

THE VOICE

Monthly Newsletter for our Australian Alumni Community

ISSUE 62 | APRIL 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Partners,

Welcome to the April Newsletter.

HE Allaster Cox returning to Australia

This month marks the end of our Patron, HE Allaster Cox, Australian High Commissioner, term as Ambassador in Singapore. He has been High Commissioner for 3 years and he has made an enormous contribution to the AAS. He has encouraged his entire team to engage with us and he has led from the front. He was particularly visible with a lot of our events such as the Gala Dinners and our AGM's over the past 3 years. It has been an absolute pleasure having Allaster's deep involvement with us but also more broadly across the Australia Singapore community. Last year, for the 60th Anniversary of Australia-Singapore bilateral relations, he initiated the 60 for 60 celebration of friendship, the Alumni Gala Concert and the Australian film festival just to name a few projects. To Allaster and his wife Susila, we salute you and we offer up our best wishes on your return to Australia.



We also look forward to welcoming the new Australian High Commissioner, HE Robyn Mudie, who will assume the role as Patron on Allaster's departure from Singapore.

New Management Council for 2026

In this month's newsletter I am delighted to introduce the Management Committee (MC) for 2026. We have a terrific mix of new and old MC members. The MC2026 is eager to engage with the members, the alumni organisations and the broader community in Singapore. Please do not hesitate to connect with any of us.

Events

This month there were quite a number of events AAS were involved with. Please take a look inside the newsletter for details. Of significant note was our attendance at the **ANZAC Day, Dawn Services** at Kranji War Memorial. This is an important day on the Australian Calendar. It was my solemn duty to lay a wreath to remember those that had served in combat. **Lest we forget.**

Also, we had a series of farewell events for the High Commissioner including a **Team Australia** farewell at the Australian International School. We presented Allaster with a commemorative plaque as a memento from AAS and team Australia.

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Er

Andrew Er
#forwardtogether

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TO OUR PATRON, THANK YOU

Dear HE Allaster Cox, Australian High Commission, on behalf of all our members, all the Australian Alumni and the broader Australia Singapore community, we would like to thank you for your advocacy for all of us. AAS is stronger because of your effort of deep engagement and for that we are very grateful. To you and your wife Susila, we salute you and offer up our best wishes on your return to Australia. So, we say, "Seeya Mate", until the next time we meet.

Andrew Er
President



INTRODUCING AAS 71ST TERM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Andrew Er, President
University of New South Wales

✉ president@aas.org.sg

I'm Andrew Er, graduated from the University of NSW with a B.Com (Acc & Fin). I'm also a Fellow of both the Chartered Accountants ANZ (CAANZ) and the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA). I am the immediate past Asia Regional Councillor of CAANZ.

I'm currently working as the Managing Director of Quantum Health, a healthcare investment, management and consulting group. I'm also a Director of FCC Partners a boutique corporate finance group specialising in cross border financial transaction in Asia. I enjoy skiing as a pastime, my favourite meal is steak and chips and my favourite NRL team is the Cronulla Sharks.



Li-Lin Kwong, Vice President
Monash University

✉ vicepresident@aas.org.sg

I'm Li-Lin, a Monash University MBA graduate with over a decade of Marketing experience. Across my experience in education, hospitality, and telecommunications, I've focussed on building communities and brands that people genuinely connect with. I'm always happy to connect and exchange ideas with fellow alumni to strengthen engagement within our AAS community.



James Ng, Vice President & Treasurer
University of New South Wales

✉ treasurer@aas.org.sg

I'm James, a UNSW Alumna. I have extensive international experience in Investment, Portfolio, and Fund Management with SWFs, FIGs, conglomerates, and family offices.

I am committed to shaping universities and alumni engagements while driving strategic initiatives and strengthening multi-lateral relationships between Singapore, Australia, and Asia.



Sandy Yeung, Secretary
Monash University

✉ secretary@aas.org.sg

My name is Sandy Yeung and I am a lawyer and investor in special situations. I graduated from Monash University with a Master of Counselling.

