

# National Archives of Singapore

## Index Guide to Sources on the History of Leprosy in Malaya and Singapore

SILRAAR      Singapore Leprosy Relief Association Annual Report

NB. "Do": information reported in previous years. Typically only new information is entered.

### Singapore Leprosy Relief Association Annual Report (SILRA)

Source	Annual Report	Home Management Committee	Adoption Committee (Welfare Subcommittee)	SILRA Shop	Needy Patients
SILRA 19					
SILRA 1977  Annual report of Association, Singapore	<p>Message by President of Singapore.</p> <p>Lauds improvement in treatment of leprosy: no more overcrowding and merely palliative treatment.</p> <p>Currently work towards return of patients to the community. Number of patients less than half it was.</p> <p>Need remains to help the small number afflicted.</p> <p>Repeal of Leprosy Act sign of public</p>	<p>Recreation and celebration of festivals at the Home.</p> <p>Volunteer groups from the polytechnic did work at the Home. Useful in helping the public understand the disease.</p> <p>Belief that public awareness of the disease is growing, due to increase in donations in cash or kind to the Home.</p>	<p>Meets monthly to review cases brought to it by social workers from Trafalgar Hospital.</p> <p>Committee helps those who are severely handicapped on a long term basis and others for short term who have suffered a relapse of the disease.</p> <p>Also helps patients to find new employment upon discharge.</p>	<p>Sells articles made by patients who are unable to find employment outside.</p> <p>These patients are making articles under the Occupational Therapy department of Trafalgar Hospital.</p> <p>Successful year if sales. Many of the items bought by Bridge/Oxfam Activities in the UK, and also by organisations in Australia and New Zealand.</p> <p>Information on local sales.</p>	<p>Provides financial assistance to the needy.</p> <p>First effort is to obtain assistance from the government or other outside sources.</p> <p>Home provides help for urgent cases or for educational purposes.</p> <p>Patients holding blue Singapore citizenship cards (permanent residents I think) given only half the amount of social welfare.</p>

	<p>understanding of the disease.</p> <p>Aims of SILRA – provide assistance and relief to inpatients and outpatients.</p> <p>Council members.</p> <p>High cost of living and maintenance of SILRA Home noted.</p> <p>Donations from public appreciated. More youth groups helping at the Home.</p> <p>Issue of extension of Home not resolved.</p> <p>First-ever wedding celebrated at the Home.</p> <p>Efforts through pamphlets and TV to educate the public on leprosy.</p> <p>Fund raising through letter</p>			<p>Patients received a Christmas/New Year gift.</p>	<p>3 groups of patients particularly need help for finding employment:</p> <p>Those readmitted due to relapse (jobs caused breakdown to ulcers).</p> <p>Amputees.</p> <p>Those with slight deformities but are physically fit to work.</p>
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	<p>slow but successful.</p> <p>Silver Jubilee of SILRA (established in 1952). Home established in 1971 to house patients ostracised by community.</p>				
SILRA 1978					
SILRA 1979					
SILRA 1980	<p>Do.</p> <p>Staff changes.</p> <p>List of donors.</p> <p>Extension of Home in progress. Rationale for extension is to accommodate old patients who have been cast out by families.</p> <p>Appeal for donation by letter successful, although laborious.</p> <p>Successful year despite escalating costs. Appreciation of help from sympathetic public.</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>National Day celebrations.</p> <p>Needs of patients varied and many.</p> <p>Work of volunteers.</p>	<p>Consideration of help for patients.</p> <p>Criteria based on degree of need, seriousness of condition, care for children etc.</p> <p>Other means of assistance: for fruit and biscuits, and donation of books from National Library.</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>Aims of Shop to dispel myths regarding the disease and to improve self-esteem of patients.</p> <p>Success in foreign and local sales.</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>SILRA gives ang pows and gifts to inpatients and outpatients of Trafalgar Hospital on welfare.</p> <p>Some are senile or mentally unstable.</p> <p>Assistance also for payment of utilities, extra expenses for festivals etc.</p>

SILRA 1981	<p>Do.</p> <p>Activities to raise funds.</p> <p>TV telecast of World Leprosy Day.</p> <p>Extension of Home throughout the year.</p> <p>Page on facts about Hansen's Disease.</p> <p>Explanation of disease. Distribution of cases worldwide. Means of spread of disease. Still not completely understood. Treatment by sulfone drugs (use started in 1941).</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>Visit of Polytechnic volunteers to the Home.</p> <p>Increased number of organisations doing community service at the Home, reflecting rising awareness of leprosy.</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>Renamed Welfare Sub-committee to better reflect its expanded role – to assist patients and their families.</p> <p>Special emphasis in helping children of patients.</p> <p>Assistance given to patients of Trafalgar unable to work part or full time.</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>Shop used in the Occupational Therapy section of Trafalgar Hospital and managed by its occupational therapists.</p> <p>Part of proceeds of sale will go to extension works.</p>	--
SILRA 1982	<p>Do.</p> <p>Activities in the year.</p> <p>Official opening of extension wing of the Home.</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>Home running smoothly and patients are contented.</p> <p>More volunteer groups visiting the Home.</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>Donations from various expatriate and local organisations.</p> <p>List of donors.</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>Aims of Shop and sales.</p>	--

