

## Media Roundup Issue 27 (01/07/17 – 07/07/17)

### 1. Australian writers become write stuff in China

**01/07/2017**  
**Rowan Callick**  
**The Australian**

Australian authors Tom Keneally, John Marsden, Geraldine Brooks and book illustrator Bronwyn Bancroft were mobbed day after day by mostly young readers during the recent Australian Writers Week in China.

Australian Chinese poet and translator Ouyang Yu, who lives in Melbourne, said “perhaps in the not-too-distant future iron ore, wool and Oz lit will be the three major exports to China”.

Last year, according to a survey by the Think Australian newsletter produced by Australia’s publishing industry, China bought more Australian book rights, by deals, than any other country.

More than 3200 Australian books were translated into Chinese from 2003 to 2015.

*Read more (Paywall): <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/arts/books/australian-writers-become-write-stuff-in-china/news-story/b048080355d79bca72b7854581a68ad1>*

### 2. Australian steakhouse Hurricane’s Grill expands in China

**02/07/2017**  
**Su-Lin Tan**  
**Australian Financial Review**

Popular Sydney steakhouse Hurricane’s Grill is taking its brand and restaurants to China, opening its first restaurant either in Shanghai or Beijing before the end of the year.

Partnering with Sydney-based Chinese-focused investment firm Celestial Group, the two have committed an initial \$10 million to market the brand's famous ribs, steaks and burgers in China with plans to expand to about 300 or more restaurants. They are rounding up new investors in China to fund the expansion.

The "export" of services is the next phase of the Chinese-Australian trade boom following the explosion in Chinese demand for Australian food products such as milk powder, supplements and vitamins, Celestial chief executive Zac Xiao said.

"It is now about the export of culture and professional services," he said.

*Read more (Paywall): <http://www.afr.com/news/economy/trade/australian-steakhouse-hurricanes-grill-expands-in-china-20170627-gwzvqz>*

### 3. US, China buoy Australia's \$126 billion food and grocery industry

03/07/2017

Madeleine Heffernan  
Sydney Morning Herald

Australia's \$126 billion food and grocery sector, under pressure from rising energy costs and keen to reduce its reliance on supermarket giants Woolworths and Coles, is exporting more to the US and China.

And with Woolies and Coles spending billions of dollars in recent years cutting grocery prices, food producers are keen for foreign retailers to invest heavily in Australia. The world's biggest online marketplace, Amazon, and German discount department store Kaufland are the most likely candidates.

Tanya Barden is the new boss of the Australian Food and Grocery Council, which represents packaged food, drink and grocery manufacturers.

She said the domestic market for food producers was "very competitive", with years of price falls at the checkout and skyrocketing energy costs creating skinny profit margins.

*Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/business/retail/us-china-buoy-australias-126-billion-food-and-grocery-industry-20161014-gs2myk.html>*

#### 4. Chinese buyer of Darwin Port struggles to pay interest and heavily in debt

**04/07/2017**

**Angus Grigg, Lisa Murray & Nick McKenzie  
Australian Financial Review**

The new Chinese owner of Darwin Port is heavily indebted and has struggled to make interest payments on money borrowed to buy the lease, raising doubts over promises to upgrade the port and fund a new \$200 million hotel on a nearby site.

An analysis of the finances of the Landbridge Group and its billionaire founder Ye Cheng shows he does not fit the stereotype of cashed-up Chinese billionaire with access to cheap funding from state-owned banks.

Rather, Landbridge's local accounts and documents lodged in China show an over-extended company scrambling from one loan repayment to the next and paying up to 12 per cent interest on some borrowings.

*Read more (Paywall): <http://www.afr.com/news/policy/foreign-affairs/chinese-buyer-of-darwin-port-struggles-to-pay-interest-and-heavily-in-debt-20170704-gx4ak0>*

#### 5. Australians' views of China: we need to go deeper than 'fear and greed'

**04/07/2017**

**Merriden Varrall  
Sydney Morning Herald**

The results of this year's Lowy Institute poll indicate Australians' attitudes towards China are somewhat conflicted. When asked about the likelihood of China becoming a military threat to Australia in the next 20 years, 46 per cent of Australians said it was likely. But when asked if China is presently more of an economic partner or military threat, 79 per cent said "economic partner".

This suggests that while many people are wary of China, they are keeping their eyes on the economic benefits that a relationship with China offers. What

Australians may describe as a “pragmatic” approach to the relationship, the Chinese see as confusing and opportunistic. This does little good for our bilateral ties, which are crucial for Australia’s national interests.

*Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/national/public-service/australians-views-of-china-we-need-to-go-deeper-than-fear-and-greed-20170702-gx2vbu.html>*

## 6. Malcolm Turnbull calls on China to take ‘strongest action’ against North Korea

05/07/2017

AAP

The Guardian

The Australian prime minister, Malcolm Turnbull, is calling on China to take the “strongest action” against North Korea as the risk of military conflict intensifies.

Turnbull branded the rogue state’s launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile another act of “reckless provocation”.

The missile – which could reach Darwin or Cairns in Australia’s north – was fired on Independence Day in the United States, and while the Chinese and Russian presidents met in Moscow before a global economic summit.

“This is yet another very dangerous move by North Korea,” Turnbull told ABC radio on Wednesday. “It poses a very real threat to peace in our region.”

