

## Media Roundup Issue 100 (01/12/18 – 07/12/18)

### 1. Bicentenary's unlikely poster boy

**02/12/18**

**Heidi Han**

**The Australian**

Barry Shying is an unlikely celebrity for Australia's Chinese -community. For most of his life he didn't realise he was the great-great-grandson of the first documented migrant to Australia from China 200 years ago.

The Chinese community in Australia has embraced him just as he has sought to learn everything he can about his heritage and Mak Sai Ying (later anglicised to John Shying).

It has culminated in 86-year-old Mr Shying being flown around Australia and to China this year to appear at celebrations to mark the bicentenary of -Chinese migration to Australia.

His great-great-grandfather arrived in Port Jackson, Sydney, on the ship the Laurel from Canton in Southern China, on February 27, 1818, 30 years after the First Fleet's arrival and several decades before the 1850s gold rush that would draw thousands of Chinese miners to Australia.

Read more (Paywall): <https://bit.ly/2U7Rsbl>

### 2. Global markets to rally on Trump-Xi meeting at G20 summit

**02/12/18**

**William McInnes**

**Australian Financial Review**

The positive meeting between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping is set to be the catalyst for a December rally in Australian shares, just as the market slumped to its worst start to a Christmas quarter since 2008.

At a dinner on Saturday following the G20 Summit in Argentina, the two parties agreed to temporarily halt the imposition of new tariffs, as they work towards negotiating a more permanent agreement.

"I was hopeful that the meeting between Xi and Trump would have a positive outcome and I think it has," said AMP Capital chief economist Shane Oliver. "It's a little bit more positive than I would have thought. That should support our markets on Monday and give a bit of a boost to the Aussie dollar.

Read more (Paywall): <https://www.afr.com/markets/global-markets-to-rally-on-trumpxi-meeting-at-g20-20181201-h18lyw>

### 3. Still poor or a superpower? Defining China central to trade dispute

**02/12/18**

**Kristy Needham**

**The Sydney Morning Herald**

China Matters CEO Linda Jakobson discusses an "unsolvable dilemma" that blights the PRC.

[...]

"By any normal definition China is a developing country. Thirty million people live in abject poverty and probably 100 million in dire poverty, living on under \$2 a day. That is a huge number - 10 times the population of Australia either in horrible poverty or dire poverty."

China also wants to be seen as the leader of the developing world, she says, which is important for its foreign policy goals and dealings with Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

But Jakobson says she understands the White House critics, and anyone who visits cities like Beijing and Shanghai, thinking "this is not a developing country".

"China also wants to be treated nowadays as a major power. It also wants to be treated with the respect that a rising power deserves. You can't have your cake and eat it, which China has managed to do up until now," she says.

Read more: <https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/still-poor-or-a-superpower-defining-china-central-to-trade-dispute-20181123-p50hsa.html>

### 4. G20: US, China reach trade tariff truce after Trump-Xi dinner

**03/12/18**

**Simon Benson**

**The Australian**

Donald Trump and Xi Jinping have agreed to a trade war ceasefire amid fears that the feud between the US and China was threatening to spiral out of control and wipe out half a trillion dollars of economic growth for the rest of the world.

[...]

The International Monetary Fund had warned that US-China tensions posed a “systemic” risk to Australia if they were allowed to develop into a full-blown trade war. The IMF expected Australia’s economy would expand by 2.8 per cent next year, down from 3.2 per cent this year.

Australian Industry Group chief executive Innes Willox said the truce was the first step towards ending the trade war that had placed a handbrake on global growth and constrained Australian exports. The Export Council of Australia’s head of trade policy, Heath Baker, said the cooling of trade tensions was “a very good sign”, but big trading nations such as Australia were “not out of danger yet”.

Read more (Paywall): <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/trumpxi-trade-talks-went-very-well-white-house/news-story/13519e5b2b904d031398e26ec64920d6>

## 5. A2 Milk welcomes shake-up of China’s cross border e-commerce rules

**03/12/18**

**Samantha Bailey**

**The Australian**

A2 Milk has welcomed an announcement by the Chinese Government that it would define the major cross border e-commerce players under a new policy framework, which a2 said would improve transparency and protect the rights and safety of consumers.

On Friday, China’s Ministry of Finance said its new policy framework would define the major participants within the cross border e-commerce market and set out the responsibilities for those participants.

