

No images? [Click here](#)



WEEKLY UPDATE

Dear Members and Friends,

2022 was another rollercoaster year for AustCham due to Covid-19 pandemic, with significant disruption from the 5th wave between January and April. Our signature Australia Day event was once again pushed online and we were fortunate to be joined by comedian and television personality, Jennifer Wong, sharing with us the importance of Chinese dishes in forming modern Australian cuisine and the community impact of pioneering Australian Chinese entrepreneurs – many from Hong Kong and southern China.

While we missed being able to gather in person during the first part of the year, the online format gave us some great opportunities to hear from leading international speakers on topics such as global risk management, sustainability and energy transition, the China-Australia relationship, cryptocurrency developments, the Australian Federal Election, and more.

As social distancing restrictions eased, we focused on bringing members opportunities for networking – in small format coffee meetings and lunches – as well as mixers and committee events. With many members offshore during the first half of the year we were thrilled to organise a Sydney Networking Night and catch up with members – new and old, as well as friends of AustCham. Our Summer Mix was a fun get-together and we held a cracker of a Christmas Mix in December to celebrate the year's end. Our ANZ Melbourne Cup Lunch and CBA Rugby Seven's Breakfast were also huge successes, providing our members and friends with an opportunity for high-quality networking with a dash of fun. Not even a T8 could stop us!

AustCham Committees provided much-needed connection and community throughout the year with members meeting each month to share industry insights and developments. The breadth of topics covered was phenomenal – from overcoming “bamboo ceilings” in one's career, understanding Hong Kong's infrastructure development blueprint, celebrating Australian product and beverages, catching up on FinTech industry trends, delving into cross-border financing for small businesses, and more! We launched new stand-alone committees with Innovation and Technology, and Sustainability Committees – welcoming new leadership to the Chamber. We also said

farewell and thank you to some of our Committee leaders as they moved offshore to start new chapters. The Committees truly lived up to their role as the heart of the Chamber keeping members engaged, providing connection and delivering meaningful insights during this tumultuous year.

Our government engagement and advocacy went from strength to strength, with online and in-person briefings with officials including Hong Kong's Chief Executive (past and present), Financial Secretary, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Secretary for Financial Services and Treasury, as well as members of the Chief Executive's Executive Council. On the Australian side we welcomed the new Prime Minister in May, held a briefing with the newly appointed Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, and continued our work highlighting to the Treasurer the significant potential impact on Australians and Australian business in Hong Kong of any changes to the resident taxation rules. We provided written submissions to the Hong Kong Financial Secretary on the Budget and the Hong Kong Chief Executive on the Policy Address. We also formed the Australia-China Investment Forum in cooperation with AustCham China, AustCham Shanghai, Austrade and Treasury, continuing our focus on this critical issue.

AustCham was one of the most active Chambers engaging with the Hong Kong government on the Covid-19 restrictions, with significant lobbying to accelerate the lifting of restrictions and restore Hong Kong as a global business city. While we started the year with business closures and strict social distancing rules (and sadly thousands of deaths), we are seeing out the year with as close to a return to 'normal' as we have been for three years. With Australia's borders reopened in early 2022 and Hong Kong removing inbound restrictions, we're optimistic that Hong Kong will quickly return to the itineraries of international business travellers.

Our diversity initiatives continued throughout the year with our International Women's Day Mentor Walk – changed to a Mentor Talk online – where we matched professional women with experienced executives for small group peer coaching. A format we look forward to bringing to the harbourfront in-person next year. Our Women in Business Network also delivered an outstanding Financial Wellness for Women Series and heard from leading women in sustainability policy and healthcare. In November, our Construction, Property, and Infrastructure Committee delivered their second Built to Last event with more than 80 attendees hearing from leading industry and diversity experts on the steps needed for

companies to achieve gender diversity in their senior management levels.

AustCham focused on supporting member professional development throughout the year with our 2021-22 Mentor Programme participants attending seminars and group networking online, and with the easing of restrictions in April we were able to get together for a graduation party. In the second part of the year we started with the 22-23 cohort of the programme with a pivot to focus on wellness and personal development.

This year I really enjoyed welcoming members at the start of their membership journey with our Coffee and Connect events. Held in both online and offline formats, these events provided an opportunity for new members to meet with the AustCham community, committee leaders and board directors and to learn more about the Chamber. I was thrilled at the commitment and enthusiasm of members at these events and look forward to meeting with new members at these events again in 2023.

I hope you found value in your participation with AustCham this year. As always, we are here for you and welcome your input and contributions. I am excited about what we achieved throughout the year and am so much looking forward to working with you all in the new year. If you are travelling for the holidays, stay safe and well, and to everyone whether near or far, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Stefanie Evennett

Chief Executive

AustCham Hong Kong



Let's Look Back on our 2022 Events!

COMMITTEES SPOTLIGHT

Looking Back....

The Finance, Legal and Tax committee had their final meeting of 2022 hosted by member, Freshfields. They welcomed guest speakers, Neal Beatty, Principal at Control Risks and Matthew O'Callaghan, Partner at Freshfields.

Matt provided a brief overview of the key regulatory developments in Hong Kong for financial services regulatory issues, including the upcoming proposals to regulate Virtual Asset Service Providers and whether the proposals will be sufficient to prevent another FTX.

Neal Beatty shared fascinating insights on China-Australia relations post G20 summit. With Australia's new administration, this could potentially signal a thaw between the two countries as both seek to improve trade relations and economic growth.