There was now a greater risk of military conflict as a result of the test, he said, and the onus was on China. Only they had the ability to bring North Korea to its senses.

“The prospect of a conflict on the Korean peninsula is unthinkable but equally, you have to consider it ... and recognise that only the strongest action from China can stop this dangerous escalation by North Korea, absent military action,” Turnbull said.

*Read more: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2017/jul/05/malcolm-turnbull-calls-on-china-to-take-strongest-action-against-north-korea>*

## 7. How China's debt binge threatens Australia

05/07/2017

Matt Wade

Sydney Morning Herald

No country can be indifferent to China's economy, especially not Australia. We're more exposed to what goes on in it than just about any other nation. China has long been the biggest market for our commodities, such as iron ore, coal and wool. And now it is the largest foreign buyer of our services, especially education and tourism. The upshot? Many thousands of Australian jobs depend on the health of the Chinese economy.

Big Asian economies in our region – China, India and Indonesia – are bound to become even more important to us during this, the Asian Century. Our politicians like to dwell on the opportunities presented by the historic economic transformation to our north. But we'll also need to be prepared for some nasty bumps along the way.

*Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/comment/how-chinas-debt-binge-threatens-australia-20170704-gx4htn.html>*

## 8. Barnaby Joyce expresses 'sympathy' for US trade sanction threat against China

06/07/2017

Gabrielle Chan

The Guardian

Barnaby Joyce has said the government would have "sympathy" with US trade sanctions against China for "aiding and abetting" North Korea.

Asked if Australia would support trade sanctions against China, which is Australia's largest trading partner, the deputy prime minister said: "we obviously have sympathy."

Joyce accused North Korea of an "overt program of destabilising and creating an incredible threat" to the region.

“If people want to aid and abet that threat of the North Korean leadership, well obviously we can’t be supporting them,” Joyce said.

His comments come after Donald Trump attacked China’s trade ties with North Korea following the rogue state’s successful intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

*Read more: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2017/jul/06/barnaby-joyce-expresses-sympathy-for-us-trade-sanction-threat-against-china>*

## 9. Chinese still keen buyers of Australian property

**06/07/2017**

**Elizabeth Redman  
The Australian**

Chinese demand for Australian property will remain strong despite easing from a recent peak, but cooling measures in Victoria could have an impact on apartment projects in Melbourne.

Reports from property portals Investorist and Juwai.com have found continued interest from offshore, even as restrictions in China make it harder to transfer money out of the country.

Chinese investors last year spent a record \$133.7 billion on international real estate, according to the Juwai report, with the second-largest share of the investment after the US coming to Australia.

The total amount spent this year is likely to slip to \$104.5bn, which would still be in the top three years on record, Juwai said.

*Read more (Paywall):*

*<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/property/chinese-still-keen-buyers-of-australian-property/news-story/b26ff33a679b08c5aa784ad0cfb1c334>*

## 10. Australia has 'no plans' for China sanctions, Julie Bishop says

07/07/2017

Primrose Riordan

The Australian

Senior Turnbull cabinet ministers have been forced to clarify comments by Acting Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce after the Nationals leader suggested Australia was sympathetic to US calls for imposing trade sanctions on China.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said Australia had "no plans" to impose sanctions, while Finance Minister Mathias Cormann said Mr Joyce was talking about companies and organisations that were already under sanctions. Mr Joyce's comments yesterday followed a suggestion from the US ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, that the Trump administration may target trade arrangements with nations that did business with North Korea.

*Read more (Paywall): <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/foreign-affairs/australia-has-no-plans-for-china-sanctions-julie-bishop-says/news-story/0911b950273e0843a2923e99d58971ac>*

## 11. Bellamy's Australia hits another roadblock in China as export licence suspended

07/07/2017

Sydney Morning Herald

Troubled dairy company Bellamy's Australia has hit another roadblock in China as authorities there suspended the export licence of Camperdown Powder, a company it just acquired.

The infant formula maker requested its shares be halted from trading on Friday to let it "determine the reasons and impact of the Camperdown's suspension of its CNCA license by the China authorities overnight," referring to China's Certification and Accreditation Administration.

China is Bellamy's top export market, and the company's stock has been roiled by problems with sales and regulations there.

Bellamy's announced the acquisition of Camperdown Powder last month, and its export licence was a key plank in a turnaround plan.

*Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/business/bellamys-australia-hits-another-roadblock-in-china-as-export-licence-suspended-20170706-gx6gi5.html>*

## 12. China to spend \$104bn on property this year

**07/07/2017**

**Miklos Bolza**

**Australian Broker**

Global real estate investment from Chinese nationals is expected to hit \$104.5bn this year, according to a new report from property portal Juwai.com.

These figures are lower than the record highs of 2016 when China poured \$133.7bn into property across the world. Australia received the second largest share of this outflowing capital, Juwai's Chinese Global Property Investment Report found.

For specific amounts invested in Australian property, data from the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) found that Chinese buyers were approved to purchase \$23.8bn of property in 2015-2016 and \$18.4bn in 2014-2015.

Juwai's estimate of \$104.5bn is calculated from real estate purchases made by both corporate and individual investors and is based on the firm's own data as well as that of industry and government.

*Read more: <http://www.brokernews.com.au/news/breaking-news/china-to-spend-104bn-on-property-this-year-238471.aspx>*