

THE VOICE

Monthly Newsletter for our Australian Alumni Community

ISSUE 63 | MAY 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Partners,

Welcome to the May Newsletter.

The Management Committee for 2026, have set their goals for the year and have already kicked off the first of their events.

Events

This month we held our first networking event on 20th May. Our first Beer & Brains was held at Yoasobi by Kanpai. The event drew a broad spread of members with representation from 15 different Alumni. The event was led by Jessica Yan, Chair of Events and Alex Hyne, Co-chair of Events.

Also, this month, the Business Council held 2 luncheons. At the luncheon hosted by Robert Half, special guest included Ambassador Sok Khoeun from Cambodia, Ambassador Alex Tilman from Timor-Leste and the amazing Jack Sim, founder of the World Toilet Organisation (WTO).

Last Friday, 22nd May, Silver Term sponsor, University of Newcastle, held its annual Movie Night, at VivoCity GV Grand. This year's movie was none other than Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu. The Force featured strongly with the UoN Alumni in attendance that night.

Upcoming Events

If you are interested in the inner working of the Singapore Government, AAS and REACH are organising a lunchtime **tour of Parliament House**. The highlight of the tour will be a fireside chat with Speaker of Parliament, Mr Seah Kian Peng, a UNSW Alumnus. That event will be in mid-July, so please check that out.

If you're interested in tax and the recent Australian Budget, come along to the AAS, CPA, Odin Tax & Mortgage's Australian Tax Update Night which will be at CPA's office. Refer inside this newsletter for more details. It includes dinner and is free for members.

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Er

Andrew Er
#forwardtogether



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MUTHUKUMAR SELVARASU | MIT-MBA JCU | HEAD OF PLATFORM ENGINEERING

Muthukumar Selvarasu (Muthu) is a distinguished technology leader with over 22 years of experience in the industry. His career journey is a powerful story of evolution and technical mastery; starting as a PHP Developer, Muthu progressively mastered diverse technology stacks—including ASP, Java, and React—before transitioning into the high-impact world of DevOps and Site Reliability Engineering (SRE). Today, he serves as the **Head of Platform Engineering** within the Market Intelligence Division of S&P Global.



Muthu's academic foundation is as robust as his technical background, having completed a dual **MIT-MBA from James Cook University**. In his current leadership role, he oversees the platform engineering strategies that serve as the "foundations for others to thrive." He focuses on creating resilient, automated, and scalable infrastructure that empowers global development teams to deliver at pace. Under his guidance, his division has reached critical milestones in compliance, security, and cloud architecture, ensuring that complex financial data environments remain robust.



Beyond core infrastructure, Muthu is a pioneer in integrating **Agentic AI** and predictive scaling to future-proof enterprise systems. By leveraging advanced container orchestration and Kubernetes, he has spearheaded initiatives that significantly optimize cloud costs while maintaining strict adherence to SOC2 and DORA frameworks. His technical foresight ensures that the platform remains agile, allowing the organization to navigate a rapidly changing digital landscape while supporting major regulatory go-lives and high-profile client onboardings.

A dedicated member of the Australian Alumni Singapore, Muthu is deeply committed to nurturing the next generation of engineering talent. He views leadership as a commitment to mentorship, frequently sharing his insights on digital transformation and AI-accelerated Dev/QA at regional industry conferences. As he prepares to align his expertise with regional business needs in Australia, he remains focused on fostering a collaborative culture where continuous learning and operational excellence are the primary drivers of success.

FREE TAX SEMINAR

MON 15 JUNE • 6:00 PM SGT

Australia Tax Update Seminar

The 2026-27 Federal Budget rewrote the rules on CGT, negative gearing, and trusts. One evening to understand what it means for your property.

 **CPA Australia Singapore**



Pau Lam

Director, Tax Services

ODIN • CPA Member

Register Free

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, 20 June 2026



A Melbourne-produced stage production is set to take the spotlight in Singapore!

Princes of the Night, created in Victoria and performed across Australia for over 25 years, will make its Singapore premiere at the iconic Capitol Theatre on 20 June 2026.

Singapore remains an important hub for cultural exchange and a gateway to Southeast Asia, with a strong appetite for international productions and collaborations.

For Victoria, this reflects the strength of our creative economy and its growing engagement with the region. From performing arts and screen to design and digital content, Victorian capabilities are increasingly finding audiences and partners across Southeast Asia.

We look forward to seeing more Victorian productions and creative talent engagements across the region!

Tickets are available on SISTIC and Klook.