I love travels and adventures and hope to visit every country in the world. I am always up for trying something new!



Francis Chua, Chair of Memberships
James Cook University

✉ memberships@aas.org.sg

I'm Francis Chua, a Master of Education graduate specialising in Counseling from James Cook University. My expertise in counseling has enabled me to support numerous at-risk youth in returning to mainstream education and making positive life changes.

Additionally, with my background in finance and accounting, I've assisted business owners and homeowners in managing their cash flow and optimising loan structures for their businesses and properties.



INTRODUCING AAS 71ST TERM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Khin Ko Ko, Chair of Sponsorship
Murdoch University

✉ sponsorship@aas.org.sg

I am Khin Ko Ko, originally from Myanmar, and currently serve as the Chair of Sponsorship at AAS. I graduated from Murdoch University with a Bachelor of Business Management, with also background in Health Sciences, and now work as a Senior Clinical Specialist at Baxter Healthcare International (Singapore) while also being the co-founder of Luxcessory, my luxury resale store promoting sustainability through fashion back in Myanmar. I am passionate about building meaningful partnerships that support and elevate our alumni community.

Steven Lee, Co-Chair of Sponsorship
University of Sydney

✉ sponsorship.co@aas.org.sg

I'm Steven, graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Economics and Finance. I'm currently serving AAS as the Co-chair of sponsorship focusing on creating value between the AAS members and business & community sponsors. I run Odin Mortgage & Tax in Singapore helping Australian expats and overseas investors buying and owning a property in Australia offering mortgage and taxation solutions. I'm passionate in the real estate market, travel and sports.



Edmund Lau, Chair of Partner University
University of Newcastle Australia

✉ partnership@aas.org.sg

I'm Edmund, Director of Royal Edmundson Pte Ltd since July 2004 and a part-time lecturer with Curtin University, James Cook University, and RMIT University. I also serve as an Advisory Board Member of the World Patients Alliance, Co-Chair of the GlobalSkin Asia Pacific Regional Network and General Secretary of the Psoriasis Association of Singapore. I hold a Master's in Health Economics, Management and Policy from the University of Newcastle. Outside work, I am passionate about global patient advocacy, and I also enjoy playing Pokémon; a hobby that once jokingly got me featured in the national newspaper.



Ryan Kwong, Co-Chair of Partner University
UNSW Sydney

✉ partnership.co@aas.org.sg

I am Ryan Kwong, I lead strategic growth and partnerships for AAS Education, leveraging a diverse background to help students navigate their global academic journeys. I completed both my Bachelor of Aviation Management and my Master of Commerce at University of New South Wales (UNSW). I am an aviation enthusiast and former transactional banker turned education advocate who thrives on the "human" side of business—specifically, the magic that happens when you connect people from different cultures and backgrounds to new opportunities.



Jessica Yan, Chair of Events
University of Newcastle Australia

✉ events@aas.org.sg

I am Jessica Yan, a Chartered Manager with dual expertise in clinical practice and healthcare management and operations. I am an industry specialist consultant and social entrepreneur. I hold an Executive MBA from the University of Newcastle. I enjoy travelling and am continuously caffeinated, and I find my comfort zone in the operating theatre. I am passionate about philanthropic surgical missions across Asia. I am also a member of the Chartered Management Institute and Institute of Managers and Leaders Australia and New Zealand.



INTRODUCING AAS 71ST TERM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Alex Hyne, Co-Chair of Events
Griffith University

✉ events.co@aas.org.sg

I'm Alex, a finance professional based in Singapore. I graduated from Griffith University with a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Finance, and I am a CFA Level III candidate. Before moving into the finance world, I spent 15 years working professionally in musical theatre. I also enjoy playing tennis and supporting Tottenham Hotspur.



Victor Tay, Chair of Mentorship
Curtin University

✉ mentorship@aas.org.sg

I am Dr Victor Tay, Regional Managing Director for Asia with Stout Investment Banking which is headquartered in Chicago and Group CEO of Global Catalyst Advisory which is an award winning firm focusing on sustainability advisory, carbon credits trading and carbon credits exchange leveraging on Blockchain for authentication and traceability.

