb – 10 Mar 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Tampines Hub</td>
<td>11 – 31 Mar 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Better Ways Of Moving Goods
The rise of e-commerce worldwide has led to more delivery vehicles plying the roads, creating more traffic congestion, noise, and air pollution. How can the delivery of goods be better organised in Singapore to ensure that our city remains liveable and sustainable?

**Digitalisation**
Some local companies are leading the way by tapping on emerging digital technologies to reduce the length of trips and the number of delivery trucks on the road. For example, the software company Versafleet has developed a transport management system that optimises delivery routes to reduce the amount of time delivery trucks spend on the road.

**Resource Pooling**
A recent study by the Singapore University of Technology and Design and the Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology found that trucks going into Orchard Road were less than 40% full, and were bound for only one shop per mall. AAK Logistics Services is one of several local firms piloting consolidation centres to address such inefficiencies. By consolidating the goods from separate companies in one place before delivery to the retailers in the same location, it maximises the efficiency of deliveries, thereby reducing the number of trucks on the road.

**Scheduling**
Trucks arriving at unloading bays at the same time can often cause road congestion as well. To minimise this, new technology platforms are being deployed to stagger deliveries at Fusionopolis One @ one-north and Changi Airport Terminal 4.

These, and other innovative ideas transforming the urban logistics industry, are currently showcased at the Urban Redevelopment Authority’s “Delivering Together: Transforming Urban Logistics” exhibition. The exhibition was opened by Minister for National Development and Second Minister for Finance Mr Lawrence Wong, who said: “We must optimise the delivery of goods within our island to bring greater convenience to consumers, to help businesses lower costs and ultimately to enhance our competitiveness as a regional hub.”
Minister Wong noted that while the exhibition focuses on business-to-consumer and business-to-business logistics, urban logistics is ultimately part of a larger multi-modal logistics management system bringing goods into and out of Singapore.

To learn more about the innovations transforming urban logistics in Singapore, visit the “Delivering Together: Transforming Urban Logistics” exhibition at the URA Centre, which will run until 15 February 2019. For more details, visit https://ura.sg/subscribe.
EASE Programme to Offer Ramps for Flats with Multi-Step Entrances

Seniors living in older HDB flats with multi-step entrances can now get highly subsidised ramps that will make their lives easier. Under the Enhancement for Active Seniors (EASE) programme, HDB will offer two new improvement items — a portable ramp and a customised ramp — suitable for the majority of HDB flats with multi-step entrances.

Portable ramp, suitable for corner units

The portable ramps are suitable for units with sufficient space in front of their entrances, such as corner units, and can be dismantled when not in use. Conversely, the customised ramps will be fabricated according to each unit’s configuration, and are better suited for corridor units.
Under EASE, the Government will pay up to 95% of the cost of the improvement items, depending on the flat type. This means that eligible flat owners would have to pay only about $35 to $87.50 for a portable ramp and $80 to $200 for a customised ramp.

Residents whose flats are undergoing the Home Improvement Programme (HIP) can opt for the ramps under EASE, while residents whose flats are not undergoing HIP can apply directly to HDB under EASE (Direct Application). To be eligible, the flat owner must be a Singapore Citizen (SC), with at least one household member aged 65 years old and above who is a wheelchair user, or aged between 60 and 64 years old and requires assistance for one or more of the Activities of Daily Living (ADL).

In cases where ramps cannot be installed due to site constraints like the block layout or lack of available corridor space, HDB may offer flat owners a lightweight and compact mechanical wheelchair lifter suitable for use in HDB estates. This is a separate pilot scheme that is not part of the EASE programme. Under this scheme, the Government will subsidise half the cost of the lifter for SC households.
As Singapore’s population ages, HDB will continue to look into making our towns and homes more elderly-friendly.

Making a Green Mark on International Academic Research

A research paper by BCA and NUS on Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) in Singapore’s Green Mark buildings has been published in one of the field’s most prestigious journals.

In 2017, the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) and the National University of Singapore (NUS) concluded a 3.5-year research study comparing the IEQ performance of Green Mark and non-Green Mark buildings in Singapore. IEQ refers to the quality of a building’s environment in relation to the health and well-being of those who occupy spaces within it.

The study surveyed over 360 building occupants and investigated eight Green Mark-certified office buildings and six non-Green Mark-certified office buildings. The research team then submitted its findings to Indoor Air Journal in June 2018.

The journal publication process involved independent critical peer review by at least three IEQ experts, in addition to the chief editor’s assessment to ensure the paper’s scientific accuracy, credibility, and relevance to the current body of literature. After this process, the research paper was accepted and published in November 2018.
This journal publication provides scientific endorsement that the study’s research methodology and findings were robust. It also serves as an avenue for the BCA Green Mark to make a positive contribution to this field of knowledge.

**Key Findings on Green Mark Buildings vs. Non-Green Mark Buildings**

![Image of findings]

1. **Green Mark-certified buildings are better for health.** Occupants in such buildings are less likely to experience “sick building syndrome” such as unusual fatigue, headaches and irritated skin.

2. **Green Mark-certified buildings filter fine particulates and bacteria more effectively.** Higher-performance filters enable such buildings to do a better job at filtering fine particulates such as PM2.5 and bacteria more effectively.

3. **Green Mark-certified buildings are more comfortable to be in.** Occupants in such buildings were more satisfied with the temperature, humidity, lighting, air quality and indoor environment.

Read the BCA-NUS journal paper on IEQ [here](#).

Click [here](#) for more information on the BCA Green Mark.

