

Media Roundup Issue 68 (21/04/18 – 27/04/18)

1. More tourists in Australia now come from China than New Zealand

21/04/2018

**Jason Karaian
Quartz**

This week, Australia's statistics agency reported that the country received a record number of Chinese tourists. The ranks of visitors from mainland China have swelled so much that they now outnumber New Zealanders, long the top source of tourists to Australia.

Just under 1.4 million Chinese tourists visited Australia in the year to February, the latest data available. Local market watchers reckon that the annual flow of visitors from China to Australia could double over the next decade. Like in many other places, Chinese tourists spend the most of any group in Australia, bringing an economic boost to destinations that cater to their habits and tastes. (Around 40% of Chinese tourists travel on a package tour, according to the UN World Tourism Organisation.)

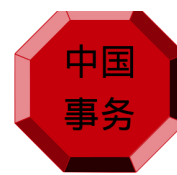
Read more: <https://qz.com/1258898/chinese-tourists-in-australia-now-outnumber-visitors-from-new-zealand/>

2. What's the 'dirty secret' of Western academics who self-censor work on China?

21/04/2018

**Phila Siu
South China Morning Post**

Australian academic James Leibold was looking forward to having his work published in a special edition of *The China Quarterly*. His study of the impact of the Belt and Road Initiative on ethnic minorities in China had taken him two long years, but he was confident his paper – which argued state surveillance in Xinjiang was at odds with the aims of Beijing's trade initiative – was finally ready for public consumption.



But then Leibold found two fellow academics from European universities had suddenly had second thoughts about publishing their work alongside his. A discussion ensued and collectively they decided about a month ago not to submit any of their papers. Leibold's piece would have to wait. "We had a long conversation. They were concerned they wouldn't be granted visas to China. It was self-censorship," said Leibold of La Trobe University. "It's regrettable this happened."

Read more: <http://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/2142643/whats-dirty-secret-western-academics-who-self-censor-work-china>

3. Kevin Rudd accuses Malcolm Turnbull of offending China

23/04/2018

Rachel Baxendale

The Australian

Kevin Rudd has accused Malcolm Turnbull of egregious behaviour towards China and publicly "punching the Chinese in the face".

The former prime minister seized on comments Mr Turnbull made in December that "the Australian people have stood up", accusing him of derailing the relationship with our largest trading partner.

Read more (Paywall): <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/kevin-rudd-accuses-malcolm-turnbull-of-offending-china/news-story/aacd37d98257b8787e030a4464d52560>

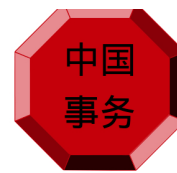
4. Chinese migrants snub Australia's \$5m 'golden ticket' visas

23/04/2018

Ben Doherty

The Guardian

Australia's controversial significant investor visa – the so-called "golden ticket" visa aimed at Chinese investors who invest \$5m in Australia – is being snubbed by wealthy migrants, with applications at their lowest levels.



A Productivity Commission report in 2016 said the program should be scrapped, suggesting it was prone to rorting and money laundering, and brought little benefit to Australia.

Australia's financial intelligence agency, Austrac, reported in 2016 that there were "difficulties in identifying the source of funds and wealth for customers on significant investment visas, as this wealth is often acquired in foreign jurisdictions".

Read more: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/apr/23/chinese-migrants-snub-australias-5m-golden-ticket-visas>

5. Big chill between China and Australia

23/04/2018

Graeme Dobell
The Strategist

The fifth icy age has descended on China–Australia relations—cooling business, frosting diplomacy and chilling strategic perspectives.

China has put Australia into diplomatic 'deep freeze'.

China speaks of 'a growing lack of mutual trust', accusing Australia of 'systematic, irresponsible, negative remarks and comments regarding China'. Australia concedes 'tensions' while blaming 'misunderstandings and mischaracterisations'.

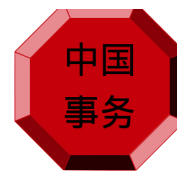
Read more: <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/big-chill-china-australia/>

6. The Beijing way of trade punishment

23/04/2018

Richard McGregor
The Interpreter

On 18 April, *The Australian* newspaper reported that Chinese students had "defied" warnings from their government about safety in Australia and enrolled in record numbers in the country's universities for 2018.



It was a nice image, of brave families and their children standing up to an authoritarian government so they could study in democratic bliss down under. With an air of dread hanging over bilateral ties, the article qualified as a rare good news story.

Read more: <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/beijing-way-trade-punishment>

7. Too busy: why Turnbull will struggle to meet Xi Jinping this year

23/04/2018

Kirsty Needham

The Sydney Morning Herald

Chinese president Xi Jinping has met with 12 presidents and prime ministers in 2018, plus King Tupou VI of Tonga. The roll call includes multiple African nations with which China is establishing "Comprehensive strategic cooperative partnerships" - Zimbabwe, Namibia, Cameroon. Austria agreed to a "Friendly strategic partnership".

But there is a big question mark over whether Malcolm Turnbull will make it to China in 2018. Turnbull has admitted "tension" in a relationship that has ups and downs. If a leaders meeting fails to eventuate, it will be a significant shift - down - in the Australia-China relationship.

