

# International House magazine



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**

—  
International  
House

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“There are few things in life more enriching than sitting around the International House dining table full of people from different countries discussing their cultures, backgrounds and world events. It made me a global citizen in a way nothing else could have.”

**Ruchir Punjabi, IH 2005–07**

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Organised annually by SUIHAA, the Rosemary Berrick photography competition celebrates the significant contributions of Rosemary Berrick, who was instrumental in establishing International House’s library and archives.

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We acknowledge the tradition of custodianship and law of the Country on which the University of Sydney campuses stand. We pay our respects to those who have cared and continue to care for Country.

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Cover: Composite photograph of International House, viewed looking south from City Rd (1970 & 2018). Photo: Loklan Glance.  
Inside cover: International House rotunda, interior, 1967.  
Photo: International House archives.



Manasa Marasani at the 2018 "Wonka" themed i-night. Photo: Sharon Hickey.



# From the chair of council and director

## A message about the future of International House

For more than 50 years, International House has played a pivotal role in bridging the cultural divides of countless Australian and international students at the University of Sydney. As you may be aware, our current building on City Road has reached the end of its life and will need to be vacated by the end of 2019. The Council of International House has arranged with the University to temporarily relocate our residents to a new student accommodation building on the old Regiment site on City Road from Semester 1, 2020.

Our mission of fostering international understanding and friendship, by providing students of different nationalities and cultures with the opportunity to live and learn together, will continue. While some logistical details are still being worked out, we assure our residents and alumni that our priority is to preserve International House's exceptional community spirit as we move into the new building.

The move to the new residence is an interim solution while we continue to work with key University departments including Campus Infrastructure Services (CIS), Student Accommodation Services and the University Executive to assess all available options for the long-term future of International House. To date, no decision has been made regarding plans for the current site. Negotiations with the University will continue to ensure that IH remains a valued institution of the University and continues to foster its mission for another 50 years and beyond.

We value your comments and suggestions and your continued support during this transition phase. We will continue to post regular updates on our website as they become available.

Yours,



**Steve Mark AM**  
Chair of Council, International House



**Jessica Carroll**  
Director, International House



## Then and now

After discovering the house's rich archives, resident Loklan Glance's fascination with Walter Bunning's iconic building has turned into a meticulous photo essay. See how much has changed – and what has stayed the same – over 51 years in the life of IH.

Written by Dr Bradley Kunda  
Photography by Loklan Glance





1A



1B



2A



2B



3A



3B





4A



4B



5A



5B



6A



6B





7A



7B



8A



8B

1A International House and the adjacent former Architectural Science buildings. c. 1970.

1B The WH Maze Block was opened in 1985, standing in place of the former Architectural Science buildings. It houses residential staff, postgraduate students, and visiting academics in self-contained apartments.

2A The dining hall in 1985.

2B As far as the dining hall is concerned, little has changed: Residents from all nations still bond around circular tables, although the quality of the food has arguably improved dramatically over time!

3A Cafeteria - 1977.

3B The cafeteria today, with long-time staff member Lionel Ingram.

4A Lunch out of doors, 1972. Taken from the third floor of East Wing.

4B The dining hall courtyard as it is today. Trees now surround much of the rotunda, but residents can still sit at outdoor tables to enjoy their meals.

5A Level 2 foyer, c. 1977

5B The level 2 foyer today. A resident photo board has replaced the old telephone booth, and a new security door separates the public space from private rooms. A landline phone remains as a nod to the past, and is frequently used by residents making lock-out calls to the senior resident after hours.

6A Rainbow on Easter Sunday, showing the rooftop as it was in 1990.

6B Large sun shades, plants, and outdoor furniture make the rooftop a favourite study and social space for residents today.

7A 3rd floor corridor viewed from the East Wing sitting room, 1977.

7B The telephone has been replaced by a fire extinguisher. And without a phone book, we still haven't figured out a use for the shelf!

8A View from City Rd, c. 1970.

8B International House today. The rotunda still stands, albeit almost invisible, behind the Seymour Centre and a magnificent array of trees.

See more of these pictures on the International House website:  
[sydney.edu.au/international-house](http://sydney.edu.au/international-house)



# New fellows of International House



Allan Moss AO at the 2018 fellows' lunch.  
Photo by Sharon Hickey.

