

THE VOICE

Monthly Newsletter for our Australian Alumni Community

ISSUE 39 | MAY 2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members & Partners,

Last month we announced the roles of the new AAS management committee members. I am pleased to share that we are in the final stages of solidifying our plans for the year which will be announced progressively through various AAS channels in the coming months.

The new management committee organised our first casual networking evening Beers & Brains this month which was attended by many of our members. In the coming months, we will have more opportunities for you to network, connect, learn and grow. Our event team will be publishing our annual events calendar later this month. If your organization is keen to partner with us for any of our upcoming events, please reach out to us.

Our membership benefits program has been attracting new partnerships over the past years. We are working to expand our membership benefits program in partnership with both new and our existing partners. If you are representing an Australian alumnus owned business or a business keen to expand your network leveraging our community, we are keen to discuss how we can add value to you.

Community engagement is one of our key priorities and a cornerstone to our strategy. Our CSR team is currently planning for another volunteer opportunity this year in conjunction with Singapore National Day. This will be a great opportunity for you to support the under privileged in our community.

As always, we would love to hear your thoughts and ideas for our upcoming events and potential areas of improvement. We will be launching a survey this month and I would like to request your participation to provide your valuable feedback which will greatly help us chart the path ahead.

Yours Sincerely,

Rajaneesh R Kurup #forwardtogether



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Job Opportunities

AAS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

STEVEN LEE

ENTREPRENEUR | PROPERTY | BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES AAS CO-CHAIR OF SPONSORSHIP & PARTNER UNIVERSITY



Steven is a seasoned professional in the banking and financial services industry, particularly in property lending with 10+ years of experience in the Australian market across major global and national banks and fintech businesses. He's passionate about growing businesses offering financial and technology solutions to help people build wealth.

Embracing new challenges, Steven moved from Sydney to Singapore in 2024 to lead Odin Mortgage helping Australian expats and overseas investors buying properties in Australia partnering with Australian and international banks.

Steven is a strong believer in 'grow together, win together' sharing his skills and experience, while learning from others, to help more professionals excel in their career or personal development goals as he participated in various volunteering opportunities across tertiary education and banking fields. Recently, he's joined AAS to help the organisation connect with universities and business partners to deliver more values to the alumni members and community.

He's happily married, a graduate of University of Sydney. Connect with him via <u>LinkedIn</u> or at <u>steven@odinmortgage.com</u>



New sustainable fish feed to contribute to Singapore's "30 by 30" food sustainability goal





Researchers from the Tropical Futures Institute (TFI) of James Cook University (JCU) in Singapore and Republic Polytechnic (RP) are developing a sustainable and productive new feed to increase the production of the red snapper species.

With over 90% of its food imported, Singapore is vulnerable to global supply chain disruptions. To enhance food resilience, Singapore has a "30 by 30" vision in place – that is, to build the nation's agri-food sector's capability and capacity to sustainably produce 30% of its nutritional needs by 2030. Seafood has been identified as a priority area as it is one of the more productive and resource-efficient food types, a good source of protein and suitable for land-scarce Singapore.

The red snapper is an important marine food fish species cultured in Singapore due to its high market value and consumer acceptance. However, there are no specific commercial feeds available that are tailored to meet its nutritional requirements. Furthermore, such requirements have not been adequately studied. In light of this, a group of researchers, in 2021, backed by <u>funding support from the Singapore Food Story R&D Grant</u>, set out to develop a sustainable and highly productive feed for the species.

The research team, comprising the Tropical Futures Institute (TFI) of James Cook University (JCU) in Singapore, and Republic Polytechnic (RP), and led initially by Associate Professor Katheline Hua and later by Principal Investigator Associate Professor Xueyan Shen, has identified the nutrient requirements of red snapper as well as a sustainable diet based on locally available ingredients that increase the growth rate and productivity of farming this seafood species.

The research project, titled "Optimizing Feeds for Singaporean Red Snapper Aquaculture", was carried out in collaboration with the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) and Metropolitan Fishery Group (MFG).

New sustainable fish feed to contribute to Singapore's "30 by 30" food sustainability goal



Current production of the red snapper locally relies mainly on generic marine fish feeds, which can only provide a basic level of nutrition needed by red snapper for growth. Moreover, these commercial feeds typically contain high levels of fish meal and fish oil, leading to increased feed costs," explains Associate Professor Shen.

