

Foundation Newsletter

Issue 4

NATIONAL
FOUNDATION FOR
AUSTRALIA-CHINA
RELATIONS
澳中基金会



CEO Update

In the second quarter of 2023 the Foundation welcomed seven new Advisory Board members. Our [Advisory Board](#) has rich expertise in business, academia, the arts, national security, education, health and science.

In June the Advisory Board convened for the first time since its [renewal](#), meeting Foreign Minister Penny Wong, Trade and Tourism Minister Don Farrell, Assistant Foreign Minister Tim Watts and Immigration Minister Andrew Giles.

In June Foreign Minister Penny Wong also announced the recipients of our [2022-23 grants round](#).

With over \$6 million awarded across 39 projects, these grants support Australia-China collaboration on climate change, health and ageing, scientific research, community engagement, education, arts and people-to-people exchange. [Learn more](#) about our successful grants.

The Foundation will open our 2023-24 grants round in the second half of the year. Stay tuned for the announcement!



The new Advisory Board met with Minister Farrell, Minister Wong, Minister Watts and Minister Giles in Canberra.

FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES

Chinese Heritage in Aussie Rules

The Foundation-supported, [Celestial Footy: The Story of Chinese Heritage Aussie Rules](#), by Patrick Skene, chronicles the participation and passion of Chinese-heritage immigrants and their descendants in Australia's national game. Access the digital hub featuring these stories [here](#).

The AFL hosted the launch event at [Sydney Swans](#) HQ in June, with CEO Peter Cai MCing and Assistant Defence Minister Matt Thistlethwaite who delivered the keynote speech in English and Mandarin.

The Sydney Swans and West Coast Eagles played a match at the SCG on 24 June, inviting the Chinese community and featuring Chinese themes.

Learn more about the events and Chinese heritage players in related media coverage: [The Guardian](#), [The Age](#), [SBS](#), [SBS Chinese](#), and [ABC Radio](#).



Walter Lee (Executive General Manager, AFL), Patrick Skene (author), Minister Matt Thistlethwaite (Assistant Defence Minister), Pru Bennett (Chair, NFACR), Peter Cai (CEO, NFACR) and Kristy Keyte (Chief Marketing Officer, Penfolds).

Darwin International Dragon Boat Festival

In June the Foundation supported the City of Darwin to deliver its inaugural International Dragon Boat Festival on Sunday, 4 June 2023.

The race included teams from Australia and China, as well as international delegations from Indonesia, and Timor-Leste. The related festival supported City of Darwin engage its sister cities with a series of sport, cultural and trade events, and showcased Darwin's multicultural origins with over a century of Chinese migration.

CEO Peter Cai gave an opening address and was interviewed for a news story by [Phoenix TV](#).



CEO Peter Cai gave an opening address at the Darwin International Dragon Boat Festival.

Chinese Australian Forum

Chinese Australian Forum, supported by the Foundation, has developed bilingual civics education videos to help Chinese communities understand Australia's three-tiered governments and engage in politics. The videos were launched at an event in Chatswood in June, and attendees included Jason Yat-Sen Li MP, Jordan Lane MP, Kylea Tink MP, Dr John Yu, Yin Cao, Daphne Lowe Kelley and representatives from the Foundation.

Read about it on [SBS Chinese](#).

Access the bilingual learning materials [here](#).



CAF members, local MPs and Foundation staff.

China Capability Program

In May the Foundation hosted the third iteration of its China Capability Program. Participants from state and territory governments gained insights from leading government officials and academic experts. The program provided a range of insights into modern-day China and discussed state and territory engagement with China.



China Capability Program participants at the final full-day program in Sydney.

FIRST NATIONS FOCUS

Charles Darwin University Indigenous immersion program

Charles Darwin University's Indigenous cultural immersion program connects Chinese international students with Indigenous culture and Elders through a series of activities and tours.

In June, students visited Litchfield National Park, where they heard Indigenous stories, learnt about traditions and the deep connection between First Nations people and Country.



CDU international students in Litchfield National Park.

GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

- Minister Wong [announced](#) recipients in the 2022-23 Foundation grants round, with over \$6 million awarded across 39 projects.
- To date, the Foundation has distributed around \$20 million to more than 130 grantees.
- For information on our new grant recipients, [visit our grants page](#).

