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(PHOTO: NEO XIAOBIN)

**"WRITING WAS EASY.
THADDEUS' LIFE TOLD
ITS OWN STORY."**

THADDEUS' AUNT DR BELINDA WEE
(ABOVE) WHO TOOK ONLY TWO
MONTHS TO WRITE THE BOOK

Aunt celebrates late triathlete's life – in a book

SERENE LUO

HE WOULD have been 18 years old yesterday.

But, instead of celebrating being able to drive or enter pubs, the late Thaddeus Cheong is being remembered in a book about his life.

The avid triathlete died on June 24 last year, after completing his South-east Asia Games time trial. His heart suddenly failed and he collapsed upon finishing the race.

Thaddeus' aunt Dr Belinda Wee wrote the book, titled *Running The Full Distance*, and launched it at his alma mater Raffles Junior College yesterday.

She said the book was a way of remembering and celebrating the life of her nephew.

"When soldiers die, they get medals. Thaddeus literally ran his heart out to represent Singapore," said Dr Wee, 44, a general practitioner.

"I wanted to capture him, the whole person, before memories of him get eroded with time."

Thaddeus' father, human resource professional George Cheong, 46, said that putting the book together was also "a way of healing".

Dr Wee started work last September and finished it in two months.

"Writing was easy. Thaddeus' life told its own story," she said.

The book describes the milestones and the last moments of Thaddeus' life.

It also includes the heartbreaking moments at his wake, where his parents in-

sisted on arranging his trademark floppy hair and shirt tail, as some of his friends wept openly.

Dr Wee also included Thaddeus' family photos in the book.

At yesterday's launch, she thanked the students for "being there at our most difficult time" and keeping in touch with the family.

Mr Michael Jeyaseelan, RJC's head of physical education, said he was looking forward to reading the book.

He added: "I think it's inspiring that the family chose to remember Thaddeus in such a concrete way."

The book, which is self-published by Dr Wee and distributed by Singapore Press Holdings, retails at \$14.

It is available at Buzz Pods, major bookstores and the Running Lab store, which is frequented by sportsmen.

Proceeds will go to the building of a church for the indigenous people of Sarawak.

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HELPDESK 我的字典

➤ **Triathlete:** 三项全能运动员
sān xiàng quán néng
yun dòng yuán

➤ **Milestones:**
里程碑 lǐ chéng bēi

➤ **Trademark:** 招牌, 独特的
zhāo pái, dú tè de