At its annual fellows' lunch on 25 November, International House acknowledged three of its outstanding alumni as fellows. In addition to leading exceptional careers, these extraordinary alumni were recognised with fellowships for their significant contributions to the house.

## **Allan Moss AO (IH 1970–72)**

Allan Moss is a highly successful Australian businessman. He was the managing director and CEO of Macquarie Group Ltd from 1993 to 2008, having been a director of the company since June 1989. Previously he was a director of Hill Samuel Australia and led the team responsible for preparing the submission to the Australian Government to form Macquarie Bank in 1983.

He was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2005 "For service to the investment banking industry through innovative management practices and support for moves to raise standards in the financial services industry, and to the community."

In December 2015, he was appointed to the nine-member board of the Reserve Bank of Australia by Australian Treasurer Scott Morrison MP. Allan is currently the Interim Chairman of the Reserve Bank Board Audit Committee.

Allan received an MBA with high distinction from Harvard University, and a Bachelor of Arts with a major in economics as well as a Bachelor of Laws with honours, both from the University of Sydney.

In his speech for the 40th anniversary of International House, Allan Moss pointed to the importance of international students to the University not only for revenue, but also for the education of local students and for relationship



building. He spoke to the importance of having freedom to innovate; in teaching, in research, and in how universities provide services to international students: “The future of Australia and all the people of the region will depend on education and on international cooperation and understanding.”

Allan continues to be actively involved with alumni from his time at IH, engaging in reunions on an annual basis and being part of a group representing alumni to the University Executive to discuss matters of the house’s redevelopment.

Allan is married to Irene Moss, who is a lawyer and former commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

“I was fortunate to forge some strong friendships at IH, a number of which have continued to remain very strong over nearly half a century.”

**Allan Moss AO**

**Dr Peter Simpson OAM (IH 1967–69)**

Peter Simpson has been an educator for 50 years. He has lectured at three universities, including the University of Sydney, worked with young people in schools and university colleges, written books, and fostered excellence in chemistry education. Among his many distinctions, Peter is also the recipient of a green Australian Blazer for leading the Australian Chemistry Olympiad Team to Beijing in 1995.

In the first two years after the opening of International House, Peter was the assistant director and, together with Mrs Rosalie McCutcheon, worked hard to implement the vision of its founders and its inaugural director, Graeme de Graaff. Peter describes his time at the house as exhilarating. He relished the challenge of forming an adult society, where each house member took maximum responsibility, and of creating a community with a degree of maturity beyond that of any existing university residence in Australia.

In 2004 he was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to science education and to the community.

Dr Peter Simpson OAM at the 40th anniversary celebrations of International House in 2007.  
Image: International House archives.

“As one of the inaugural residents of International House, my vivid memory is of the enthusiasm and determination of our founding members – intent on creating a society within the house that was special, valuable to us residents and to the world at large, and genuinely unique.”

**Dr Peter Simpson OAM**







Dr Harald Bergsteiner.  
Photo by Sharon Hickey.

“I consider myself extraordinarily lucky to have had the opportunity to make lasting friendships with a most wonderful and diverse group of people from all corners of the world. A huge vote of thanks to all those who made this possible.”

**Dr Harald Bergsteiner**

#### **Dr Harald Bergsteiner (IH 1967–70)**

Harald Bergsteiner specialises in sustainable leadership and accountability. He is an honorary professor at the Australian Catholic University, an extensively-published author, and an advisor to government and the private sector.

Harry’s first degree was in architecture, a field in which he practised internationally until the mid-90s when his interests turned to management and leadership. His PhD, awarded in 2005, was in management (accountability modelling). He and his wife Dr Gayle Avery established the Institute of Sustainable Leadership (ISL) in 2007 with the purpose of promoting the science and practice of sustainable leadership through research and education.

In 2017, Harry was engaged to design and conduct a training program for senior representatives of 17 G77 countries on Thailand’s Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and the ISL’s Sustainable Leadership Practices.