"Through a comprehensive assessment of the nutrient utilisation and requirements of the carnivorous red snapper, we determined that the fish has a low ability to utilise carbohydrates in its diet as the primary energy source for growth. Whereas the energy utilisation of protein and lipid for growth was found to be approximately 70%. These findings, advocate for a protein-rich diet to optimise the red snapper's growth performance," says Mr Shawn Ngoh, JCU in Singapore PhD (Aquaculture) candidate under an SFA scholarship.

Successful formulation of cost-effective feeds for juvenile snapper using plant-derived ingredients in some cases led to at least 50% faster growth than those fed with commercial diets. Overall, using the new efficient diets the team expects at least 20% cost savings for farmers for every 1kg of fish produced.

"By developing tailored feed formulations based on robust scientific understanding, the team aims to drive positive change and industry growth in the farming of red snapper in Singapore, benefiting both local farmers and consumers," says <u>Professor Dean Jerry</u>, Director TFI, JCU in Singapore.

Looking ahead, the best-performing feed formulations have been utilised for optimal feed development for grow-out fish. These will undergo on-farm trials coordinated by Republic Polytechnic and subsequently be licensed for commercial production. Leveraging partnerships with overseas feed mills, these formulations will be made available to local farms at competitive prices.

"As Singapore strives towards food security, initiatives like this pave the way for a productive and sustainable aquaculture industry, contributing to the nation's "30 by 30" vision says Dr Jiang Junhui, Director Aquaculture Department, Urban Food Solutions at SFA.

Papers

Discover further information on <u>areas of research and research strength at James Cook University in Singapore</u>.

Check out Associate Professor Xueyan Shen's staff and research profiles

Contacts

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Media: Ms Pinky Sibal pinky.sibal@jcu.edu.au / Ms Hoe Shu Rin shurin.hoe@jcu.edu.au

PARTNER UPDATES

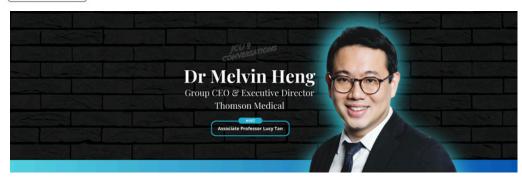
JCU Conversations





JCU Conversations is the premier podcast series of James Cook University, Singapore —bringing to you discussions with successful leaders in the industry (across fields such as business, education, sustainability, and more) while offering a deeper understanding of their personal lives, careers, inspirations, and approaches to success. Join our rotating chair of distinguished hosts as we find out: What makes these bright minds tick?







JCU Conversations 25: Melvin Heng

Dr Melvin Heng, Executive Director & Group CEO at Thomson Medical, shares about his career journey from medicine to corporate leadership. In this podcast, he talks about balancing business and commercial priorities with healthcare needs and ethical standards, what he loves about what he's doing today, what he misses most about his time as a medical practitioner and more.

This episode's host: Associate Professor Lucy Tan, Associate Professor in Clinical Psychology at James Cook University in Singapore.

Connect with Dr Melvin Heng on LinkedIn.





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- Strategic Management Accounting
- Financial Reporting
- Global Strategy and Leadership

Elective subjects (choose two)

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- Australia Taxation Advanced
- Singapore Taxation
- Advanced Audit and Assurance



- Financial Risk Management
- Contemporary Business Issues
- Digital Finance

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Our employer partners in Singapore include Deloitte, EY, KPMG, PwC, FairPrice Group, JP Morgan, Shell, Tencent, among many other esteemed organisations.

To find out more, contact Jordan Chung

Jordan.Chung@cpaaustralia.com.au



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Food and Hotel Asia 2024









That's a wrap for Food and Hotel Asia 2024! - A key trade calendar event for the Victorian Government, we were so pleased once again to be hosting Victorian food and beverage excellence at Asia's leading F&B event here in Singapore.

With 75 representatives from 35 exhibiting Victorian F&B companies, our stand had a constant buzz of activity and excitement. We thank our trade delegates for the energy and passion they brought as they represented the best of Victoria through their products throughout the week. We showcased Victorian spirits, dairy, seafood, healthfood, grains, dairy formulas, babyfood, honey, non-alcoholic beverages, processed goods and more. Thank you also to our intricate network of in-market buyers, retailers and distributors who visited our pavilion, looking for the next opportunity to bring Victoria to Southeast Asia.

Check out our exhibitor directory from the QR code below:



In addition, as part of the successful Food and Hotel Asia 2024 trade mission, we hosted our official Victorian Government Networking Reception to welcome and celebrate our 35 Victorian exhibiting companies. Bringing together exporters, distributors, retailers, and key in-market F&B players, the evening took place in one of Singapore's most iconic restaurants - Kaarla Wood-Fire Grill.

