

Foundation Newsletter

January 2024

NATIONAL
FOUNDATION FOR
AUSTRALIA-CHINA
RELATIONS
澳中基金会



ACTING CEO UPDATE

Happy New Year!

The Prime Minister's official visit to the People's Republic of China in November marked a significant step forward in stabilising relations between Australia and China. The visit demonstrated Australia's commitment to dialogue as the most effective way to deliver our national interests. The Prime Minister spoke to President Xi and Premier Li about where we can cooperate on areas of mutual interest. Both sides agreed to pursue greater practical cooperation including on trade and economic issues, agriculture, climate change and education. The Foundation looks forward to supporting this.

Peter Cai concluded his term as Foundation CEO in December. Deputy CEO Helen Horsington will be acting CEO until further notice.

The Foundation would like to thank our colleagues and partners for the continued support, and we look forward to working together in 2024.

FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES

Visit by the Mayor of Chengdu, China

The Foundation hosted the Mayor of Chengdu, Mr Wang Fengchao, and his delegation for lunch on 12 October. Australian businesses attended, providing an opportunity to deepen market engagement with Southwest China.



Foundation CEO Peter Cai presenting Mayor Wang with a gift on behalf of the Foundation.

Chairman's visit to Haikou and Hong Kong

Foundation Chairman, Pru Bennett, visited Haikou in Hainan as well as Hong Kong in mid-November. The Chair's trip followed the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Trade Minister's visits to China in early November.

The visit showcased Australia's soft power and expanded relationships by engagement with in-market networks. The Chair engaged across government, academia, industry and community to hear Chinese perspectives on Australia-China relations and potential areas for future engagement.

In Haikou, the Chair represented the Foundation at the [first international training activity run in China](#) by Surf Life Saving NSW & QLD. In partnership with the Haikou Emergency Centre, Surf Life Saving NSW & QLD delivered [aquatic emergency training](#) to 40 first responders from across China. The project was made possible through the Foundation's grant program and produced a bilingual aquatic rescue manual to aid future training and development for Chinese aquatic rescue responders.



Representatives from the Haikou Emergency Centre with Australian life savers.

Beachsmarts 2023 in South Australia

In the ten years from 2012 to 2022, nearly half of confirmed drowning deaths in Australia's coastal areas were people born overseas. Among these the largest number of drowning deaths were people born in China.

On 25 November, the Foundation partnered with the [Royal Life Saving Society South Australia](#) for our third instalment of the Beachsmarts program. This educated 40 Chinese international students on water safety, CPR and beach safety, aiming to equip them with lifesaving skills and connect them to a unique part of Australian society.

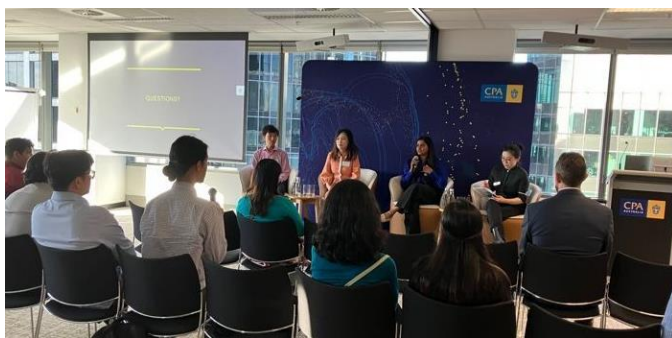
[Minister for Emergency Services for South Australia, Joe Szakacs attended the training session](#), SA Member for Morphett, Stephen Patterson MP, and Hon Russell Wortley MLC joined the students at Glenelg Beach and spoke about the importance of beach safety. [SBS Chinese](#) also interviewed participating students.



*Beach Smarts participants learned water safety skills at Glenelg Beach
Photo credit: Royal Life Saving Society SA.*

From University to the Workplace with CPA Australia

Landing your first job after university can be a daunting prospect for international students. In December, the Foundation, Centre for Australia-India Relations and CPA Australia partnered to deliver the second of four information sessions on entering the workplace after university for international students. The session included insight from industry professionals, with personal accounts and practical tips from their own professional journeys. Another two sessions are planned for 2024.



CPA Australia's career insights event for international students in Melbourne.

GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

Young Matildas tour of Xiamen

In November the Young Matildas U20 team toured Xiamen, building skills with their Chinese counterparts in preparation for the Women's World Cup in 2027. The trip included visits

to a [local school](#), UNESCO World Heritage Site Gulangyu, and [two livestreamed friendly matches](#).

The Foundation is pleased to support Australia's women's youth soccer team to travel to China. This grant promotes complementary Australia-China sports diplomacy, creates leadership pathways, and increases participation of women and girls in sport.

Football Australia highlighted these events on their [website](#) and [LinkedIn](#).



The Young Matildas with their Chinese counterparts in Xiamen.

