

LA TROBE ASIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Governance	4
Public Events	5
Website.....	7
La Trobe University’s ‘Asia knowledge broker’	7
Making La Trobe a genuinely Asia-focused institution.....	11
Lead and inform public debate in Australia about Asia and contribute to public debate in the region.....	11
Appendix 1	13

Cover Photo: India Gate (Aasif Iqbal J)

Image used for the India Strategy, endorsed by La Trobe University in 2016

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This report provides a detailed overview of the range of activities undertaken by La Trobe Asia in its third year.

Introduction

La Trobe Asia strengthens and deepens the University's academic engagement by building strong partnerships, supporting research and shaping public debate.

Since 2014 La Trobe Asia has fulfilled this mission by:

- Providing strategic advice and support for Asia related activities and collaborations across La Trobe University
- Increasing students' engagement and knowledge of the diverse cultures, languages and histories of Asia
- Providing a focal point to showcase work by scholars research and teaching in the region
- Connecting external groups with our active research community
- Providing financial support to La Trobe University academics who research in Asia through various grant programs
- Expanding our networks in Asia including universities, government, think tanks and NGOs
- Promoting La Trobe University Asia related news and research through publications and podcasts
- Leading public debate in Asia and Australia through public events, policy engagement and media activity

Governance

La Trobe Asia Steering Committee

The work of La Trobe Asia is overseen by its Steering Committee. The membership of the Steering Committee in 2016 was:

- Professor Keith Nugent, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Chair
- Professor Jane Long, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor
- Professor Anthony McGrew, Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Arts, Social Science and Commerce
- Kelly Smith, Pro Vice-Chancellor, International
- Dr Catherine Itsiopoulos, Head of Department Rehabilitation, Nutrition and Sport, College of Science, Health and Engineering

The Steering Committee met five times during 2016 and minutes of the meetings are available on request to any staff member of La Trobe University.

La Trobe Asia Advisory Board

La Trobe Asia's Advisory Board provides advice and guidance to the Vice-Chancellor and the Executive Director on developments external to the University, in particular into developments in Asia's tertiary sector, and opportunities for partnerships with Asian universities in research, teaching and student mobility. It also provides external advice on the operations of La Trobe Asia.

- Steven Foo, Head – Asia Business Development, Australia Post
- Peter Frost, CEO, Deputy Auditor-General, Victorian Auditor-General's Office
- Professor Meenakshi Gopinath, former Principal, Lady Sri Ram College
- Allan Gyngell, former Director of the Office of National Assessments
- Linda Jakobson, Director, China Matters Ltd
- Professor Robin Jeffrey, National University of Singapore
- Dr Geoff Raby, Chairman and CEO, Geoff Raby & Associates
- Emeritus Professor John Rosenberg
- Professor Paul Yip, Director, Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention, The University of Hong Kong
- Professor Khatijah Yusoff, Dean, Faculty of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)

The Advisory Board met twice during 2016.

The board was appointed for an initial two-year term that ended in 2016. A new board will be appointed in 2017.

Public Events

Public lectures, forums, and seminars provide a platform for La Trobe Asia to showcase La Trobe University academic talent, to make contributions to issues of public debate both in Australia and abroad and engage the University community. Events were open to staff and students as well as members of the public, and were held across Victoria, Singapore, China and Japan.

In summary:

- Over 25 different events (seminars, public forums, delegations, symposiums, launches, showcases, networking) were held in 2016 (see Appendix 1).
- La Trobe Asia collaborated with 18 different internal and external groups to present these events and combined attendance exceeded 1100.
- Speakers including La Trobe University academics presenting their expertise, as well as visiting scholars and guests such as:
 - Professor Paul Yip (Director for the Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention, University of Hong Kong)
 - Professor Khatijah Yusoff (Dean of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences, University Putra Malaysia)
 - Professor Wang Jisi and Professor Jia Qingguo (Peking University)
 - Professor Yan Xuetong (Tsinghua University)
 - Dr David McCrae (University of Melbourne)
 - Dr Nicole Curato (University of Canberra)
 - Professor Ian Hall (Griffith University)
 - Dr Yamini Narayanan (Deakin University)
 - Professor Hou Minyue (East China Normal University)
 - Professor Hugh White (Australian National University)
 - Linda Jakobson (China Matters)
- Events focused on a wide range of topics and issues in many different countries including China, India, the Philippines, Indonesia and Japan.
- La Trobe Asia continued to collaborate with the Australia India Institute by participating in their pop-up event *Why India Matters* at the University of Melbourne, a co-hosted panel discussion on India's future at the State Library Victoria and guest presenter at one of their *Half-Baked Ideas* seminars.
- La Trobe Asia facilitated three events at M Pavilion (designed by an Indian architect Bijoy Jain of Studio Mumbai) in November 2016:
 - ***Hands, Feet, Mind – an afternoon of performance and ritual.*** An afternoon of activities from Asian culture including Bollywood dancing and henna painting.

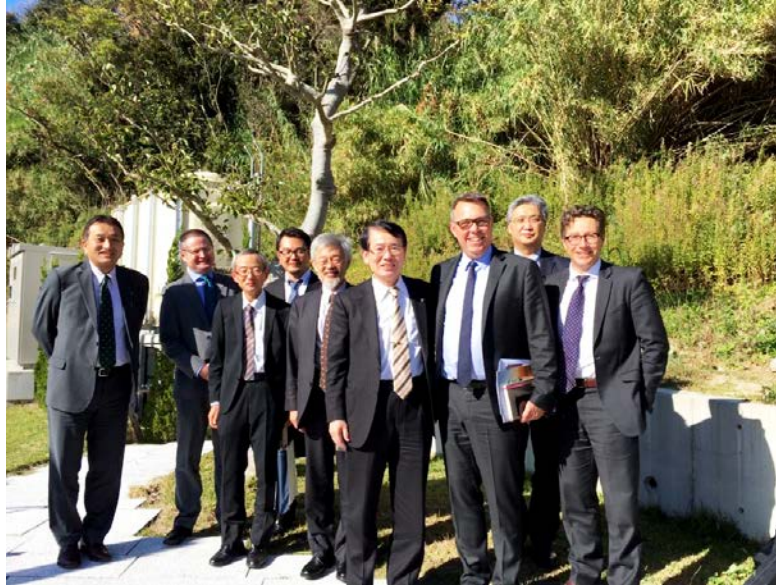
- ***The Mahabharata – Old and New.*** An evening talk presented by Dr Greg Bailey, Associate Professor in Asian Studies at La Trobe University explored one of the two major Sanskrit epic narratives.
 - ***Global (Sub)Urbanism: Asia, Australia and the making of (sub)urban cultures.*** A panel discussion which blended critical issues and ideas for contemporary urban change by positioning them in urbanising South Asia, and concurrently in the making of place and process of belonging amongst a South Asian diaspora in Australian suburbia. Chaired by Dr Andrew Butt from La Trobe University. Panel members included Professor Peter Newman (Curtain University), Dr Michele Lobo (Deakin University), Dr Harry Fischer and Dr Trevor Hogan (both from La Trobe University).
- The relationship with Kyushu University was broadened beyond the Joint IMI relationship (launched in 2015) in March with a visit to Australia by five academics from Humanities and Social Sciences who took part in a research colloquium at La Trobe. The colloquium explored the possibilities for collaboration between the two partners, both in research and teaching, given the growing closeness of the two institutions and their shared commitment to internationalization of academic activity. "The group established an excellent rapport and there is a great deal of enthusiasm for the connections that we are seeking to foster," said Professor Nick Bisley, Executive Director of La Trobe Asia. "I am convinced that we have a strong foundation to further develop the relationship and to foster first rate collaborative research and teaching programs."

A return visit in December saw seven La Trobe academics travel to Fukuoka to further the research collaborations with the costs of both colloquia shared equally by the two institutions. Professor John Dewar, Vice-Chancellor also visited Fukuoka in December and met with President Chiharu Kubo which has helped to further develop the relationship.



