

Media Roundup Issue 37 (09/09/17 – 15/09/17)

1. Trade battle looms as China curbs coal imports to help local miners

10/09/2017

Angus Grigg

Australian Financial Review

China has moved to restrict coal imports in an effort to provide further support to its local industry, a move sure to hurt Australian miners which have benefitted from big supply cuts on the mainland over the last year.

The first sign of what is being described as an "unofficial" government policy came in recent days when the Port of Guangzhou, the largest in southern China, halted coal imports.

The Port denied this in a statement, after reports began circulating late last week, but *The Australian Financial Review* has confirmed with analysts and traders that restrictions have been put in place.

Read more (Paywall):

<http://www.afr.com/business/mining/coal/trade-battle-looms-as-china-curbs-coal-imports-to-help-local-miners-20170910-gyedqo>

2. China's Fuyang Farming weighs MG bid

11/09/2017

Bridget Carter & Scott Murdoch

The Australian

Inner Mongolia Fuyang Farming is believed to be the latest Chinese party weighing a bid for embattled milk producer Murray Goulburn, joining other such as the listed a2 in the contest.

Another company understood to be interested is China Resources, which already owns a stake in the company.

Speculation emerged almost two months ago that Chinese parties and private equity firms were making inquiries with financiers about securing a loan to buy the business.

Only weeks ago, Murray Goulburn's adviser Deutsche Bank began knocking on the door of prospective suitors, and now a sale of the dairy co-op is in full swing.

Bids are due on September 15 and flyer documents are now out circulating in the market.

Fuyang Farming is a 79 per cent shareholder in Victoria's Burra Foods.

Read more (Paywall):

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/dataroom/chinas-fuyang-farming-weighs-mg-bid/news-story/da3fd60145ca22632ffa85d1672caf38>

3. Student denounces himself over 'incorrect' map of China

12/09/2017

Primrose Riordan

The Australian

The editor of a Melbourne blog for Chinese students in Australia has been forced to publicly denounce himself after he published an "incorrect" map, illustrating the wave of nationalism among Chinese students.

Gao Song, the editor of the Melbourne student Wechat blog, was forced to denounce his actions after he used the online map — which did not include Taiwan as a Chinese territory — in an earlier blog post.

Expressing contrition, he said: "When we want people of other countries to respect one China, to respect the truth, we ourselves shouldn't make mistake, and spread the wrong information."

He also urged other students to promote a "complete China" including Taiwan.

Read more (Paywall):

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/student-denounces-himself-over-incorrect-map-of-china/news-story/7624324e7b3928ed8c03bee0de080f59>

4. China overtakes Australia in university humanities ranking

13/09/2017

John Ross

The Australian

Australia has surrendered its claim to the Asia Pacific's best arts university, in the latest sign that local higher education is giving ground to regional rivals.

Peking University has shot up ten places in a league table of tertiary-level arts and humanities institutions, breaking into the top 20 of the *Times Higher Education* ranking. Meanwhile the best-placed local, Australian National University, slipped eight places to fall out of the top 30.

ANU was also overtaken by universities in Hong Kong and Singapore.

The ranking, released this evening in Seville, lists the world's best tertiary institutions in the teaching and research of art, design, languages, history, philosophy, theology, architecture and archeology. Its publication comes a week after *THE's* overall ranking of universities placed Peking and nearby Tsinghua universities ahead of Australian chart-topper Melbourne University.

Read more (Paywall):

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/china-overtakes-australia-in-university-humanities-ranking/news-story/75fe35d4025e5073aa1ec93d24c3b9d6>

5. Melbourne top for Chinese property buyers

14/09/2017

Elizabeth Redman

The Australian

Melbourne has cemented its status as most popular city in Australia for Chinese buyers of residential real estate, two sets of new figures show.

The interest from buyers offshore comes even as they face a squeeze from both countries, with Victorian and federal governments introducing levies for foreign purchasers in the city, and China cracking down on capital outflows.

Buyers have been drawn to the southern capital given its status as the world's most liveable city, its range of sought-after schools and universities and its relative affordability compared with Sydney, real estate agents said.

More than 40 per cent of inquiries about Australian residential property made on Chinese property portal Juwai.com during the first seven months this year - focused on Melbourne, up from 35.6 per cent a year earlier. By contrast, Sydney drew only 17.5 per cent of inquiries this year, barely edging up from the previous year.