Read more: https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/too-busy-why-turnbull-will-struggle-to-meet-xi-jinping-this-year-20180423-p4zb2w.html?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=nc&eid=socialn%3Atwi-13omn1677-edtrl-other%3Annn-17%2F02%2F2014-edtrs_socialshare-all-ann-ann-vars-o%26sa%3DD%26usg%3DALhdy28zsr6qiq

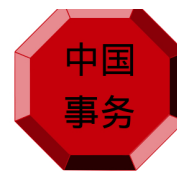
8. Former Australian prime minister talks China under Xi Jinping

24/04/2018

Trisha Thacker

Brown Daily Herald

Former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd joked about interacting with many Chinese youth who seemed to prioritize materialism over Marxist ideals — just



one of many examples of China's multidimensionality — while discussing China's future prospects. In a talk titled "Understanding China under Xi Jinping," Rudd delved into the current political situation under China's president yesterday afternoon as a part of the Watson Distinguished Speaker Series and the China Initiative.

Read more: <http://www.browndailyherald.com/2018/04/24/former-australian-prime-minister-talks-china-xi-jinping/>

9. 'Little bit of noise': Blackmores unfazed by China-Australia tension

24/04/2018

Darren Gray

The Sydney Morning Herald

Tensions between China and Australia have created a "little bit of noise" but will not affect Blackmores sales in Asia despite them being below expectations in the March quarter, says the head of the vitamins company.

Chief executive Richard Henfrey said sales in China topped \$100 million for the first nine months of fiscal 2018 as the company reported its second highest net profit and group revenue.

Read more: <https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/little-bit-of-noise-blackmores-unfazed-by-china-australia-tension-20180424-p4zbdo.html>

10. An Australian defence official reportedly confirmed China's desire for increased military presence in the South Pacific

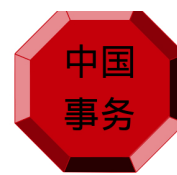
24/04/2018

Tara Francis Chan

Business Insider Australia

Senior levels of Australia's defence force are said to believe China wants to increase its military presence in the South Pacific via the island nation of Vanuatu.

China "has certainly expressed its interest" in upping its military presence on Vanuatu, an 80-island archipelago 1,750 kilometres (1,090 miles) east of the



Australian coast, a senior defence official told 9News. It's unknown how far along those talks are or the extent of China's presence.

Read more: <https://www.businessinsider.com.au/australia-confirms-china-military-presence-in-vanuatu-2018-4?r=US&IR=T>

11. Framing the Australia-China relationship

24/04/2018

Alex Joske

The Strategist

A flurry of attacks on the Turnbull government's handling of the Australia-China relationship has captured the media's attention. First a columnist for the *Financial Review* on a Fortescue-funded trip to China's Bo'ao Forum punched out three stories critical of the government's 'considerable anti-China rhetoric', citing businessmen and nameless Chinese officials.

In due course, China's ambassador granted the *Australian* an interview in which he stated that 'systematic, irresponsible and negative remarks' had harmed bilateral relations. 'It is detrimental to the image of Australia in the eyes of the Chinese public. It is something that neither side would like to see,' Ambassador Cheng Jingye said.

Read more: <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/framing-australia-china-relationship/>

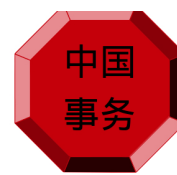
12. Mass resignations at Chinese owner of Australia's largest dairy farm cast doubt on investment

25/04/2018

Christopher Knaus

The Guardian

A mass board resignation at the Chinese firm that bought Australia's largest dairy farm has fuelled concerns it may not fulfil the promises of local investment and environmental protection that convinced the Turnbull government to sign off on the sale.



Moon Lake Investments attracted scrutiny in 2015 when it offered \$280m for the Van Diemen's Land Company, which owned Australia's largest dairy farm in north-western Tasmania.

Read more: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/apr/25/mass-resignations-at-chinese-owner-of-australias-largest-dairy-farm-cast-doubt-on-investment>

13. Australia's Chinese ballistic missile problem

26/04/2018

Peter Layton

The Interpreter

Late last year in Australia, there was sudden interest shown in ballistic missile defence (BMD). Although the driver was North Korea's missile testing, the real issue is China.

China's latest ballistic missiles, combined with its new island bases, are steadily undercutting Australia's ability to defend itself without relying on foreign combat forces. Our four decades-long defence policy of self-reliance is in danger. China is altering the local strategic balance, and Australia's defence force structure may need to change in response.

Read more: <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/australia-s-chinese-ballistic-missile-problem>

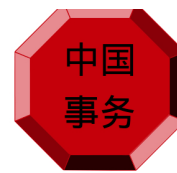
14. Aussie retailers ramping up Alipay marketing

26/04/2018

Dan Wilkie

Australia China Business Review

Up to 57,000 retailers in Australia and New Zealand will be given the opportunity to target Chinese tourists with discounts and offers prior to their arrival, under a new marketing arrangement through payments providers Smartpay and Incentipay using Alibaba Group's payments platform Alipay.



