

THE VOICE

Monthly Newsletter for our Australian Alumni Community

ISSUE 61 | MARCH 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Partners,

Welcome to the March Newsletter.

I hope everyone is doing well in this month.

At the beginning of March, we had a gathering for Australian University Alumni Association (AUAA) Presidents. We had a good turnout which presented an opportunity for the Presidents of many of our Australian Universities to network amongst each other and with some of our Management Committee.

71st AAS AGM

On Wednesday, 11th March, the AAS held its 71st Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Australian High Commission Residences. The AGM was expertly emceed by Mr Bob Fox, UNSW Alumni Vice President, with Mr Jeremiah Huang acting as the Returning Officer. The AGM was a great chance to review 2025 which was a big year for the AAS. We held a large number of successful events last year including the remarkable 70th Anniversary Gala Dinner. We successfully piloted the Business Council Luncheon series led by Mr Chris Cheah. We also held a fireside session with Minister Josephine Teo. All together we held 37 events and activities. We managed to gain 4 new Partner Universities and 549 new members.

The AGM gave us a chance to thank Management Committee (MC) members stepping down and also to nominate and welcome a bunch of new MC members. I am looking forward to working with the continuing MC members and the enthusiastic new MC members joining us. Also, one of the best things about the AGM was that it was a great chance to network amongst the Alumni Members and the Australian High Commission. Thank you for all those that attended.

Australia Award Scholarships

For Singaporeans interested in doing a post graduate degree in Australia, please check out whether you would be eligible for Australian Awards Scholarship. Applications for 2027 are currently open until 30 April 2026.

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Er

Andrew Er
#forwardtogether



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AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION

Invitation to Online Information Session - 8 April 2026



The Australian High Commission in Singapore invites you and members of your organisation or professional networks to attend an upcoming **information session on Australia Awards Scholarships** for study in 2027.

Australia Awards Scholarships are among Southeast Asia's most prestigious and competitive postgraduate opportunities, supporting high-potential professionals to undertake Masters or PhD study at leading Australian universities.

Beyond academic excellence, the Scholarships provide a platform for career advancement, leadership development, and access to a regional and global alumni network of over 100,000 leaders across government, business and academia.

The online session will provide:

- An overview of the Scholarships and priority fields aligned with Singapore–Australia growth areas
- Insights into how Australia Awards can support your career trajectory
- Practical guidance on the application process

Information session details

Date and time: 8 April 2026, 11:00 am

Register: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/f558003f-813f-4d97-9bae-1f166308eb4c@e7942974-9738-4a4a-b646-2ab90f79db0f>

Applications for the 2027 intake close on 30 April 2026.

Further information and application details are available at: <https://oasis.dfat.gov.au/>

If you have any questions, please contact: enquiries@australiaawardssingapore.org

DOMINIC OLIVER | MBA (INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS) | SALES DIRECTOR

A graduate of James Cook University Singapore, Dominic completed his MBA in International Business in 2007, a period he describes as formative in shaping both his professional direction and personal outlook.

Over the past 18 years, Dominic has worked in marine navigation and digital technology, witnessing and actively participating in the industry's transition from traditional paper charts to Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS). Being part of this transformation has been one of the most fulfilling aspects of his career, as it directly contributes to safer navigation, greater efficiency, and better decision-making onboard vessels.

Today, Dominic serves as Sales Director at Marine Innovation, where he works closely with shipping companies around the world to deliver advanced navigation and communication solutions. While his role involves driving business growth and managing strategic partnerships, Dominic views his work through a broader lens, one that balances commercial success with responsibility, trust, and long-term impact. He takes particular pride in helping clients adopt technology in ways that are practical, reliable, and genuinely beneficial to those working at sea.



Looking ahead, Dominic remains committed to supporting the maritime industry's ongoing digital transformation, with a strong focus on safety, efficiency, and sustainability. Whether through technology, training, or mentorship, his goal is to continue contributing to an industry that plays a vital role in global trade, while ensuring that those who work at sea are better supported and better prepared, every step of the journey.

TO ALL ALUMNI, PROFESSIONALS, AND CHANGEMAKERS - MEANINGFUL IMPACT IS BUILT THROUGH CONSISTENCY, LEADERSHIP, AND A COMMITMENT TO DOING THINGS THE RIGHT WAY, EVEN WHEN NAVIGATING COMPLEX WATERS.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Masterclass:
Personal Branding
Wednesday 8 April

HOW YOU POSITION YOURSELF MATTERS.