Harry takes pride in the fact that he was the first applicant seeking to live at International House in 1967. He has passionately supported IH throughout its 50 years, attending many of its major events and serving on the IH Council for just over 10 years (from 2006 to April 2016). Harry has written articles for the SUIHAA newsletter, shown significant interest in the governance and long-term vision and sustainability of SUIHAA, lent his architectural expertise to the IH Council in forming proposals for the redevelopment of the house, and, together with his wife Dr Gayle Avery, taken over arranging the “pioneers” dinners for alumni from the early years of the house. Harry continues to make a valuable contribution to the house as a lecturer within the Global Leadership Program. Each year since the program started in 2015 he has delivered lectures on sustainable leadership and has also spoken on his and his wife’s influential work with the Government of Thailand.



Harry Bergsteiner accepting his fellowship at the 2018 fellows' lunch.  
Photo: Sharon Hickey.



# Davis Projects for Peace

## Breaking down barriers in Kenya

For IH resident Keshni Haria, empowering young girls with knowledge is her key to a more peaceful world

### **Tell us about your project: what did you set out to do?**

The goal of my project was to educate girls on sexual and reproductive health, menstrual hygiene management, and the consequences of teenage pregnancy, through interactive workshops facilitated in partnership with Femme International. The project also aimed to empower girls to make independent choices about their wellbeing, to establish a student club as a platform for support and sharing of knowledge, and to guide the girls in setting achievable goals that might propel them towards a career path.

### **How did you come up with the idea for your project?**

I consider myself fortunate to be part of the minority of Kenyan girls who have been able to finish high school, enroll in a university abroad, and have access to all basic needs. Sadly, this remains merely a dream for the majority. The plight of girls in rural parts of the country was brought to my attention when I completed an internship with the organisation Education for Marginalised Children in Kenya (EMACK). While conducting focus group discussions with groups of primary and secondary school girls, I discovered the daily challenges they faced that affected their school attendance and performance. Amongst several others, a major obstacle was the lack of access to

“Implementing this project has changed the way I perceive myself and the world. It has made me realise that resolving conflict within a community is a complex process that takes time and continuous reinforcement.”





sanitary pads. On average, a girl would have to miss at least 5-7 days of school every month because of not being able to afford them. There also seemed to be a stigma around the topic of menstruation, as many girls said they could not talk openly about it at home or school. In recent years, a rise in teenage pregnancies has resulted in school dropouts and compromised opportunities for girls to get an education and become independent.

Coinciding with the Sustainable Development Goals, I strongly believe that every girl has the right to quality education, and good health and wellbeing. There are still some communities in Kenya that are far from achieving these goals, and girls still face barriers to education

for reasons that are difficult to address. I realised that conservative ideologies are the root cause of conflict in communities with high numbers of teenage pregnancies and school dropouts. Therefore, to spread local awareness of this and to reach out to girls directly, I chose to implement an educational program consisting of a series of interactive workshops.

#### **Why did you choose to conduct your project in Kenya?**

Growing up in Kenya has exposed me to the harsh realities of the developing world. I am aware of the challenges that need to be addressed and solutions that would be appropriate to the region. As I have done other community outreach projects in my area before,

I was confident of the demographics and the national language (Swahili) and could relate well to the locals.

#### **Has your project changed the way you think about the world? How has it changed you?**

Implementing this project has changed the way I perceive myself and the world. It has made me realise that resolving conflict within a community is a complex process that takes time and continuous reinforcement. It takes shifting the mindset of an individual to manifest change within a larger group. Challenging stigmas requires the use of various approaches, tools, and outreach to different age groups.

I now understand that the magnitude of our plan of action does not

matter as much as making a start and planting the seed of change. Transforming ideologies that have prevailed for generations is a task that cannot be achieved overnight. But if sufficient awareness and mutual understanding is established, we can move towards a better society.

Discovering the challenges faced by the girls has made me feel more conscious about my own actions and thoughts. Before this project, I took a lot of things for granted, which would be perceived as privileges by the girls I worked with.

#### **How does your project contribute to peace?**

While I set out to educate girls on sexual and reproductive health, menstrual hygiene management, and the consequences of teenage pregnancy, in the long-term I hope my project can empower girls to make independent choices about their health and safety, and to ultimately remain in school for longer. Through the formation of a student club, I intended to create a platform for mentorship, the sharing of knowledge, and healthy self-management.

#### **How do you define peace?**

Peace could be portrayed as unity, understanding, and harmony between members of a community. However, peace also entails a more deep-seated and multidimensional definition. It translates to equal opportunities for both genders, empowerment, community support, and acceptance.