I used to be Chairman of UN Global Compact, acting CEO/COO with Singapore Business Federation and with Ministry of Trade and Industry/Enterprise Singapore. Being the Chairman of Singapore Digital Chamber of Commerce Foundation, as well as, Governing Council of China ASEAN Business Alliance, I focus on digitalisation and internationalisation issues.

I am a Professor with Kennedy University of Baptist, PhD with Aztech University and CIDE, MBA with University of Oxford, Master of Technology with National University of Singapore, and Bachelor with Curtin University.

Elaine Chia, Chair of CSR
Monash University

✉ csr@aas.org.sg

I studied Accountancy in Australia and later returned to Singapore, where I built my career in finance and digital transformation. Over the years, I've also found a lot of meaning in community and non-profit work, including fundraising, supporting mental health education and advocating for animal welfare.

What matters most to me in an alumni community is that we don't stop at networking; we also create chances to learn, contribute and grow together, and CSR is one way we can make that real.

I look forward to meeting you and journeying together through our lifelong alumni community.



Sasi RM, Chair of Digital
University of Queensland

✉ digital@aas.org.sg

I am an Innovation Manager at the Infocomm Media Development Authority, where I drive business-technology partnerships. I graduated from the University of Queensland in 2018 with a Master's in Economics and Public Policy. Outside of work, I actively serve in my grassroots community and enjoy playing social football on the weekends.

Willy Tanujoyo, Co-Chair of Digital
Swinburne University of Technology

✉ digital.co@aas.org.sg

I am the founder of W3-O (Singapore) and co-founder of W3P (Jakarta), with over 20 years of experience in brand strategy, integrated marketing, and creative direction across Asia-Pacific. A passionate advocate for purposeful digital innovation, I bring hands-on expertise in AI-powered workflows and content transformation to help AAS connect meaningfully with its members and the broader Australian alumni community in Singapore.



TRACY TANG | UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE | BACHELOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Tracy Tang graduated from the University of Newcastle with a Bachelor of Environmental, Occupational Health and Safety (BEnvOHS). With a background in chemical engineering and experience across multiple industries, she brings a well-rounded and practical perspective to workplace safety. She is currently a Safety Professional and Assistant Manager with Marina Bay Sands, supporting the development of safe and healthy work environments across the iconic integrated resort. Drawing on her cross-industry experience, Tracy approaches safety with a strong understanding of operational realities and human factors, focusing on systems that are practical, sustainable, and people centric.



Passionate about workplace safety and operational excellence, she is committed to advancing safety culture beyond compliance through learning, engagement, and continuous improvement. She believes safety is a shared responsibility embedded in everyday operations.

Beyond her professional role, Tracy is a dedicated advocate for the **UON community** and the broader safety profession in Singapore. She currently serves as:

· **Executive Committee Member, UON Alumni Singapore Chapter**

· **Secretary, BEnvOHS Alumni Chapter**

· **Active Member, Singapore Institution of Safety Officers (SISO)**

Through these roles, she supports initiatives that foster engagement and professional growth while giving back and paying it forward.





Australian Alumni Singapore
since 1955

YOU ARE INVITED!

Let's *Sip & Sync*

Join us for a free and easy evening
to meet the new committee,
connect with one another,
and kick off 2026 together.

Good vibes, great conversations,
and meaningful connections —

See you there!



20 MAY 2026



YOASOBI

33 Pekin Road, Singapore



UPCOMING EVENTS



Keynote delivered by
RMIT Honorary Doctorate, Michaela Browning.

Building Success in Southeast Asia


Ready for what's next


CRICOS 00122A | RTO 3046

RMIT ALUMNI AUSTRALIA HAS AN EVENT DESIGNED TO SUPPORT OUR ALUMNI COMMUNITY IN BUILDING BUSINESS SUCCESS ACROSS SOUTHEAST ASIA.

AAS MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!

