

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

APRIL 2022 - MARCH 2023



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# ABOUT WWS

WWS was officially registered as a not-for-profit society with 27 members in 1999. Over the years the organisation has expanded to about 1000 dedicated and passionate members, with ages ranging between 14 to 70 years, from diverse backgrounds (professionals, students, civil servants, housewives, and retirees) and with multi-racial representation. In 2013, WWS qualified to be an Institution of a Public Character (IPC), enabling their donors to claim tax relief. WWS started its initial work with boat patrols and has since expanded its activities to include public education at fairs, school programmes, and Clean and Green Week activities. It also routinely participates in World Water Day, World Environment Day, International Coastal Cleanups and the World Water Monitoring Day.

WWS is well-positioned to promote public awareness of conserving, valuing and enjoying Singapore's water resources while encouraging good social behaviour, translating into reduced litter and pollution of our environment. The Public Utilities Board (PUB), National Environment Agency (NEA) and several other government agencies are key partners of WWS, a recipient of the President's Environmental Award in 2006. In addition, our founder and then-Chairman Mr Eugene Heng received the same award in an individual capacity in 2014. WWS has also received other environmental awards, such as the PUB Watermark Honorary Award in 2007 and the NEA EcoFriend Award in the same year.

## OUR MISSION

To bring people together to love our waters and to inspire stewardship for our environment





# FOUNDER & CEO MESSAGE

## EUGENE HENG

*Founder & CEO, WWS*

Mr Eugene Heng, JP, BBM is the founder and CEO of Waterways Watch Society. He started his environmental journey in the 1980s, first as an environment coordinator at the foreign bank he worked for. He was later appointed to the Government Parliamentary Committee (Environment) from 1995-2000.

He went on to serve in several advisory committees relating to environmental issues in Singapore, including the Water Focus Group, the Policy Study Workgroup on Physical and Environment Sustainability and the Singapore Green Plan 2012 Coordinating Committee. He also served as a PUB board member from 2001-2005 and was a pioneer member of the Public Hygiene Council.



Dear Members,

I am very pleased to share our report of the past year's performance. As we gradually adjust into the post-covid and enter the endemic state, we had a great active year with a surge in activities, especially amongst corporates. Schools remain hesitant for outdoor activities. However, we are seeing school programmes beginning to return in the coming financial year (2023/2024). For this financial year, we had an increase of 30% in the number of patrol duties

conducted with a total of 3,047 clocked (compared to 2235 in the previous financial year). We hope that this trend will continue and surpass our records for this financial year. My special thanks to our admin staff (Diane, Anqi, Wai Tong, Yvonne and Chia Chia) for their support during this financial year and of course all our part-time facilitators, weekday and weekend members helping to keep our society going and growing. I wish I could name all of them but the list is long.

# FOUNDER & CEO MESSAGE

We are continuing to look for additional staff who are passionate towards our work to fill current vacant positions. However this has unfortunately proved to be quite difficult with the current market conditions. We were very fortunate to bring on a few interns (both foreign and local) who gave us some temporary support. Interns are great manpower support to our day-to-day operations and we thank the two corporates that have come forward to support us in this realm.

Our membership growth seems to be consistent month-on-month and we hope they will stay on and become our regular volunteers. This year, we are also seeing more family members signing-up and more retirees joining us. This year, our membership base has increased by 168 and we are seeing this trend continuing into 2023.

We continue to look for sponsors and I am pleased to share that we had a total of six partners, contributing over S\$60,000 in this financial year. Thank you BHPB Marketing Asia, Swire Shpping Pte. Ltd, Goldman Sachs Giving, Northwest CDC, BNP Paribas Singapore, Mitsubishi Electric Asia Pte. Ltd, and Woh Hup (Private) Limited. We look forward to more partners this new financial year.



I am also pleased to share that we had a total of 2,600 members performing environmental patrol duties at our three office sites - Marina, Punggol and Jurong/Lakeside. A total of 133 patrol duties were done in Punggol, 131 in Jurong/Lakeside, 294 duties at Marina and 33 duties off-site. Our weekly report (cordially done by one of our most dedicated volunteers, Mr Kok Wai Tong), documents the meaningful work done by our fellow volunteers. Government agencies who are looped in the mailing list have also found the weekly reports useful and helpful in their work. A total of 52 Weekly Reports were done during this financial year.