Connect with our team to learn how we can help you to engage with Victoria's businesses: https://global.vic.gov.au/ and support your expansion into Melbourne: https://www.invest.vic.gov.au/









Innovative Models of Eye Care: Transforming Lives and Vision



Blindness and vision impairment affect millions of people worldwide. Currently, there are 43.3 million people who are blind and an additional 295 million people with moderate or severe vision impairment worldwide. The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) predicts that by 2050, these numbers will soar to 1.7 billion individuals without significant interventions. Unfortunately, approximately 90% of vision-impaired people reside in low and middle-income countries, limiting their access to adequate eye care.

To combat this, sustainable and innovative models of eye care are crucial in effectively preventing avoidable blindness and to improve access to eye care for the millions of people who are needlessly blind. The Fred Hollows Foundation, in collaboration with its partners, has been at the forefront of efforts to eliminate avoidable blindness and vision impairment for over 30 years. With the global demand for eye health escalating, investing in eye health emerges as a vital priority to alleviate the economic burden and improve livelihoods for the global blind population.

One innovative model of eye care is Alina Vision, a social enterprise co-founded by The Fred Hollows Foundation. Alina Vision employs a tiered pricing model to make high-quality eye health services accessible to all, irrespective of financial capability. Middle and upper income patients' fees subsidize the treatment of low-income patients, ensuring affordability. Since its establishment as a pilot eye clinic in Vietnam, Alina Vision has screened nearly 53,000 patients and performed over 3,600 successful cataract and other surgeries, surpassing national and World Health Organization (WHO) benchmarks. Furthermore, Alina Vision serves as a training center, expanding the local eye health workforce by training eye surgeons, ophthalmologists, refractionists, and nurses.





Innovative Models of Eye Care: Transforming Lives and Vision



In Kenya, The Fred Hollows Foundation launched a project in 2019 to increase the uptake of cataract surgeries in remote districts. By leveraging the existing national health insurance scheme, the project enhances the availability and accessibility of cataract surgeries for low-income communities. The Foundation raises community awareness of the insurance scheme's coverage for cataract surgery costs, facilitates insurance registration for vulnerable, uninsured individuals, and collaborates with local hospitals to improve the quality of surgery while reducing costs. This approach increases the supply of high-quality cataract surgeries and promotes sustainable funding for essential eye treatments.

Empowering women for eye health is another crucial aspect of innovative models of eye care. In Bangladesh, The Fred Hollows Foundation supports Women CAN, a women-led entrepreneurship group that offers basic eye care services to local community members, focusing on reducing vision loss caused by refractive error. By funding women's business groups, The Foundation helps overcome barriers to eye health services for women. The Foundation provides the necessary eye-screening equipment and eyeglasses as a starter kit, enabling the women to generate income through screenings and affordable glasses sales. The generated funds are reinvested in hiring personnel and procuring subsequent batches of eyeglasses, ensuring sustainability and increased eye health access for women in remote areas.

Investing in innovative models of eye care is crucial to address the growing global demand for eye health services. The Fred Hollows Foundation and its partners have demonstrated the effectiveness of sustainable approaches, such as Alina Vision, health financing in Kenya and Women CAN in Bangladesh. These models not only provide accessible and affordable eye care but also contribute to the training of local eye health professionals, create social impact, and alleviate the burden of avoidable blindness. By working together across government, non-government, philanthropy and the private sector, we can make a significant difference in the lives of the world's needlessly blind.

Visit our website at <u>www.hollows.org</u> if you are interested to find out more. We also welcome corporate partners who are interested in investing in eye health to <u>get in touch with us.</u>

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE BEACH CLEAN UP

by OCEAN PURPOSE PROJECT



AAS CYCLING INTEREST GROUP MONTHLY MEETUP

SATURDAY, 11 MAY 2024 | 6.30AM SGT



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, 13 June 2024

RMIT Alumni Singapore (RMITAS), Career forum 2024



When: Thursday, 13 June 2024, 6.30pm - 9.30pm (+8 GMT)
Location: WeWork - Office Space & Coworking (Room 05A)
109 North Bridge Road, Singapore 179097

We are thrilled to extend an exclusive invitation to Career Forum 2024 – a dynamic event crafted to empower you with invaluable insights for navigating the evolving landscape of careers in 2024 and beyond. In today's rapidly transforming job market, traditional approaches to job hunting have become obsolete, largely due to the disruptive influence of AI on employment.