		Start of animal farm.			
SILRA 1983	Do.  Improvements to facilities.  Anticipated closure of workshop at Trafalgar Hospital. Plan to build workshop at SILRA Home.  Difficulty of obtaining employment given that the disease has often destroyed nerves in the limbs.	Do.  Sales by vegetable farm.  Donations during the year.	Do.  Activities organised and gifts presented to patients.	Do.  Sales.  Mini workshop started for a trial period of 3 months at SILRA Home.  Response favourable from residents but workshop terminated at end of trial.	--
SILRA 1984	Do.  SILRA and Trafalgar Unit jointly organised the 5 <sup>th</sup> Leprosy Control in Asia workshop.  Plans to build a workshop at the Home. Forwarded to Land Office for approval.	Do.  Vegetable farm built on small plot of land. Vegetables sold.  Community service.  Other activities at the Home.	Do.  Assistance by various organisations, local and foreign.	Do.  Renamed SILRA Workshop sub-committee.  Aim to maintain a constant local market for goods made.	--
SILRA 1985	Do.  Standard of work at the	Do.  Two residents in charge of the	Do.  Assistance through direct	Do.	--

	<p>Workshop remains high.</p> <p>Plans to build new workshop shelved because the Home site is earmarked for future development by the government.</p>	<p>farm. Given a monthly allowance.</p> <p>Entertainment and outings.</p>	<p>financial aid, counselling, visitation and entertainment.</p>		
SILRA 1986	<p>Do.</p> <p>SILRA obtained assistance from the Community Chest.</p> <p>Funds also helped in rehabilitation of patients at Home and Trafalgar Unit.</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>New rabbit hutch started. Sale of rabbits.</p> <p>Activity at Sentosa organised by Home.</p> <p>United World College staff and students doing community work at the Home.</p> <p>Social visits by various organisations during festive occasions.</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>Hope to give more attention to help patients outside the Home and Trafalgar Unit.</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>Purchase of equipment from overseas which aided greatly the work of patients.</p>	--
SILRA 1987	<p>Do.</p> <p>Activities organised.</p> <p>Extension works.</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>First time residents of the Home took part in the Annual Sports Council for the Disabled.</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>Activities organised for residents of the Home who do not go to the city because they are shunned for their</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>Workshop operating profitably on its own despite obtaining no help from the Community Chest.</p>	--

		<p>Wellshow organised by Nanyang Technological Institute to promote awareness of the under-privileged. Leprosy patients involved.</p> <p>Social visits and donors.</p>	disfigurement by the public.		
SILRA 1988	<p>Do.</p> <p>Visits to Malaysia.</p> <p>Improvement works and renovations completed.</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>Activities and entertainment. Residents of the Home considered "fortunate".</p> <p>Birthday Party project started.</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>Open House on World Leprosy Day at the Home.</p>	Do.	--
SILRA 1989					
SILRA 1990	<p>Do.</p> <p>Donation of rattan from Indonesia for rehabilitation workshop.</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>Activities organised.</p> <p>Organised visits from the public.</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>Work affected by shortage of staff due to illness.</p> <p>Financial aid review and aid given to school-going children.</p> <p>Home adopted by Glaxochem Pte Ltd.</p>	Do.	--
SILRA 1991	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	--

	Glaxochem organised more outings in the year.	Improvement and renovation works.  Plan to replace old furniture at the Home next year.	Trip to Malacca.  Celebration of 25 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Singapore.	Plans to transfer the SILRA workshop at Trafalgar Unit when it is closed down.	
SILRA 1992	Do.	Do.  Activities organised.	Do.  Jesuit novice talked to residents of the Home.  Recruitment of volunteers from the public to take up projects at the Home.	Do.  Plan to transfer SILRA workshop to the Home in 1992.	
SILRA 1993	Do.  Closure of workshop at Trafalgar. Realisation now carried out at the Home.  Advice and support from visitors to the Home heartening.  Administrative difficulty surfaced with sudden death of the Executive Officer and in finding a replacement.	Do.  Major renovation works at the Home.  New uniforms chosen for staff and residents.  New furniture at the Home.	Do.  Youth Volunteer programme. Residents enjoyed the company of the youths.	Do.	--



SILRA 1994	<p>Do.</p> <p>Major renovation works.</p> <p>New sub-committee called "Member Liaison" established to inform Home residents of activities organised.</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>New posts created with aging of residents and more residents with patients joining from Trafalgar.</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>Seminar held for school students on that leprosy is curable.</p> <p>Coverage of leprosy in articles of the New Paper.</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>Rehabilitative activities now extended to all residents of the Home.</p> <p>New activities such as fish rearing.</p>	--
SILRA 1995	<p>Do.</p> <p>Increase in manpower to provide better nursing and care to residents.</p> <p>SILRA office equipped with a computer.</p> <p>Rearing of fighting fish as part of rehabilitation.</p> <p>Also Plant Nursery started.</p> <p>More visitors during the year to the Home due to coverage in national newspapers.</p> <p>Decrease in outright donation.</p> <p>Home obtained fire-safety certificate from the fire department.</p> <p>Air-conditioning installed in parts of the Home.</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>Had some difficulty filling posts of driver and nurse due to social stigma attached to leprosy.</p>	Do.	--	--
SILRA 1996	Do.	Do.	Do.	--	--

	<p>Membership sub-committee dissolved.</p> <p>New Outreach sub-committee formed to cater to the needs of patients outside the Home.</p> <p>Simple questionnaire used to evaluate patients' needs. Majority of patients found to be over 60.</p> <p>Public forum held on leprosy.</p> <p>Increase of volunteers from school students.</p>	<p>Fish rearing and plant nursery programmes doing well.</p>	<p>Recruitment drive from volunteers.</p>		
SILRA 1997	<p>Do.</p> <p>SILRA notified by URA in 1996 that Home will be relocated.</p> <p>Difficulty with staffing (getting replacements).</p> <p>More junior college students visiting the Home.</p> <p>Outreach: attempt to obtain information about residents in Lorong Buangkok. But response poor (mainly from single elderly).</p>	<p>Do.</p>	<p>Do.</p> <p>Volunteer Management Workshop organised.</p>	--	--