Whether people run their own business or work for an organisation looking to enter or expand in the region, this event is for them.

 5 May 2026 (Tues)

 5:30pm – 6:30pm

RMIT hon doc, business leader and diplomat Michaela Browning, whose work continues to shape dialogue and strengthen relationships across Asia is providing the keynote. The panel discussion includes:

- [Professor Ashton De Silva](#), Economics, Finance & Marketing
- RMIT alum Christie Ding Co-founder of Brand Catalyser [Christie Ding | LinkedIn](#)

This is an online event, so please join us if you're interested and share amongst your alumni chapter communities.

 **THIS IS AN ONLINE EVENT**

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education and research that makes a difference locally, and globally.



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Study: Does problematic gaming cause poor academic performance, or is it the other way round?



Is problematic gaming a cause or consequence of poor academic grades? A global systematic review of studies over 15 years suggests the focus of interventions may need to shift towards addressing academic struggles, not gaming.

Gaming is a healthy and enjoyable activity for many. However, a small proportion experience problematic gaming behaviours that can lead to negative outcomes, which has been a [growing cause of concern](#), especially in recent years.

A recent study by researchers from the Singapore campus of James Cook University (JCU in Singapore) found that students tend to struggle academically before they develop problematic gaming habits, not the other way around.

The [study](#) was led by Associate Professor of Psychology Peter Chew, Associate Professor in Psychology at JCU in Singapore. The research team looked into the relationship between problematic gaming and academic achievement.

Problematic gaming is defined as the persistent and recurrent use of the Internet to engage in games, often with other players, leading to clinically significant impairment or distress as indicated by five (or more) criteria in a 12-month period, according to the American Psychiatric Association. **Academic achievement** refers to the measurable performance of students' knowledge and skills in academic settings and are often assessed using test scores or grade point average (GPA). The study sought to investigate whether problematic gaming is a risk factor or negative consequence of academic achievement.

In a meta-analysis of 23 studies conducted on over 16,000 participants from across the world from 2009 to 2024, an overall pooled effect size of -0.17 was found.

"These findings suggest that problematic gaming is negatively correlated with academic achievement. The more you engage in problematic gaming, the lower your GPA/grades. When problematic gaming decreases, academic performance tends to be better," said Associate Professor Chew.

Study: Does problematic gaming cause poor academic performance, or is it the other way round?

“More importantly, analysis of longitudinal studies suggested that problematic gaming is more likely a negative consequence than a predictor of academic achievement,” he added.

He explained that students with lower academic achievement may turn to gaming as a way to cope with negative emotions, such as disappointment with their grades. Students may also seek to satisfy unmet needs for achievement, for example, by accomplishing in-game goals (e.g., achieving a rare item) to serve as a substitute for academic success. This process reinforces their gaming behaviour and over time, some of these individuals might engage in problematic gaming.

“Knowing that problematic gaming is more likely a consequence than a cause is important because it determines the target of interventions,” said Associate Professor Chew. “If problematic gaming is more likely a consequence, interventions should address poor academic achievement – that is, the root cause – or the negative emotions and unmet needs associated with it, rather than focusing only on gaming.”

He added that many parents and educators may assume that students have poor academic achievement because they play games excessively. “Our results suggest that it could be the other way round. Students may play games excessively because they have poor academic achievement.”

“If we are careful in addressing the negative emotions, unmet needs, or lower self-esteem associated with poor academic achievement, or provide interventions to improve it, then there would be a lower risk of problematic gaming,” he said.

↓List of criteria for Problematic Gaming, according to the American Psychiatric Association:

(1) Preoccupation, (2) Withdrawal symptoms, (3) Tolerance, (4) Unsuccessful attempts to control gaming behaviour, (5) Loss of interest in other activities, (6) Continued gaming despite problems, (7) Deception, (8) Gaming to escape or to relieve negative moods, (9) Risk or loss of a relationship, job, or educational or career opportunity.