Delegation from Kyushu University and La Trobe University Social Sciences Academics – March 2016

(Standing L-R: Chisako Masuo, Anton Luis Sevilla, Yangbin Chen, Yuji Tamura, Bec Strating, Ben Habib, Nobuhiro Aizawa, Yuki Hashimoto, Edward Vickers, James Leibold
Seated L-R: Keith Nugent, Joanna Poyago-Theotoky, Nick Bisley, Eri Hata, Kaori Okano)



Professor John Dewar (Vice-Chancellor La Trobe University) with President Chiharu Kubo (President Kyushu University) – December 2016

Website

The La Trobe Asia website continues to be a virtual showcase of La Trobe’s Asia work and has many resources including: podcasts, links to recent publications, op-eds, the library’s regional resources, news, events, grant information, strategies and research.

The La Trobe Asia website had **10,789 page views** in 2016 (down from 12,848 in 2015), with an average visitor traffic of **30 page views per day**. Peak traffic periods coincided with high-profile public events.

La Trobe University’s ‘Asia knowledge broker’

A key part of La Trobe Asia’s role is to support the Asia focused work of La Trobe staff both academic and professional. In 2016 we continued to collaborate with people across the University including: La Trobe International (LTI), La Trobe Abroad, Alumni and Advancement Office (AAO), Schools and Departments from both colleges, individual academics and researchers, student groups.

In 2016 La Trobe Asia had over 670 initial interactions such as information sharing, connecting people both internally and externally, invitations and requests for information or assistance of some kind. 64% of these interactions were with internal stakeholders.

By the end of December 2016, La Trobe Asia's database of contacts had increased to in excess of 1500. The database, along with the website, is used to publicise the work of researchers and academics at the University, highlighting stories about students and staff. Contacts receive regular newsletters and emails alerting them to events or information with an 'open' rate between 30-40%.

Building a knowledge network

- We have continued to work closely to support La Trobe Abroad with New Colombo Plan (NCP) applications and other student mobility issues.
- La Trobe University's India Strategy was endorsed in May 2016.
- Information has continued to be collected about the work undertaken by staff at La Trobe University that is Asia-related and used to further develop the Country Briefs for use internally at La Trobe University. The briefs capture the University's engagement in individual countries from transnational education (TNE), research, alumni, marketing, recruitment as well as general information from external sources such as the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to assist with increasing basic knowledge and understanding of Australia's engagement and cultural etiquette tips.

Promote the University's Asia vision and activities with the broader community in Australia and the region

La Trobe Asia has had 235 contacts with external bodies in a range of professional relationships, most notably:

- La Trobe Asia collaborated with East China Normal University to present the inaugural Australia-China Forum in Shanghai on 11 September 2016. Around eighty people attended this event, which explored important issues in the significant partnership between the two countries.

Speakers Professor Hou Minyue (Head of the Department of English at East China Normal University), Dr Geoff Raby (Chairman & CEO Geoff Raby & Associates, Former Australian Ambassador to China), and Lisa Murray (China Correspondent for the Australian Financial Review) talked about the changing political landscape, cultural values, and economic concerns that China and Australia have with each other, and the likely influence from global changes and pressures.

The event was well attended by La Trobe University alumni, East China Normal University students, and other members of the local Shanghai community. It was chaired by Professor Nick Bisley (La Trobe Asia) and Professor Chen Hong (East China Normal University), and introduced by Professor John Dewar (Vice-Chancellor, La Trobe University).



- In addition to relationships with East China Normal University and Kyushu University, La Trobe Asia has continued to develop relationships on behalf of the University with: the Australia India Institute (AII), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Foundation for Australian Studies in China (FASIC), The Australian Academy for the Humanities, China Matters, and the Institute for South East Asian Studies, Singapore (ISEAS).