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PRINCES™
GLOBAL EVENTS

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 DRIVING INBOUND TOURISM INSPIRING TRAVEL	 TOURISM & ENTERTAINMENT PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY	 ENGAGING AUDIENCES CREATING MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES
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CAPITOL Theatre | sistic | Singapore TOURISM BOARD | klook

anza | Kempinski RESIDENCES | PRINCES™ GLOBAL EVENTS

DRIVING INBOUND TOURISM, PREMIUM ENTERTAINMENT AND AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, 04 July 2026





*** A RMITAS CSR INITIATIVE - A WALK IN THEIR SHOES ***

AAS MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!

Let's come together and Give Back to the community as ONE RMIT Alumni.

Come 4 July, RMITAS is organising a Learning Journey which offers a window into homelessness that is often unseen. At this session, you will learn how social service interventions support housing stabilisation in Singapore. You will get a chance to visit shelters and network amongst fellow alumni.

 **17** : Saturday, 4 July 2026

 : 8.30am – 1.30pm

 : Kampung Siglap, 10 La Salle Street, Singapore 456933

(Enter via 55 Siglap Plain).

Free parking.

Cost:

RMIT Alumni: S25.00

Non-RMIT Alumni: S40.00

Limited slots available, please register by **25 June, 6pm.**

Note: Registration fee includes your networking lunch and provision of care packs for beneficiaries.

 **THIS IS AN IN-PERSON EVENT**

> REGISTER NOW



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TOUR AND FIRESIDE CHAT AT THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE WITH



MR SEAH KIAN PENG
SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT,
SINGAPORE

SAVE THE DATE!



15 July 2026, Wednesday



12.00pm to 2.00pm



The Parliament House

Save the date! Registration
opens on the week of 22 June
2026!

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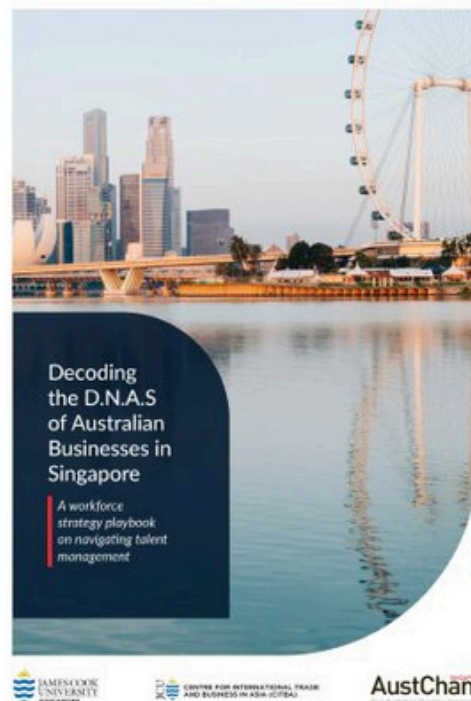


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JCU in Singapore and AustCham Singapore jointly launch Workforce Strategy Playbook



From left to right: Members of the CITBA research team Mr Sun Renjie, Dr Tan Sook Rei, A/Prof Pengji Wang, Dr Ratna Devi Pillai A/Prof K, Thirumaran and Dr Tan Kim Lim.

Playbook launch: Decoding the D.N.A.S. of Australian Businesses in Singapore: A Workforce Strategy Playbook for Navigating Talent Management

The Singapore campus of James Cook University (JCU in Singapore) and the Australian Chamber of Commerce Singapore (AustCham Singapore) have jointly launched a new workforce strategy playbook.



Titled [Decoding the D.N.A.S. of Australian Businesses in Singapore: A workforce strategy playbook for navigating talent management](#), this playbook aims to provide insights and best practices on how Australian businesses can navigate workforce management in Singapore amidst rapid technological advancements, increasing workforce diversity, and changing workplace arrangements.

By combining insights from published research with the lived experiences of Australian businesses in Singapore, the study captures how firms – ranging from small and mid-sized enterprises to large multinationals – navigate workforce management in one of the world’s most competitive labour markets.

Launched in May 2026, the report was developed by JCU in Singapore’s [Centre for International Trade and Business in Asia](#) (CITBA) research team as part of the 2025 AustCham Singapore Business Sentiments Report series. The series seeks to provide timely insights into the evolving business landscape in Singapore and the ASEAN region, while strengthening academia–business collaboration through initiatives such as applied research, business dialogues, and knowledge-sharing events.

“During our discussions with the AustCham Singapore team about issues faced by the business community, talent management kept surfacing as a key concern, especially with the rise of artificial intelligence and digital transformation, changing workforce expectations, skills shortages, and increasing competition for talent across the region,” said Senior Lecturer in Business at JCU in Singapore and Principal Investigator, Dr Tan Sook Rei.

