

15 May 2020

Dear FOM Members,

Hope you are all keeping safe and healthy.

The extension of Singapore's "circuit breaker" period has meant that we are spending more time at home than ever before. If like me you are missing visiting the museums, docent led tours and attending Monday Morning Lectures, I have some good news for you.

We will host our first MMLL or Monday Morning Lockdown Lecture on Zoom exclusively for FOM members at 11am on Monday, 18 May 2020. The speaker is our very own Ms. Patricia Bjaaland Welch who has generously agreed to share her knowledge and expertise with us. The title of her talk is *Naturalist of Southeast Asia: Alfred Russel Wallace*. Please register for this and future talks by logging into your account on the FOM website <https://www.fom.sg/memberevents.aspx?CID=11>

Another bit of good news is the announcement of the Salome De Decker award recipient. As you may be aware, each year FOM awards the Salome De Decker award to an FOM volunteer who has quietly and positively given their time and skills to FOM. The award was set up in memory of Salome De Decker, an extraordinary FOM volunteer who lost her battle to cancer at the age of 35. I am happy to share with you that the Salome De Decker award recipient for the year 2020 is Ms. Roopa Dewan! Roopa, a docent with STPI since 2010, was recommended by her colleagues for her "*sunny and warm personality, her experience and wisdom but perhaps most importantly her humility*". On behalf of all of us at FOM, I congratulate Roopa and hope to present the award to her in person in the not too distant future.

During the "Circuit breaker" FOM volunteers continue to find new ways to engage, deliver and facilitate presentations, host online events and volunteer for FOM in innovative ways. I want to thank each and every one of our volunteers for their hard work and our members for their continued support!

This week several businesses and services have been allowed to resume. Updates on these can be found at <https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg/essentialservices>. As the social distancing measures gradually ease up, let us stay vigilant and do our part to keep ourselves and those around us safe.

Warm regards,



Garima G. Lalwani

President

Friends of the Museums, Singapore