- A panel was co-hosted in collaboration with Deakin University, and the Foundation for Australian Studies in China. It was attended by approximately 140 people who heard three eminent Chinese scholars deliver some very illuminating perspectives on how China perceives the world.
 - Professor Wang Jisi (Peking University) spoke on China and international order and China's different images and the different understandings of the nation.
 - Professor Yan Xuetong (Tsinghua University) focused on the China government's concept of 'one-belt, one-road' and its implications.
 - Professor Jia Qingguo (Peking University) explored China's perception of the United States politics and the current candidates for the presidency.

It was chaired by Professor Nick Bisley (Executive Director, La Trobe Asia), introduced by Professor Gary Smith (Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement), Deakin University) with closing remarks by Dr Chengxin Pan (International Relations, Deakin University).



- A panel in November, at the State Library Victoria, examined the rise of China, how it will affect the balance of power in the world, and how America should respond. It was co-presented by the Ideas and Society Program in collaboration with La Trobe Asia at the State Library of Victoria.

SPEAKERS:

Hugh White (Professor of Strategic Studies, Australian National University)

Linda Jakobson (Founding Director of China Matters)

John Fitzgerald (President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities)

CHAIR: Professor **Nick Bisley** (Executive Director of La Trobe Asia)

The panel was attended by over 100 people, and the lively talks and subsequent discussion presented thoughtful and conflicting views on China's rise and what the reaction might be, both by America and other global players. Activity in the South China Seas and China's historical claims to territories were also discussed.



John Fitzgerald, Linda Jakobson, Nick Bisley and Hugh White – November 2016

- La Trobe Asia published its second and third issues of the 16 page print publication *Asia Rising* focussing on Asia related research. The publication is intended to showcase the work of La Trobe academics to improve knowledge of this work both internally and externally and is available for download from our website.



Making La Trobe a genuinely Asia-focused institution

- The Research Grant Program established in 2014 has continued to disburse funds to La Trobe academics to support their Asia-focused research or research with Asia-based collaborators. To date there have been more than a dozen publications in quality academic journals with another dozen or so submitted to journals as a result of these small grants.
- Each year the La Trobe Asia Steering Committee determines the eligibility criteria. In 2016 only early career researchers were eligible to apply and \$29,227 was awarded to six academics from the departments of Social Enquiry; Physiology, Anatomy and Microbiology; Public Health; Animal, Plant and Soil Sciences; and Languages and Linguistics for research in countries including: China, India, Japan and Malaysia.
- The La Trobe Asia Visiting Fellows grant program continued in 2016 with four Fellows visiting La Trobe from National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Kyushu University and Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology. \$36,880 was awarded to bring these Fellows to La Trobe to work with academics and students for extended periods of time and support research collaborations.

Lead and inform public debate in Australia about Asia and contribute to public debate in the region

La Trobe Asia and Asian related experts and research has had **69 interactions** with the media, including the following highlights:

- The Executive Director published 19 Op-Eds in national and international venues, there have been four other Asia focused Op-Eds from La Trobe academics published in 2016.
- The Executive Director has made numerous media appearances, including appearing on John Batchelor Show (syndicated show across the US), regularly contributing news analysis on ABC Breakfast, Bloomberg News, The Project. He has been quoted in Time Magazine, The Guardian, Australian Financial Review, Financial Times, Japan Times, Bloomberg, South China Morning Post, Vietnam Express and Politikerer (Denmark).
- 19 journal publications, three book chapters and 1 book were published in 2016 and highlighted on the La Trobe Asia website (under Publications) and at least 45 recorded media references related to the Asia-focused work of many at La Trobe University has been noted.

Podcasts

Asia Rising as a podcast series began in March 2014. At the end of 2016 it had reached episode #57. In 2016, 34 recordings were made (27 podcast interviews and seven recordings of public events).

- Downloads 2016: 181,579
- Downloads cumulative: 326,053

Note: These numbers include both the podcast interviews (Asia Rising) and public lecture recordings which are published separately to the interviews. This represents a 50% increase on 2015 downloads.

The consistent subscriber audience appears to be around 2,500, but there seem to be a larger audience who download only the episodes that interest them.