I hope to restore peace in the community by decreasing the number of school dropouts resulting from teenage pregnancy and a lack of sanitary pads, and improving attendance and academic performance in the school.

Every girl deserves to achieve her goals, ambitions, and independence, not just for the betterment of herself, but for the development of her community.

“I now understand that the magnitude of our plan of action does not matter as much as making a start and planting the seed of change.”



#### **About Davis Projects for Peace**

Inspired by the late philanthropist and internationalist Kathryn W. Davis, the Davis Projects for Peace grants scheme provides US\$1m each year to colleges and universities in the Davis United World College Scholars Program, for students to design and implement grassroots projects that promote peace. International House, as part of the association of International Houses Worldwide, participates each year in this initiative.

Visit [www.davisprojectsforpeace.org](http://www.davisprojectsforpeace.org) to learn more.



# Where is home? Third culture kids at IH

An upbringing spent living in different countries is a common thread that ties together many IH residents. But where is “home” when you’ve grown up among different worlds?

Written by Dr Bradley Kunda. Photography by Loklan Glance and Matthew Smith.





When first arriving at a residence like IH, it's terribly difficult to resist that tempting ice-breaker question, "Where are you from?" It should be a simple, harmless question to ask... shouldn't it? But how do you respond when you were born in Luxembourg to an English father and a French mother, and when most of your childhood and adolescence was spent variously in Bermuda, Hong Kong, and the UK?

People who identify with this itinerant and culturally diverse upbringing are often described as "third culture kids", and International House has become a magnet for them: Over a quarter of IH residents have either multiple citizenships or were born in a country different to one of their current "passport countries."

**"Home for them is really a work in progress. It's like a project on which they're constantly adding upgrades and improvements and corrections. And for more and more of us, home has really less to do with a piece of soil than, you could say, with a piece of soul."**

**Pico Iyer**

The term "third culture kids" (TCKs) was coined by sociologists John and Ruth Unseem in the 1950s to describe the children of American citizens working internationally. The term denotes a person who spent a significant part of their developmental years outside their parents' culture(s). Research in this field continues to evolve, with some sociologists now predicting that the unique experience of TCKs is a microcosm of what is quickly becoming normal throughout the world: "Growing up among cultural differences is already, or soon will be, the rule rather than the exception – even for those who never physically leave their home country" (Pollock, Van Reken, Pollock, 2017, p. 6).

The experience of TCKs (or ATCKs: *Adult* third culture kids) is fascinating. They are said to occupy a "neither/nor" space in the world – neither fully adopting their parents' cultures but also not fully immersed in the cultures in which they were raised. As it turns out, growing up among different cultures – "between worlds" – gives TCKs more in common with other TCKs than it does with citizens of the countries in which they've lived.

If you are a TCK, how does growing up "between worlds" affect your relationships with others, your sense of self, and your feeling of being "at home" in the world? We talked to some of our ATCK residents, alumni and staff to find out what "home" means to them.





### **Sherzad Nawroze (IH 2017)**

**Place of birth:** Luxembourg

**Mother's place of birth:**  
Normandy, France

**Father's place of birth:** London, UK

**Paternal grandfather's place of birth:**  
Karachi, Pakistan

I am usually someone who's very open, but I tend to get uncomfortable when someone asks me where I'm from, and the reason is that it's very difficult to pinpoint an exact answer. The answer varies depending on the situation and the time.

I feel that there's a blurred line between what "home" means to people. Is it where your family currently lives? Is it where you were born? Is it where you've lived? If someone were to ask me now where home is, I would say Hong Kong because that's where my family are residing.

When people ask me where I'm from, I look for nonverbal cues and I also assess their background – what type of person they are. And through this I tend to come out with the

response that I think would be most relatable to them. The classic example is when I studied my master's, and met someone from, for example, France, and they would ask me "So where are you from?", and I'd say, "You know actually I'm half French!"

Then someone else, perhaps a Chinese student, would ask the same question and I'd say, "You know, I'm living in Hong Kong!" When I was doing my master's, there was one guy who I used to hang around with, and by the end of my studies he was like, "Sherzad, I've heard you say you're from five different countries to five different people. Which one is it!?"

