

Foundation Newsletter

Issue 2

NATIONAL
FOUNDATION FOR
AUSTRALIA-CHINA
RELATIONS
澳中基金会



Overview

Happy New Year! Thank you for being a Friend of the Foundation. Please enjoy issue two of our newsletter.

The National Foundation for Australia-China Relations is working with a range of stakeholders to support practical and resilient engagement with China in the national interest, while acknowledging and supporting the contribution of diverse Chinese communities to Australian society. Last quarter, the Foundation expanded its engagement, both nationally and in China, and raised its public profile.

FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES

Prime Minister visits the Museum of Chinese in Australia

On 21 December 1972, the Australian government under then prime minister Gough Whitlam formally recognised and established diplomatic relations with China through the signing of a joint communiqué by the Australian and Chinese ambassadors in Paris.

While the Foreign Minister Penny Wong was in Beijing, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese marked the occasion with a visit to our grant recipient, the Museum of Chinese in Australia (MOCA). The Prime Minister used this visit to highlight the contributions of Chinese Australian communities.

The Prime Minister met with MOCA inaugural chairman Dr John Yu and board members, Foundation Chairman Pru Bennett and CEO Peter Cai at the museum in Haymarket, and was given a tour of the new 'Stories of Home' exhibition.

MOCA CEO Tony Stephens highlighted their appreciation for the Foundation's ongoing support. The Foundation's grants have played an important part in the establishment of the museum.



Prime Minister Anthony Albanese with MOCA board members, Chairman Pru Bennett and CEO Peter Cai.

50th Anniversary of Australia-China Diplomatic Relations dinner, Art Gallery of NSW

On 13 November the Foundation and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade hosted an official Australian Government event to mark the 50th Anniversary of Australia-China Diplomatic relations at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Over 200 senior representatives attended from Federal, state and territory governments and parliaments, the Chinese Embassy and consulates across Australia, as did NFACR Advisory Board members, leaders in business, education and cultural institutions, and former DFAT secretaries and ambassadors to China.

The Prime Minister provided a video message and the Minister for Foreign Affairs the Hon Penny Wong delivered the keynote address. Ambassador of China H.E. Mr Xiao Qian and Opposition Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham delivered remarks.



Beach Smarts 2022 – Coogee Beach

The Foundation ran the second instalment of the Beach Smarts program over two weekends in November and December.

A cohort of 40 international students came together to learn about water and beach safety awareness from certified trainers at Coogee Surf Lifesaving Club in Sydney.

Students had fun while learning skills like CPR, how to signal for help, practical rescue scenarios and swimming between the flags.

After the success of the first two Beach Smarts programs in 2021 and 2022, this program will be rolled out nationally over the coming years.

Thanks to our partners – Coogee Surf Life Saving Club, Surf Life Saving NSW and Royal Life Saving NSW, ACT, Tas.

SBS Chinese and SBS World News covered the event >>

[International students to study beach safety as Australia records record high drowning deaths | SBS News](#)

[走进澳大利亚海滩安全终极训练营 中国留学生学到了什么? | SBS Chinese](#)



Beach Smarts participants learned water safety skills at Coogee Beach.

ACBC Canberra Networking Day and launch of Green Channel Initiative

Chairman Pru Bennett, CEO Peter Cai and the Foundation team joined government and business leaders at the Australia China Business Council's Canberra Networking Day in September, highlighting current and emerging business opportunities with China and launching the Green Channel.

The ACBC's Green Channel program, supported by the Foundation, fosters constructive Australia-China engagement and cooperation on climate change and low emissions technology. The Green Channel is an overarching framework designed to elevate engagement with China on trade and investment opportunities in support of the clean energy transition. [Learn more.](#)



Foundation Chairman Pru Bennett moderated a productive conversation with a panel of experts on Australia-China collaboration in the transition to net-zero.

Shepparton community visit

In October the Foundation's Communities and Communication team visited Shepparton for consultations with the Goulburn Valley Chinese Association. The Foundation also attended the Australia vs China football match in the U17 Asian Cup Qualifiers, hosted by Foundation grantee Football Australia, and met with Mayor Shane Sali and the Shepparton Council.



Foundation team members with members of the Goulburn Valley Chinese Association

Wang Gungwu Lecture 2023

The Foundation will host the second Wang Gungwu Lecture on 31 January 2023 in partnership with the ABC.

Named after pre-eminent Australian academic and expert on overseas Chinese communities, Professor Wang Gungwu AO CBE, the lecture promotes the substantial and longstanding contributions of Chinese Australians to Australian life.

The inaugural speaker was National Living Treasure, Dr John Yu AC, and this year our keynote speaker will be Gabrielle Wang – author, illustrator and Australian Children's Laureate for 2022 and 2023.

