HAYMARKET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HCC News – March & April 2024

President's Welcome

Inflation numbers released by the **Australian Bureau of Statistics** (ABS) last week may have just dashed the hopes of businesses and home loan borrowers for cuts in interest rates this year. Inflation for the first 3 months of 2024 was up 1 per cent (which was above market expectations) compared with the December quarter increase of 0.6 per cent. Annual inflation as at end of March 2024 was 3.6 per cent.

Some economists expressed the view that the **Reserve Bank of Australia** (RBA) will continue to maintain a restrictive monetary policy until at least the first half of 2025, with others even suggesting that there could be a rate hike or two to bring the RBA's target inflation to between 2-3 per cent. The cash rate has stayed at 4.35 per cent since Nov 2023, and had been raised 13 times from 0.1 per cent in May 2022.

The retail numbers released two days ago, however, tell a different story of what's happening in our economy. Retail sales grew by only 0.8 per cent for the year March 2023- March 2024 and significantly, contracted by 0.4 per cent in the month from February to March 2024. These are said to be the worst set of retail numbers since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The RBA, in possession of these conflicting data, is likely to continue to monitor the economic numbers and global developments and hold on to its view that "a further increase in interest rates cannot be ruled out", not least because the impact of the upcoming Budget to be delivered on 14 May 2024 by **Treasurer Jim Chalmers** will need to be assessed.

An over-expansionary Federal Budget could have an adverse impact on the fight against inflation. All shall be revealed by the Treasurer on 14 May. Two of our Chamber members, **RSM Australia** and **William Buck**, will be hosting their respective Federal Budget webinars the morning after on Wednesday 15 May 2024 and we invite you to participate (full details and registration links below).

I wish you a productive month of May as the increase in our productivity will also contribute to the lowering of inflation.

Vincent Lim
President

Latest News

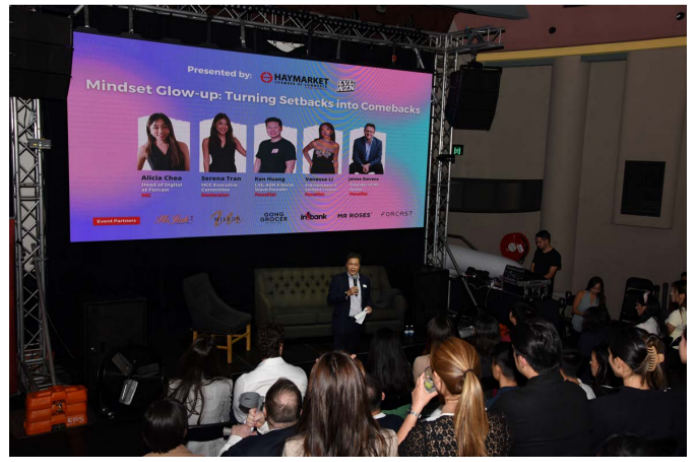
HCC Young Leaders Panel Event, Thursday 18 April 2024

Our **Young Leaders Panel discussion and networking event** was held at the ***six:twelve*** event space in Haymarket on 18 April 2024.

The panel topic was ***Mindset Glow-Up – Turning Setbacks into Comebacks***. The feedback that we have since received was that the panel discussion was informative, enlightening and inspiring. We are most grateful to our amazing MC **Alicia Chea**, moderator **Serena Tran**, and panellists **Vanessa Li**, **Kan Huang** and **James Stevens**. We also thank our special guest **Councillor HY William Chan**, representing **Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore AO,** for joining us and for his speech.

To all our event partners **LVL:AZN**, **Ho Jiak**, **Millon Wines**, **Gong Grocer**, **in1bank**, **Mr Roses** and **Forcast**, a BIG thank you for your generous support.

Below are some photos taken at the event and there are also many more on our Chamber website.



Presented by:
HAYMARKET
Mindset Glow-up: Turning Setbacks into Comebacks
Alicia Chen
Serena Tran
Kan Huang
Vanessa Li
James Stevens
GONG GROCER
inbank
MR ROSES
FORCAST
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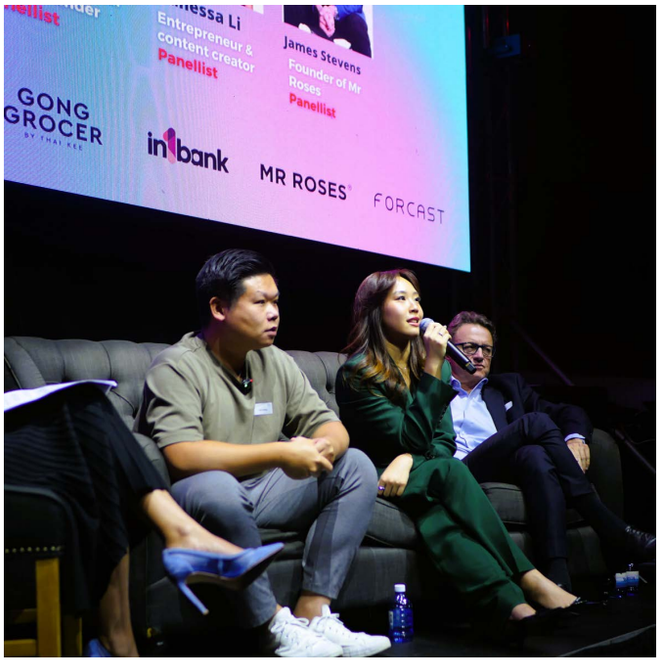
Entrepreneur &
content creator
Panellist
James Stevens
Founder of Mr
Roses
Panellist
GONG
GROCER
BY THAI KEE
inbank
MR ROSES
FORCAST

