

THE VOICE

Monthly Newsletter for our Australian Alumni Community

ISSUE 59 | JANUARY 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Partners,

Welcome everyone to 2026 and the start of a brand-new year.

Last year we finished off probably one of the most active years for Alumni and for the Australian High Commission. Many of the University Alums had their Christmas Parties which were all well attended. As it was December school holidays, many of our members were overseas including myself. The thing about Christmas holidays often is the abundance of celebrating. There are the Christmas dinners and the overindulgence of the New Year's parties. The start of the year is a chance to return to the normalities of daily life. The children go back to school, and we all return back to work. This year folks it is going to be a short normality break because, Chinese New Year comes early this year. This year Chinese New Year arrives on 17/18 Feb. Which mean the festivities are on again.

AAS is organising to hold a Chinese New Year celebration jointly with a bunch of other associations including Alumni International Singapore and the Malaysia Association in Singapore. It will be a great chance to network with some other prominent membership bodies.

We are planning to host and participate in a whole bunch of events this year both in our own right and with our Terms Sponsors, Partners Universities and alliance organisations. Please look out for these events and get involved. Speaking of getting more involved, should you like to get more deeply involved with the AAS, we would welcome you as a volunteer. Please let yourself be known to us through our Secretariat or Management Committee.

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

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Er

Andrew Er

#forwardtogether



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CHARLES CHAN | MURDORCH UNIVERSITY CONSERVATIVE BIOLOGY

Charles Chan graduated from Murdoch University in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science in Conservation Biology. He began his career in the aquaculture industry, working at a Norwegian fish hatchery as both a Nursery Production Manager and Technical Manager for six years. During this time, he honed his skills in managing aquatic environments and ensuring the healthy development of fish.



He later transitioned to an oceanarium in Singapore, where he had the opportunity to work with a diverse range of marine life, including anemones, corals, marine fish, invertebrates, manta rays, and sharks. He found particular fulfilment in studying the propagation of phytoplankton and zooplankton, which serve as vital food sources for many marine species.



Outside of his work life, Charles has a strong passion for self-improvement and communication. He enjoys listening to podcasts, particularly "Think Fast, Talk Smart" hosted by Matt Abrahams, to enhance his communication skills. Charles is also an enthusiast of crustacean moult preservation, and some of his preserved specimens are displayed on the walls of the oceanarium.

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 to express your interest.



2026 LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS



Cheers to the Fire Horse!

- Happy Hour Mixers
- Sumptuous Asian Buffet Dinner
- Feng Shui Tips for 2026
- Every Guest Will Receive a Traditional Token of Abundance

RSVP NOW .
[AAS Member Price: 35\$ Net]

-  **Tuesday, 3 February 2026**
-  **6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**
-  **NUSS Mandalay Guild House**
2 Mandalay Road, S308206



