LATVIJA FOKUSĀ
Melburna, Austrālija | 06.11.2026

LATVIA IN FOCUS
a forum for entrepreneurs, professionals
and students in the diaspora
Melbourne, Australia, The Langham Melbourne
1 Southgate Ave, Southbank VIC 3006
November 6, 2026

EVENT PROGRAM*

Time	Topic	Speaker
09.15 - 10.00am	Participant arrival and registration, Coffee	
Session I - in English, moderator: Sabīne Kazaka		
10.00 - 10.15am	"Latvia in Focus" Opening Remarks	H E Samija Šerifa, Ambassador of Latvia to Australia Pēteris Blumbergs, Chairman of the World Federation of Free Latvians (WFFL) Sabīne Kazaka, Head of the Australia and New Zealand Office, Investment and Development Agency of Latvia
10.15 - 10.45am	Latvia's economic and political outlook: Challenges, Opportunities and… Australia	Dr. Daunis Auers, professor at the University of Latvia and Director of the Latvian Strategy and Economic Research (LaSER) think tank
10.45 - 11.20am	Digital Latvia: Innovation, Connectivity, Growth	Aiga Irmeja, Executive Director at Latvian IT Cluster/Digital Innovation Hub
11.20 - 12.30pm	Panel Discussion: Latvian–Australian Economic Cooperation Following the Free Trade Agreement - New Opportunities in a Digital Economy	Moderator: Sabīne Kazaka, Investment and Development Agency of Latvia Panelists: Linda Bleakley (Sustainability and climate policy expert), Aiga Irmeja (Latvian IT Cluster), Imants Kīns (CiTech)
12.30 - 1.30pm	Lunch and networking break	
Session II - in Latvian with English translation, moderator: Matīss Kukainis		
1.30 - 1.40pm	"Latvia in Focus" second session welcome	H E Zanda Grauze, Ambassador of Latvia to the Diaspora Anita Andersone OAM, Chair of the Latvian Federation of Australia and New Zealand
1.40 - 2.00pm	Connecting Latvian Entrepreneurs Worldwide – World Latvian Economic and Innovation Forum (PLEIF)	Pēteris Blumbergs, WFFL
2.00 - 2.20pm	Employment Policy in Latvia: Services Offered by the State Employment Agency To Identify and Build Connections with Students and Young Professionals in the Latvian Diaspora	Evita Simsone, Director of the State Employment Agency of Latvia
2.20 – 2.50pm	A Changing Geopolitical Landscape: What It Means for Latvia	Dr. Una Aleksandra Bērziņa-Čerenkova, Director of the Latvian Institute of International Affairs Moderator: Dr. Daunis Auers
2.50 – 3.10pm	Latvia's Global Image: the Investment and Development Agency's Experience and Role in Promoting Latvia	Ilze Mičule, Diaspora Coordinator for Economic Issues, Investment and Development Agency of Latvia
3.10 - 3.40pm	Coffee and networking break	
3.40 - 5.00pm	2 Panel Discussions: Global Latvians, Local Impact - Creating Value for Latvia (focusing on Latvia's image, work in Australia, and opportunities for cooperation with Latvia)	Moderator: Mārīte Kļaviņa, Deputy Board Chair, World Federation of Free Latvians *Panel I*: Honorary Consuls Mārtiņš Bičevskis, Mārtiņš Česlis, Jānis Dēliņš, Mārtiņš Tuktēns, Varis Līdums *Panel II*: Anita Andersone, Zanda Grauze, Matīss Kukainis, Ēriks Rolavs
5.00 - 5.30pm	Culture as an Export: Latvia's Creative Voice on the World Stage	Moderator: Dr. Daunis Auers "Fireside Chat" with Ēriks Ešenvalds, world-acclaimed composer, Ilze Paidere-Staķe, Managing Director, Latvian Radio Choir, Aldis Sils, Music Director, Adelaide Philharmonia Chorus
5.30 - 5.40pm	Closing remarks	
5.40 - 7.00pm	Evening Reception Featuring a Special Performance by the Latvian Radio Choir, Informal Conversations and Networking	

**Please note that the event organisers reserve the right to make changes to the program as necessary.*

LATVIJAS EKSPORTĒTĀJU ASOCIĀCIJA "THE RED JACKETS" · Latvijas Investīciju un attīstības aģentūra · PASAULES BRĪVO LATVIEŠU APVIENĪBA · Ārlietu ministrija · Nodarbinātības valsts aģentūra