

# THE VOICE

Monthly Newsletter for our Australian Alumni Community

ISSUE 52 | JUNE 2025

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Partners

June marks the halfway point in the year and also means the end of the financial year for Australian companies. It gives us a point to look back on what has been achieved and look forward to what exciting things are yet to come.

### Events

We had two key events in June for the broader community. First up, we had a terrific evening on the topic of **Australian Property & Tax** which was hosted by corporate sponsors **Odin Mortgage Brokers** who teamed up with **JLL Singapore**. Anyone that was interested in investing in Aussie properties would have found this panel discussion useful especially if you wanted to minimize your tax. Second up, we had a hugely engaging evening on **GenAI for Personal Productivity** which was co-hosted with the Harvard Club Singapore at the CPA Australia offices. The workshop was led by Stephanie Sy, who has been named as a Forbes 30 under 30 Asia tech leader.

The Business Council held a couple of high quality lunches this month hosted by **Robert Half** and **Cushman & Wakefield**. The latter also held a very well attended cocktail networking evening in their office which had presentations and discussions on the Johor Singapore Special Economic Zones. We expect that we will have at least three Business Council lunches in July.

Looking ahead to events in the month of July, UNSW Alumni and AAS will be holding a beach cleanup on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> July, at East Coast Park. When it comes to our environment, a small effort can make a big difference.

Also later in July, we will hold another Beer and Brain meetup with a twist. This will be held at COMO Orchard on 24<sup>th</sup> July.

### Sponsorship and Partner University (PU).

Last month it was all about sponsorships coming from NSW. I am happy to say that this June, it was all about Victoria. Monash and Melbourne Universities both renewed their PU sponsorship. Also the Victoria Government Trade and Investment, I am delighted to say, renewed their corporate sponsorship. So thank you Victoria.

Let's look forward to a good second half to the year.

Yours Sincerely,

*Andrew Er*

Andrew Er  
#forwardtogether



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# AAS 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER

- 70 years since the founding of Australian Alumni Singapore (Platinum Jubilee) – celebrating decades of community and connection.
- 60 years of Australia–Singapore friendship (Diamond Jubilee) – honouring a bond formed alongside Singapore's independence.

## Platinum & Diamond: Legacy Upheld



Save  
the  
Date!

**DATE : SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**  
**VENUE : RITZ CARLTON SINGAPORE**

Join us for a night of **radiance and elegance.**  
( Your seat at the celebration awaits – stay tuned for more details)



## EUGENE NG UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE



For Eugene Ng, leadership extends well beyond the workplace—it begins at home, where he proudly embraces his most meaningful role: father. A 2020 graduate of the Bachelor of Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety program at the University of Newcastle, Eugene currently serves as the Senior Manager of Security & Safety at the Singapore Swimming Club. In this role, he oversees a comprehensive range of functions including physical security, fire safety, workplace health, and emergency preparedness. With more than 14 years of experience across law enforcement, corporate security, and safety operations—including service in Singapore's National Service—Eugene is recognised for his calm, strategic approach to leadership in high-pressure environments. Eugene remains acutely aware of the evolving nature of the security and safety landscape:

"The climate of the security industry has changed drastically in recent years. Security professionals today are expected to do more than just protect life and property—they've also embraced customer service, workplace safety, and advanced technologies. These skills are essential for adapting to an ever-changing environment. Being part of the BEnvOHS alumni network since 2020 has greatly enriched my work and broadened my perspective. Through this network—and the opportunity to connect with others in the field—the knowledge shared within the community has been invaluable throughout my career."

### BACHELOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (CLASS OF 2020)

#### SENIOR MANAGER, SECURITY & SAFETY



Yet, for Eugene, his most transformative role remains at home. As a father to three children, aged five to sixteen, he reflects on how parenting has shaped his values and leadership style:

"Being a father has taught me more about patience, perspective, and purpose than any course or career ever could. I've always encouraged my children to stay committed to their goals and to never give up, even when facing life's challenges."

Balancing professional commitments with family responsibilities hasn't always been easy:

"The struggle to juggle work and family commitments has never been easy in our industry. There were times when I had planned a family gathering on a special occasion, only to be recalled at the last minute for work. Public holidays are often our busiest periods, while others are resting.

Nevertheless, I am deeply thankful—my family has always been understanding and supportive, allowing me to fulfil my professional duties without worry." In celebration of Father's Day, Eugene shares this heartfelt message:

"To all the fathers out there—you are the pillar of strength your family relies on. You strive to put food on the table, never backing down when times are tough. You are, and always will be, the superhero in your child's eyes."