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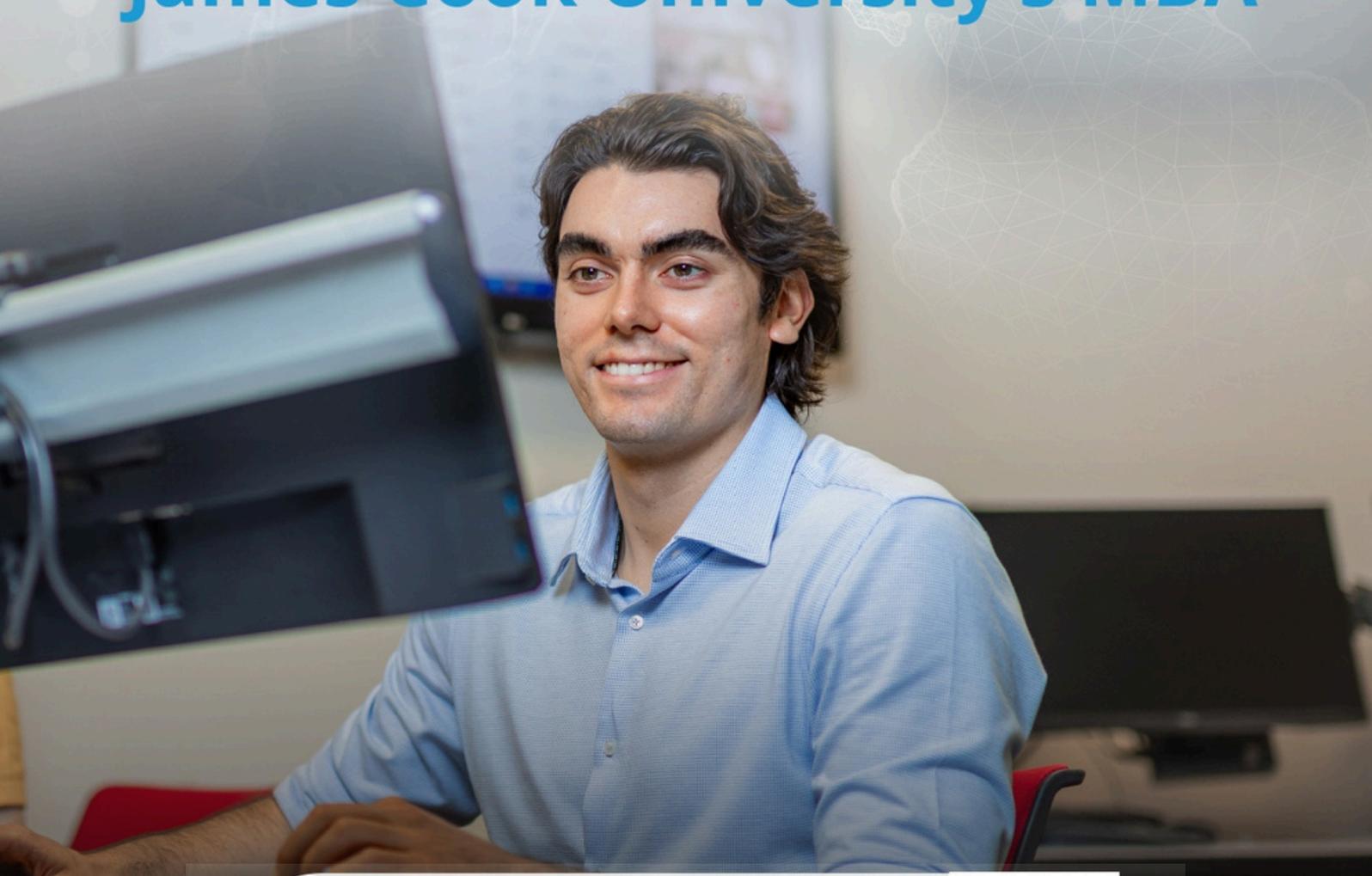
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Allergic to fish? Fish size and parts can matter.



(Image credit: Angela, stock.adobe.com)

Fish can contain very different levels of allergy-triggering proteins, depending on its size and the part of the body, according to new research from James Cook University.

The [study](#) looked at how proteins can vary within a single fish species, the Malabar red snapper. It is a popular and commercially important fish species, which Singapore has been actively breeding as part of efforts to boost food resilience.

The research team identified allergens – proteins in fish that are bound by human Immunoglobulin E (IgE) antibodies, triggering an allergic reaction. It analysed 39 Malabar red snappers (*Lutjanus malabaricus*) using protein separation, antibody assays and quantitative mass spectrometry to map allergen profiles across fish sizes, body regions and production origins.

“Smaller fish contained more of a major allergenic protein called parvalbumin and creatine kinase, while bigger fish had higher levels of some heat-sensitive allergens,” explained lead researcher [Dr Thimo Ruethers](#) from Singapore’s [Tropical Futures Institute \(TFI\) at James Cook University](#). “Different parts of the body also contained different amounts, with the head having the most parvalbumin, followed by the belly, dorsal, and tail. Strikingly, it doesn’t seem to matter if the fish is farmed or wild-caught. People allergic to fish can experience a range of symptoms from mild (hives, stomach upset, swelling) to severe, life-threatening anaphylaxis, including breathing difficulties after exposure through ingestion or even just skin contact or inhaling cooking vapours.”

“Our findings show that allergen levels can vary widely within the same species, and understanding this can support more accurate food allergy diagnostics and food safety strategies. This in turn will help improve food safety and allergy management for individuals who are allergic to fish”, explained [Professor Andreas Lopata](#), Head of Health Sciences at TFI and JCU Australia’s Molecular Allergy Research Laboratory.

“From a food safety perspective, these findings suggest that risk assessments and risk mitigation strategies for allergic consumers should consider fish size in addition to body region and species,” he added.

“Altogether, we are supporting accurate diagnosis for affected fish-allergic consumers and help the food industry to lower allergy risks while promoting liberal, safe and healthy diets,” Dr Ruethers summarised.

