

# THE VOICE

Monthly Newsletter for our Australian Alumni Community

ISSUE 58 | DECEMBER 2025

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Partners,

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas! It is certainly a wonderful time of the year. A lot of our Members and Partners will be enjoying their Christmas break with family and friend. Also a lot of you will be away from Singapore travelling. Every Christmas period, I think it is a great time to look back at the year that has passed and reflect all that has happened during the year.

The AAS has had a particularly active year being our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Australia and Singapore celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I know I can sound a bit like a broken record talking about our anniversaries but they are such remarkable milestones and so worth shouting about. We had lots of events including Beer & Brains meetups, beach clean ups with UNSW Alumni, nature walks with JCU and of course our Gala Dinner in the Ritz Carlton on 1 November. The Gala was such an exceptional evening which gave members, partners, universities, Australian advocates and friends a chance to meet up and celebrate. I say let us reminisce and remember all of the great things that have happened this year.

For next year, we are looking forward to build on what has been achieved this year. I believe it is going to be another big year for the AAS. I would like to reiterate from the Nov Newsletter that the AAS is nonprofit membership organization and we rely on the goodwill and effort of volunteers. If you are interested to getting involved with AAS then let yourself be known to us.

### AAS Reach event, fireside chat with Josephine Teo

On the 25<sup>th</sup> Nov, at the Asian Civilisation Museum, we held a lively fireside chat Ms Josephine Teo, Minister for Digital Development and Technology. The session was moderated by another prominent female technology leader, Ms Carolyn Chin-Parry. The topic of AI featured prominently in the fireside chat and subsequent Q&A. The members thoroughly enjoyed the evening and it's fair to say that we intend to continue with this type of event.

Here's to a warm farewell to 2025 and hello to promising 2026.

Yours Sincerely,

*Andrew Er*

Andrew Er

#forwardtogether



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# AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION

## Australia Awards Scholarships



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More information here: [Australia Awards Singapore](#)

## DAVID CHIA | MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY'S GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

David graduated from Macquarie University's Graduate School of Management (MGSM) in 2002 with a Master of Business Administration. Today, he is a seasoned entrepreneur managing several businesses. As a certified Information Systems Auditor and owner of a system integration firm specialising in digital transformation and cybersecurity solutions, David supports industrial processing plants with cutting-edge technologies.



With over two decades of experience in the industrial automation sector, including executive roles across applications, sales, and commercial functions at multinational corporations, David delivers comprehensive operational technology solutions. His clients value his ability to provide end-to-end services that combine technical expertise with strategic insight. Well-connected within the industry, he continues to contribute by offering customer-focused solutions tailored to evolving needs.



David is also passionate about sports and outdoor pursuits. He successfully summited Mount Kinabalu in East Malaysia in May 2015 and Taiwan's Snow Mountain in November 2016. In 2016, he completed the OSIM Night Marathon and participated in a marathon in Rome. He continues to enjoy golf, playing socially with friends and participating in tournaments.



Beyond his professional endeavours, David is actively engaged in his social community, particularly through his Hakka clan and association. In November 2025, he visited his ancestral hometown in Dabu County, Guangzhou Province, accompanied by his wife and fellow association members. Family remains central to David's life. He and his wife are proud parents of three children, now in their twenties, who are beginning to make their own contributions to society through their careers and community involvement. Each year, David prioritizes overseas trips with his family, creating lasting bonds and cherished memories.

# **JOIN AS AN AAS VOLUNTEER IN 2026!**



Are you passionate about strengthening the Australian–Singapore alumni community?

AAS is calling out for volunteers for 2026 – and we’d love for you to be part of our mission.

Some of the key areas include:

- **Events:** Help out with our flagship events like our Gala Dinner, networking nights and community programmes;
- **Database & Glue Up:** Help maintain and improve our alumni database and membership platform;
- **Website & Digital Media:** Support our website and online presence, create content and manage social media
- **Partnerships:** Help us connect with sponsors and partner universities

Whether you have a lot of time or just a little, your skills and energy can make a real difference. Volunteering with AAS is not just about giving – it’s also a great way to build your network and gain experience. You will deepen your ties to the Australian–Singapore alumni community and the Australian High Commission.