**"I feel that there's a blurred line between what "home" means to people. Is it where your family currently lives? Is it where you were born? Is it where you've lived?"**

**Sherzad Nawroze**



### **Katy Cuthbert (Deputy Director)**

**Place of birth:** England, UK

**Mother's place of birth:** Ireland

**Father's place of birth:** South Africa

I went to a little Catholic school in England until I was 7, and then we moved to Copenhagen for three years. After that then we lived in the US before moving back to England, so I went back with this American accent. Boys used to sing "Bye, Bye Miss American Pie" at me, so I took that for two years before coming to Australia.

When someone asks me where I'm from, I usually get a bit annoyed because I know that they've maybe picked up on the fact that I don't sound typically Australian. But I don't have an English accent either.

I first heard the term "third culture kid" through an interview with a prospective resident. They described themselves as a TCK. And I had this moment of "That's me, I didn't even know there was a term for it!" It's been wonderful to understand there's a concept for me, and then being able to share these experiences with others while questioning assumptions around identity and nationality.

**"That's me, I didn't even know there was a term for it!"**

**Katy Cuthbert**

**Stephanie Gascon (Bachelor of Commerce, 3rd year)**

**Place of birth: USA**

**Parents' place of birth: Philippines**

I was born in the US. For a while, when I was very young, I lived in Hong Kong with my parents, and then in the Philippines for most of my childhood. After that I moved to Singapore, where I spent my high school years and did a diploma before coming to Australia for uni.

Where I feel the greatest sense of being at home is a hard question to answer, because I've lived in quite a few places. I spent most of my formative years in Singapore, so I do feel a sense of familiarity with the place, but I also get a sense that I'm not quite *of* the place. My family is from the Philippines, but I didn't spend much time there and I'm not really

close to all my relatives there, so then there is also that disconnect. I barely spent any time in the US, and that was when I was very young, so it really is a hard question to answer. It depends who I'm talking to. When I moved to Sydney I wasn't sure what to expect, but I've found I like it more than I thought I would, and strangely I feel welcome here. Despite the relatively short time I've spent here, I think Sydney is a place that I might consider to be a home.

**“I spent most of my formative years in Singapore, so I do feel a sense of familiarity with the place, but I also get a sense that I'm not quite *of* the place.”**

**Stephanie Gascon**



**Arnav Shetty (Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Medicine, 1st year)**

**Place of birth: Bangalore, India**

**Grew up in: New Zealand (from 2 years of age)**

Where in the world do I feel the deepest sense of being at home? I'd say there are some rural places in India where I think, “This is very peaceful and very, very calm,” and I feel very natural there. So, there are

some places, but I don't identify with anywhere particularly. When I go back to New Zealand from Australia, I definitely feel a sense of relief – I know that! But I never felt that relief when I was living there. So, I guess home is wherever you return to – once you've gone away.

When I was going through middle and high school, I certainly thought it to be natural to adopt the culture that you're in and forget about your

old culture. But I've been thinking recently that it's only when people get to their late teens, do they accept and realise the depth and richness of the culture of their birth. This is especially important for those from Asian countries; most, such as India or China have an incredibly illustrious history going back thousands of years, just like the more widely known Western cultures.

One of the most important things for third culture kids is to appreciate that where they're from has a cemented place in the history of the world, no matter how the country may stand nowadays.

**“I guess home is wherever you return to – once you've gone away.”**

**Arnav Shetty**





**Matteo Marti (Bachelor of Architecture and Environments, 1st year)**

**Place of birth: Bern, Switzerland**

**Grew up in: Switzerland, India, Jerusalem**

I don't think "home" is something singular. Throughout my life, I have had to make home of other places because otherwise I wouldn't be comfortable. I've lived in Switzerland and India, but I've also lived in Jerusalem for four years. And for a long time, I considered India my home, but not anymore – that was a long time ago. But I do still consider Jerusalem my home.

I often associated being at home with being with my family, and now for the first time in my life being at

**"I often associated being at home with being with my family, and for the first time in my life being at home is not with my family."**

**Matteo Marti**

home is not with my family. My family is not even in Switzerland; they're making a new home in Kyrgyzstan, and for the first time I am completely disassociated from them. I can't relate in the same way to what "home" is to them. I've been to Kyrgyzstan to visit them once before, and I'm going again this summer. When I get there I'm still with my family, but the actual location of being in Kyrgyzstan doesn't feel like at home at all – I just feel like a tourist. While my family's completely comfortable – they live in it, they just go to school, and they know all the neighborhoods, what to do, the shopping malls – I'm completely lost. It's a weird experience.