As we plod on towards this new financial year, we hope more members will step up and not only join our regular patrols at Punggol, Jurong/Lakeside and Marina but also Pang Sua and Yishun Saturday foot patrols. Special thanks to Aung Kyaw Moe (award given) and Elis Lin as solo patrol members thus far.

# FOUNDER & CEO MESSAGE



This year, we also like to honor seven of our dedicated members who has clocked the highest number of environmental patrol duty hours this financial year. They are namely, Ben Lai, Edward Sebastian, Eric Lim, Louis Kong, Low Joo Kek, Michelle Loh and Tan Jui Ming. They have completed a total of 1,100 hours this year. We would like to extend our utmost gratitude to them.

Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members (old and new) for your support in our work. Sustainable environment is vital to every single one of us. In face of pressing challenges such as climate change and global warming, today we more often than not experience extreme heat and extreme heavy thunderstorms. We need to be prepared to face this new challenge. Programmes that we manage for schools and corporations need to take into consideration such changes and safety is always of our highest priority.

Thank you members and here's wishing you a better 2023/2024.  
Stay Safe and Stay Healthy!

Eugene Heng  
CEO and Founder  
Waterways Watch Society

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Supporters,

As we reflect on the fiscal year 2021/2022, we find ourselves navigating through a landscape still marred by disruptions caused by the ongoing epidemic. The Waterways Watch Society has not been immune to these challenges, as we have had to contend with unforeseen absences and operational adjustments. Despite these hurdles, our commitment to our mission remains resolute, and we are pleased to share some notable developments and accomplishments with you.

During this period marked by uncertainty, our organization has displayed remarkable resilience. We are heartened to report a significant increase in our program offerings, a testament to the dedication and adaptability of our team. Additionally, our financial position has improved, with better support allowing us to drive our initiatives forward.

We are excited to see our membership numbers continue to grow steadily, reflecting a consistent upward trajectory. What's even more encouraging is the diverse group of professionals who have chosen to join our ranks. Their inclusion enriches our community and broadens our perspectives.



To enhance the experience for our new members, we undertook a restructuring of our orientation process, resulting in a more streamlined and effective induction program set up.

This year, we continue to observe a steady increase in membership applications. As social distancing measures relax, we have gradually scaled up our member patrols and participant group sizes. While we continue to practice good safe distancing in our facilities and when conducting programmes, we are still bogged with last-minute absence and low turn-out due to concerns over covid. We hope that as the country slowly moves towards an endemic, this situation would improve.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



While we continue to grapple with the challenges of this recovery phase, we remain grateful for the support we've received from our donors and partners. Despite the ongoing difficulties, their commitment has been unwavering. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to each one of them. We also want to express our gratitude to the countless individuals who have stood by our cause, providing their encouragement and support.

Throughout this financial year, both our branches at Jurong Lake and Punggol, along with the Kallang HQ, have remained fully operational. A highlight of our progress is the substantial increase in our patrol volunteer sessions, rising from 455 patrol sessions on 2021/2022 to 591 for this financial year (an increase of 30%). in the current year. This growth can be attributed to the dedication and enthusiasm of our members and volunteers, and we hope to sustain this momentum.

However, as we continue our patrols and programs, a concerning trend persists. Despite our collective efforts, we observe that the issue of littering and improper mask disposal has not abated. In the past 12 months alone, a staggering total of 2,327 discarded masks have been accounted for by our member patrols and programs. This highlights the urgency of our mission to promote responsible behaviour and protect our environment.

In closing, we extend our deep appreciation to each member, friend, and supporter of the Waterways Watch Society. Your commitment has been instrumental in helping us weather the challenges of the past year. Let us forge ahead with renewed determination, continuing to safeguard our waterways and champion a cleaner, more sustainable future.

With gratitude and dedication,  
Low JooKek  
President  
Waterways Watch Society



# MAIN DONORS & SPONSORS



BHP Billiton  
Marketing Asia



BNP PARIBAS

BNP Paribas  
Singapore



Cargill Asia Pacific  
Holdings Pte Ltd



Fraser and Neave Limited



Goldman Sachs Giving



Mitsubishi Electric Asia Pte Ltd



Northwest Community  
Development Council



Santa Lucia Asset Management  
Pte Ltd



SAP Asia Pte Ltd



Standard Chartered Bank  
(Singapore) Limited



SWIRE SHIPPING

Swire Shipping Pte Ltd



The Coca Cola Foundation



The Keppel Club



WOH HUP  
BUILDING WITH INTEGRITY

Woh Hup (Private) Limited

P&B Env Pte Ltd

and many more...