Join us for the #RMITAS Personal Branding Masterclass: *Elevate Your Professional Image* and learn how to intentionally shape your professional identity.

8 April 2026 (Wed)

6:30pm – 9:30pm | Registration & Dinner from 6:30pm

Ten10 Square, Orchard Central, Level 10

Buffet dinner & refreshments provided

Led by personal branding specialist *Amos Mak*, this session will introduce a practical 3-Pillar Framework: *Clarity, Consistency and Visibility.*

The evening also features a panel discussion with industry leaders:

- **Joyce Cuff** – Senior Country Manager, Edhec Business
- **Tay Lay Keow** – Head of HR, Hyphens Pharma
- **Lee Jin Hwui** – Director, HR, Ang Mo Kio–Thye Hua Kwan Hospital
- **Jernet Tan** – Director, Business HR, DHL Express

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Photo: Australian Alumni Singapore (AAS)

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Lived experience in mental health: Implications for management research

ONLINE WEBINAR | 28 APR 2026 | 10 - 11 AM SGT

HOST

Professor of Organisational
Behaviour
James Cook University

PROFESSOR EDDY NG

SPEAKER

Professor in Management
La Trobe University,
Australia

PROFESSOR LENA WANG

REGISTER NOW ▶▶





Save the date!

27-30 April 2026

**Women Deliver
2026 Conference**

Melbourne to Host Women Deliver 2026 – A Global Celebration of Women’s Leadership & Innovation

We are thrilled to share that Melbourne will welcome the world from 27–30 April 2026 for the Women Deliver 2026 Conference (WD2026), one of the largest and most influential global gatherings advancing gender equality, health and rights for women and girls.

WD2026 will be regionally hosted by the Oceanic Pacific region for the first time, taking place in Melbourne. This historic moment unites movements and leaders from across the globe for four transformative days of connection, learning and collective action.

When women are equitably represented in decision-making, businesses perform better, policymaking becomes more inclusive and economies grow more resilient.

Women’s participation in the workforce reached an all-time high of 63.5% in Australia by July 2025. As of 30 June 2024, women held 54% of all reportable Australian Government board positions, and women received 56.9% of new board appointments in 2023–24.

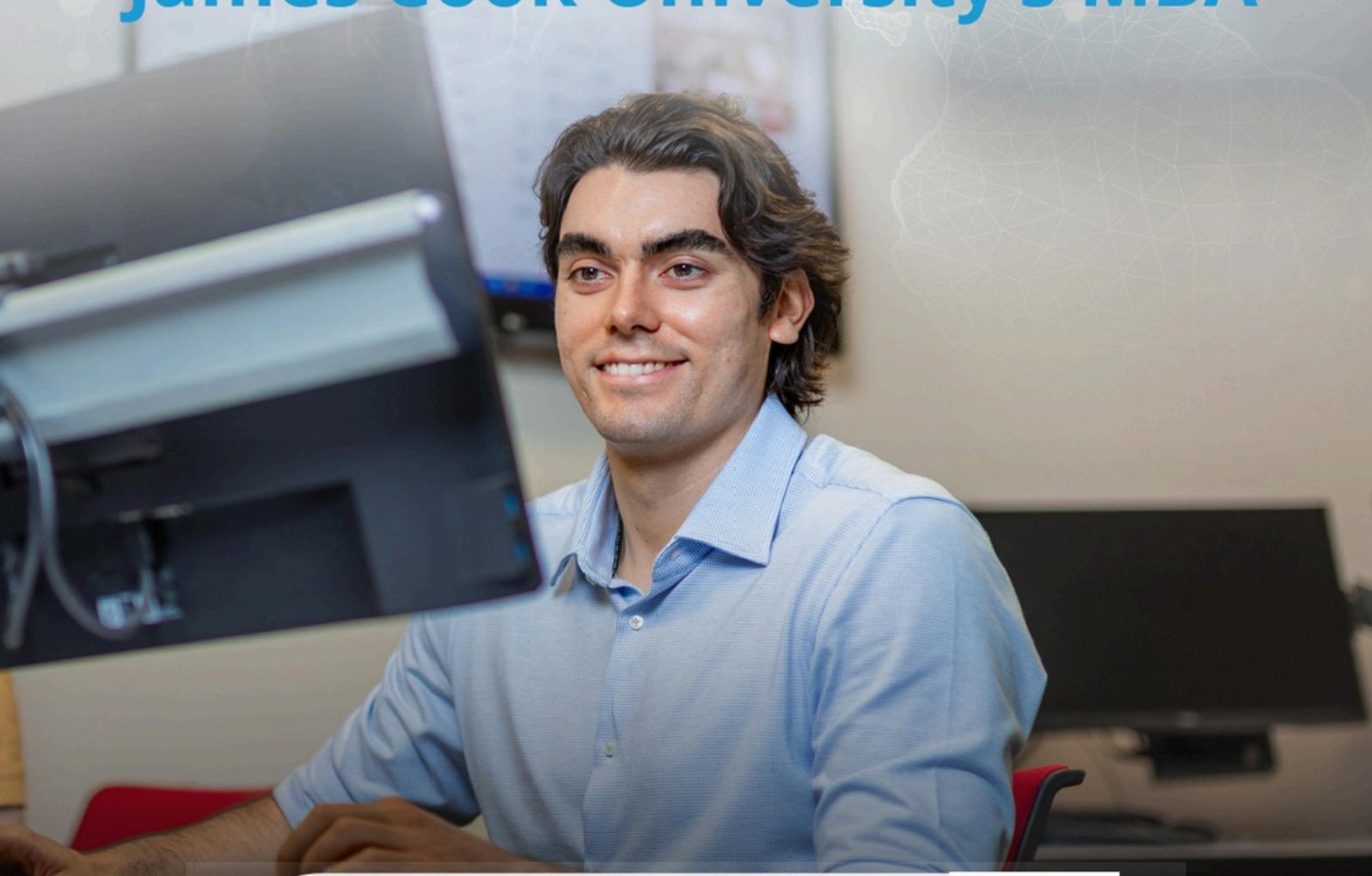
What to Expect at WD2026:

