



09 June 2026

Dear Members,

Last Friday evening, we were delighted to host the [Southern Skies Soirée, AustCham's 38th Annual Gala Dinner](#), at the Island Shangri-La, Hong Kong. It was a fantastic evening that brought together 200 guests from across the Australia–Hong Kong business community to celebrate partnership, connection, and the strength of our bilateral ties.

Guests enjoyed the very best of Australian food, wine and gin, alongside lively raffles and a Silent Auction that added to the energy of the night. A live band kept the atmosphere vibrant making it a true celebration in every sense. We were also very pleased to welcome Australian Consul-General Gareth Williams. Evenings like this remind us of the depth, goodwill, and dynamism of our community. My sincere thanks to our sponsors and partners for their generous support in making the event possible. Please look out for our LinkedIn this week as we share highlights and formally acknowledge those who contributed to this flagship event.

Yesterday, we moved from celebration to strategic dialogue as we hosted a [closed-door roundtable with Dr Geoff Raby AO](#), former Australian Ambassador to the People's Republic of China and Senior Advisor to The Argyle Group. Held under Chatham House Rule, the discussion centred on the evolving regional economic landscape and the importance of thoughtful, pragmatic engagement in a period of geopolitical complexity. A key theme was the need for Australian business to approach the region with long-term perspective, commercial discipline, and a clear understanding of how economic and strategic considerations increasingly intersect.

Participants also reflected on the value of sustained corporate engagement and the continued relevance of Hong Kong as a financial and commercial gateway, particularly as regional policy discussions gather momentum in the lead-up to APEC 2026. It was a thoughtful and candid exchange, reinforcing AustCham's role in convening experienced voices to help members navigate an increasingly complex operating environment.

June remains an active and important month across our committees as we sharpen advocacy priorities and bring member expertise directly into our policy engagement.

Our [Talent Committee](#) will examine Hong Kong's evolving talent landscape and shape our submission ahead of the Policy Address, ensuring business perspectives are clearly represented. The **Young Professionals Committee** will host [Boardroom to Breakthroughs](#), a mentorship lunch connecting emerging leaders with experienced executives and practical career insight. The **Women in Business Network** will convene a dynamic [Hack Exchange](#) focused on working smarter, not harder, sharing real-world strategies that make a tangible difference. Meanwhile, our [Sports and Entertainment Committee](#) will refine its advocacy priorities, and the [Finance, Legal and Tax Committee](#) will deliver a timely briefing on the Australian Federal Budget alongside key regulatory and tax developments in Hong Kong.

These sessions are more than meetings; they are where ideas are tested, priorities are shaped and our collective voice is strengthened. I encourage you to engage, contribute and help ensure AustCham remains both relevant and impactful.

As always, thank you for your continued engagement and support. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events as we continue to strengthen and grow the Australia–Hong Kong business community together.

Warm regards,  
Mary Simpson, AustCham Hong Kong Chief Executive