The changes would help to promote the healthy development of the cross border e-commerce retail import industry, and create a fair and competitive market environment.

A2 Milk (A2M) said it believes any large corporate enterprise will be considered a participant in the cross border e-commerce channel under the new law and policy framework.

Read more (Paywall): <https://bit.ly/2KMYePV>

## 6. US-China trade truce: Australian farmers, energy exporters 'collateral damage'

**03/12/18**

**John Kehoe**

**Australian Financial Review**

Australian gas producers and farmers could be collateral damage in the US-China trade truce, after the White House said Beijing agreed to buy a "very substantial" amount of energy, agriculture and industrial goods.

Though stock markets and the Australian dollar rallied on Monday in response to the temporary trade war ceasefire, local trade experts warned the move towards government-managed trade between the world's two largest economies could cost Australian exports to China.

Local liquefied natural gas and coal producers, as well as farmers, export billions of dollars of products to China, which is Australia's largest export market and accounts for about 30 per cent of the economy's total exports.

There are rising fears the high-level agreement could case Australian exports to China to be replace by American products.

Read more (Paywall): <https://www.afr.com/news/economy/trade/uschina-trade-truce-australian-farmers-energy-exporters-collateral-damage-20181203-h18n24>

## 7. Chinese 'Daigou' buyers shipping 30,000 Australian baby formula packages overseas a day

**03/12/18**

**Luke Cooper**

**9news.com.au**

Chinese baby formula customers who source products within Australia are shipping up to 30,000 packages per day.

The multi-million-dollar boom in interest from Chinese customers, known as 'Daigous', for Australian-made baby formula products has left mums frustrated and sparked car park confrontations in the past.

TODAY's Christine Ahern spoke exclusively to the A2 Platinum Milk Company - which is currently seen as the most popular among Daigous - about their products being stripped from Australian supermarket shelves only to be sold overseas.

"We are flattered obviously. We are doing a number of things that are really working well for us and we have competitors trying to pick off pieces off the puzzle," Jayne Hrdlicka, CEO of the A2 milk company, said.

Read more: <https://www.9news.com.au/2018/12/03/12/32/australia-baby-formula-chinese-buyers-daigous-30000-packages-per-day-a2-milk>

## 8. Australia is about to feel the power of the Chinese state

**03/12/18**

**Adrian Blundell-Wignall**

**Australian Financial Review**

Just over a year ago I was asked to brief a top honcho of economics from a very large country who was visiting the OECD in Paris. I told him that I would like to run through our work on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). He looked at me and said: "What's that?" He wasn't pulling my leg.

This weekend I watched from afar as the world leaders milled around at the G20. I was grateful to be out of that process. The leaders all smiles, shaking hands, and all aware of the presence of the elephant in the room: China's long-term strategy based on the role of the state.

[...]

The real issue is that the size of the problem is larger than it should be, because business is not conducted on a level playing field: SOEs not operating along commercial lines, the subsidised cost of capital from state banks, export tax rebates, IP theft, dumping, use of standards and certification as commercial barriers, and government procurement and tendering practices are, inter alia, the subject of global disputes.

Each week China Matters collates news items about the Australia-China relationship

Any country that signs a free trade agreement with China without a chapter on SOEs (and Australia is one of them) just isn't thinking about it.

Read more (Paywall): <https://www.afr.com/opinion/columnists/australia-is-about-to-feel-the-power-of-the-chinese-state-20181203-h18nep>

## 9. China lifts e-commerce import limits

**03/12/18**

**Glenda Korporaal**  
**The Australian**

Australian companies such as Treasury Wine Estates, Blackmores and A2 Milk could benefit from new moves in China to boost the e-commerce market announced last week.

China's Ministry of Finance announced last week that it will lift the annual duty free limit for individuals buying goods overseas by 30 per cent to 26,000 yuan, around \$5078.

It is also adding to the list of products which can be imported into China duty free on cross border e-commerce platforms — goods including sparkling wine, beer made from malt, fitness equipment and condoms.

The higher caps, which will come into effect from January, along with other major changes to e-commerce regulations, are set to further boost the potential for sales into China of high-quality foreign consumer goods.