**DANIEL LEE**  
**MONASH UNIVERSITY**  
**LEADERSHIP CONSULTANT**



Daniel Lee simplifies employee engagement for Team leaders and Heads of department through his speaking, training, coaching, and writing work. He draws upon his over 25 years of corporate experiences in public service, manufacturing, professional services, facilities services, and banking and finance, majority spent in the Human Resources sector.

Since 2019, He has worked with Shiseido, Telkom Indonesia, Beam Suntory, Cornerstone OnDemand, Bollore Logistics, UTAC, Daimler Trucks, Nexia Singapore, Panasonic, NIQ, HTX, Hoya Electronics, Fresenius Medical Care, Starhub, American Express, OSIM, and many more.

Through his book, First Time Leadership, which he co-authored with Avi Liran and published in June 2021, he has mapped out the specific competencies that effective Team leaders employ to engage and motivate their teams towards sustainable high performance.



Since 2024, Daniel started working with Heads of department with his new research, Leading from the Middle, to enable his clients to be leader of leaders. He is about to justify the specific competency differences needed between leading a team vs leading multiple teams.

**WITH PRACTICAL REAL WORLD INSIGHTS GAINED FROM WORKING WITH OVER 900 LEADERS ACROSS NUMEROUS INDUSTRY SECTORS, DANIEL HAS RECEIVED MANY POSITIVE CLIENT TESTIMONIALS AND GOOGLE REVIEWS FOR HIS LEADERSHIP WORK.**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

UNSW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
SINGAPORE CHAPTER

 Australian Alumni Singapore  
since 1955

as July is the month of appreciation

## Let's Clean Our Coast

Join us in appreciating our mother earth & the beautiful beaches, every small effort helps protect our coastline for future generations!

**Date : Saturday, July 5 ,2025**

**Time : 9am - 10am**

**Location : East Coast Park , Area C**

**920 ECP, Singapore 449875**

(Meet Up Point : Starbucks Parkland Green)

### GEAR UP WITH THESE...



Gloves



Long Sleeves/ Sun

Protection /Hat/

Sunglasses

Covered Shoes

A Big Smile & Caring Heart



**Sign Up Now!**

**\*Light refreshments will be provided after the event\***

Share your post event pictures

#UNSWSGBeachCleanUp

#AASBeachCleanUp

Contact: Ryan Kwong

+65 9645 1825

(WhatsApp Message Only)





# UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, 11 July 2025



Alumni  
Singapore

Special Rate for AAS member!  
\$30 per AAS member

Artificial Intelligence is reshaping the way we live, work, and lead. But amidst the excitement, how do we distinguish real value from the buzz?

## AI Uncovered: From Hype to Hands-On

Friday, 11 July 2025 | 7:00 pm



Join us for an engaging evening with fellow UniSA alumni and leading industry experts as we explore the transformative power of AI — from ethical implementation to game-changing business applications.

Time : Registration starts at 6:00 pm

Venue : RELC International Hotel,  
Meeting Room 508  
30 Orange Grove Road,  
Singapore 258352

Fee : **SGD \$25 per UniSA member**  
**SGD \$40 per guest**  
(includes buffet dinner)

### Seats are limited, Register Now!

Don't miss this opportunity to stay ahead in the AI conversation.

Registration Link / QR:  
<https://bit.ly/43pMvkl>

Or, contact **Rency** at:  
**+65 9823 7992**



### FEATURED SESSIONS

#### Demystifying AI: *From Hype to Practical Value*

Unpack how AI is evolving from a futuristic concept to a real-world business advantage. Gain clarity on generative AI, automation, and ethical governance through practical, actionable insights.

#### Speakers from Hitachi Vantara:

- ▶ **David Chee**  
Director  
Head of Global Services, ASEAN
- ▶ **Rowayne Grewan**  
Chief Technologist  
Global Services APAC

#### AI Marketing: *From Manual to Magical*

Explore how AI is revolutionising digital marketing — transforming repetitive tasks into smart automation. Learn how top brands are using AI to enhance targeting, streamline campaigns, and accelerate business growth.

#### Speaker:

- ▶ **Stanley Mak**  
Chief Executive Officer  
iSmart Communications Pte Ltd  
Singapore

#### AI Adaptation: *Preparing the Workforce for AI*

AI adoption is a challenge for organisations. Learn how organisations can increase time-to-value for successful AI-Adoption, as organisations build AI adaptation upskills into the middle managers. Real life cases will be shared.