Top 10 downloads of 2016

1. Trump vs China (Nick Bisley) - 7,669
2. Australia-China Relations: The Next Chapter (public panel) - 7,624
3. Suicide Prevention in Hong Kong (Paul Yip) - 5,284
4. The World is Trumped (Nick Bisley, Kumuda Simpson-Gray) - 5,130
5. The Philippines' Future (public panel) - 4,589
6. Little Comfort for Comfort Women (Nicola Henry) - 4,539
7. India and Waste (Robin Jeffrey) - 4,482
8. Indonesia's Foreign Policy (Rebecca Strating, Evi Fitriani) - 4,408
9. How Cheap Mobile Phones Changed India (Robin Jeffrey) - 4,241
10. Uyghur Nation (James Leibold, David Brophy) - 4,163

Appendix 1

Name of event	Date of Event	Type of Event	Partner	Topic	Number attended
Kyushu University	3-4 Mar-16	Research Symposium	Kyushu University	Asia	18
Student Mobility Workshop Bundoora	11-Mar-16	Workshop	La Trobe Abroad	Asia	30
Professor Paul Yip – A Public Health Approach for Suicide Prevention	17-Mar-16	Seminar	School of Psychology and Public Health	Hong Kong	91
Professor Khatijah Yusoff – Killing the killers: viral cancer vaccines from farms to bedside	17-Mar-16	Nancy Millis Lecture	Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Microbiology	Malaysia	36
Student Mobility Workshop Bendigo	22-Mar-16	Workshop	La Trobe Abroad	Asia	19
Chongqing University	31-Mar-16	Delegation	Confucius Institute	China	16
Book Launch	1-Apr-16	Launch	Department of Social Inquiry	Indonesia	40
Australia-China Roundtable	4-Apr-16	Roundtable by invitation only	Deakin University and FASIC	China	22
The View from Beijing	4-Apr-16	Public Forum	Deakin University and FASIC	China	142
Track II Security Cooperation Workshop – Strengthening the East Asia Summit	29-Apr-16	Workshop by invitation only	ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute	South East Asia	29
Kyushu University	6-May-16	Delegation	DCV Research	Japan	10

Indonesia at the crossroads: the future for Australia's northern neighbour	7-Jul-16	Public Forum	Department of Politics and Philosophy	Indonesia	60
The Philippines' future: will Duterte take it on the right path?	15-Jul-16	Public Forum	Philippines Australia Studies Centre	Philippines	43
Morning Tea to welcome La Trobe Asia Visiting Fellow	1-Aug-16	Morning Tea/Networking	Department of Mathematics and Statistics	Japan	13
India's future: can it realise its potential?	30-Aug-16	Public Forum	Department of Languages and Linguistics	India	82
Australia-China relations: the next chapter	11-Sep-16	Public Forum	AAO / East China Normal University	China	78
Using social media to prevent suicide: an experience from Hong Kong	20-Oct-16	Seminar	Department of Public Health	Hong Kong	20
Science Research Showcase	3-Nov-16	Symposium		Asia	30
Ideas and Society: How to respond to China's rise	3-Nov-16	Public Forum	Ideas and Society	China	106
NCP Short Term Programs Workshop	10-Nov-16	Workshop by invitation	La Trobe Abroad	Asia	10
Health Research Showcase	11-Nov-16	Symposium		Asia	15
Chongqing University	14-Nov-16	Delegation	Confucius Institute	China	15
Australian Academy of the Humanities Annual Symposium	17-18-Nov-16	Symposium	Australian Academy of the Humanities	Asia	100
China Research Showcase	23-Nov-16	Symposium		China	23

China Pivots West: Ethnic Tensions and Human Security along the 'New Silk Road'	1-2-Dec-16	Research Symposium	Departments of Politics and Philosophy and Languages and Linguistics	China	39	
Kyushu University	5-7-Dec-16	Research Symposium	Kyushu University	Asia	22	
Total number of events	26		Total number of partners	18	Total attendees	1109