HAYMARKET
Your Partner
in
Business,
Community
& Culture

Invitation to HCC & RSM Australia Asset Protection Seminar and Networking Event Thursday 9 May 2024

Haymarket Chamber of Commerce and RSM Australia would like to invite you to an informative business seminar and networking evening at RSM's office in Sydney **on Thursday, 9 May 2024 from 6 pm – 8 pm.**

The seminar will be on **Asset Protection Strategies for Businesses and Individuals** and will cover the following topics:

1. Asset Protection Strategies: Basic Business Structures
Speaker: Anne Seah
Synopsis: How to protect your assets using Trusts and Companies.

2. Asset Protection Strategies: Special Situations
Speaker: San Koh
Synopsis: How to preserve and enhance asset values.

3. Superannuation and Upcoming Changes
Speaker: Grace Bacon
Synopsis: How superannuation can assist with asset protection. Upcoming changes to superannuation legislation.

Date: Thursday, 9 May 2024
Time: 6 pm – 8 pm
6.00 pm – Guests arrival, registration, and networking. Canapés and drinks will be served.
6.30 pm – Welcome.
6.40 pm – Seminar presentation, followed by Q & A
7.30 pm – Business networking continues.
8.00 pm – Event concludes.

Venue: RSM Australia, Level 13, 60 Castlereagh St, Sydney, NSW 2000

Tickets: $20 for members, $30 for non-members
Places to this event are limited, please book early to avoid disappointment!

BOOK HERE

Click here for the profile of each of our speakers, **Anne Seah**, **San Koh** and **Grace Bacon.**

The 2024 Premier's Harmony Dinner

Photo: Multicultural NSW

The Premier's Harmony Dinner **was held at ICC Sydney** on Thursday 14 March 2024.

Each year, this event is hosted by the Minister for Multiculturalism in the presence of the Premier of New South Wales and is held to recognise the significant contributions made by multicultural leaders in NSW.

Just as in past years, the highlight of this year's event was the announcement of the outstanding recipients of The 2024 Premier's Multicultural Community Medal Winners - Multicultural NSW and inductees to the Multicultural Honour Roll being exceptional individuals who have played an instrumental role in shaping our harmonious society.

Congratulations to all the 2024 medal winners!

One of these special winners is a good friend of the Chamber's, **Mr Tony Pang OAM**, who was awarded the **2024 Lifetime Community Service Medal.** Tony has been actively volunteering his time and efforts to community services, multiculturalism, community harmony, and social justice for over 33 years. A detailed summary of Tony's lifetime achievements and contributions may be found here on the Multicultural NSW's website. Congratulations Tony, and we acknowledge and thank you for all your hard work and contribution over all these years.

We would also like to congratulate the CEO of Multicultural NSW **Joseph La Posta and his team** for the event's enormous success.

More photos here at the Multicultural NSW's Facebook page.

CDU Sydney Campus's 10th anniversary celebration

Photo: Michael Thompson

Congratulations to our Chamber member **Charles Darwin University** on its Sydney Campus's 10th anniversary and the official opening of its Level 8 by **Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore AO** on 21 March 2024.

CHARLES
DARWIN
UNIVERSITY
AUSTRALIA

CHARLES
DARWIN
UNIVERSITY
AUSTRALIA
Celebrating 10 years of Charles Darwin
University Sydney

Welcome to Charles Darwin University
Sydney 10 Year Celebration and
Official O
Level 8

Meeting with NSW Minister for Multiculturalism

On 20 March 2024, at the invitation of the NSW Minister for Multiculturalism, **the Hon. Stephen Kamper MP**, various representatives of the Chinese Australian community met with the Minister and his departmental staff for afternoon tea and an informal discussion on issues affecting our local community.

The Chamber was represented by our President, Vincent Lim, and our executive committee members Simon Chan AM (a member of the Multicultural NSW Advisory Board, and also attending as President of the Chinese Australian Forum) and Jessie Xiao (also attending as President of the Way In Network), and our Chamber founder Peter Wong who was also representing Soul of Chinatown.

2024-2025 Federal Budget Debrief Webinar

Our Federal Treasurer, the **Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP**, will be delivering the nation's **Budget for 2024-2025** at approximately **7.30 pm AEST on Tuesday, 14 May 2024.**

To get a full understanding of what is in the delivered Budget and how it affects you or your business, you can join two of our Chamber members, **RSM Australia** and **William Buck**, for a budget debrief the next day, on **Wednesday 15 May 2024 at 10 am AEST.**

To join the **RSM Australia budget debrief webinar**, click HERE.