#### Speaker:

- ▶ **Dr. Karuna Ramanathan**  
Principal Consultant  
Changeleader Pte Ltd



# Panel discussion: Building a future-ready accountancy workforce



Tuesday 15 July  
7.00pm - 9.00pm



CPA Australia Singapore office



**Jason Ang**  
Global Finance Leader,  
Finance Transformation



**Jack Huang**  
Associate Director,  
Leadership & Faculty,  
KPMG Singapore



**Samuel Lim CPA (Aust.)**  
Audit Partner,  
Enrome LLP



**Kelly Wee**  
Business Director,  
Hays Singapore



HOSTED BY CPA AUSTRALIA SINGAPORE & E2I



## Event Highlights:

- ✓ Opening Address: Discover e2i's support & grants for firms
- ✓ Panel Discussion: Insights on hiring trends, emerging skills & industry shifts
- ✓ Networking Dinner: Connect with industry leaders & peers



## Why Attend?

- Gain key insights on in-demand skills
  - Engage with top industry experts
- Explore talent strategies for your firm

## VENUE

1 Raffles Place #31-01 One Raffles Place  
Singapore 048616

RSVP by scanning the QR code below!



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Join Us for a Night of Fun



### Beers and Brains : AAS Social Gathering

Reconnect with your fellow alumni over **drinks and laughter** at COMO Singapore, enjoying the stunning city skyline by the pool.

**Date : 24 July 2025 ( Thursday )**

**Time : 7pm**

**Location : COMO ORCHARD,  
SINGAPORE (30 Bideford Road ,  
229922)**

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to network, unwind, and make new memories while sipping on delicious cocktails and craft beers.



## Promo : 2 cocktails at 39\$++

(Or any a la carte drinks - get your own booze)



# Save the Date

## 14<sup>th</sup> World Chambers Congress



# Melbourne Australia 2025

## Save the date

### 2-4 September

We are proud to announce that the 14th World Chambers Congress - the world's premier forum for chamber and business leaders - will take place in Melbourne, Australia from 2 - 4 September 2025.

Victorian Government is pleased to support the forum co-organised by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), its World Chambers Federation (WCF), and the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), the Congress is expected to bring together over 2,000 global leaders from chambers, government and business to shape the future of economic cooperation.

Taking place under the theme 'Business, chambers, government: Partners for prosperity', the Congress will explore critical global issues including:

- Skills shortages
- Housing crises
- Energy transition
- Artificial intelligence
- Equality and inclusion
- Geopolitical tensions
- Cybersecurity

Delegates will benefit from:

- Keynotes from renowned global business leaders
- Thought-provoking panel discussions and interactive workshops
- Exceptional networking opportunities with peers from around the world
- A collaborative agenda to strengthen the role of chambers in a changing world

Join us in shaping the future of global commerce and economic prosperity! Registrations are currently open. Find out more here: [wcc.iccwbo.org](http://wcc.iccwbo.org)



## #14WCC



# 60TH ANNIVERSARY GALA CONCERT - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



2025 is a big year for the Australian High Commission, as it's the 60th anniversary of Singapore's independence and bilateral relations between Australia and Singapore!

We plan to mark this milestone with a yearlong celebration of activities and events.

Our theme 'Celebrating 60 Years of Friendship' will showcase throughout 2025 the long running and deep relationship between the two nations — highlighting the people-to-people links formed across the decades.

An important group of people we'd like to celebrate during this anniversary year are our alumni. On Saturday 4 October 2025, we will be hosting a gala concert at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatorium of Music to celebrate 60 years of friendship with our alumni.

Seats are limited, so Alumni interested in attending the gala concert are asked to register their expression of interest [here](#).

# JCU Singapore lecturer named Halal Travel Scholar of the Year



Dr Nurhafihz Noor, Lecturer in Marketing at James Cook University in Singapore (JCU Singapore), received the “Halal Travel Scholar of the Year” title at the Halal in Travel Awards 2025 for his outstanding contributions to the Halal tourism sector.



Presented under the “Halal Travel Personalities of the Year” category, the award recognises [Dr Hafihz's](#) contributions to research and thought leadership in helping to make the tourism sector more welcoming to Muslim travellers.

“I’m glad to be part of the global conversation about the collaborative potential between industry and academia, and how such synergies need to be further tapped to create better travel experiences and more sustainable tourism ecosystems,” says Dr Hafihz, whose interest in research on Muslim-friendly travel started about a decade ago.

“With increasing technological, social and environmental forces shaping travel opportunities and experiences, I hope that my research will continue to contribute to the dynamic tourism industry,” he adds.

