



Chinese Skaters, Musicians and Artists Head to Australia in Landmark Cultural Exchange

Skate of Mind tour brings young people from China to the Northern Territory and Sydney, building on a historic people-to-people exchange — supported by the Australian Government and the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations

A unique people-to-people exchange between Chinese and Australian young people continues on 4 August as the Skate of Mind tour welcomes its Chinese delegation of skateboarders, musicians and digital artists to Australia, delivered in partnership with Build Up.

Running from 4 to 16 August, the tour takes the group on a twelve-day journey from Darwin through Kakadu, Katherine and Litchfield, before wrapping up with a major event at Carriageworks in Sydney — building on the friendships formed during the first leg of the tour in Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Shanghai in May.

Developed by Big hART, one of Australia's most established arts and social change organisations, this second leg is delivered in partnership with Build Up and continues to be supported by the Australian Government and the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations, as part of a broader effort to strengthen people-to-people ties between the two nations.

Having connected in China through skateparks and creative residencies, the group will now experience Australia's Top End — sharing skateboarding, music and digital art with communities across the Northern Territory before an immersive finale in Sydney.

Community skate events in Katherine and Darwin will bring the group together with local skaters, with the tour also taking in Kakadu National Park and Litchfield National Park along the way. The tour concludes with a public event at Carriageworks in Sydney, extending the exchange to a national audience.

The Australia tour is the second leg of the broader Skate of Mind pilot program, following the China tour in May 2026.

“Touring Skate of Mind through Hong Kong, Guangzhou, and Shanghai was life changing. Endless marble street spots and iconic skateparks allowed our team to connect easily with the local skate community. It is amazing how the language of skateboarding transcends all borders creating a community and encouraging participation from all ages and skill levels no matter where we go. We can’t wait to bring over the legends we met on the trip and blow their minds in the Northern Territory!”— Lincoln Smith, Skate of Mind Producer, Big hART

“Skateboarding is a much-loved grassroots sport here in Australia and a great way to connect youth from Australia and China”—Nancy Gordon, CEO, National Foundation for Australia-China Relations

The Itinerary

Date	Location	Activity
4 August	Darwin	Team arrives
5 August	Darwin	
6 August	Darwin	
7 August	Darwin-Jabiru	Drive
8 August	Kakadu (based in Jabiru)	Day trip to Kakadu
9 August	Jabiru-Pine Creek	Drive
10 August	Pine Creek-Katherine	Drive & Skate event, Katherine
11 August	Katherine-Darwin	Drive, with a stop in Litchfield for lunch/swim
12 August	Darwin	Skate event, Darwin
13 August	Darwin-Sydney	Fly
14 August	Sydney	
15 August	Sydney	Carriageworks event
16 August	Sydney	Team flies out

The Australian Team

Felicity Turner	Skateboarder
Ben Currie	Skateboarder
Sam Larkins	Skateboarder
Sam Saddleton	Skateboarder
Sabine Bester	Musician, Digital Artist
Lincoln Smith	Big hART Producer
Locky Rankin	Big hART Producer
Ben Douneen	Skater and Videographer
Karabou Mooki	Photographer

The Chinese Team

Zhisha Cui	Skateboarder
Lok Hang Fung	Skateboarder
Brian So	Skateboarder
Senzhen Lin	Skateboarder
Wang Guohua	Skateboarder

Delivery Partner

This leg of the tour is delivered in partnership with **Build Up Skateboarding**, an organisation dedicated to youth empowerment through skateboarding across regional and remote Australia. Build Up will support the tour’s community skate events and engagement across the Northern Territory.

About Skate of Mind

Skate of Mind is a touring collective of skaters, filmmakers, photographers and artists. Through community events, workshops and immersive arts experiences in regional communities, Skate of Mind promotes youth mental health and social cohesion — using skateboarding as a bridge. The Skate of Mind 2026/27 Tour aims to build connection between Australian and Chinese young people through skateboarding, music and film.

About Big hART

Big hART is one of Australia’s most established arts for social change organisations, making art, building

community and driving positive change for over 35 years.

www.bighart.org

About Build Up Skateboarding

Build Up Skateboarding aims to empower young people via skateboarding engagement. Its programs — including remote programs, youth mentoring, school-based programs and skatepark activations — provide a safe environment for participants to explore their creativity, build confidence and develop social skills, with a focus on creating access to skateboarding for regional and remote communities across Australia.

www.buildupskateboarding.com.au

About the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations

The National Foundation for Australia-China Relations supports people-to-people and institutional links between Australia and China. The Foundation funds projects that build greater understanding between the two countries across a range of sectors including arts, culture, education and sport.

www.australiachinafoundation.org.au



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