Lastly, AustCham's Construction, Property and Infrastructure Committee members came together for their annual year-end breakfast. Members caught up with old friends and welcomed new members for an in-person networking opportunity.

Co-Chair Brian Shuptrine thanked members for their commitment, passion and enthusiasm for CPI activities. He spoke about the like-mindedness and passion of committee members to achieve change across the sector. Members looked back on the achievements of 2022 and shared their outlook for the new year, along with an element of friendly competition with a CPI quiz to test who has been paying attention during the year!

Committees are at the heart of AustCham's community, and we thank all members for their participation throughout the year.

For more information about Committees or if you would like to be involved, please contact Chloe Taylor
chloe.taylor@austcham.com.hk

MEMBER NEWS



Hong Kong / Australia Flight Restart Update

We are excited to announce that Qantas restart of flight service between Hong Kong / Sydney will be on **30 January 2023**.

Flights between Hong Kong / Sydney will begin with three flights per week, increasing to a daily service from 27 February 2023. Daily flight between Hong Kong / Melbourne will restart from 26 March 2023.

Qantas flight schedule between Hong Kong / Australia

Flight No	Origin	Destination	Departure time	Arrival Time	Frequency
QF128	Hong Kong	Sydney	1820	0640+1	Mon, Wed, Fri (30Jan to 26Feb23) *Daily service from 27Feb23
QF127	Sydney	Hong Kong	1015	1635	
Flight No	Origin	Destination	Departure time	Arrival Time	Frequency
QF030	Hong Kong	Melbourne	1945	0810+1	Daily from 26Mar23
QF029	Melbourne	Hong Kong	1120	1800	

For further enquiry, please contact Qantas Call Centre :
Telephone : 2298 8111

COMMUNITY NEWS

DHANARA
the official newsletter of Australian International School Hong Kong



The Australian International School Foundation are searching for talented and dedicated governors to advocate the 'Board of Governors'. This includes Individuals that hold a diverse mix of experience and skills, and backgrounds that positively reflect the needs of the Foundation and the Australian School Community in the Hong Kong Environment.

Expression of interest are sought from interested and committed members of the Hong Kong community who are

dedicated to serve as an Advisor to a Board Committee or Board Governor. Without limiting interested candidates who wish to support the Boards activities, the Board is currently in search of particularly committed members of the community with background or skills in **technology, branding and communications, and fundraising.**

The Board may also seek support from non-Board members of the community that hold the required skills and experiences, as well as the background which may aid to support the work of the Boards various Committees.

For those who are interested, an 'Expression of Interest Form' is available [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUSTCHAM EVENTS:

FRI 3 FEB | IN-PERSON | [Australia Day Lunch](#)

AUSTCHAM EVENT INFORMATION



Australia Day Lunch

FRI 3 FEB | IN-PERSON | 12:00PM - 3:00PM

The Australian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong is pleased to present the Australia Day Lunch 2023.

Australia Day is the official national day of Australia. Celebrated annually on 26 January, it is the day to reflect on what it means to be Australian, to celebrate contemporary Australia and to acknowledge our history.

As an Australian business association, AustCham Hong Kong recognizes the importance of Australia Day to our community.

In 2023 we aim to create an event that celebrates the diverse and unique influence and impact the Australians experience in Hong Kong, as well as celebrate the importance of the relationship between Australia and Hong Kong. The theme for the event is **My Hong Kong-Australia Story**.

For the first time since 2019 we are delighted to invite you to join the **Australia Day Lunch in-person on February 3rd from 12pm till 3pm at the Island Shangri-La Hotel**.

We are expecting 240 corporate guests at this event. The spectacular lunch will feature live performances and speakers as well as a three course meal and free-flow drinks.

This event will sell out! **Sponsorship packages are available [here](#)**. For corporate tables and individual tickets please **register your interest early to bookings@austcham.com.hk**

REGISTER HERE

2023 AUSTCHAM EVENTS



2023 AustCham Events

AustCham Hong Kong delivers events with a variety of networking opportunities, industry-leading insights, leadership, training and education opportunities.

Our events provide access to business leaders, government representatives and the largest Australian business community abroad.

We aim to showcase corporate expertise with real takeaways and people-to-people engagement.

With Online, Hybrid and In Person options available for delivery, we offer a variety of platforms to connect with our audience.

Below are a selection of our 2023 events - with many more to come!

[Get in touch](#) with the team to find out more about sponsorship and partnership opportunities.

Signature Events

3 February Australia Day Lunch

30 March Rugby 7s Lunch

8 June AustCham Gala Dinner

7 Nov Melbourne Cup Lunch

Industry and Special Initiative Events

3 March International Women's Day Mentor Walk

16 March Cornerstones of Quality in Construction

Event Series

Demonstrate your company's commitment to leading business issues. Exclusive sponsorship of AustCham Series of up to 4 events annually. Previous event series include:

- CEO Forum
- Mind, Body, Business
- Sustainability
- Women in Technology

Networking and Community

Networking events throughout the year, often linked with a CSR partner. These include:

June Summer Mix

December Christmas Mix

CONTACT US



Forward

AustCham respects your privacy. Your email will never be shared with a third party without your consent. View our [Privacy Policy](#).

You are subscribed to the AustCham WEEKLY FLYER list.
Unsubscribing below will remove you from ALL AustCham mailing lists.
Instead, [UPDATE YOUR EMAIL PREFERENCES](#) below.

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)