Here's what you can anticipate at Career Forum 2024:

- **Current Trends**: Gain deep insights into the evolving job market and discover the pivotal skills required to thrive in this Al-driven era.
- **Networking Opportunities**: Forge meaningful connections with a diverse array of professionals, entrepreneurs, and visionaries, fostering collaboration and ideation.
- Executive Coaching: Access expert guidance from seasoned professional coaches who will provide personalized advice on your professional development journey and potential career transitions.

Registration Fees

RMIT Alumni: SGD 10 Non Alumni: SGD 20

Click here for full agenda and registration



2024 Alumni Awards

→ Nominations now open

Scan to nominate yourself or a fellow Charles Sturt alum

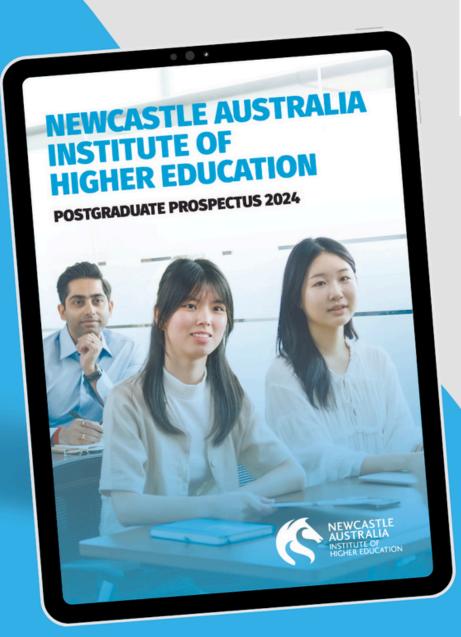


Nominations close Monday 10 June 2024



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PAST EVENTS

AAS BEER & BRAINS SESSION

by Raj, Steffie, Ernest

Date: 17 May 2024Time: 7 pm SGT

Ţ Venue: Mandala Club @ 31 Bukit Pasoh Rd





For more information on our next session, please scan on Whatsapp QR Code.

Australian Alumni Singapore







President



Chair of Events



Co-chair of Events



VP & Treasurer

PAST EVENTS



UTAS SINGAPORE ALUMNI CATCH-UP

m Date: 30 May 2024

↑ Venue: The Lobby Lounge @ InterContinental Singapore







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This evening a few of our UTAS alumni were invited by Ms Naomi Walsh, College Academic Lead, Employability, College of Business and Economics, for the Singapore alumni catch-up, at the Intercontinental Bugis Lobby Lounge.





SOCIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Scan or click the link to join & connect with like minded AAS members













If you would like to form and lead an interest group, please feel free to contact secretariat@aas.org.sg





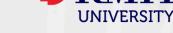


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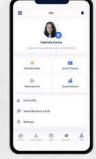
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Organisational Resilience in the New Normal



THE "NEW NORMAL"

As Governments, businesses and societies begin to adapt to the post-COVID 19 pandemic environment, organisations continue to evolve in a complex operating climate impacting daily operations, assurance to stakeholders and creating a sense of uncertainty. Left unchecked, these may materialise into potential undesirable consequences causing unnecessary disruption or leading to a crisis in their organisation.

Navigating through these complexities require trained and experienced professionals to ensure such threats do not become a reality and if they ever do, organisations must be ready to implement well tested contingency and response plans to recover from and resume critical operations.

It is a proven and well documented fact when organisations that are resilient and equipped to manage risks not only stand a higher chance of survival in their respective competitive fields but emerge stronger and ready to take on potential opportunities left behind by others who are not as well prepared.

Post-pandemic, more businesses, governments and key stakeholders will be requiring a greater adoption of business continuity and crisis management plans and procedures. Is your organisation ready?

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- Business continuity, emergency response and crisis management plan(s) development
- Training and awareness workshops
- Readiness tests and exercises
- Programme maintenance
- BCM and crisis management audits

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WHY CLIENTS CHOOSE US

Clients want to partner with us because:

- We simplify resilience and continuity
- We "hand hold" you to develop your resilience plans (some say we do everything for them) at your pace
- We work with organisations of all sizes and maturity phases (i.e., regardless if it's a full programme or to review existing components)
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Ashton Legal merged with Agile Visas to form a new joint venture

Ashton Legal has merged with Agile Visas to form a new joint venture, now trading as ALC Lawyers. We have an expanded team of Solicitors and Registered Migration Agents and are continuing to service clients with all their Australian visa and migration needs. Please contact <u>info@alclawyers.com.au</u> to arrange a consultation and discuss your needs.