# PROGRAMMES REVIEW

WWS programmes covers the Singapore Water Story and the issues facing our water resources in Singapore. With climate change and global warming, it is important for our participants to understand the seriousness of this challenge. Through the litter-picking activity segment, participants will understand how littering not only causes problems in terms of public health and safety, but also affect the quality and cleanliness of our supply of drinking water. The programmes always end off with a food for thought — for participants to reflect on how as individuals, we can do our part to protect our precious water resources in Singapore. To accommodate new restrictions imposed amid covid, WWS has also worked on moving some of our programmes online. Here is a breakdown of the programmes conducted from April 2022 - March 2023.

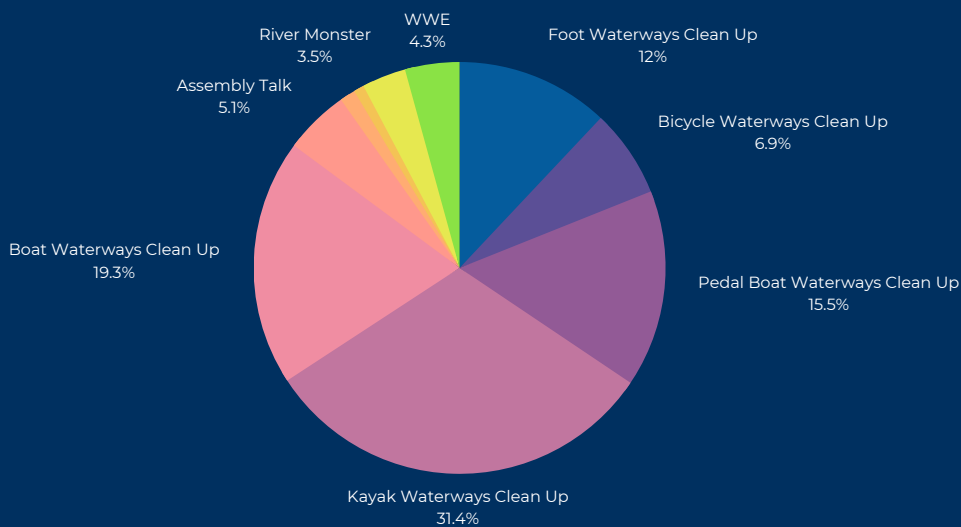
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Programmes

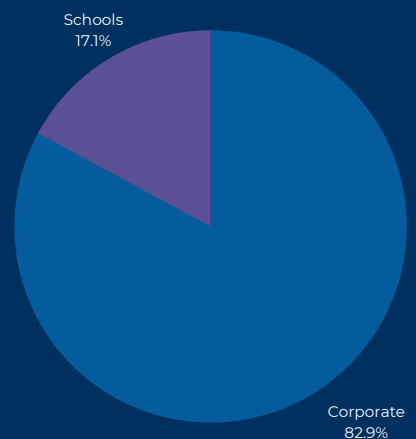
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Participants

Type of Programmes



Corporates vs Schools



# PROGRAMMES REVIEW

## ENVIRONMENTAL TALKS

One of the programmes which the team has turned into virtual is our various environmental talks with schools and corporates. Our environment awareness presentations cover water and environmental issues such as climate change, responsible water usage, water scarcity, the causes and impacts of pollution, our four National Taps, the Singapore Water Story, the 4Rs of reduce, reuse, recycle and repair, ending with a call to volunteerism and how to take personal action to combat these issues. This year, WWS reached out to 7 corporates and 28 schools, totaling up to 10642 participants this year engaged in meaningful discussions.

## WATERWAYS WATCH EXPLORER (WWE)

Waterways Watch Explorer (WWE) is a interactive programme at an ABC Water Site where participants will get to learn more about its unique features and how they relate to our Singapore Water Story. There will be exciting and meaningful activities that deal with issues of climate change, water pollution and water sustainability. Our current Waterways Watch Explorer (WWE) programmes are mainly held in the following reservoirs/rivers: Kallang River, Lower Seletar Reservoir, Yishun Pond, Pang Sua Pond, Punggol Waterways, Macritchie Reservoir, Lorong Halus Wetlands and Sungei Ulu Pandan.





