

# Foundation Newsletter

## Issue 1

NATIONAL  
FOUNDATION FOR  
AUSTRALIA-CHINA  
RELATIONS  
澳中基金会



### OVERVIEW

**Thank you for being a Friend of the Foundation. We would like to welcome you to issue one of our new newsletters.**

The National Foundation for Australia-China Relations is dedicated to creating a national platform that engages government, business and communities to support and find ways to engage constructively with China, across greater China and to involve our diverse stakeholders and communities.

It aims to strengthen existing ties and build cooperation in areas of shared interest and mutual benefit, consistent with our national interest.

It supports and deepens understanding of China; the value of the bilateral relationship and the extensive people-to-people links that exist between the two countries as well as the rich contribution of Chinese Australians to Australia's story, and the contribution of Australians to China's story.

The Foundation's work focuses on four strategic pillars:

- Promoting connections and practical cooperation
- Showcasing Australian excellence
- Building understanding and exchange
- Engaging Australia's diverse communities

Established in 2020, the Foundation builds on the 40-year legacy of its predecessor, the Australia-China Council.

Further information on our Advisory Board can be found [here](#).

### Chairman

Ms Pru Bennett is a senior business leader with extensive experience working across greater China and Asia and has a deep understanding of China's economic relationships.

Having held roles engaging at senior levels in business and advising key economic and financial regulators in Hong Kong and Singapore, Ms Bennett has an insight into the challenges and opportunities of managing business, trade and investment between



greater China and the region, and in corporate and board governance.

[Learn more >>](#)

### CEO

Mr Peter Cai is the CEO of the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations.

Mr Cai has extensive experience in business, media, academia and government, including as Group Chief Advisor and General Manager for strategic relations at Virgin Australia, Research Fellow at the Lowy Institute for International Policy, as a journalist with The Australian, The Age and Sydney Morning Herald and at the Australian Treasury Foreign Investment Review Board Secretariat.



[Learn more >>](#)

### FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES

#### National Gallery of Victoria

The Foundation is supporting NVG in the establishment of a Community Ambassador Program to engage international students with communities and enhance understanding of Australia and Indigenous Australian culture.

The NGV team have appointed 22 ambassadors who are tertiary students studying Art History or Arts Management at Victorian universities.

From October, the ambassadors are being introduced to the NGV collections and different strategies for engaging with visitors. They will also participate in cultural awareness training with the Koorie Heritage Trust.

The training program over the coming months will include sessions with NGV curators and educators, training in the NGV's customer service standards, and an opportunity for the ambassadors to research and prepare for their own guiding activities.

The ambassadors will be involved with the exhibition '[China – The past is present](#)'.



The NGV's 22 community ambassadors

## The Wang Gungwu Lecture

The inaugural Wang Gungwu Lecture, in partnership with the ABC, was held on 22 June. The annual Wang Gungwu Lecture aims to provide a platform to celebrate the deep and diverse contribution of Australians with Chinese heritage to Australian society.

**Dr John Yu AC**, former Australian of the Year (1996), was the keynote speaker and outlined elements of his life story highlighting the value of our diverse Chinese Australian communities and the issues they face in terms of identity and representation in Australian society. The event was hosted by Adam Liaw, with Professor Antonia Finnane, a former student of Professor Wang and honorary professorial fellow at the University of Melbourne, outlining Professor Wang's contributions. Both Professor Wang and Dr Yu are former chairs of the Australia China Council.

The lecture was broadcast on ABC 1 on 5 July and is available [here](#) on **ABC iView**.



Dr John Yu AC, keynote speaker at the inaugural Wang Gungwu lecture

## Beach Smarts

Beach Smarts for Life is a program to introduce Chinese international students to Australian surf lifesaving and beach culture. The program focuses on water safety awareness and helps to make the beach a relaxed, comfortable and safe place for students to enjoy. The first program was held on the Gold Coast. Students participated in theoretical and practical activities and mirrored a 'day in the life' of a life saver. Further rollout of the program is planned in other states and territories.

Watch the video [here](#).



International students participating in the inaugural Beach Smarts program on the Gold Coast

## China Executive Briefing Series

The Foundation has partnered with **Asia Society** over 12 months to unpack megatrends related to China's political economy. This includes policy briefs, digital content and virtual/hybrid events to raise awareness on the following topics: macro-economy; environment and climate change; food and agriculture; outbound and inbound foreign direct investment; health and ageing; and energy and resources.