Australian Migration Law Updates.

In line with announcements from early 2023, Australia's migration program is set to undergo significant reform.

Global Talent Visas

Home Affairs are currently assessing EOI applications submitted in December 2023, due to high demand we are seeing an overall increase in the threshold to be successfully invited, however this has resulted in faster processing.

General Skilled Migration

As we draw closer to the end of the Migration Program year allocations for state and territory sponsored visas are nearing their thresholds. WA has already closed for the program year. There is ongoing high demand for the 189 visa, however only one invitation round has been issued since the commencement of the 2023/24 program and only Education and Medical sector occupations were included.

Employer sponsored work visas

The government is planning to target temporary skilled migration to address skills needs and promote worker mobility. Consultation is underway with a planned implementation in late 2024. Planned Measured include:

- Develop a new Skills in Demand visa, with full mobility and clear pathways to permanent residence
- Develop a Specialist Skills Pathway to drive innovation and job creation
- Develop a Core Skills Pathway to meet targeted workforce needs
- Legislate indexation of income thresholds to maintain system integrity
- Streamline Labour Market Testing (LMT) to reduce complexity
- Take a coordinated, evidence-based, tripartite approach to identifying skills needs
- Establish a best practice service level agreement for processing times and a modernised accreditation pathway to better compete for talent

The simpler and better targeted Skills in Demand visa will replace the complex single employer sponsored Temporary Skill Shortage visa. A key feature of this visa is an alternative approach to mobility—with new visa settings, streamlined applications and consideration of trailing employer fees that remove many onerous conditions that tie a migrant to a single employer

Business Innovation and Investor Program

23

The programme is not inviting any new candidates, however processing of existing applications is continuing. The Migration Review flagged the opportunity to draw on the relative strength of the Significant Investor stream to design a visa product more sharply targeted to select migrants who can drive innovative investments in sectors of national importance or play a valuable role in the venture capital industry.

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- · Prior appointment is required to enjoy the discounts.
- During online or phone bookings, please use the code "AAS members" to unlock your privileges.
- · Payment is due at the time of service.
- This offer cannot be combined with any other ongoing promotions, discounts, or vouchers.

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Tata Consultancy Services TCS Xplore Programme

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- Keep abreast with the latest technologies and skillsets during structured training.
- Learn from mentors during on-job-training to gain industry exposure.
- · Participate in activities beyond the programme to deepen engagement with the organisation and the society.

Who are we looking for?

- Only Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents
- Possess a diploma/bachelor's degree (Apr 2021 Jul 2024)
- Open to all field of studies*
- Candidates who are available to start on the 18th of July.
- Keen interest in pursuing a career in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) landscape.
- Eager to learn attitude and commitment to progress in the IT industry.
- *Training will be provided

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JOB OPPORTUNITY



FULLSTACK DEVELOPER

Join Tata Consultancy Services, Asia Pacific and be part of an organization committed to sustainable development for our future. TCS follows the Tata group philosophy of building sustainable businesses that are rooted in the community and demonstrate care for the environment. Our unique values position us to combine a purpose-driven worldview with digital innovation, collaborating with customers, communities and governments to lead and shape innovative solutions for a sustainable future. TCS has been carbon neutral in its operations across 11 countries, 12 delivery centres and 18 offices in Asia Pacific since 2022. This is only the initial stage in TCS' journey as we strive to achieve long-term net zero emissions by 2030.

Corporate sustainability is embedded in our triple-bottom-line, focusing on people, the planet, and our purpose. Our offices are designed with eco-friendly features that significantly reduce our carbon footprint and enhance energy efficiency. We actively champion green initiatives, such as promoting paperless operations, implementing energy-efficient practices, and fostering employee engagement in sustainability efforts. When you become part of the TCS family, you will play an essential role dedicated to innovation, excellence, and crafting a brighter, greener future together. Join us and be a part of our mission to drive sustainability through technology and talent at Tata Consultancy Services, APAC today

Job Description:

- Strong knowledge in React/Next js, Node Js
- Good knowledge in AWS Lamda
- Experience in building customer facing UI and back-end services
- Airline Domain knowledge
- Adapt to agile development
- Technically very strong in React/Next Js, Node Js, AWS Lamda
- · Ability to work independently and to lead the team
- Co-ordination with BU and stake holders

Thank you for your interest in applying for this position with TCS. All applicants who meet the requirements will be considered equally and fairly for employment. We will review your application and will get back to you if we are considering your interest in this opportunity.



SEAN LIM MONASH UNIVERSITY LINKEDIN PROFILE





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