

from: Metro Internal Comms to:date: 28 March 2013 10:38
subject: Message from Garry Linnell | Beijing correspondent

All,

He has spent six years peering through the thick smog to give us and our readers a ringside seat at one of the great events of the 21st Century - the rise of China.

But now John Garnaut has decided it's time for some fresh air.

He and his family will pack up and leave Beijing in June and head to Melbourne, where he will spend the next six months completing his latest book before taking up a senior role with Fairfax Media.

It's been a remarkable tour of duty where he has broken new ground as a correspondent in a very difficult journalistic environment. From his reportage through to his commentary and analysis, John's work has charted China's rise as an economic and military power through to its internal struggles with ideology, corruption and its rapidly changing social conditions.

John won a Walkley award in 2009 for breaking news of the arrest of Rio Tinto's chief iron ore salesman, Stern Hu. He also reported the devastation and miracles that came out of the Sichuan earthquakes of 2008 and the Japanese tsunami of 2011.

We're not the only ones to have noticed his considerable body of work. Just a few months ago *The New York Times Review of Books* observed that "Garnaut has made a name for himself by reporting on the princeling faction in Chinese politics with articles appearing in *the Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age*..."

On behalf of all of us across all of our mastheads and platforms, I'd like to thank John for some truly outstanding work and welcome him back to Australia.

Said John: "For all its jagged edges, Tara and I have loved living in China and engaging closely with its remarkable people and their stories. Our three kids have grown up here and consider Beijing to be their home. I'd like to thank all my editors at *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* - and there's been a few - for the unfailing support they have shown to the Beijing bureau and to me personally in the role. It has been an enormous privilege."

Applications are now open for the position of Beijing correspondent and should be sent to our Foreign Editor, Connie Levett, by Friday, 12 April.

Garry Linnell
Editorial Director
Metro Media