

News

**Organisers of sandcastle fiesta aren't worried about water or wind, but say keeping out vandals is a...**

# TALL

# ORDER

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**I**T TOOK them a total of 12 hours to build an intricate sandcastle nearly two storeys high and as wide as an HDB living room. Eight skilled volunteers used 16 truckloads of sand, specially brought in just for the sculpture.

The sculpture was the centrepiece in a sandcastle fiesta, held in line with the inaugural Parks Festival 2011, which kicked off last Saturday.

But the sculpture, measuring almost 4m high and 6m wide, can be destroyed in the blink of an eye.

Vandalism is the problem, said Mr Alvin Lee of the social enterprise Castle Beach, which helped the National Parks Board (NParks) to organise the event.

"When it rains, a sandcastle will just get wet. It will not get destroyed even with strong wind. The only thing that will destroy it is very, very naughty children and, in some cases, adults.

"There have been many past cases of vandalism of sandcastles that we built for special events."

**Wooden fences**

That is why he put up wooden fences to surround the sculpture.

Mr Lee said: "It was the hard work of these people, so if members of the public see someone vandalising it, please stop them immediately.

"This doesn't just apply to vandalism of sand sculptures but also in a broader sense to any public property. Social pressure can prevent people from destroying something that is meant for all of us to enjoy."

The centrepiece, which was built near East Coast



**SUN, SAND AND WE:**  
(Left and below) Families getting together to build their own sandcastles during the sandcastle fiesta.

PICTURES:  
GARY GOH, NPARKS

Lagoon Food Centre, featured castles and butterflies.

When asked why butterflies, Mr Lee said it is because they depict the success of NParks' work.

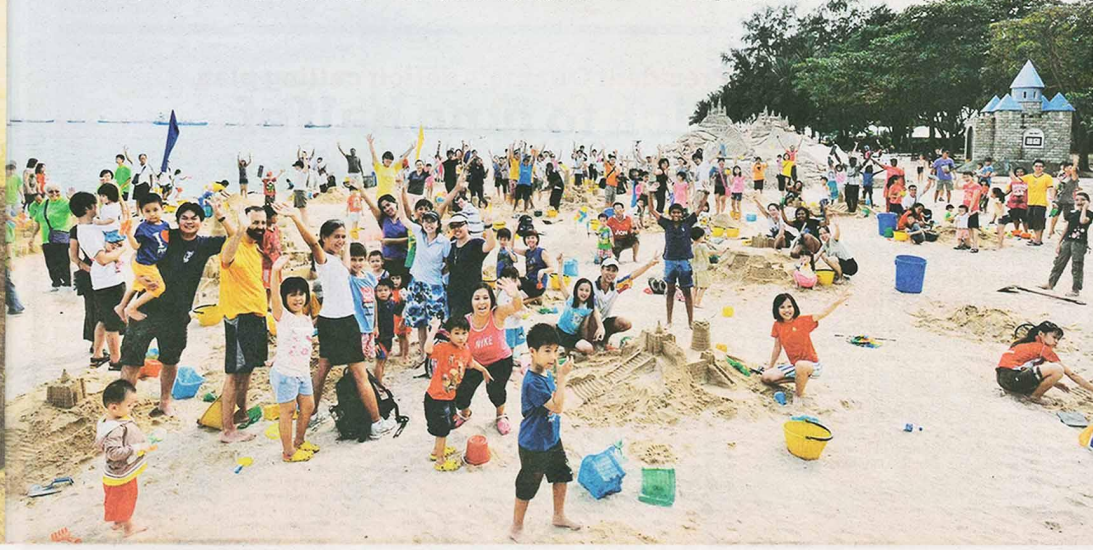
"If you see butterflies, it means NParks has done a very good job. Also, sandcastles and butterflies share many characteristics, for example, they both evoke fantasy and amazement.

"And they are both beautiful yet short-lived."

Like the sculpture itself, which will last two weeks unless a vandal gets to it first.

About 800 people built close to 80 sandy creations along East Coast Park to mark the event.

They participated as individuals, couples and large family groups but there was no winning sculpture because the idea was to encourage "participation, not competition", said Mr Lee.



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TNP PICTURE:  
TEH JEN LEE