Physical places are quite important I think, but what makes home for me is more the social connections and the group or community I live in, whether its family or just friends. I think that, slowly, Australia and International House are in this sense becoming home for me.



**Emille Kohl (Juris Doctor candidate, 2nd year)**

**Place of birth: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

**Mother's place of birth: Penang, Malaysia**

**Father's place of birth: Munich, Germany**

I went to a German school in Hong Kong. It's called the German-Swiss International School, and I went there for primary and secondary school. Then I went to the University of Hong Kong – quite the patriot!

People are very surprised when I mention I'm from Hong Kong. They would usually expect to see a more Chinese-looking person. They usually think I'm American because of my accent. And the way I explain it is that I have an "international school" accent, and that most of the kids from Hong Kong who go to international school have this kind of accent.

At first, I thought of a place as "home" based on knowing that place really well; knowing where everything is, where all the restaurants are, where all the entertainment is, and so on. But now, having lived in Sydney, I've changed my perspective on that. I think it's about having a community, having a great group of friends, and finding your purpose here.

I believe that if you want to live in another place, it's best to learn a new culture – not try to bring your own traditions or your own ways of thinking, but to always evolve and learn.

**Jessica Sargent (Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Science, 2nd year)**

**Place of birth: Hong Kong**

**Father's place of birth: Hong Kong**

**Mother's place of birth:**

**Sydney, Australia**

The question “Where are you from?” isn’t really a sore point for me, but it’s when people say, “No, where are you *really* from?” that I slowly die inside! I was born in Hong Kong, and so was my dad, and it’s a big part of who I am as a person. It’s like saying you’re not Australian, oh you’re not American *enough*!

It’s not fun to be judged just on how you look. I’d rather be judged on who I am as person.

I have to laugh when people talk about my accent. I get almost everything. Mostly it’s “You sound really Australian, but every few words sound a bit American.” And then some people will just come straight out with “You sound American,” which is kind of funny because the only part of my

cultural identity that has anything to do with America is when my mum lived in Ohio for a short period of her life. So, it’s really surprising because each of my siblings and I have different accents, and I got stuck with a bit of American in my accent, which is quite funny!

I really like that I’ve met other third culture kids here at IH. It’s made me feel more comfortable with who I am – that my background is so all over the place, and that other people have backgrounds that are all over the place, just like me.

**“The question ‘Where are you from?’ isn’t really a sore point for me, but it’s when people say, ‘No, where are you *really* from?’ that I slowly die inside!”**

**Jessica Sargent**



### **Want to learn more?**

#### **Read:**

David C. Pollock, Ruth E. Van Reken, Michael V. Pollock, *Third Culture Kids: Growing Up Among Worlds*, 3rd edn. (Boston, MA and London, UK: Nicholas Brealey Publishing, 2017).

Zoya Patel, *No Country Woman: A Memoir of Not Belonging* (Sydney, NSW: Hachette, 2018).

#### **Hear:**

Pico Iyer, *Where is Home*, TEDGlobal (2013).

#### **Watch:**

Garth Davis (dir.), *Lion* (The Weinstein Company, Screen Australia, et. al., 2016).

The complete series of video interviews with IH residents, alumni and staff on the International House website:  
[www.sydney.edu.au/international-house](http://www.sydney.edu.au/international-house).



# Four reasons for hope

From starting the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, to taking-on Nick Minchin in the popular ABC TV show *I can change your mind*, environmentalist and author Anna Rose knows four good reasons to be positive about climate change.

It is very special to be back here at the University of Sydney tonight, and particularly to be here at International House. My mum lived here in the 1970s and she told me about her time here, which was apparently great fun. She has lifelong friends whom she still remembers, so I know this is a very special place.

Universities and residential colleges like this one are incredibly important places, with a long history of nurturing the next generation of changemakers, activists and progressive thinkers.

We're here tonight to discuss climate change, an issue Walter Westman was involved in. I'm going to give you four reasons for hope - four reasons why I know it is worth your time and energy and passion to tackle this crisis, and why we can still bring it back from the brink.



Anna Rose. Image supplied.