These findings build on the team’s previous research on [sustainable fish feed](#), [allergy test drawbacks](#), [safe alternatives for fish-allergic individuals](#), [canned fish](#), and [allergy risks from crocodile meat](#).

PAPER

Ruethers T, Sean A, Karnaneedi S, Chin R, Leeming MG, Nguyen V, Huerlimann R, Nugraha R, Bade P, Vij S, Shen X, Limviphuvadh V, Williamson NA, Domingos JA, Jerry DR, Maurer-Stroh S, Andiappan AK, Lopata AL. Fish size matters – Variable food allergen profiles in farmed and wild Malabar red snapper (*Lutjanus malabaricus*). Food Chemistry (2026). doi: [10.1016/j.foodchem.2026.147950](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodchem.2026.147950).

Discover further information on [areas of research, and research strength at James Cook University in Singapore](#). Learn more about the [Tropical Futures Institute \(TFI\)](#).

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 ▾

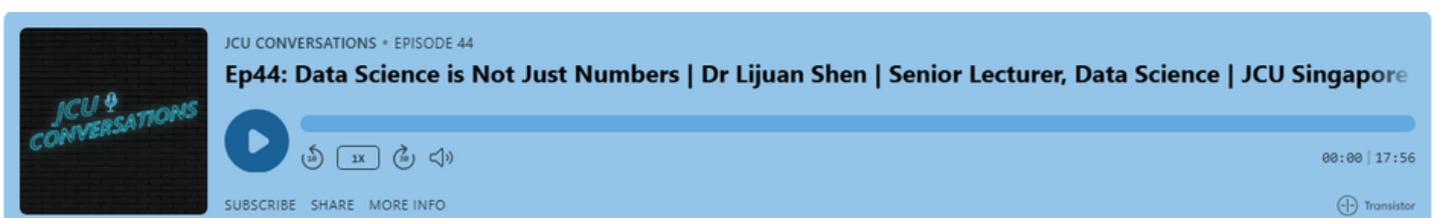


JCU Conversations 44: Lijuan Shen

How do smart cities use data science to improve daily lives? Our Senior Lecturer in Data Science, Dr Lijuan Shen, shares how data science and AI shape the world around us – from the smart infrastructure systems around us, to technologies behind the scenes that keep cities running safely and efficiently.

This episode's host: [Dr Randy Zhu](#), Lecturer in Information Technology at James Cook University (Singapore Campus).

Connect with [Dr Lijuan Shen](#).





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- Enhance self-development by gaining new perspectives from mentees
- Gain insights by engaging with mentees from various background
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- 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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SINGAPORE AIRSHOW 2026

Image Credit: Singapore Airshow 2026

One of Asia's leading aerospace and defence events is returning, and Victoria will once again showcase its strengths in innovation, manufacturing and technology at the Singapore Airshow 2026, in partnership with Austrade and Team Defence Australia.

The biennial trade mission will take place 3 - 8 February at Changi Exhibition Centre, bringing together global industry leaders, investors and innovators to forge high value strategic partnerships.

Victoria is a major hub for aerospace design, advanced manufacturing and R&D in Australia. The state is home to around 460 aerospace companies contributing to military and civil aviation sectors through design, production, systems engineering, modelling, simulation, and software development.

This year, Global Victoria is proud to support 17 Victorian companies as they exhibit and demonstrate these capabilities and reinforcing Victoria's competitive strengths in innovation, and global supply chains:

- Bodd
- Cablex Pty Ltd
- GPSat Systems
- MEMKO Aviation, Aerospace and Defence
- Point Trading Group
- Rosebank Engineering
- Textron Systems Australia
- Trakka Systems
- Horsell
- Andrew Engineering Pty Ltd
- BlueRoom Simulations
- KeyOptions
- Luminact Pty Ltd
- Pedders Suspension & Brakes
- Stahl Metall
- Supacat
- Tufwrap

Singapore Airshow 2026 presents a timely opportunity for global companies to meet Victorian businesses in person, discuss commercial partnerships and explore how Victoria's capabilities can support future aerospace and defence programs.

We look forward to meeting you there!

AAS Business Council Luncheon ODIN x JLL x AAS - Australian Property, Tax Strategies & the 2026 Market Outlook

28 January 2026



SOCIAL INTEREST GROUPS

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





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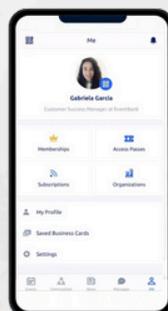
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Organisational Resilience in the New Normal

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
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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

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