JCU in Singapore and AustCham Singapore jointly launch Workforce Strategy Playbook

"We also felt Singapore makes an especially meaningful context for the study, as many businesses use it as a springboard for expansion into the ASEAN region. Given how quickly the talent landscape here is evolving, the report aims to provide insights into how organisations – particularly through the perspectives and experiences of AustCham members – are adapting their workforce and talent strategies in response," Dr Tan added.

The research team looked into how Australian businesses operating in Singapore are responding to evolving workforce challenges and opportunities in an increasingly competitive talent landscape. Their research draws on secondary research and in-depth interviews with AustCham Singapore member leaders across industries and firm sizes, and included senior leaders, managers, supervisors, and business owners, providing diverse perspectives on workforce strategy and talent management practices.



The launch event also brought together industry practitioners and academics who engaged in a [panel discussion](#) with industry experts on the future of work in Singapore. Moderated by [Dr Ratna Devi Pillai](#), Lecturer in Organisational Behaviour and Management and a member of the playbook's research team, the session featured three industry practitioners with diverse professional backgrounds. The discussion complemented and reinforced many of the report's findings – particularly that talent management should be viewed as an end-to-end journey, that human-centric skills remain critical despite the rise of AI, and that organisations should place stronger emphasis on their employee value proposition in attracting and retaining talent.

"This playbook reflects the value of bringing together industry perspectives and academic expertise to better understand the workforce challenges facing businesses today. Through our continued collaboration with JCU in Singapore, we have been able to glean insights from the experiences of Australian companies operating in Singapore and translate them into strategies and recommendations that can support organisations as they strengthen talent strategies and prepare for the future of work," says Batya Shulman, Vice President & Purpose Committee Chair at AustCham Singapore.

"As an Australian university in Singapore, James Cook University is proud to support the longstanding relationship between Singapore and Australia. Through this project and other collaborations such as the AustCham Business Sentiments Report series, our researchers apply their expertise to create positive impact for business and the wider community in both countries," said [Professor Carole-Anne Upton](#), Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Singapore, James Cook University.

"This marks the third consecutive year of collaboration between CITBA and AustCham Singapore, reflecting our shared commitment to bridging academic research with industry practice. We hope this playbook provides practical and actionable insights for businesses navigating Singapore's evolving workforce landscape," said Dr Tan.

Download the Playbook [here](#).

Find out more about the [Centre for International Trade and Business in Asia](#).

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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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 48: Eddy Ng

The future of work is here. From AI and hybrid work to shifting workforce expectations and generational change, today's workplace is being reshaped by powerful global megatrends. Join organisational behaviour expert Professor Eddy Ng as he shares about the six big megatrends, why they matter, and how these forces are transforming careers, organisations, and the skills needed to stay adaptable in a fast-evolving future. Professor Ng is the Smith Professor of Equity and Inclusion in Business at Queen's University and Visiting Professor at James Cook University.

This episode's host: Dr Ratna Devi Pillai, Lecturer in Organisational Behaviour and Management 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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16 June | Tuesday

Safeguarding businesses against financial crime

21 July | Tuesday

Divergence in a Two-Speed World - Global FX Repricing



PERSONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND LEADERSHIP SERIES

18 June | Thursday

Sharpening your conversational agility

16 July | Thursday

Strategic Rapport Building for Business Leaders



PUBLIC PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

11 June | Thursday

Expected Credit Loss

2 July | Thursday

Going Concern in an Era of Geopolitical Uncertainty

UPSKILL IN TAX & ACCOUNTING

2 June | Tuesday

Optimising Deferred Tax Balance

1 July | Wednesday

**Practical Tax Issues on Software
Characterisation and Related Payments**

6 July | Monday

**Practical Tax Issues on Mergers and
Acquisitions in Singapore**

29 July | Wednesday

Accounting for Cryptocurrency

30 July | Thursday

Impairment of Assets

**Understanding Variable Capital Company
(VCC) on Accounting, Tax and Compliance**

[Start learning today.](#)



MAY 2026

SPOTLIGHT

UON DAY 2026



It was a lively and eventful day at our inaugural open house, filled with meaningful conversations, fresh perspectives, and plenty of memorable moments. From engaging panel discussions to spin-the-wheel prizes earned by completing the quest card, the energy throughout the day was unmistakable. Attendees connected with faculty and peers, shared plenty of laughs, and enjoyed complimentary treats—because good conversations are always better with food in one hand and coffee in another.



A key highlight of the day was our panel discussions, where speakers shared insights across different stages of the academic journey. The first panel explored how furthering your studies can shape and accelerate your career—offering valuable perspectives for prospective undergraduate students. The second panel focused on postgraduate pathways, diving into leadership specialisation and navigating change in today's evolving professional landscape. Together, both sessions sparked thoughtful discussions and gave attendees a clearer sense of what's next.