Under the deal, the two Australian payments providers will leverage merchants across their networks to promote goods and services to Chinese Alipay users planning to visit Australia and New Zealand.

Read more: <http://www.acbr.com.au/aussie-retailers-ramping-alipay-marketing>

15. Australia's Chinese personal shoppers about more than baby formula — it's a \$1 billion industry

26/04/2018

Michael Vincent

ABC News

Ever seen people clear entire shelves of baby formula at your local pharmacy or supermarket?

Those shoppers may be Daigou — the Chinese practice of buying on behalf of someone else. It's a relatively simple business. Daigou can make between \$5-\$10 profit on each tin of formula.

An order will be sent or negotiated [via WeChat \(the Chinese messaging service\), which has inbuilt cash transactions](#). Then it's just a matter of shopping, packing and sending the product (including receipts) to the Chinese buyer.

Read more: [http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-26/daigou-chinese-personal-shopping-\\$1-billion-industry/9671012](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-26/daigou-chinese-personal-shopping-$1-billion-industry/9671012)

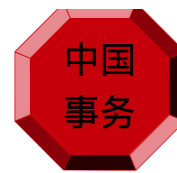
16. Kevin Rudd thinks he's still relevant to China-Australia relations

26/04/2018

Fergus Ryan

Crikey

The Australia-China relationship is in a deep freeze, and if we're to believe [the China lobby](#), it's all because Malcolm Turnbull made gratuitous use of a (probably apocryphal) quote from Chairman Mao.



Turnbull's proclamation in December that "Australia has stood up", was so egregious that, according to the [AFR](#), "the Chinese" were "particularly outraged" by it and regarded it as "a totally unnecessary and deliberate insult". Mao's pickled body may have been turning in its mausoleum, but on Weibo (China's souped-up version of Twitter), the [reaction from regular Chinese people](#) ranged from bemusement to mild amusement.

Read more: <https://www.crikey.com.au/2018/04/26/kevin-rudd-china-weibo-australian-relations/>

17. China waging 'psychological warfare' against Australia, US Congress told

27/04/2018
Ben Doherty
The Guardian

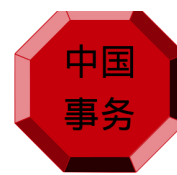
The Australian academic Clive Hamilton has told a US congressional committee China is waging a "campaign of psychological warfare" against Australia, as America's most significant ally in the region, undermining democracy and cowing free speech.

Hamilton, vice-chancellor's chair in public ethics at Charles Sturt University, is the author of *Silent Invasion: China's Influence in Australia*, a book which was dumped by Allen & Unwin last year over fears of legal action by Beijing, before being published by Hardie Grant.

Read more: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/apr/27/china-waging-psychological-warfare-against-australia-us-congress-told>

18. China's recycling 'ban' throws Australia into a very messy waste crisis

27/04/2018
Jenni Downes and Elsa Dominish
The Conversation



Federal Environment Minister Josh Frydenberg is meeting with his state and territory counterparts today. Top of their agenda? The recycling crisis precipitated by the China “ban”.

States and councils around the country have been struggling since the imposition of import restrictions that exclude 99% of the recyclables that Australia previously sold to China.

Read more: <https://theconversation.com/chinas-recycling-ban-throws-australia-into-a-very-messy-waste-crisis-95522>

19. Australia dumped from Indian Malabar naval exercises

27/04/2018

**The Australian
Primrose Riordan**

Australia’s push to rejoin India’s major Malabar naval exercises has failed ahead of a meeting between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in China today.

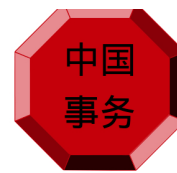
Defence yesterday confirmed Australia would not be a part of Exercise Malabar this year, despite Canberra lobbying New Delhi to be a part of the major multilateral naval drill. Australia’s exclusion has been viewed by experts as a casualty of India’s warming ties with China and a blow to efforts to revive the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, which the Turnbull government has been keen to promote.

Read more (Paywall): <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/defence/australia-dumped-from-indian-malabar-naval-exercises/news-story/3ea0096056c0287f022057fba7cbdb6e>

20. Clamorous response to a Silent Invasion

27/04/2018

**Geremie Barmé
The Interpreter**



An ill-fated business deal, a major corruption case, and protestations from Beijing about the visit of a dissident made the year 2009 something of an *annus horribilis* for Australia's relations with the People's Republic of China. It also marked the collapse of the Labor–Liberal Coalition policy bipartisanship that had, for the most part, ensured stability and continuity in this country's relationship with a nettlesome trading partner and burgeoning regional power. For me, however, the latest wave of bilateral disquiet really started on the eve of 24 April 2008, the day China's Olympic Torch relay reached Canberra.

Beijing was to host the summer Olympics that August and, in the lead-up to what many hailed as China's global "coming-out Party", the Olympic Torch was making a 129-day, 137,000-kilometre trek during which numerous torchbearers would carry what the Chinese dubbed the "sacred flame" through countries on all continents and through every province and region.

Read more: <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/clamorous-response-silent-invasion>