How to Sign Up:

Please let us know:

1. Who you are (name, current affiliation)
2. Which area(s) you’re interested in helping with (events, database, digital, partnerships)

Email us at [secretariat@aas.org.sg](mailto:secretariat@aas.org.sg) to express your interest.



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# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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James Cook University Australia offers pathway, undergraduate and postgraduate programs at the Singapore campus of James Cook University.  
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# JCU in Singapore celebrates Christmas early with gifts for Kolam Ayer residents



The university's annual Christmas Community Project 2025 brings festive cheer and meaningful gifts to 77 households near its Sims Drive campus.



Now in its sixth year, the Christmas Community Project initiative saw staff and students from the Singapore campus of James Cook University (JCU in Singapore) come together to share festive joy and meaningful gifts with 77 households comprising lower-income families in the Kolam Ayer community – fostering bonds, warmth, and connection ahead of Christmas. Beyond volunteering, the initiative serves as a meaningful platform for students to apply values of empathy and leadership – shaping not just professionals, but compassionate global citizens.

“Our Christmas Community Project reflects the collective spirit of our University – with students, academics, and professional staff contributing. At JCU, we take our role as a civic university to heart, and value our longstanding friendship and purposeful collaboration with our local communities here in Singapore. Students and staff are highly appreciative of the support we enjoy from our neighbours and this project is just one of the ways we can give something in return. Our University’s mission is to create a brighter future and improve lives in this region, and we do all we can to achieve that, said Professor Carole-Anne Upton, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Singapore, James Cook University.

## Bringing joy and support to the community

From October 2025, staff and students from JCU in Singapore rallied together to purchase gifts such as rice cookers, fans, ovens, and grocery vouchers – practical items chosen for their long-term usefulness to families. The gifts were distributed to Kolam Ayer residents ahead of Christmas on 25 November 2025.

“This collaboration with JCU in Singapore has grown over the years into a cherished tradition. It reflects the spirit of care and community that defines Kolam Ayer, and we are grateful for the university’s continued support,” said Dr Wan Rizal, Adviser to Jalan Besar GRC Grassroots Organisations.

## A tradition of giving back

Since 2020, the university has been working with the Kolam Ayer Sims Vista Residents' Network on numerous social initiatives to give back to the community through activities and initiatives such as the PASSionArts Festival, kidsREAD and various SG60 celebrations. These collaborations reflect the university’s ongoing commitment to community engagement, bringing together students and staff who dedicate their time and expertise to meaningful local causes.

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

Contacts

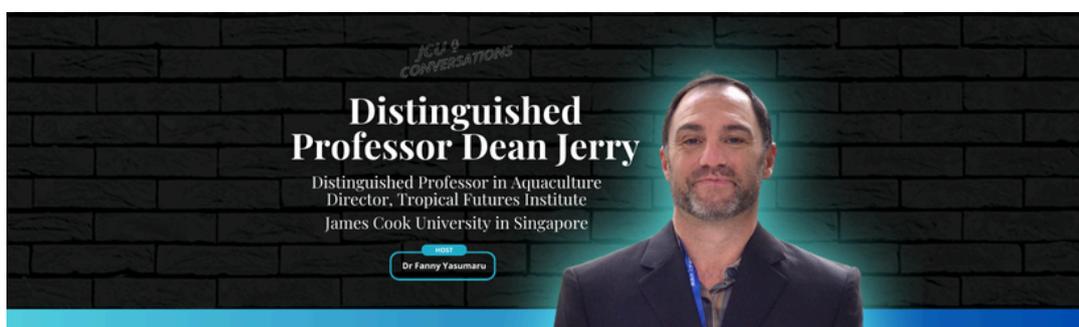
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JCU Conversations is the premier podcast series of James Cook University, Singapore — bringing to you discussions with successful leaders in the industry (across fields such as business, education, sustainability, and more) while offering a deeper 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 43: Professor Dean Jerry

In this episode, our resident aquaculture expert comes on board to take us beneath the surface of one of the world's youngest yet fastest-growing food sectors. Listen as Distinguished Professor Dean Jerry – Distinguished Professor in Aquaculture and Director of the Tropical Futures Institute at James Cook University (Singapore Campus) – shares how his passion for aquaculture has grown alongside the sector's rapid expansion over the past two decades.