 [READ MORE](#)

5 MASTER'S PROGRAMS (PART-TIME/HYBRID):



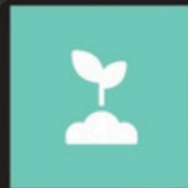
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AAS Business Council Luncheon Series

14 May 2026 | Robert Half Singapore



At our Business Council Luncheon at Robert Half, we had the fortune of having Cambodian Ambassador Sok Khoeun, Timor-Leste Ambassador Alex Tilman and World Toilet Organisation (WTO) founder, Jack Lim in attendance

AAS Business Council Luncheon Series

18 May 2026 | Sponsored by CBA & KPMG, venue at Cushman & Wakefield



BEER AND BRAINS IS BACK: A NIGHT OF SIP AND SYNC!



A massive thank you to the representatives from our 15 universities who joined us to make those meaningful connections; Bond University, Charles Sturt University, Curtin University, Griffith University, James Cook University (JCU), La Trobe University, Monash University, Murdoch University, Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), University of Melbourne, University of Newcastle (UON), University of New South Wales (UNSW), University of Sydney, and Western Sydney University (WSU).

Missed out on this one? Don't worry, we're just getting started! Keep an eye out for our next edition of Beer and Brains. Cheers to the connections made, and see you at the next one!

ALUMNI IN ACTION

**AAS SUPPORTS OUR VALUED PARTNER UNIVERSITY (UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE)
15TH SINGATURE MOVIE NIGHT**



Macquarie University Alumni Reconnect in Singapore to Navigate Global Economic Challenges

On Thursday, 7 May 2026, the [Andaz Singapore](#) hosted 70 distinguished guests for the **2026 Macquarie University Alumni Evening**. The signature gathering focused on fostering regional connections and tackling current macro-environmental transformations.

The event was hosted by **Ms Hedda Paisley**, Executive Director of Advancement, Philanthropy & Alumni Relations at **Macquarie University**, highlighting the university's continuous commitment to its international graduate network.

The evening opened with an alumni-led thought leadership panel titled "**Navigating the Economy in a Time of Global Instability**". Moderated by Dr **Charles Tee**, who guided the conversation through shifting geopolitical dynamics and their localised impacts. The panellists comprise Dr Yeo Li Pheow, Dr Richard Soh, Ms Jacklyn Quek, and Mr Andrew Han shared cross-industry perspectives on risk mitigation, regional market volatility and operational resilience.

The gathering was graced by **Mr Harrisen-John Leckenby** representing the **Australian High Commission**, reinforcing the deeply rooted institutional and economic ties between Australia and Singapore. Following the insightful panel, the 70 attendees transitioned into an evening of food and drinks, sparking new collaborations and professional synergy across industries.



SOCIAL INTEREST GROUPS

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



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WhatsApp 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





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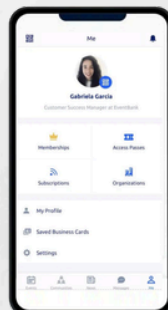
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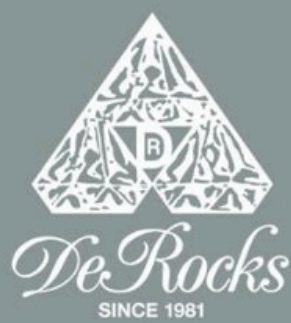
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Partnership Manager – Australia (Sydney)

Looks like Saturday night. Feels like Sunday morning.

ThunderWear Asia is a fast-growing Singapore premium essentials brand redefining underwear and socks through bold branding, playful-premium design and serious comfort engineering.

We are looking for our first Australia hire to help build the market from the ground up.

The Role

You will lead:

- Retail and wholesale partnerships
- Business development and key accounts
- Pop-ups, activations and collaborations
- Local brand growth and market expansion
- In-market representation for ThunderWear Asia

This role is ideal for someone entrepreneurial, commercially driven and highly proactive.

Location: Sydney, Australia

Employment: Full-Time

Reports To: Singapore HQ

Compensation: SGD \$5,000/month + bonuses + commissions

What We're Looking For

- 4–6 years in sales, partnerships, retail or business development
- Strong relationship-building and commercial instincts
- Self-starter with founder mentality
- Excellent communication and organisational skills
- Comfortable operating independently in a fast-growth environment

Bonus if you have:

- Australian retail/lifestyle network
- Experience with activations or consumer brands
- Fashion, lifestyle or wellness exposure

Growth Opportunity

High performers may progress into:

→ **Country Manager, Australia**

with responsibility for market strategy, team building and national partnerships.

Why Join?



Build a new market from day one



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Clear leadership pathway

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Subject: Partnership Manager – Sydney Application



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