National Farmers Federation Agricultural Youth Program – NSW Tour

This program builds relationships between Chinese international and Australian students studying agriculture to learn about Australian food production and techniques.

Following a Victorian tour in October last year, the final 'paddock to port' was in NSW in April. The tour commenced at the Sydney Royal Easter Show before heading to a grain facility near Dubbo, a cattle farm near Tamworth, and an Oyster Farm near Forster. The tour finished at the Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre, where students got a hands-on lesson about why Australian wheat is so highly valued in Asia.

The program aims to create a network in China of emerging corporate leaders with a strong understanding of Australia's agriculture sector. The program aims to create a network in China of emerging corporate leaders with a strong understanding of Australia's agriculture sector.



Chinese and Australian students participated in the NFF program, making wheat noodles.

Melbourne Centre for Cities 'Shared Pathways to COP28' City Diplomacy Masterclass

Australia and China share over 100 sister city and state relationships, and city governments are on the frontline of climate action. This program supports local government officials through executive training focused on shared climate action.

City leaders from Australia and China took part in a five-day city diplomacy intensive program, aimed at building capacity for international engagement on shared issues like climate action.

CEO Peter Cai attended the closing reception with Lord Mayor Sally Capp and officials from the Chinese Consulate-General in Melbourne. This event marked the first cohort's successful completion of the program. A second cohort of officials will meet in Hong Kong in July.



Lord Mayor Sally Capp's reception, Melbourne.

ACBC and ANU: Australia-China Decarbonisation Roundtable

In April the Foundation attended the Australia-China Business Council (ACBC) and ANU *Australia-China Decarbonisation Roundtable* in Adelaide. Discussions focused on hydrogen & ammonia, renewables, batteries & grid integration, and minerals processing.

Speakers came from across industry, government and academia. The roundtable is part of the ACBC's Green Channel, supported by the Foundation as an over-arching framework to elevate engagement with China on trade and investment opportunities in support of clean energy transition.



The Foundation's Patrick Mayoh presenting at the roundtable in Adelaide.

Celebrating Chinese Australians with interactive learning

Ed-tech company Makers Empire launched their free education program celebrating the contributions of Chinese Australians in March. 32 schools covering close to 4,000 students have signed up for the program.

Through videos, quizzes, design tutorials, and a design project, students learn about the history of Chinese Australians in our nation. Winning designs will be showcased in an in-person exhibition in Adelaide at the end of the year, as well as online on the Makers Empire website. Learn more [here](#).



Makers Empire educational program artwork.

REPORTS

'Australia-China Entrepreneurs and Cross-Border Business Ecosystems'

In June, with Foundation grant support, the University of Sydney and KPMG launched a report into the Australia-China business ecosystem.

The report profiles Chinese Australian entrepreneurs and Australian entrepreneurs in China, focusing on their linkages within Chinese business ecosystems. Read the report [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Melbourne Centre for Cities 'Shared Pathways to COP28' City Diplomacy Masterclass, Hong Kong, 24-28 July 2023**
- **[ACYA – Australia-China Emerging Leaders Summit \(ACELS 16\)](#), 27-30 July**
- **[William Ah Ket Leadership Program](#), 20-24 August**

FURTHER READING/WATCHING

- **[Celebrating NAIDOC Week in the Top End - 'For Our Elders' video](#)**
- **[New breed of Chinese-Australian entrepreneurs reimagines business, Australian Financial Review](#)**
- **[Spotlight Series: Hurstville Museum and Gallery's 'Our Journeys | Our Stories' exhibition](#)**
- **[Spotlight Series: The Chinese science students inspired by Australian research \(and coffee\)](#)**

DID YOU KNOW?

According to the Australian Dragon Boat Federation, there are approximately 178 Dragon Boat teams in Australia, with over 7500 participants from school age through to seniors.

Dragon boat racing was used to celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community at World Pride in Sydney this year, there are Dragon Boat programs that support breast cancer survivors, and it is a sport accessible to those with disabilities.

Australian Dragon Boaters come from a wide range of backgrounds - the sport is as vibrant and multicultural as our society itself.



Australian Dragon Boat racers competing against Chinese teams in the inaugural International Dragon Boat Festival in Darwin.