This episode's host: [Dr Fanny Yasumaru](#), Senior Lecturer in Aquaculture at James Cook University (Singapore Campus).

Connect with [Distinguished Professor Dean Jerry](#).





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.

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- 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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**THREE  
LETTERS TO  
LIMITLESS**

DEC 2025

# SPOTLIGHT

## BRIDGING GENERATIONS: HOW EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP CONNECT A FATHER AND SON ACROSS TIME



When Brennan Tay graduated from the University of Newcastle (UON) in Singapore, he wasn't just receiving a degree, he was stepping into a legacy.

His moment on stage echoed his father's achievement nearly five decades earlier in Australia. In his recent graduation speech, Brennan urged everyone to embrace lifelong learning, face change without fear, and recognise setbacks as a normal part of any worthwhile journey.

That message reflects the path laid by Dr Peter Tay, one of the first to complete the combined Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Arts at the University of Newcastle, Australia, in 1972. His pioneering spirit set the tone for resilience, integrity, and continuous learning. All of which are values Brennan now carries forward in his own way.

Together, their stories form a quiet continuity: milestones that connect generations through shared values, steady purpose, and a commitment to making a meaningful impact.



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## **Green Energy Transition & Clean Technology**

Victoria is investing boldly in renewable energy, circular economy leadership and climate-smart technologies. From large-scale wind and solar to hydrogen innovation and energy-storage solutions, we are building a cleaner and more resilient energy future.

## **Advanced Manufacturing**

Our advanced manufacturing sector is transforming with automation, robotics, precision engineering and Industry 4.0 capability. Whether in aerospace, defence, medtech or clean energy components, Victoria combines deep expertise with globally competitive supply chains.

## **Health & Life Sciences**

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Victoria is not just keeping pace with global trends, we're shaping them. If you're looking to innovate, invest or collaborate, Victoria is ready to partner with you. Reach out to us today!  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/vgtisea/>

## AAS x REACH Fireside Chat with Minister Josephine Teo

25 November 2025

Thank you to all who joined us at the event! For more details, please read [here](#).



## PAST EVENTS

### UNSW Alumni Singapore and Bond Uni Alumni Singapore, combined Homely Christmas Party

6 December 2025



The UNSW Alumni Singapore and Bond Uni Alumni Singapore combined and held their end of year celebration at the very hospitable Bob Fox's House of Fun. Ham, turkey, wine, Pure Blonde beer, Indian food, pork crackling, wine, icecream and Christmas pudding were all consumed. A great evening of good cheer and building rapport with friends. Thank you Bob Fox for hosting and Ryan Kwong for promoting.



# PAST EVENTS

## UQ Alumni Association Get-Together

20 December 2025



The UQ Alumni Association of Singapore marked the festive season with a warm and memorable Christmas lunch on Saturday, 20 December 2025, bringing alumni together for a relaxed afternoon of meaningful conversations and shared laughter, uniting generations of UQ graduates from the early 2000s through to the Class of 2025. We spent hours reconnecting with friends old and new, reminiscing about fond memories of UQ, and reflecting on the lasting impact the University has had on our individual journeys. Our sincere thanks to the committee members Sasi, Siena, David, Pang and Lala whose efforts made the gathering possible.



# SOCIAL INTEREST GROUPS

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



## AAS-Tennis Group

WhatsApp group



[LINK](#)



## AAS| Wine & Spirits Group

WhatsApp group



[LINK](#)



## AAS-Cycling Group

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## AAS -Sustainability Group

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## AAS - Volunteer

WhatsApp group



[LINK](#)



## AAS - Leverage SEO 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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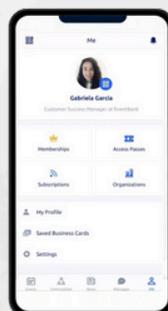
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# Organisational Resilience in the New Normal

## 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?

## 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)

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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:

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- Training and awareness workshops
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**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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