Lowy Institute's Australia-China Track II Strategic Dialogue

The Lowy Institute hosted an [Australia-China Track II Strategic Dialogue](#) with the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies on 21 November in Sydney. The Dialogue included discussions on bilateral relations, US-China relations, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands region. The Foundation funded the event as part of the Government's broader efforts to build dialogue, understanding and exchange between Australia and China.



The Lowy Institute delegation, headed by Dr Michael Fullilove.

Stephen FitzGerald Scholars Program

Named after Dr Stephen FitzGerald AO, the first Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, this prestigious [program](#) run by ANU aims to foster lasting links and cooperation between Australia and China through the next generation of Chinese leaders.

The inaugural program included 30 Chinese international students from universities across Australia. Students were hosted at Question Time at Australian Parliament House by Speaker of the House of Representatives, Milton Dick.

They also visited the High Court of Australia, the National Press Club, CSIRO, listened to dreamtime stories and learnt about Indigenous Culture at the National Arboretum. Students also met DFAT Secretary, Jan Adams AO PSM, at the Gala Dinner at the National Museum of Australia. This program was featured in [AFR](#).



*Inaugural 2023 Stephen FitzGerald Scholars Program participants.
Photo credit: ANU Australian Studies Institute.*

University of Sydney - Entrepreneurial Ecosystems Research Report

With the Foundation's support, in September the University of Sydney and KPMG launched their [Entrepreneurial Ecosystems Research Report](#) in [Melbourne](#) and [Shanghai](#).

These events generated discussion on how entrepreneurs working in Australia-China trade could enhance their competitiveness using data and technology in e-commerce, and through sharing case studies of success stories.



AustCham Shanghai CEO, Simon Woods, hosted the report launch in China.

Seaweed as plastic with Victoria University

In November, academics from Victoria University convened a workshop in Nanjing with colleagues from Hohai University and Shenyang Jianzhu University to discuss the role of seaweed research in fighting climate change.

Australia has excellence in research and China cultivates more than half of the world's seaweed, making

collaboration in this area a positive example of constructive engagement. Dialogues on climate change issues also support the joint outcomes statement from the annual China-Australia leaders meeting.



The Victoria University workshop held in Nanjing.

Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts

The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) held the [Unsung Stories](#) short film festival in Sydney on 9 October. The event saw Chinese Australians from a variety of backgrounds share their stories on the big screen, in celebration of Australia's diverse communities and their contributions to our country.



Attendees of the Unsung Stories Gala held at the Ritz Cinemas Randwick.

Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts

Arts and culture continue to be an important way for Australia and China to build shared understanding and exchange ideas.

In November 2023, the China-Australia International Music Culture Exchange week was held in Nanjing. The week was jointly organised by the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, and the [Nanjing University of the Arts](#). Representatives from our Consulate-General in Shanghai attended the Gala event.

The Foundation is pleased the program showcased Australian excellence in performing arts and strengthen cross-cultural musical exchange.



A suite of concerts and workshops in Nanjing featuring WAAPA staff in collaboration with Nanjing students.

Celestial Footy's Victorian Launch

In November, sports author Patrick Skene launched *Celestial Footy: The Story of Chinese Heritage Aussie Rules across Victoria*, the home of Australian rules football, and to Chinese Australian families since the mid-19th Century. The book chronicles the participation and passion of Chinese heritage immigrants and their descendants in Australia's beloved national game. Read more [here](#).



Chinese Australian player, Jin Long of the Western Bulldogs.

OzAsia Festival 2023

OzAsia Festival brings the best contemporary artists from across Asia to share their Australian Asian experiences, diversity and connection through their performances. The Foundation supported two artistic commissions as part of the OzAsia Festival in 2023: *The Bridal Lament* by Rainbow Chan, and creative development of *The Story of Chi* (premiering at OzAsia 2024). Foundation CEO attended the opening night. *The Bridal Lament* was performed on 1 & 2 November.



Chinese Australian artist Chris Yee's artwork, 'Perspective Pathways'.

COP28: Melbourne Centre for Cities

The Melbourne Centre for Cities [Shared Pathways to COP28 program](#) aims to encourage practical cooperation between city officials in China and Australia on climate change challenges. Participants spoke at a panel event in the Australian marquee on climate initiatives and partnerships developed through the program, and future urban climate action.

The session was opened by Kristin Tilley, [Australia's Ambassador for Climate Change](#) and the Deputy Head of Mission from the PRC Embassy in UAE.



Australian participants at COP28UAE.

The Australia China Youth Dialogue

The 13th Australia China Youth Dialogue (ACYD) was held in Chengdu from 17-20 November 2023. This was the first dialogue held in China since before COVID, and an important opportunity for 30 emerging leaders, 15 from Australia and 15 from China, to create long-term, mutually beneficial relationships.

The overarching theme was *Evolving Dynamics*, and delegates discussed trade and investment, sustainable development, and healthcare cooperation, visiting business and cultural sites in southwest China. Australia's Consul-General in Chengdu, Adelle Neary, spoke to the delegates about the importance of the Australia-China relationship and their role in it.