“The most trusted messengers on climate change, apart from climate scientists, are people’s friends and family. This means we are in an incredibly powerful position to be having conversations and talking about why climate change matters to us, persuading our friends that it’s relevant to them as well.”

## 1 The Solutions Already Exist.

This is not a challenge like trying to find a cure for cancer, which hasn't been figured out yet. We already know what we need to do, and the solutions are already being implemented all over the world. There's a great phrase: "The future is here, it is just not evenly distributed yet." We can be the ones to help evenly distribute all the solutions, which are already happening.

## 2 Humans Are Wired For Collaboration And Empathy.

It is in our nature to solve big problems and to work together to do so. This isn't an ideological argument about human nature. This is an evolutionary fact, and it's something that George Monbiot writes about in his latest book called *Out of the Wreckage* (2017). He talks about how we evolved to be this way: We were surviving as humans in the tough world of the African savanna, and our predators were bigger and faster than us, and our prey were bigger and faster than us! So how did little humans survive? They survived by cooperating and helping each other. Unique among all other mammals, we display enormous amounts of empathy, kindness and cooperation. We just need to have structures that allow us to bring that out and work together. We're good in a crisis. We can solve this.

## 3 Things Can Change Fast. Really Fast.

A few weeks ago, I went camping. We knew we were not going to have much mobile reception, and a little while later we came back, and we suddenly had a new Prime Minister! Things can change very fast. But throughout history, we've seen public attitudes change fast. And governments – when they want to – can act very fast. Think of Walter Westman – a gay man in the 1970s encountering huge amounts of homophobia. Only a few decades later, Australia has marriage equality, and we were the 25th country in the world to achieve that. If you had told that to Walter Westman in the 1970s, so many people would have said that it was impossible. But it happened.

## 4 The Largest Global Movement In History Is Already Active On This Issue.

Paul Hawken, the same man who wrote *Drawdown* (2017), decided he would do some research about the number of organizations that were out there campaigning on environmental, social justice and human rights issues. He started counting them because no one had, and he came up with a list of 1-2 million organizations around the world that are working to restore our environment. I could read these out, but we would be here for over a week! This gives you a sense of just how big this movement is.

How we communicate climate change to our friends and our family really matters. Research from the CSIRO shows that the most trusted messengers on climate change, apart from climate scientists, are people's friends and family. This means we are in an incredibly powerful position to be having conversations and talking about why climate change matters to us, persuading our friends that it's relevant to them as well.

Does anyone know where the word "courage" comes from in French? *La cœur* – heart. I think that's what we need if we're going to solve this. Beyond all the diagrams and the rational debate, it's about how much we are willing to be brave, and to be vulnerable. We don't know how long we've got. I'm sure everyone in this room has lost a loved one way too soon. If we are lucky, we might live until our nineties, but we just don't know. We all have this short, precious, unknown time on this earth to leave a legacy that we can be proud of. And I think that's where listening to our heart is very important; making decisions about where to spend our time based on listening to our hearts.

**"This is not a challenge like trying to find a cure for cancer, which hasn't been figured out yet. We already know what we need to do, and the solutions are already being implemented all over the world."**

This is an edited and abridged transcript of Anna Rose's speech delivered for the Walter Westman lecture on Thursday 6 September.

Head to our YouTube channel to stream the full speech online:

<http://bit.ly/anna-rose-ih>



# Semester 2 events

The exchange of culture and knowledge are at the heart of everything we do at IH. From a welcome cruise on board the Mari Nawi, to showcasing national costumes and dance moves at i-night, semester 2 was not short on opportunities to celebrate our community's great diversity.





1 Residents kicked-off semester 2 onboard the Mari Nawi (Big Canoe) for a cultural education cruise with the Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation. Image: Sharon Hickey.

2 Residents and alumni attend the annual stargazing event at the IH log cabin. Left to right: Sean Ang, Chris Bleckmann, Joyce Chen (IH 2016), Lauren Choi, and Robert Völpel. Image: Musau Kilonzo.

3 Residents Tahsin Samia and Bennett Wu at the IHMA masquerade ball. Image: Loklan Glance.

4 Triumphant table-tennis champions Ibrahim Sakka and Haiyi Wang, alongside referee and long-standing IH staff member and international table-tennis veteran Sasha Chen. Image: Lauren Choi.