Read more (Paywall):

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/property/melbourne-top-for-chinese-property-buyers/news-story/9a87d842798a01a3e8c505a396b6ea47>

6. China accuses ADF of encircling it amid military exercises

14/09/2017

Primrose Riordan

The Australian

Australia has been accused of “encircling” China, in an article published by the official newspaper of the Chinese Communist Party, The People’s Daily.

The analysis article discusses Australia’s involvement in the ongoing Indo-Pacific Endeavour multinational military exercises, which started on September 4. The exercises are likely to involve 1200 Australian Defence Force personnel and HMAS Adelaide.

The article suggested that because Australian ships would cross the South China Sea and the East China Sea, they were directed at China. “Excluding Vietnam, the Australian Army fleet will visit almost all countries across the South China Sea and the East China Sea that surround China,” the article’s author wrote.

Read more (Paywall):

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/defence/china-accuses-adf-of-encircling-it-amid-military-exercises/news-story/0f43e58341114283c6b36c4c9b515e9a>

7. Chinese stores charging 'ridiculous prices' for Australian baby formula, fuelling daigou trade

14/09/2017
Frank Chung
News.com.au

Scenes of shoppers frantically stripping baby formula from shelves for resale into China have caused outrage among some Aussie mums — but are the “daigou” really to blame?

The number of daigou, or personal shoppers, has exploded since 2014 to around 80,000, some of whom make upwards of \$100,000 a year snapping up sought-after brands from shelves and selling them to Chinese customers via social media apps such as WeChat.

While brands such as A2, Aptamil and Bellamy's have begun selling direct into China through physical retailers and e-commerce platforms such as Tmall, the daigou trade shows no signs of slowing.

Read more:

<http://www.news.com.au/finance/business/retail/chinese-stores-charging-ridiculous-prices-for-australian-baby-formula-fuelling-daigou-trade/news-story/653c5c194ff6567e75a0a4b4aa5d1555>

8. Smashing the 'butter fruit': Australia looks to feed China's growing avocado demand

14/09/2017
Katrina Yu
SBS News Online

Five years ago avocados were virtually unheard of in China, but a rapidly growing middle class has seen demand for foreign avocados skyrocket.

Located between the tall office buildings of Beijing's CBD sits Chaan, a western-style salad bar catering to the city's increasingly health-conscious army of white-collar workers.

Zhu Hui, 35, is a regular customer of the fruit.

"I first heard about avocados when watching a foreign online video about their nutrition and beauty benefits," she told SBS News.

Read more:

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2017/09/13/smashing-butter-fruit-australia-looks-feed-chinas-growing-avocado-demand>

9. Ciobo out to resolve Chinese beef with Australian abattoirs

15/09/2017

Rowan Callick

The Australian

Tourism, Trade and Investment Minister Steven Ciobo is hoping that annual top-level economic talks with Chinese counterparts in Beijing today and tomorrow will resolve the ban on imports from six Australian abattoirs.

He said yesterday, while commending China's positive approach to the issue: "Obviously I am seeking to restore normal trade as soon as possible again." The ban was imposed in July.

Senior veterinarians of Australia's Department of Agriculture and Water Resources have visited each of the abattoirs to ensure that they have acted to address the compliance issues — which are related to labelling, not quality, Mr Ciobo has stressed.

The department has sent a report to China's quarantine authority, listing the responses the companies have completed.

In his fourth visit to Beijing this year, Mr Ciobo will be meeting China's Commerce Minister Zhong Shan for talks that comprise the annual economic commission between the countries.

Read more (Paywall):

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/ciobo-out-to-resolve-chinese-beef-with-australian-abattoirs/news-story/54cee7008faf623409f7f1734f0b306a>

10. Alibaba gives Australian vitamins companies a boost

15/09/2017

Eli Greenblat

The Australian

Australia's vanguard of vitamins and supplements companies doing a roaring trade in China are set to get an extra boost to their already strong profiles in the region with the country's leading online trading site, Tmall Global, announcing it will collaborate with Chemist Warehouse, Swisse, Blackmores and Sanofi Consumer Healthcare.

Alibaba, China's largest e-commerce company and owner of Tmall, signed individual agreements and memorandums of understanding in Melbourne today between Tmall and the four companies.

The Tmall Global collaborations are expected to build capability in marketing and product traceability, while opening new sales channels for the brands to reach more of China's growing middle class.

Read more (Paywall):

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/companies/alibaba-gives-australian-vitamins-companies-a-boost/news-story/d5df0d7a1ca03585e992a2a49448f713>