- 6,500+ advocates and leaders from 170+ countries, including policymakers, business leaders, youth leaders, creatives, and community champions.
- A rich program of plenaries, concurrent sessions, pre-conferences, cultural showcases, and youth-led forums designed to spark dialogue, inspire action, and build partnerships for change.
- A focus on leadership, climate justice, economic empowerment, health rights, and ending gender-based violence, guided by feminist values and inclusive engagement.
- An interactive experience with exhibitions, youth zones, arts collaborations, side events and networking opportunities.

WD2026 provides a critical space to turn representation into impact, whether you’re a student, professional, advocate or community leader. Mark your calendar and join the movement!

Register now: <https://womendeliver.org/WD2026/>

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James Cook University (Singapore Campus) Launches AI Playbook to Help Women-Led SMEs Drive Growth and Innovation



New EMPOWER framework offers practical roadmap for artificial intelligence adoption among women entrepreneurs

The Singapore campus of James Cook University Singapore (JCU in Singapore) launched the EMPOWER: AI Playbook for Women Entrepreneurs in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises at a special event on 18 March 2026, in conjunction with International Women’s Day (IWD).



The playbook introduces a structured, practical framework designed to help women-led micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) adopt artificial intelligence (AI) to strengthen business growth, efficiency and resilience.

Developed by researchers from the JCU in Singapore in collaboration with industry partners, the EMPOWER framework provides a roadmap that combines strategic insight with hands-on approaches that are relevant to small and growing businesses.

The launch comes at a time when Singapore is accelerating support for SME digital transformation including new funding initiatives to support AI adoption. The number of women-owned companies in Singapore has also grown significantly – data from the Department of Statistics showed that it grew from 16,300 in 2010 to 36,000 in 2022¹. Against this backdrop, the EMPOWER playbook aims to help women MSME entrepreneurs build capabilities and confidence in using AI tools for business.

This playbook is the outcome of a one-year project commissioned by Connected Women (Singapore Chapter) and co-funded by James Cook University’s Centre for International Trade and Business in Asia (CITBA) and DP Dental.

James Cook University (Singapore Campus) Launches AI Playbook to Help Women-Led SMEs Drive Growth and Innovation



Dr **Tan Kim Lim**, Senior Lecturer at JCU in Singapore, who led the research team in the development of the playbook, said:

“The 2026 IWD theme, “Give to Gain”, resonates strongly with our project. While the interpretation emphasises the power of reciprocity and support, our project extends beyond that notion. By giving women MSME entrepreneurs access to knowledge, tools, and structured frameworks, they gain operational efficiency, business resilience, and sustainable growth.”