Dr Hafihz received his award during a ceremony held on Thursday, 12 June 2025. The ceremony was part of the Halal in Travel Global Summit 2025, which gathered experts, policymakers, and travel stakeholders from around the world.

“We are proud to recognise Dr Nurhafihz Noor as our Halal Travel Scholar of the Year. His work embodies the synergy between academia and industry that is

vital for our future. By translating research into actionable insights, scholars like Dr Hafihz provide the entire travel ecosystem with the critical understanding needed to innovate and create more inclusive, meaningful experiences for Muslim travellers worldwide. His contributions are invaluable to the sustainable growth of the Halal travel sector,” says Mr Fazal Bahardeen, CEO of CrescentRating and HalalTrip.

“Dr Hafihz’s recognition is a significant milestone that reflects both his individual contributions as well as JCU Singapore’s growing role in advancing research and education on inclusive tourism,” says [Associate Professor Wang Pengji](#), Acting Academic Head at JCU Singapore’s Business School.

“As an active researcher and educator in Marketing at JCU Singapore, Dr Hafihz has been instrumental in pioneering research that bridges academic inquiry with industry application. He has authored over 20 publications featuring Halal tourism and has been leading students to work on related projects – I have seen firsthand, his passion and contributions to the global discourse on Muslim-friendly travel,” she adds.

Dr Hafihz’s research interests include services marketing, technology adoption, and Halal hospitality, and he serves on several industry advisory and journal editorial boards. To date, he has published over 40 academic articles, books, book chapters, industry reports and media contributions. Beyond his research, Dr Hafihz seeks to equip students with a global, multicultural perspective on marketing and the importance of code-switching and working together with different peoples and technologies to create better value for all.

Check out Dr Nurhafihz Noor’s [staff profile](#).

Find out more about the [Singapore campus of James Cook University](#).

Discover further information on [areas of research, and research strength at James Cook University in Singapore](#).

## Contacts

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# Feeding seaweed to nurture sustainable future foods: Cell-cultivated meat and seafood

Seaweed is plentiful, fast-growing, and often underutilised – but what if it could help feed the future, especially in a world where meat production and fisheries have significant environmental and health consequences for the planet? A new research project is exploring just that, by using seaweed to help grow cultivated meat and seafood.

The [Tropical Futures Institute \(TFI\)](#) at JCU Singapore and SIT are collaborating on a project to address a key challenge in cultivated meat production: developing a low-cost, high-performing sustainable alternative to traditional cell culture media. The initiative focuses on converting seaweed proteins into high-value hydrolysates, supporting circular economy principles. Protein hydrolysates are mixtures of amino acids, small proteins, and bioactive compounds that form when large proteins are broken down into smaller components.



Researchers from James Cook University (JCU) and the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) are exploring how seaweed could replace conventional ingredients in cell culture media, making cultivated meat and seafood more ethical, sustainable and affordable.

“Simply put, we are exploring avenues to turn seaweed into delicious cultivated meat and seafood,” says TFI Research Fellow [Dr Thimo Ruethers](#).

“By breaking down seaweed and its proteins into smaller components, we can create a more affordable and sustainable way to feed the animal cells used in cellular agriculture,” SIT’s Principal Investigator [Associate Professor Juan Du](#) explains.

The team uses advanced enzymatic hydrolysis technologies and protein analysis tools to identify the most effective breakdown processes for different seaweed species. The goal is to develop scalable, cost-effective and sustainable alternatives to conventional cell culture media. Not long ago, fetal bovine serum was required for cell growth.

The project, titled [SeaToMeat – Optimizing Seaweed Proteins to Cultivate Meat](#), is supported by a research grant from the Good Food Institute (GFI) and a collaboration between JCU in Singapore and Australia, SIT, and industry partner Umami Bioworks. It also involves researchers from IPB (Bogor Agricultural) University in Indonesia and aims to source seaweed sustainably from farms in Indonesia and Australia.

SIT applies its food processing expertise to optimise how the seaweed-derived hydrolysates are extracted and refined. Involved JCU and SIT researchers recently showcased their collaborative impact through a study investigating future foods from mungbeans. TFI also brings its expertise in protein science, food safety, tropical aquaculture and marine science to the project, focusing on evaluating the nutritional properties of seaweed and its potential as a sustainable ingredient for cell growth media. Umami Bioworks, which specialises in innovative cellular aquaculture production, offers industry insight into the practical application of these ingredients in real-world cultivated seafood systems and previously signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) to explore research and development in cultivated fish safety and quality with JCU Singapore. Indonesian collaborators will provide valuable knowledge and support through regional seaweed types.