The Executive Briefing Series can be found [here](#).

## GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Foundation has completed three grants rounds since 2019-20
- Over \$12 million distributed to 92 grantees
- Grant activities located in all states and territories in Australia, 16 provinces in mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.
- For information on grant recipients to date, [visit our grants page](#).

## WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE (WEHI)

Australia's oldest medical research institute has partnered with the Foundation to deliver the InSPIRE program where leading undergraduate students from Fudan, Nanjing and

Nankai universities undertake internships at WEHI in biomedical science fields.

This program leads to lifelong people to people links and promotes Australia as a location for cutting edge biomedical research.

The Foundation also supported WEHI to deliver a virtual Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Masterclass and an Australia-China Research Symposium.

Watch our WEHI video [here](#).



*Jinjin Chen, PhD Candidate and current InSPIRE participant, and Wang Cao, PhD Candidate and former InSPIRE participant.*

### **SYDNEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL NETWORK**

Australian excellence in higher education was further demonstrated by the Sydney Children's Hospital Network, with the support of the Foundation, which delivered the 'China Practical Paediatric Workshop Webinar Series' to 50 medical practitioners in rural China. Sydney Children's Hospital Network plans to continue the program into the future.

### **UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE**

The Foundation is supporting the University of Melbourne's "My Study and life in Australia" video contest and Grassroots Ambassador Leadership Award for Chinese international students at Australian institutions. 50 videos made by Chinese international students about their positive experiences in Australia will be shared across major Chinese social media platforms and archived and displayed on a dedicated bilingual website. Students have begun submitting videos.

### **AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

With Foundation support, the ANU is strengthening understanding and engagement between Australia and China on the transition to low-carbon technology. The Australia-China Decarbonisation Roundtable was held earlier this year, with speakers based in China, Australia and America discussing plans for decarbonisation, emissions targets and alternative fuel options. Presentations covered a wide range of perspectives from across academia and industry, including speakers from the ANU, BHP, Rio Tinto, Energy Foundation China and Tsinghua University.

### **MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY BIODIVERSITY FORUM**

Macquarie University, with Foundation support, hosted the Australia-China Joint Workshop on Biodiversity and Governance. The Workshop was attended by senior participants representing a range of disciplines.

### **PRACTERA – VIRTUAL INDUSTRY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

The Foundation is supporting the delivery of the Australia-China Student Industry Exchange Program for 400 Australian and Chinese international students. The program sees students working together in teams to deliver real-world business consulting projects under the guidance of private sector mentors. The first tranche of program has been successfully delivered and the second tranche commenced in June.

### **ART GALLERY OF NSW: 'THE WAY WE EAT'**

The Foundation supported a range of interactive events and culinary experiences connected to the Art Gallery of NSW's exhibition 'The Way We Eat' which explores the important role of food as a celebration of culture which connects people and brings them together.

Watch our video with Curator of Chinese Art, Yin Cao, [here](#).



*Artist and curator Jamie Lewis with participants from 'The Long Lunch' event inspired by 'The Way We Eat' exhibition, during 'Art After hours' at the Art Gallery of NSW, 4 May 2022, photo © AGNSW, Diana Panuccio.*



Artist Rainbow Chan performing with dancers and musicians at 'Seven parts sweetness, three parts tears', as part of 'The Way We Eat' exhibition events at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, 29 April 2022, photo © Christopher Snee



From the archives: Nine terracotta warriors and other artefacts toured Australia capital cities in 1983.

## FURTHER READING

- [Australian Nobel Laureate takes aim at stomach cancer in East Asia](#)
- [New online app helping international students protect their mental wellbeing](#)
- [New museum will be an interactive space to learn about Chinese in Australia](#)
- [Virtual internships open doors for Australian university students in Hong Kong](#)

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The Chairman of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, David Li AM, arrived in Australia as a student from Shanghai in the 1980s with support from an Australia China Council scholarship, chaired at the time by Professor Wang Gungwu.
- Sir Gustav Nossal AC, director of the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research for 31 years (*Foundation grant partner*), helped establish some of the first testing laboratories for immunology in China in the 1970s.