Gabrielle has written more than 20 books for young readers, with many of them shortlisted for awards, from the Prime Minister's Award to children's choice awards such as the Yabba and Koala Awards. One of Gabrielle's most popular books *A Ghost in My Suitcase* won the 2009 Aurealis Award and was made into a stage play by Barking Gecko Theatre in 2018. Her latest book is *Zadie Ma and the Dog Who Chased the Moon*. She is the first Chinese Australian Children's Laureate.

The lecture will be hosted by writer and comedian, Jennifer Wong.



The Wang Gungwu Lecture keynote speaker, Ms Gabrielle Wang.

GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

- Read the media release on the Minister's website [here](#) and find out more about our grant recipients on the Foundation's website [here](#).
- Over \$12 million has been distributed to more than 90 grantees, with more to come after the announcement of the 2022-23 competitive grants round.
- For information on grant recipients to date, [visit our grants page](#).

GANDHI CREATIONS, FABRICS OF MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA FASHION RUNWAY

Foundation CEO Peter Cai delivered remarks at the 9 December *Fabrics of Multicultural Australia (FOMA) Fashion Runway* event held at the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney.

The event featured a designer runway by Karis Zanetta Cheng and celebrated the outstanding 50-year achievement of Vivian Chan Shaw.



CEO Peter Cai with FOMA Founder Sonia Gandhi, FOMA models and designers.

12TH AUSTRALIA-CHINA YOUTH DIALOGUE

The Foundation supported the 12th Australia-China Youth Dialogue (ACYD 2022) - a track II dialogue to build people-to-people links between Australia and China and delivering the ACYD Alumni Program.

The Dialogue - which was also an official 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations event - was held in Perth from 18 – 21 November. It brought together emerging Australian and Chinese leaders from government, business, academia, media and the arts to discuss key aspects of the bilateral relationship.

Topics covered included regional security and prosperity, mining and resourcing for the future, people-to-people links, community and the arts, and public diplomacy in practice.

Speakers included Australian Ambassador to China, H.E. Mr Graham Fletcher, Chinese Consul-General in Perth Long Dingbin, Former Prime Minister of Australia the Hon Dr Kevin Rudd AC, the Hon Dave Kelly Member of the WA Legislative Assembly, Perth Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas, Nobel Laureate Professor Barry Marshall, Professor Jing Han and Tianqi Lithium's Mr Raj Surendran.



The 12th ACYD was comprised of 15 Australian delegates and 15 Chinese delegates from various fields, including business, finance, government and the arts.

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY SEAWEED PROJECT

Victoria University, Qilu University of Technology and Qingdao University of Science and Technology are collaborating on a project to probe seaweed originated polymers as a substitute for synthetic plastics through workshops and targeted research. An article on this grant is available on the Foundation [website](#). This grant was highlighted in the Foreign Minister's media [release](#). The [24th International Seaweed Symposium](#) will be held in Hobart, Tasmania from 19-24 February 2023.

ASIA EDUCATION FOUNDATION 'DIGITAL BRIDGE' PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PROGRAM

The Digital-BRIDGE project establishes school partnerships between Australian and Chinese schools and equips teachers with the digital skills to support the partnerships through a series of online learning seminars. This project was launched during a 12 October online event, with CEO Peter Cai delivering the opening address.

ABC MUSEUM SERIES LAUNCH

ABC International Services launched a bilingual series 'Belonging(s): Chinese Stories in Australian Museums' showcasing Chinese Australian migrant stories and their contributions to Australian society through a series of museum collections and objects. The Foundation supported the launch of this series on 2 September at the Museum of Chinese Australian History in Melbourne. All five episodes are available on [ABC iView](#) and [YouTube](#).

AUSTRALIA-CHINA AGRICULTURAL YOUTH PROGRAM, NATIONAL FARMERS' FEDERATION

The Australia-China Agricultural Youth Program hit the road for a five-day paddock-to-port tour showcasing the best of agriculture and regional Australia in early October. Nine Chinese international students and nine Australian students travelled across Victoria to experience regional and rural life. The National Farmers' Federation will hold the second agricultural tour in NSW in April 2023.

FURTHER READING

- [Want to do business in China? 'First of its kind' program breaks down barriers](#)
- [The Melbourne Professor on a personal mission to make life better for international students](#)
- [Australian and Chinese researchers team up to fight plastic pollution with seaweed](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

- In Haymarket, Sydney, there is a monument that commemorates the sacrifices made by Australians of Chinese heritage who have served in conflicts in which Australia has been involved. Overseas, they served in various conflicts on the front line, on land, sea and in the air. Among those commemorated is famous Chinese Australian sniper, William 'Billy' Sing. Sing was the most successful Australian sniper and was awarded the British Distinguished Conduct Medal in 1916, the second highest military award.



The monument is located on Dixon Street, Darling Harbour, and was unveiled on 14 March 2003.