“If successful, the project could reduce the cost of cultivated meat production and lower dependence on conventional ingredients, supporting a more sustainable and ethical food system,” says [TFI’s Head of Health Sciences Professor Andreas Lopata](#).

Find out more about the [Singapore campus of James Cook University](#).

Learn more about the [Tropical Futures Institute \(TFI\)](#).

Discover further information on [areas of research, and research strength at James Cook University in Singapore](#).

## Contacts

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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?

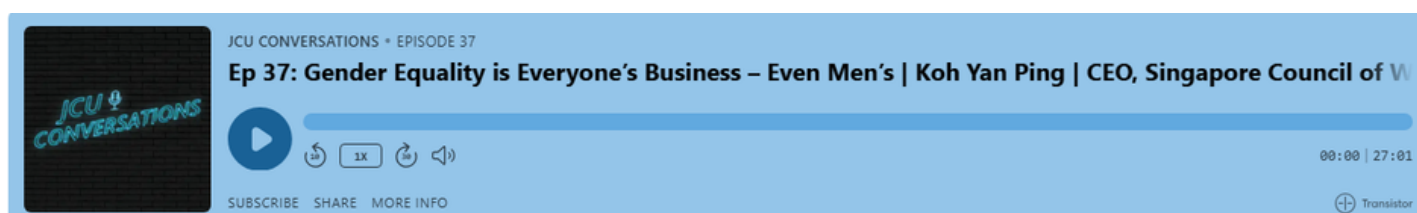
Latest ▾



### JCU Conversations 37: Koh Yan Ping

Gender equality. How is Singapore doing? What's enough, and when is it too much? Can the gender pay gap be closed? And how can we shift society's mindset in terms of gender norms? Ms Koh Yan Ping, CEO at the Singapore Council of Women's Organisations, sits down with us to chat about pressing topics surrounding gender equality, workplace equity, ageism and the road ahead for a more inclusive Singapore.

This episode's host: Sherry Aw, Lecturer in Psychology at James Cook University (Singapore Campus).





Mentorship Matters is a value-add program that connects student mentees with mentors who are industry professionals to provide guidance around professional and personal development to prepare them for the workforce and their future careers.

Mentorship Matters is a value-add program that connects student mentees with mentors who are industry professionals to provide guidance around professional and personal development to prepare them for the workforce and their future careers.

Mentors benefit in a range of areas such as:

- Shape the future generation of the industry workforce
- Guide individuals through learning beyond classrooms
- Develop and enhance personal leadership and coaching style
- Benefit from a sense of fulfilment and personal growth
- Positive impact and contribution to student's future career
- Enhance self-development by gaining new perspectives from mentees
- Gain insights by engaging with mentees from various background
- Eligibility
- At least 5 years of working experience
- If you have mentoring experience, please share more with us at point of application
- If you have no mentoring experience, please complete a foundational mentoring programme such as Mentoring 101 by [MentoringSG](#), and share with us at point of application
- Beyond your mentorship guidance, JCU students are also supported through Employability Support Services; Career Advisor; Career Talk; **Employability Workshops**; Resume; Interview Skills; Job Search Techniques; Industry Relevant Soft Skills; **Internships**; **Mentorship Matters**; Employment Support Services; Career Fairs; **Career Portal**; Recruitment Drives

AAS and JCU has formed a partnership to this esteemed value-added program. For Australian Alumni Singapore members, please register your interest through [Australian Alumni Singapore](#) via this [form](#). You can also scan the QR Code below to register





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## About Us

TrustCapital Advisors Investment Management Pte Ltd is a private equity real estate firm founded in Singapore in 2009 with a Capital Markets Services License from the Monetary Authority of Singapore. The firm has completed over AUD 3.5 billion in transactions and has investment entities established in Australia, Malaysia and Singapore.

TrustCapital's investments span across Australia, Europe, and Japan, with an investor base that includes leading Asian pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, and financial institutions.

**>AUD 3.5 billion**

Transactions Completed across AUS, SGP, JPN, ITA

**RM500 million**

Ongoing Investment Mandate from a Malaysian  
GLIC

**>130 Years**

Experience Across Executives and Advisors







JUNE 2025

# SPOTLIGHT

## HOW NEWCASTLE GRADUATES ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE ACROSS BORDERS AND INDUSTRIES

### MR ANWAR ABDULLAH

Alumnus of Bachelor of Economics



### DR SUNNY JOHAR

Alumna of Bachelor of Business

In the devastating wake of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami that claimed more than 200,000 lives across Southeast Asia and beyond, Mr Anwar Abdullah and his colleagues moved swiftly into action, and spearheaded the creation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) to strengthen regional cooperation on disaster prevention, preparation, response and recovery. His time at The University of Newcastle nurtured in him a sense of responsibility to lead with integrity, serve with empathy and remain courageous in the face of uncertainty.