Read more (Paywall): <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/economics/china-lifts-ecommerce-import-limit/news-story/9808116b5f34456414b0918798940d1b>

## 10. Darwin deal touted by China as part of Xi's BRI

**03/12/18**

**Amos Aikman**  
**The Australian**

The mayor of Darwin has done a deal being touted in China as part of President Xi Jinping's signature Belt and Road Initiative while warning that Australia "would be stupid" not to get more involved, including by exploiting the controversial Chinese lease of Darwin Port.

Kon Vatskalis, a former Labor minister whose wife lectures at a Confucius Institute at Charles Darwin University, signed the agreement last week with the wealthy Guangzhou municipality of Yuexiu, just across the border from Hong Kong in mainland China.

It comes after Chinese ambassador Cheng Jingye told a conference in Darwin in July that the Northern Territory's location "equip(ped) it with special advantages in developing its trade and economic co-operation with China and participating in BRI".

Read more (Paywall): <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/foreign-affairs/darwin-deal-touted-by-china-as-part-of-xis-bri/news-story/ed3356920763f98a890a78547d913fc9>

## 11. Move for Morrison to visit Beijing

**04/12/18**

**Glenda Korporaal**  
**The Australian**

A leading Chinese academic on Australia relations has called on Scott Morrison to visit China before the end of the year as envisaged under the comprehensive strategic partnership established under the Abbott government in 2014.

Chen Hong, director of the Australian Studies Centre at the East China Normal University in Shanghai, said a visit to China by the Prime Minister would bring a "fresh wind of change" to the Australia-China relationship, which appears to be getting back on track after two years of strain.

"Since his ascension to the prime ministership, Scott Morrison has demonstrated a positive China approach, which is very distinctive from the previous unconstructive policies," Mr Chen said yesterday.

Read more (Paywall): <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/move-for-morrison-to-visit-beijing/news-story/07e61ceaeca09cc4966dbad7dda8f077>

## 12. The great wall of silence: our failure to confront China's cyber attacks

**04/12/18**

**Danielle Cave**  
**The Sydney Morning Herald**

*Each week China Matters collates news items about the Australia-China relationship*

Australia's silence on cyber attacks and intellectual property theft emanating from China is representative of a broader silence on irritants and fundamental differences in the bilateral relationship. It doesn't serve Australia's national interests.

In what is a bipartisan phenomenon, we have taken our relationship with China and decided, in contrast to all others, to walk on eggshells and handle it with "kid gloves". In so doing, we allow the Chinese state to set new precedents without being challenged – on cyber attacks and economic espionage, on political interference and coercion, on narrative creep and on human rights (notwithstanding Foreign Minister Marise Payne's recent rare comments on human rights abuses in Xinjiang).

Read more: <https://www.smh.com.au/national/the-great-wall-of-silence-our-failure-to-confront-china-s-cyber-attacks-20181130-p50jd8.html>

### 13. China's Uighurs will evolve into a new Tibet as a pressure point between Beijing and the West

**04/12/18**

**Angus Grigg**

**The Australian Financial Review**

China Matters CEO Linda Jakobson and advisory council member Nick Bisley discuss the issues faced in Xinjiang.

The detention of Uighurs in China's far western Xinjiang province will evolve into an issue similar to Tibet for Beijing, challenging the Australian government to take a stand, according to a prominent academic.

Linda Jakobson, the chief executive of think tank China Matters, expects Xinjiang to become a cause celebre for hollywood film stars but also an issue on which Muslim countries will eventually take a stronger position.

"The Australian government must express themselves [on the detention of Uighurs in Xinjiang] but it must be put into the perspective of the entire relationship," Ms Jakobson told The Australian Financial Review's National Security Summit.

"I see the Xinjiang issues becoming a bit like the Tibet issue everyone was out there to make sure people knew about Tibetan culture being restricted and so on."

Read more (Paywall): <https://www.afr.com/news/policy/defence/chinas-uighurs-will-evolve-into-a-new-tibet-as-a-pressure-point-between-beijing-and-the-west-20181129-h18icg?btis>



## 14. WA Labor MP resigns membership of Chinese organisations

**05/12/18**

**Eliza Borrello**

**ABC News**

Mr Yang, a member of WA's Upper House, said he "overlooked" declaring his memberships of the Northeast China Federation Inc and the Association of Great China on his parliamentary register of interests.