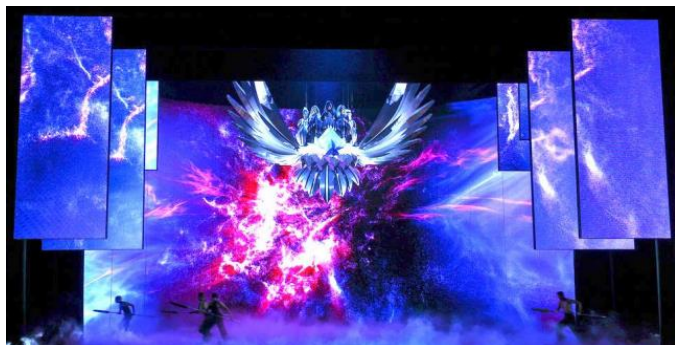
The ACYD aims to position professionals from a range of backgrounds to be active, visible and constructive figures in Australia and China affairs. Read more about the 13th ACYD from its organisers [here](#), delegates [here](#) or from Chengdu's Foreign Affairs Office [here](#).



Delegates of the 13th ACYD in Chengdu, China

Opera Australia

The Foundation was pleased to partner with Opera Australia to bring [The Ring Cycle](#) to Brisbane's Lyric Theatre, 1-21 December. This cutting-edge production brought together leading Australian artists and was expected to inject almost \$16.5 million into the local economy through tourism. Director [Chen Shi-Zheng](#) became the first person of Asian heritage to direct *The Ring Cycle*.



Fully digital Ring Cycle theatrical production with AI auto-generated graphics on giant LED screens.

Fred Hollows Foundation in Inner Mongolia

Since 1998, the Fred Hollows Foundation has been working with local partners in China to reduce preventable blindness, making a real difference to the lives of many. In December, the Fred Hollows Foundation launched a new eye health project in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia. With the Foundation's support, the initiative is expected to benefit 160,000 people, provide 6,000 pairs of glasses, offer 600 cataract surgeries and treat 80,000 patients with other eye diseases.



DFAT First Secretary in Beijing, Toby Sharpe, in Inner Mongolia. Photo credit: The Fred Hollows Foundation.

Celebrating Chinese Australians at school

Over 2023, primary school children at over 60 Australian schools were learning about the history of Chinese Australians while building creative 3D designs.

EdTech company Makers Empire's Celebrating Chinese Australians program, supported by the Foundation, announced its design challenge [winners](#) in December. The competition aims to educate students on the contributions of Chinese Australians to our history, while celebrating

multiculturalism. Stay tuned to the Foundation's social media channels for detail on the physical exhibition of the winning 3D designs in Adelaide in February 2024.

The [Celebrating Chinese Australians program](#) is available free to Australian primary schools throughout 2024.



Makers Empire's cover illustration by Chinese Australian illustrator, Yushi Xie.

UTS:ACRI E-Powering a decarbonised future

The Australia China Relations Institute at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS:ACRI) held a week-long program, [E-Powering a Decarbonised Future: Opportunities and challenges for Australia-China cooperation](#), which brought together academic and industry figures from Australia and China. Over 130 stakeholders participated the panel sessions where they discussed renewable energy developments and explored avenues for collaboration, including green steel, lithium processing and solar. The UTS:ACRI event is one of many Foundation-funded projects addressing climate change, a key area for bilateral cooperation as identified by leaders of both countries.



Participants at the UTS:ACRI event.

DOMESTIC OUTREACH

Visitor Economy

In October, CEO Peter Cai attended the Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC)'s annual Meeting Place Conference and the Chairman's CEO Forum discussion on aviation in

Adelaide. Minister for Trade and Tourism, Don Farrell attended the flagship event with 550 industry delegates.

The Foundation supported [ATEC's China Host training program](#) as part of the Government's broader efforts to support Australian businesses by building China literacy and capability in the tourism sector.



ATEC's CEO Forum at the National Wine Centre, Adelaide.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec-Feb	Zhenjiang Hangzhou	National Museum of Australia's Ochre and Sky exhibition tour
7 Feb	Brisbane	Queensland -Shanghai Ballet Joint Showcase Event
Feb	Adelaide	Maker's Empire Celebrating Chinese Australians Design Challenge Exhibition
17 Feb	Melbourne	Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Spring Festival Concert
21 Feb	Brisbane	ACBC QLD and China Chamber of Commerce in Australia's Chinese Lunar New Year Gala Dinner
26 Feb	Canberra	The 2024 Wang Gungwu Lecture
17-18 Apr	Melbourne	2024 China capability workshop
21-28 Apr	Beijing Shanghai Chengdu	Macquarie University workshops on Newborn Hearing in China
May	Beijing (virtual)	International Education Association of Australia's Education Symposium
1-31 Jul	Perth	2024 intake for the Marshall Centre's Australia-China Helicobacter Fellowship

FURTHER READING/WATCHING

- Foundation [YouTube](#) page