For Dr Sunny Johar, the University of Newcastle offered a springboard to a global career. Since graduating in 2014, Dr Johar has risen to become managing director of Southeast Asia and group head of digital strategy at KRDS Digital. She credits her ability to thrive in fast-evolving environments to the foundation built during her time at Newcastle.

As the University of Newcastle celebrates 60 years of impact, alumni like Mr Anwar Abdullah and Dr Sunny Johar are proving that a foundation of critical thinking, global citizenship and continuous learning can create powerful change.



READ MORE

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SCAN FOR MORE DETAILS



# Vinexpo Asia 2025



We are proud to see 27 exceptional Victorian wineries and industry partners representing our state at Vinexpo Asia 2025, one of Asia's largest and most prestigious wine trade events.

The incredible lineup highlights Victoria's rich and diverse wine heritage, known globally for producing some of the finest cool-climate wines that captivate consumers and sommeliers alike. These include:

- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Blue Pyrenees            | 2. Centare Vineyard     |
| 3. Chalmers                 | 4. Ellis Wines          |
| 5. Fetherston Vintners      | 6. Fowles               |
| 7. Gapsted                  | 8. Giant Steps          |
| 9. Handpicked               | 10. Helen & Joey Estate |
| 10. Hirsch Hill             | 11. Jack Johnson        |
| 11. La Maison de Ong        | 12. Levantine Hill      |
| 13. Patrick Sullivan        | 14. Qualia              |
| 15. Save Our Souls          | 16. Shadowfax           |
| 17. Silver Spoon            | 18. Soumah              |
| 19. South Gippsland Wine Co | 20. Thick as Thieves    |
| 21. Tillie J Wines          | 22. Trapeze             |
| 23. Wine Yarra Valley       | 24. Xavier Goodridge    |
| 25. Yarra Yering            |                         |



Victorian Government Trade and Investment team's support is crucial in making this mission a success. Their strategic trade programs and market insights help Victorian wineries expand their reach, build relationships, and grow export opportunities across Asia's burgeoning wine market.

Victoria's wine industry contributes over AS2.6 billion annually to the Victorian economy and accounts for nearly half of Australia's premium cool-climate wine production. Events like Vinexpo Asia empower our producers to showcase their excellence on the world stage and capture a growing share of the Asia-Pacific market, projected to grow at 6% CAGR over the next five years.

Together, we're raising Victoria's profile as a global leader in premium wine, innovation, and sustainable viticulture!





## Transforming Lives in Southeast Asia: The Economic Benefits of Investing in Eye Health



At The Fred Hollows Foundation, we've always understood that investing in eye health transforms lives. Over the past 30 years, we've restored sight to more than 3 million people.

Now we have the data that demonstrates what we know.

The Fred Hollows Foundation has recently released a groundbreaking report in partnership with Victoria University's Institute of Strategic Economic Studies, that outlines the economic benefits of investing in eye health. The report, which used an investment case economic modeling technique, estimates the return on investment (ROI) in eye health to achieve the World Health Assembly (WHA) targets by 2030. The results show that investments in eye health are among the highest ROI of any disease intervention.

The report focuses on the two leading causes of blindness and vision impairment – cataract and refractive error – and models intervention costs and benefits across 19 countries in which The Foundation works. The benefits of restoring sight, which in this report focus solely on economic returns, include increased labour force participation and productivity, and improved education and learning.

Remarkably, cataract treatment, on average, returns US\$20.50 for every dollar spent, while refractive error treatments return on average US\$10.80 for myopia (nearsightedness) and US\$8 for presbyopia (age-related vision loss). Together, investment in the two leading causes of blindness and vision impairment will return on average US\$9.40 for each dollar spent.

This demonstrates what we all know – that investment in eye care has a great return.

Despite a dramatic economic upturn in recent years, the burden of blindness and vision impairment is still significantly high in the Southeast Asia region, accounting for 31% of the world's blind. That's why it is time to step up our investment in eye health in Southeast Asia. When we look at the findings from Southeast Asia, the estimated ROI for cataract treatment on average returns 22.4. Refractive error treatments return on average US\$11.8 for myopia (nearsightedness) and US\$8.4 for presbyopia (age-related vision loss). Together, investment in the two leading causes of blindness and vision impairment will return on average US\$10.4 for each dollar spent in Southeast Asia.