To join the **William Buck budget debrief webinar**, click HERE.

Webinar on Cyber Security for Professional Practices – 15 May 2024

In today's digital age, safeguarding sensitive information is paramount.

Our Chamber member **Athena Partners,** in collaboration with the **City of Sydney Law Society**, will be hosting a webinar to empower legal practitioners and professional practice owners with **essential cyber security education**. They are committed to equipping you with the knowledge and tools that you need to navigate the complex landscape of cyber threats confidently.

Date: 15 May 2024, 5:30 pm – 6.30 pm AEST
Location: Zoom
Cost: $66 inc of GST

About the webinar:
Geared towards professionals seeking to understand and/or integrate cyber security into their practice management, this webinar offers a comprehensive understanding of the prevailing cyber threat landscape. It delves into common threat scenarios, introduces the cyber resilience framework tailored for small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs), and provides essential and practical ways to strengthen cyber resilience within your professional practices. The primary goal of the webinar is to equip professional practitioners with the confidence and knowledge needed to address cyber security as part of their practice management.

For further details and registration CLICK HERE

City of Sydney's Reboot 2024 free webinars are back: Grow your business with experts from leading companies

Last year, thousands of small business owners, retailers and creatives signed up to the **City of Sydney's free weekly webinars**and learned all things brand building, online audience connection, networking and customer growth.

This year **Reboot i**s back with a new series of free weekly webinars focused on mastering social media, elevating ecommerce, embracing AI innovation, and navigating challenges for resilient business growth. The upcoming seminars are:

- Bricks to clicks: build an online business empire with **Kelly Slessor**, eCommerce expert – 7 May 2024
- Power of AI to enhance productivity and profit with **Izzy Whitelock**, CEO Ma'at Collective – 14 May 2024
- Retail in the age of the empowered customer with **Nancy Georges**, Retail strategist – 21 May 2024
- Diversity dream: creating inclusive workplaces with **Claudia Barriga-Larriviere**, People & Culture Director – 28 May 2024
- Customer connection: gain loyalty and drive growth with **Merlin Luck**, Regional VP Salesforce – 4 June 2024
- Cybersecurity serenity: calming online threats with **Cole Cornford**, CEO Galah Cyber – 11 June 2024
- Alternative models for business growth with **Tom Dawkins**, CEO StartSomeGood – 18 June 2024
- Unbreakable business: building resilience with **James MacDonald**, MD Newy Tech People – 25 June 2024

Bookings are essential, don't miss out!

The Reboot webinar series is brought to you by the **City of Sydney**, and proudly supported by the **Service NSW** Business Connect program.

How to protect your finances from a relationship breakdown - by Grace Bacon

It is becoming increasingly important for people to think about protecting themselves financially in case of a relationship breakdown.

It may not be romantic, but it's crucial.

You can read the full article on how to protect your finances by Grace Bacon, Director of RSM Financial Services Australia, HERE on RSM's website.

We would like to thank our Chamber member, **RSM Australia**, for sharing this article with us.

New Members

Natalie Markovski, CBA Haymarket Branch

My name is Natalie Markovski, and I am the Branch Manager of the Commonwealth Bank Haymarket branch located at 691-693 George Street.

I am a dedicated branch manager with 14 years' experience leading a team of 20 people with my three home lenders Carrie Liu, Lu Mo and Cissy Zhang and our Business Banker Andy Guan.

My years of experience have honed my skills in navigating complex financial landscapes and delivering excellence in customer service. We are deeply committed to supporting and empowering communities, small businesses, and customers.

Our passion for making a difference drives us to provide exceptional service and tailored financial solutions. We strive to foster relationships built on trust, transparency, and mutual respect. We believe in the power of collaboration and innovation to create meaningful impacts for our clients and the community.

With a focus on personalised care and strategic guidance, we are dedicated to helping individuals and businesses achieve their financial goals and aspirations.

Richard Lu, Elite Property Consulting

Elite Property Consulting is a buyers agency based in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney, helping both investors and also home buyers purchase their next home in Sydney.

Richard Lu, the founder of the company, has over 10 years of sales and negotiation experience spanning over construction, finance, and real estate.

Prior to starting Elite Property Consulting, Richard worked for one of the biggest construction companies in Australia, Metricon Homes. He started his buyer agency to change one's mindset on how to purchase a property and to challenge the conventional way of how real estate is bought. His philosophy is that everyone should have a fair go at purchasing a property at a fair price and he has helped countless clients achieve that.

They call him "Mr Worldwide" as he will hunt that deal down anywhere in Sydney for you, saving you time, money, and hassle.

Richard's success is backed by testimonials from many of his happy clients. If you know anyone requiring assistance to purchase a home in Sydney, feel free to reach out to him.

HCC on social media

The Chamber is on social media, including Facebook and Instagram. Please keep up to date with the latest news from Haymarket and give us a follow and like!

JOIN HCC

If you would like to join the Haymarket Chamber of Commerce as a member, or would like to have more information about us, please visit our website at haymarketchamber.org.au

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