The launch event, themed **Applying Artificial Intelligence in Women-Led MSMEs: An EMPOWER Framework**, will bring together academic experts, industry leaders, and women entrepreneurs to discuss how AI can be applied meaningfully within small and growing businesses.

Panellists included:

- Ms Louisa Lee, Founder of DP Dental and Board Member at Connected Women;
- Ms Gina Romero, Founder of Connected Women (joining online); and
- Ms Hamidah Aidillah Mustafa, Founder of Parrot Social and Vice President of the Association of Small & Medium Enterprises (ASME)



Together, they shared insights on the opportunities and challenges women-led MSMEs face in adopting emerging technologies.

“With AI-enabled technology shaping the business environment, using it is no longer optional. Women entrepreneurs are eager to innovate, but they need tools that are realistic, accessible, and relevant to their business context. The EMPOWER framework meets them where they are – breaking down complex technologies into practical steps that can be applied without losing sight of day-to-day business realities,” said **Ms Louisa Lee**. “Across our global community, we see women entrepreneurs navigating both opportunity and uncertainty when it comes to technology. This playbook is timely because it centres women’s lived experiences and offers a framework that is inclusive, actionable, and scalable across different markets,” said **Ms Gina Romero**.

“Adopting AI especially so for Analytics & Social Listening will come a long way in helping MSMEs stay relevant and resilient. The EMPOWER framework recognises the constraints small businesses face and offers realistic pathways for women entrepreneurs to leverage AI while remaining agile and sustainable,” added **Ms Hamidah Aidillah Mustafa**.

The initiative reflects JCU in Singapore’s commitment to applied research, industry engagement and digital capability building. By translating research into practical tools, the University aims to support women entrepreneurs and contribute to stronger and more resilient business ecosystems.

Women-owned companies in Singapore. Department of Statistics.
<https://www.singstat.gov.sg/-/media/files/publications/industry/ssn224-pg2-4.ashx>

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

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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 46: Joyce Bijl

What does it really take to build a career across six countries? What are employers really looking for, beyond CVs? In this episode of JCU Conversations, we speak to Joyce Bijl, Business Development Director, Asia Pacific & Middle East at ManpowerGroup. Based in Singapore today, Joyce has lived and worked in Luxembourg, the Netherlands, China, Hong Kong, Dubai, the UAE, and Singapore. She shares advice to students who are looking to work abroad, her thoughts on the future of work and more.

This episode's host: [Dr Tan Kim Lim](#), Senior Lecturer at James Cook University (Singapore Campus).



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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:

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- Gain insights by engaging with mentees from various background
- Eligibility
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- 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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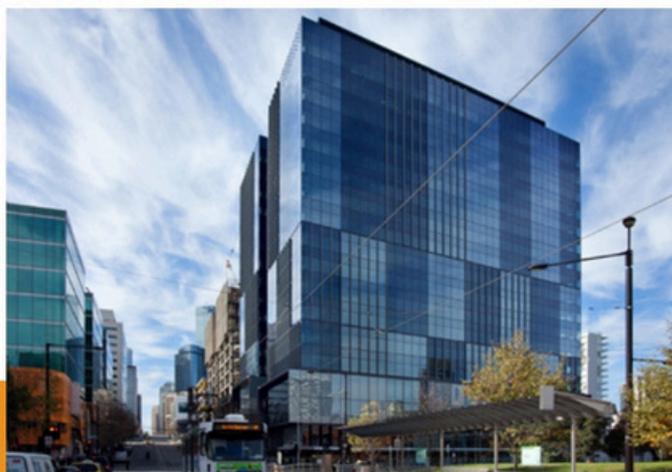
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AAS 71st Annual General Meeting (AGM)



PAST EVENTS

Tuesday, 11 March 2025

AAS 71st Annual General Meeting



AUAA Presidents Gathering with AAS

3 March 2026 | Fu Lin Bar & Kitchen



AAS Business Council Luncheon Series

5 March 2026 | Spark+



AAS Business Council Luncheon Series

13 March 2026 | Robert Half



26 March 2026 | Fraxtor



SOCIAL INTEREST GROUPS

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



AAS-Tennis 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





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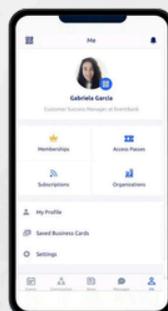
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