## Transforming Lives in Southeast Asia: The Economic Benefits of Investing in Eye Health



In Cambodia, where The Foundation has been actively working in since 1998, over 90% of blindness cases are preventable and primarily caused by cataract. Unfortunately, many people either lack the financial means to undergo the necessary surgery or are unaware of the available options. There is an ongoing need to address the challenges surrounding eye health in Cambodia, and increased investments in this area can provide a viable solution. Notably, cataract surgery in Cambodia demonstrates an estimated ROI of US\$22.6, while the estimated ROIs for myopia treatment and presbyopia treatment are US\$4.5 and US\$3.0, respectively.

The findings provide a compelling case for impact and social investment networks to invest in eye health in Southeast Asia. Beyond the great economic return that investment in eye care yields, restored sight brings longer and healthier lives, reductions in extreme poverty, increased labor force participation and productivity, increased school attendance, gender equality and independence. Investing in eye health not only benefits individuals but also has a positive impact on communities and the region's economic development. Contact The Fred Hollows Foundation to get more information on the economic benefits of investing in eye health and explore how your organization can contribute to eye health development.



The Fred Hollows Foundation has been a key leader in advocating and promoting the need to prioritize eye health investments. The Foundation's transformative approach to eye health, which includes strengthening health systems and partnerships with governments, local partners and other stakeholders, has been a key driver of our success in restoring sight to millions of people worldwide. These partnerships have been critical in ensuring that eye health programs are sustainable and have a lasting impact.

The Fred Hollows Foundation is committed to ending avoidable blindness, but we can't do it alone. Urgent collective action is needed across government, non-government, philanthropy and the private sector to prioritise health system investments to meet the 2030 global eye care targets. If we don't act now, by 2050 it is estimated that more than 1.7 billion people will be living with avoidable vision impairment.

Eye health programs transform lives and now is the time to step up our investment in eye health.

We welcome corporate partners who are interested in investing in eye health to [get in touch with us](#). Visit our website at [www.hollows.org](http://www.hollows.org) if you are interested to find out more or contact [lee@hollows.org](mailto:lee@hollows.org)



## UON Singapore Alumni Chapter - Singapore Alumni Movie Night 2025

30 May 2025



What a fantastic evening it was at our 14th edition of the Singapore Alumni, University of Newcastle signature event – Movie Night 2025! Held on 30 May, we came together to enjoy Mission Impossible – The Final Reckoning, but the real magic happened off-screen. From the warm reunions and joyful conversations to shared laughter and the irresistible crunch of popcorn, the night was a beautiful celebration of our enduring University of Newcastle spirit.

Alumni of all ages and batches filled the venue with camaraderie, reminding us of the strong bonds that tie us together, no matter where life has taken us. It was truly heartwarming to see old friends reconnect and new friendships form.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to our EXCO President Mr. Sanket Bothra for his leadership and delivering another mega event along with his EXCO members who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make everything seamless. A full house of 108 alumni pax attended the event with 1 hour of networking followed by 3 hours of movie. We were thrilled to see AAS MC and Austcham guests joining our event too.

It was an awesome evening and another cherished highlight of our alumni events. We look forward to doing it all again next year. Until then, thank you for being part of our vibrant and supportive community.





10 June 2025 | Tuesday



## ODIN MORTGAGE & TAX SEMINAR

In collaboration with ODIN Mortgage, Australian Alumni Singapore hosted a practical and informative session focused on helping Aussie expats navigate property ownership and tax planning with confidence.



- Australian property investment as an expat
- Tax obligations and structuring for maximum return
- Financial planning tips for long-term success

Expert Insights Delivered By:  
The ODIN team of mortgage and tax specialists, who brought deep expertise and real-world solutions to the room.



# PAST EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

13 JUNE 2025

FRIDAY

“

*A special thank you to CPA Australia for being our generous venue partner.*

## GENAI WORKSHOP

A powerhouse collaboration between Australian Alumni Singapore and Harvard Club of Singapore, our GenAI Workshop brought together 100+ professionals and thought leaders for an evening of insights, innovation, and meaningful connections.



# 100+

## ATTENDEES

Beyond the workshop, the room was alive with cross-industry conversations, new connections, and collaborative sparks — a true testament to the power of alumni communities coming together.



### Keynote Speaker:

Stephanie Sy, Founder & CEO of Thinking Machines, captivated the room with real-world applications of AI and data storytelling — turning complex machine learning into clear, actionable strategies.