"As of this morning, I resigned as a member of both the Northeast China Federation and the Association of Great China," he said in a statement after a story about the memberships was published by News Corp on Tuesday morning.

"I overlooked including them on my returns, along with my membership of the William Langford Community House."

Read more: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-04/wa-premier-defends-mp-over-alleged-china-communist-party-links/10583028>

## 15. Why Kevin Rudd believes China is about to upstage Donald Trump on trade

**06/12/18**

**Jacob Greber**

**The Australian Financial Review**

China could be preparing to spring a global compact to drive tariffs to zero, and approach Trans Pacific Partnership members including Australia for access to the grouping, positioning Beijing as a champion for free trade.

That's the view of former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, who believes China's President Xi Jinping may even use next month's World Economic Forum summit in Davos, Switzerland to launch across-the-board liberalisation that would "take the world by storm".

"That indeed could represent a serious new challenge to American leadership," Mr Rudd warned in a speech in New York on Wednesday [Thursday AEST].

Read more (Paywall): <https://www.afr.com/news/economy/why-kevin-rudd-believes-china-is-about-to-upstage-donald-trump-on-trade-20181206-h18sok>

## 16. China-to-Darwin flights run under capacity, questions raised over deal's value for money

**06/12/18**  
**Emilie Gramenz**  
**ABC News**

International flights between the "Silicon Valley" of China, Shenzhen, and Darwin are less than half full, four months after the direct link began, new figures reveal.

The statistics report, published by the Federal Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, shows that in September, just 382 passengers flew inbound to Darwin on Donghai Airlines — or 44 per cent of capacity — while 237 passengers flew outbound, equating to just 27 per cent of capacity.

That month, more people flew between Australia and tiny Pacific nations like Nauru, Western Samoa and the Solomon Islands.

Read more: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-06/donghai-airlines-china-darwin-nt-flights-run-under-capacity/10587454>

## 17. Chinese workers fight for a fair go in Australia

**06/12/18**  
**Michelle Rimmer**  
**SBS News**

Migrant workers in Australia are pushing for better workplace conditions.

Language barriers and cultural differences are being blamed for a lack of job opportunities and security for migrant workers.

Sydney resident Stephen Fang is a staunch advocate for fair pay and working conditions for all members of the community.

At a previous job, his wife worked for two months without seeing a cent, despite being on a fortnightly pay cycle.

Read more: <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/chinese-workers-fight-for-a-fair-go-in-australia>

## 18. WA Labor MP Pierre Yang pledges loyalty amid Chinese Communist Party controversy

**06/12/18**

**Andrew Burrell**  
**The Australian**

The West Australian Labor MP ensnared in a controversy over his membership of groups linked to the Chinese Communist Party has broken down in parliament as he pledged his “absolute loyalty” to Australia and spoke of his decade-long service in the Australian Army Reserves.

Pierre Yang, the McGowan’s government’s upper-house whip, made a special statement in the Legislative Council today after it emerged this week he had failed to declare his involvement in two pro-China organisations in his register of interests.

The Australian also revealed today that Mr Yang was deployed in 2016 on a Chinese government vessel hunting for Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 that security experts believed spent most of its time spying on the Australian military.

Read more (Paywall): <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/wa-labor-mp-pierre-yang-pledges-loyalty-amid-chinese-communist-party-controversy/news-story/18bd3ad6d6ed7fcc05b4bf43fa439077>

## 19. Darwin port’s sale is a blueprint for China’s future economic expansion

**07/12/18**

**John Garrick**  
**The Conversation**

An agreement between Darwin’s city council and an overseas municipal counterpart normally wouldn’t attract much attention. Local government officials love signing such deals. Darwin already has no less than six “sister city” arrangements, including with the Chinese city of Haikou.

But attention has been drawn to Darwin’s newly minted “friendship” deal with Yuexiu District, in Guangzhou, due to Chinese media describing it as part of President Xi Jinping’s signature Belt and Road Initiative.

This suggests Chinese authorities regard Darwin as having strategic significance.



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It invites reflection on the wisdom, three years ago, of the Northern Territory government deciding to lease the Port of Darwin (now known as Darwin Port) to a Chinese company for 99 years – and of the federal government going along with it.

*Read more: <https://theconversation.com/darwin-ports-sale-is-a-blueprint-for-chinas-future-economic-expansion-108254>*