PAPER

Chew, P.K.H., Yow, Y.J. & Dimech, R. Problematic Gaming and Academic Achievement: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Curr Addict Rep* 13, 20 (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40429-026-00718-2>

Check out Associate Professor Peter Chew's staff and research profiles [here](#).

Find out more about our [Psychology courses](#).

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

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

Contacts

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



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?

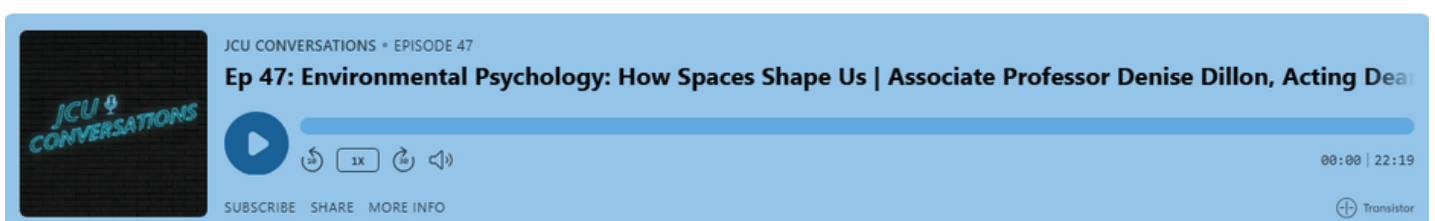
Latest ▾



JCU Conversations 47: Denise Dillon

What happens when psychology meets nature? Associate Professor Denise Dillon, Acting Dean of Research and Associate Dean of Research Education at James Cook University (Singapore Campus), shares about environmental psychology – the study of how our surroundings influence our thoughts, behaviours and wellbeing.

This episode's host: Dr Samuel Chng, Research Assistant Professor at the Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities, Singapore University of Technology and Design.



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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.

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- Develop and enhance personal leadership and coaching style
- Benefit from a sense of fulfilment and personal growth
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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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CPA Australia Professional Development Workshops

May 2026



Learn from industry leaders and stay ahead of industry shifts with our exciting line-up of events, workshops, and online courses throughout May 2026. From practical insights to future-ready capabilities, there's something for every career stage.

6 May | Wednesday

**Managing the preparation of
statement of cash flow using Excel**

7 May | Thursday

Impairment of Assets

12 May | Tuesday

**Dinner Talk Series: Navigating the
Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone**

13 May | Wednesday

Annual Tax update

14 May | Thursday

**Business Ethics: Navigating ethical
dilemmas in the workplace**

14 May | Thursday

**Public Practice Development Program:
Digital transformation – AI tools for
practitioner**

15 May | Friday

**Storytelling and Presentations Skills in
Finance**

28 May | Thursday

**Personal Effectiveness and Leadership:
Living and leaving a life of legacy**

Up to 90% SkillsFuture Subsidy

28 -29 May | Thursday - Friday

**SIT-CPA Australia
Data Forensics in Accounting**

Register by 7 May.

Start learning today.

Enhance your practical and soft skills to stay at the forefront of industry change.



APRIL 2026

SPOTLIGHT

MASTER OF CYBER SECURITY

Equipping leaders
to tackle an
evolving digital
security landscape



Dr V Sithira
MCS Program Coordinator

Rapid advances in artificial intelligence (AI) and related technologies are reshaping both cyberattack and defence strategies. In Singapore, ranked among the top five most-targeted countries in Asia Pacific over the past year, small- and medium-size enterprises are increasingly vulnerable to ransomware and data theft. Attacks on critical infrastructure also present broader national security risks.

Dr V Sithira, lecturer (Information Technology) and programme coordinator at Newcastle Australia Institute of Higher Education (Newcastle Australia), said these developments have changed what employers look for in cybersecurity professionals. Organisations now need professionals who can integrate architecture, risk, governance and regulatory considerations – not just operate security tools.





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Our strong partnerships with leading local institutions provide our diverse range of local and international students access to a broad variety of professional networks to enhance their graduate.