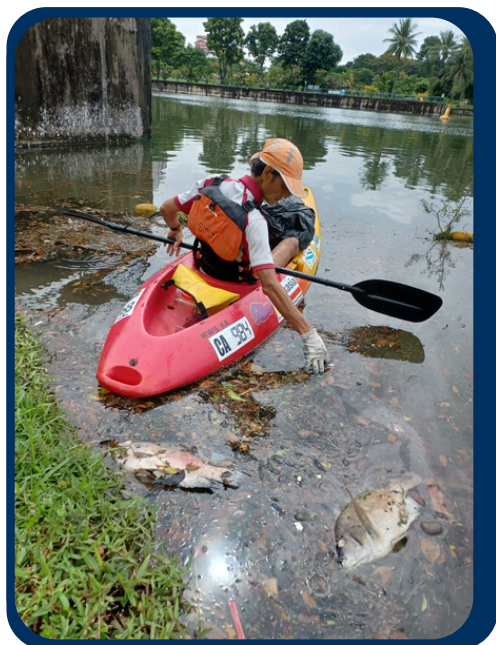
# PROGRAMMES REVIEW



## **WATERWAYS CLEAN UP (WCP) PROGRAMMES**

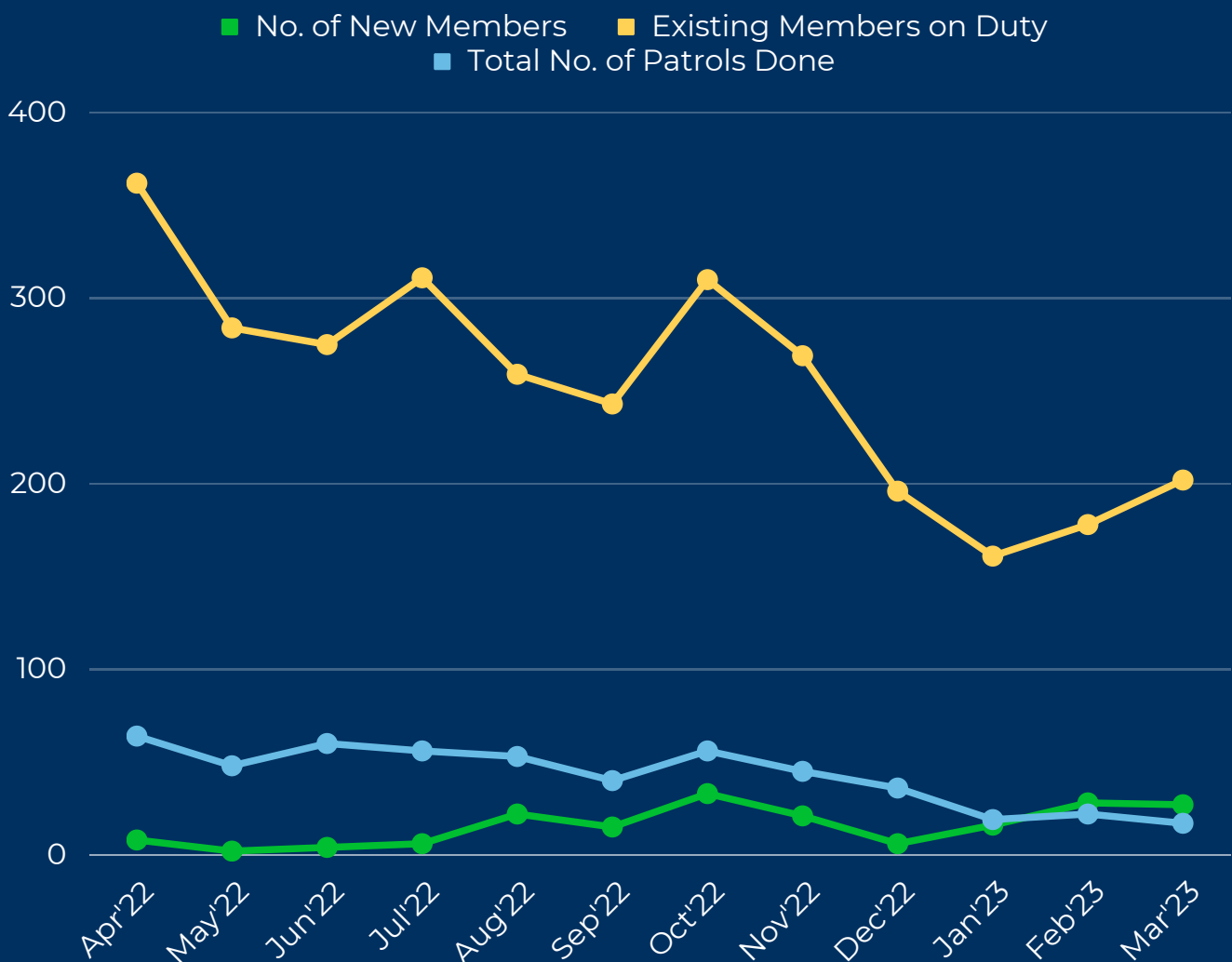
Waterways Watch Society offers our waterways clean-up programmes in five different modes: Foot, Bicycle, Kayak, Powerboat and Pedal Boat. Before the participants head out for their respective waterways clean-up activity, they will be given a presentation on our Singapore Water Story which covers the history, our 4 National Taps, littering and other social behaviour challenges we face locally, such as the danger of dengue etc. The programme aims to instill greater sense of environmental ownership among Singapore residents to understand that Singapore is still not yet a clean city, but a cleaned city.