## AAS Business Council Luncheon Series

19 June 2025 | Robert Half Office



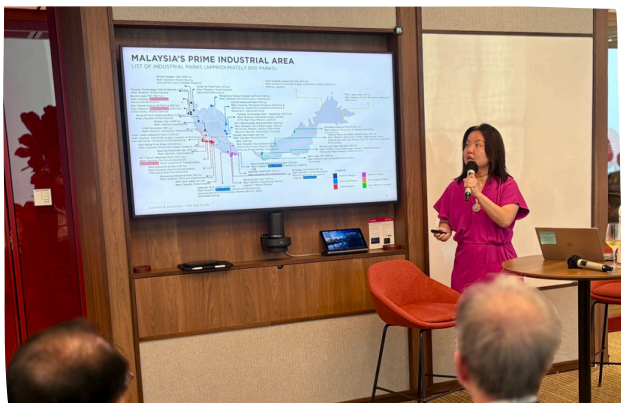
27 June 2025 | Cygney, QT Singapore





## AAS Business Council Networking Evening

27 June 2025 | Cushman & Wakefield Office



# SOCIAL INTEREST GROUPS

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



**AAS-Tennis Group**  
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**AAS| Wine & Spirits Group**  
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If you would like to form and lead an interest group, please feel free to contact [secretariat@aas.org.sg](mailto:secretariat@aas.org.sg)







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- If you are a new user, **register** your Glue Up account directly on the app. Otherwise, simply log in to your existing account.
- Start exploring My Glue app!

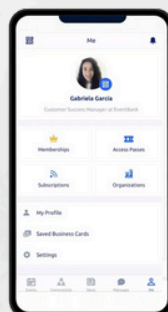
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Click [HERE](#) to learn more about GlueUp.



# 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?

## 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)
- More importantly, our specialists are field-tested with actual planning, execution and response experience across multiple sectors (yet we don't charge sky high rates)

## INFINITY CONTINUITY

We're an independent organisational resilience consultancy and training practice with a core focus in emergency preparedness, business continuity and crisis management. Established since 2013, our goal is to enable governments and businesses to achieve organisational resilience through customised solutions specific to our clients' needs, goals and strategy

Our services can be broadly categorised (but not limited to) as follows:

- Business Continuity and Crisis Management:
- Resilience and readiness assessment
- Programme and policy development
- Business impact analysis and risk assessment
- 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

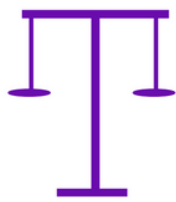
**Talk to us today at (65) 66796231 or email us**

**[Enquiries@infinitycontinuity.com](mailto:Enquiries@infinitycontinuity.com), or simply visit our website at**

**<http://www.infinitycontinuity.com> to find out how we can partner with you!**



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Hyder was born in Singapore and educated in Melbourne. He is a registered nurse (UK), a qualified lawyer, an accredited mediator, a registered Migration Agent as well as a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing in Australia. He has post graduate qualifications in business/management, law and nursing. He has served as an officer with the Royal Australian Air Force, both in Australia and overseas. He has published in areas such as trans-cultural nursing, health law, criminal law and military law. Hyder has experiences in a range of legal areas and has worked across the legal spectrum, from working in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia for one of the world's biggest law firms, to General Legal Counsel of one of the world's largest Sovereign Wealth Funds.

# AAS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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# PURE BLONDE



## DESCRIPTION

A refreshing, full-flavoured lager, brewed using the finest ingredients. Pure Blonde is brewed with no added preservatives to deliver an easy-drinking, ultra low carb beer. Hersbrucker hops add a floral and herbal aroma balancing the light style of the beer.

**Ultra Low Carb** - Pure Blonde is brewed longer to break down more natural sugars than usual, delivering a brew with 80% less carbohydrates than regular beer.

**Lower Calorie** - With 50% less calories than wine per ml\* and 30% less calories than regular beer, Pure Blonde is loved for its pure, crisp taste.

\*50% less calories than wine per ml, based on average calorie content of the leading 100 Wine SKUs in Australia. IRI-Aztec wine data, MAT 31/01/15

**Low Gluten** - Pure Blonde is low in gluten, even when made with malted barley. Our brewing process breaks down the gluten, containing just 10 parts per million (10 PPM)\*.

\*Seek professional advice if unsure about gluten amount.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	Australia
STYLE	Lager
ABV	4.2%

## TASTING NOTES

- Refreshing and full-flavoured
- Floral and herbal aroma





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