

Potong Pasir & St Andrew's School: A new dawn awaits

St Andrew's School (SAS) moved into Potong Pasir in 1941 and the school's bell tower was the tallest structure in the neighbourhood for many years till the first HDB flats came along in the 1980s.

A Brief History

In the 1950s, Potong Pasir was an important vegetable farm, in which leafy vegetables -- mainly watercress, a Chinese staple -- were grown in lowland areas.

Urbanisation -- starting from when Singapore gained independence -- led to the development of bridges and amenities such as access to water and electricity. Also the government acquired the land for mass modernisation and redevelopment of HDBs famous for their sloping roofs which were completed in the early 80's.

Overcoming Flood

Due to Potong Pasir being a site for sand quarries -- right up till the 60's -- the many holes that formed ponds led to frequent flooding. During the flood in 1969, the water was up to chest high after several days of non-stop raining. The entire village was submerged in muddy yellow water. Villagers had to evacuate to higher level grounds. To avoid falling into "ponds" below the flood water and getting drowned, men in the village had to hold on to bamboo poles to test for depth of the waters.

SAS played an important role in flood relief as it was situated at Woodsville hill, one of the higher level grounds in which residents rely on for safety. "We also provided all the necessary shelter and food for the villagers," recalled Mr Yee, a retired teacher from SAS.

Exciting Days Ahead

There have been many developments in the neighbourhood recently. There are now an NTUC supermarket at the Community Centre, improved facilities at the Kallang River, and the make-over of a major coffee-shop.

With the completion of Poiz -- an integrated condominium and shopping development -- Potong Pasir has been modernised. This will bring in more residents as there will be more homes.

Moreover, with the indoor sports hall completed, more students will be attracted to enrol in SAS as they will see it as a school with better facilities.

Exciting days await both Potong Pasir and SAS.

(362 words)

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It may look somewhat like an article but there is no emotive language used from the first person point of view.