Back to Highlights

**Of Migratory Shorebirds and Mangroves**

From a mangrove swamp in the 1800s to its opening as a nature park on 6 December 1993, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve has come a long way. The Reserve is recognised internationally as an important site for migratory shorebirds along the East Asian – Australasian Flyway (EAAF) that stretches from the Arctic through Russia and Alaska to Australia and New Zealand, covering 22 countries.
Last year, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve celebrated its 25th anniversary. In conjunction with World Migratory Bird Day (13 October) and the Reserve’s 25th anniversary, the National Parks Board (NParks) announced on 7 October 2018 that Mandai Mangrove and Mudflat will also be conserved as a Nature Park. Emeritus Senior Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong was the Guest-of-Honour at the anniversary event. He was hosted by Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for National Development Mr Desmond Lee.
Ecological significance of the Mandai Mangrove and Mudflat

Situated about 3km east of the Reserve, the new 72.8-hectare Nature Park is one of the richest wetlands in Singapore. The Mandai Mangrove is one of the few remaining mangrove habitats in Singapore with an extensive mudflat exposed at low tide. It is home to 29 mangrove plant species, 16 of which are threatened, as well as threatened species of seagrass and horseshoe crabs.

NParks’ studies have shown that, due to the diversity and abundance of animals that live on the bottom of the sea floor, i.e., benthic animals such as molluscs, crustaceans, and worms, the mudflat at Mandai Mangrove provides migratory shorebirds with a rich feeding ground. Results from surveys and radio-tracking of flagged shorebirds in recent years confirmed that a majority of them roosting in the Wetland Reserve at high tide will fly to forage at the extensive mudflat exposed during low tide. As such, these ecologically interconnected habitats provide important feeding and roosting (resting) sites for migratory shorebirds using the EAAF.

Shorebird species that can be observed feeding at Mandai Mangrove include the Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*), Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) and Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*).
During high tide, the migratory shorebirds fly back to Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve to roost.

Research and educational opportunities

Minister Lee shared that the new Nature Park will enhance the capacity of the main Reserve as an outdoor education, learning, and research centre, with new opportunities for visitors to learn more about wetland ecology and to be involved with its conservation.

The new Nature Park is also strategically situated along two major future recreational routes: the Round-Island-Route (RIR) and the Rail Corridor. It will be part of the section of the RIR designated to be an eco-discovery corridor, which will highlight lesser-known ecological gems in Singapore.

At the same time, to minimise impact on the mudflat, NParks will provide a low level of visitor amenities. These will include bicycle racks, a single nature trail, and bird hides that will allow visitors to enjoy panoramic views of the migratory birds feeding on the expansive mudflat without disturbing them. The Nature Park is slated to open in mid-2022.

If you’re curious about the feathery visitors who stop by Singapore, visit Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve during the migration season between September and March to catch a glimpse of them!

Back to Highlights

SG Farmers’ Market at Cairnhill Community Club
SG Farmers’ Market is back! More than 18 Singapore farmers will gather in central Singapore at Cairnhill Community Club to bring their best produce to you. Just in time for your festive feasts this Chinese New Year (CNY), you will be able to buy the freshest veggies, eggs, fish, mushrooms and more, direct from our local farms! Check out the cooking demonstrations with special CNY recipes to inspire your reunion dinners. Also, stand a chance to “Huat!” and win fantastic prizes at the Spin & Win!

年年有‘鱼’, come down to buy the freshest local fish for your reunion dinner!

Egg-citing Talk & Mini Farm Workshop

Have you ever wondered why eggs come in various sizes? Come find out from local egg farmer N&N Agriculture in Let’s Talk about Eggs! This special talk will debunk myths about eggs and show you how to choose the freshest eggs.

If you have an interest in farming, come join the My Mini Farm! workshops (limited slots available). Our farmer from homegrown vegetable farm Kok Fah Technology Farm will guide you in creating your own mini vegetable farm.

There’s something for everyone in the family, so come join the fun!
Fresh vegetables to usher in the lunar new year!

**SG Farmers’ Market**

**Date:** 26 & 27 Jan, 2019 (Sat & Sun)
**Time:** 9am – 2pm
**Venue:** Cairnhill Community Club, Multi-Purpose Hall
   Opposite Newton Circus Food Centre Carpark
   (Nearest MRT: Newton (NS21/DT11)
Why Choose Local Produce?

1) Fresh and Nutritious
Local produce arrives fresher and retains more nutrients due to the shorter delivery time from local farms.

2) Boosts Food Security
By supporting local produce, we can keep our local farms in business and be more self-sufficient in keeping up a continuous supply of fresh and nutritious food.

3) Best Quality and Safe
Local produce can easily be traced to farms that adhere to stringent farming guidelines. This offers you greater assurance in the quality of our food.

4) Protects the Environment
Local produce reduces Singapore’s carbon footprint, as it travels a shorter distance to get to the nearest outlet.
Sharing a property agent between buyer and seller, or landlord and tenant for the same transaction might seem like a good way to save money on the agent’s commission. However, it’s actually illegal for your property agent to do so! Here are five things your property agent cannot do.
5 Things You Never Knew Your Property Agents Were Not Allowed To Do

1. Your Agent Cannot Dual Represent
   Your agent can only represent you in a property transaction. He/she cannot receive a commission from both you and the other party in the same transaction.

2. Your Agent Cannot Handle Certain Transaction Monies On Your Behalf
   The kind of monies an agent can handle on behalf of his client differs for different types of transactions and property types. As a rule of thumb, make payments directly to the payee.

3. Your Agent Cannot Introduce A Moneylender To You
   This applies even if your agent stands to receive no personal benefits for making the introduction.

4. Without Your Consent, Agents Cannot Advertise Your Property
   Agents must receive permission from you, the property owner, before they can advertise a unit on your behalf.
Are you having trouble viewing the email?


Stay up to date with MND News. Follow us on