In particular, we have seen a notable increase in interest for our boat and Pedal Boat waterways clean-up programme, especially among corporates.



# WWS VOLUNTEERS

Waterways Watch Society (WWS) has progressed consistently over the past 20 years, constantly in search of more passionate individuals in Singapore to care for the environment. From April 2021 to March 2022, the number of duty hours completed by our volunteers on weekdays and weekends accumulated to be 1367 hours. WWS still observes great support from our dedicated and passionate members throughout the year, as many came up to offer their help in their own ways during this difficult period.



There is a rather consistent stream of new members joining us every month from April 2022 - March 2023. Unfortunately, we do see a decreasing trendline in the number of existing members on duty in the financial year. Total number of patrols done in each month remains rather stable.

# GOVERNANCE

Waterways Watch Society has been registered as a charity under the Charities Act (Chapter 37) since 1999 and an Institution of a Public Character (IPC No. 000778) from 01 January 2014 to 30 November 2023. The administration of the society is entrusted to a Management Committee (also known as the Board) whose officers are elected at the alternate Annual General Meeting (AGM). The Management Committee appoints a CEO to run the day to day operations of the society.

No officers of the Management Committee receive remuneration for their services on the committee. The Management Committee appointed founder of Waterways Watch Society, Heng Chin Hien Eugene, as the Chief Executive Officer since August 2017. The CEO's annual remuneration does not exceed \$100,000.



## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Details of the Management Committee and their attendance at Management Committee meetings for the period of 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 are:

Office Bearer	Position Held	Position Held Since	Office Bearer Since	Meeting Attendance
Low Joo Kek	President	Aug 2019	Aug 2017	5 / 5
Lee Woei Shyuan	Vice President	Aug 2019	Oct 2011	4 / 5
Goh Chia Chia	Secretary	Aug 2021	Aug 2021	5 / 5
Tan Yanping	Assistant Secretary	Aug 2019	Aug 2015	1 / 5
Ng Shiang Nee	Treasurer	Aug 2021	Sep 2013	4 / 5
Yvonne Tan Hui Juan	Assistant Treasurer	Aug 2021	Aug 2021	4 / 5



# GOVERNANCE

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Management Committee, staff and volunteer members of Waterways Watch Society are required to declare at least annually and whenever changes occur, actual or potential conflict of interests to WWS in written form. A conflict of interest arises when the personal interests of the member may potentially interfere with the performance of his/her duties in WWS. When actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest arises, the integrity, fairness and accountability of the person may be affected, which could impede the best interest of WWS. The affected member should abstain from discussion and decision-making and voting on the matter observed.

## WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

WWS has a whistleblowing policy that allows staff and members to raise concerns, in confidence, about possible wrong-doing or improprieties within the society. All cases reported will be independently investigated and followed-up appropriately.