This was Professor James Guthrie’s fifth visit to CAGS as a member of RPP and once again he had a very busy and productive stay in CAGS in January and February 2014.

As Head of Academic Relations for the Institute of Chartered Accountants (the Institute), Professor Guthrie with Professor Roger Burritt, coordinated collaboration of the 5th forum in the CAGS/Institute Thought Leadership Series called “The accounting profession’s engagement with Asia”, held on the 4th of February 2014 in the Bradley Forum.

The forum, with local and international speakers from academia and regulators, focused on the role of the accounting profession in Asia’s growing economies and environmental challenges. It explored how costs compared with quality in the considerations of students looking to study internationally.

James held discussions among professional accounting bodies, practitioners and academics and says, “Right now, Australia is one of the most popular destinations for students in Asia seeking to study internationally, particularly business and accounting. The quality of our education is a major factor in this.”

“But as the standard of education in Asia improves, and competition for international students in the rest of Asia gains momentum, we need to make sure we remain competitive. Last year, Australia’s international education sector generated over $15 billion in export income, according to the International Education Advisory Council”.

He added, “This is a huge source of revenue we cannot afford to lose, particularly now with the mining boom over and the country looks towards other sectors to step up.”

“With the support of federal government policy, we need to consider how business and higher education providers can take a more proactive role in growing the international sector in Australia. It could be through work experiences opportunities with study or reviewing specific curriculum topics that appeal to international students.”

“With over 80 key stakeholders assembled from all facets of the accounting profession, the forum was a critical step in opening dialogue and facilitating ongoing collaboration,” says Professor Guthrie. “It’s about forming meaningful partnerships with Asian universities and being more strategic in a hotly contested market,” he said.

The Institute and the Centre for Accounting, Governance and Sustainability (CAGS) at the University of South Australia are looking forward to launching the subsequent Thought Leadership publication at the AFAANZ Conference in Auckland, July 2014.
James met regularly with staff and students including: Professor Roger Burritt, Professor Lee Parker, Associate Professor Sumit Lodhia, Dr Basil Tucker, Associate Professor Glen Lehman, Dr Kym Thorne, Dr Elvia Shauki, Dr Susan Briggs and PhD scholars; Miss Mitali Panchal and Sanjaya Kuruppu. In addition, he also met with Professor Christine Hellier, as well as Dr Frederica Farneti, a current visitor to CAGS.

Amongst the guidance James provided was feedback on promotions, career opportunities, grant applications and/or participation in new grant initiatives, and discussion of opportunities for publishing with the CAGS’ academic journals. James also consulted with Professor Roger Burritt on maximising research output and performance and engaged with staff members in one-on-one meetings on the recommendations from this consultation.

Various further and more spontaneous shorter and longer research discussions with PhD students and researchers are not specifically listed here.