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Food and Beverage



HoReCa



Victoria's food and beverage exporters returned to Singapore for Food & Hospitality Asia (FHA) 2026 - Asia's leading international food, beverage and hospitality trade event, taken place 21-24 April 2026.

Victoria is Australia's largest food and fibre exporter, with exports valued at more than AS20.1 billion, accounting for 27% of Australia's total food and fibre exports. The state is also Australia's largest food and beverage manufacturer and exports to more than 180 markets globally, highlighting the strong end-to-end capabilities across food production, processing, innovation and export.

At FHA 2026, Victorian Government Trade & Investment Southeast Asia welcomed local industry partners to visit the Victoria Pavilion to meet 30 leading food and beverage producers from Victoria. Buyers and partners had the opportunity to source premium Australian food and beverage products directly from brand owners, meet both well-known and emerging brands and explore partnerships across retail, food service and distribution.

Participating Victorian companies span sought after categories including bakery, dairy, chocolate, coffee, grains, grocery, horticulture, juice, red meat, dairy alternative beverages, olive products, seafood and snack foods.

We look forward to seeing the outcome from these conversations and supporting new partnerships between Victorian producers and Southeast Asian partners!

List of participating Victorian companies:

ALTIMATE FOODS | AUSFRESH FARMERS MARKET | BAXTERS FOODS AUSTRALIA | BSKO BAKEHOUSE | BULLA DAIRY FOODS | CACAO CHOCOLATES & MACARONS | CHARLIE'S FINE FOOD CO | COBRAM ESTATE OLIVES LIMITED | ESSANTIS | FIRST PRESS COFFEE | GET YA YUM ON | HARVEST BOX PTY LTD | HEALTH LAB | JALA JALA TREATS | KOKO BLACK CHOCOLATE | LIVING KOKO | MADAME TIGER | MARBLE KING WAGYU | MEB FOODS | MINOR FIGURES | MOUNTAIN YUZU | NOAH'S CREATIVE JUICES | ROMA FOOD PRODUCTS | SOUTH FOOD GROUP | SYMONS ORGANIC DAIRY | TLUXAU | TONGALA NUTRITION | WALNUT PRODUCTS AUSTRALIA | YARRA VALLEY CAVIAR | YARRA VALLEY HILLTOP

AAS Business Council Luncheon Series

15 April 2026 | Cushman & Wakefield



ANZAC Day Dawn Service

25 April 2026 | Kranji War Cemetery & Memorial



On 25 April, our President, [Andrew Er](#), attended the ANZAC Day dawn service at Kranji War Memorial and laid a wreath on behalf of [Australian Alumni Singapore](#).

In attendance were Australian High Commissioner [Allaster Cox](#), Deputy High Commissioner [Emily Follett](#), and New Zealand High Commissioner [Gabrielle Rush](#).

On this day, we honour and remember those who served, and the sacrifices they made in exchange for the peace we enjoy today.

Lest we forget.



Team Australia's Farewell for H.E. Allaster Cox

26 April 2026 | Australian International School



Farewell for H.E. Allaster Cox

27 April 2026 | Australian High Commissioner's Residence



HE Gabrielle Rush
NZ High Commissioner

Andrew Er

HE Allaster Cox



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

WhatsApp group



[LINK](#)



AAS -Sustainability Group

WhatsApp group



[LINK](#)



AAS - Volunteer

WhatsApp group



[LINK](#)



AAS - Leverage SEO Group



[LINK](#)

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





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INSTITUTE OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

A WHOLLY OWNED ENTITY OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

Gold



Gold

Ordinary / Associate

Ordinary / Associate



BOND
UNIVERSITY

Silver



Silver

Ordinary / Associate

Ordinary / Associate



MACQUARIE
University
SYDNEY · AUSTRALIA

Silver



MONASH
University

Silver

Ordinary / Associate

Ordinary / Associate



RMIT
UNIVERSITY

Silver



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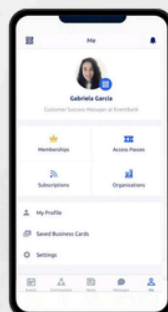
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