5 Victory for IH! Residents win the Kats-Chernin Intramural Arts Shield following a successful cook-off tournament at the Queen Mary Building. Left to right: Nadia Martinez Lenero, Brieanna Watson, Keerthana Cheersagar, Monica Gawas, Danqing Yin, and Akash Patka. Image: Yinfeng Photography.

6 The hardworking crew of i-night 2018. Image: Sharon Hickey.

7 Residents Mallika Arya and Andrea Manrique at the IHMA charity auction for NSW draught relief. Image: Loklan Glance.

8 An inspiring address by environmentalist and author Anna Rose at the 2018 Walter Westman Lecture. Image: Matthew Smith.

9 Keshni Haria and Oliver Mann representing the colours of their countries in the fashion show at i-night. Image: Sharon Hickey.





# Rosemary Berrick photography competition

Organised annually by SUIHAA, the Rosemary Berrick photography competition celebrates the significant contributions of Rosemary Berrick, who was instrumental in establishing International House's library and archives.

## First prize

**Meruse Oishi, "Churaumi Aquarium, Okinawa, Japan"**

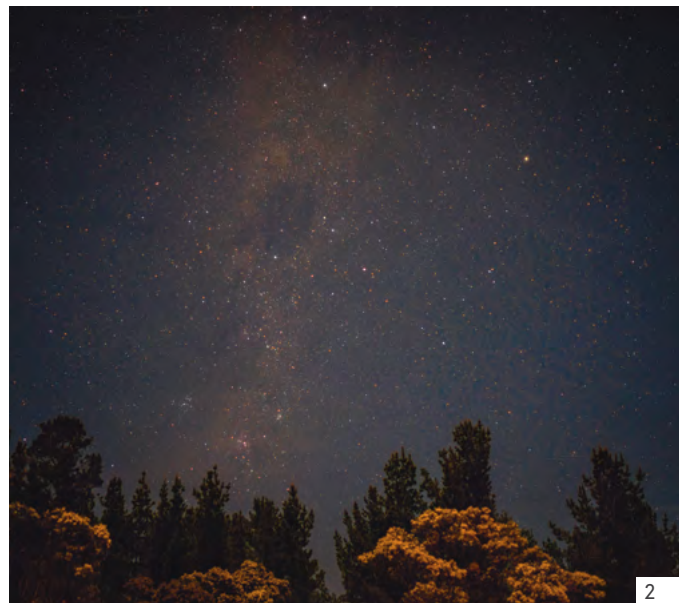
A candid photograph of people captured in a moment of shared enthusiasm, dramatically silhouetted against a luminous background. The focal point of the composition is the whale shark entering from the top right-hand corner, beautifully counterbalanced by a shaft of light piecing the centre of the picture and descending dramatically to the spectators below. The whale shark is in perfect focus in contrast to the other fish in the aquarium, which remain in soft focus – a remarkable photographic achievement. (Lyn Woodger Grant).



## Second prize

**Loklan Glance, "Star-gazing at the IH log cabin"**

An awe-inspiring image of the Milky Way framed by the earth below. For thousands of years humans from all over the planet looked up to the night sky with feelings of reverence and wonder. This photograph is beautiful in its composition and technically perfect. The ability to capture this subject in such a successful way indicates a high level of competence on behalf of the photographer. (Lyn Woodger Grant).



1 First prize: Meruse Oishi, *Churaumi Aquarium, Okinawa, Japan*. "Churaumi, meaning 'beautiful ocean' in their dialect, with a wish of passing it on to the next generation." (MO).

2 Runner-up: Loklan Glance, *Star-gazing at the IH log cabin*. "I took a long-exposure photo and was delighted to see the milky way trailing across the sky." (LG).

3 Gemmo Fernandez, *Through the Glass*.

4 Henry Thai, *The Grand Nexus*.

5 Gemmo Fernandez, *Bisector*.

6 Henry Pipes, *What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us* (Ralph Waldo Emerson).

7 Sayan Mitra, *Air and Simple Gifts*.

8 Chantrice Santiago, *Driftwood*.





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# Message from the SUIHAA president

Another year has sped by – the year after the celebrations of 2017. This has been no time for a “hangover” though, with plenty more enjoyable events to organise or attend, as well as some serious thinking to be done about the future.

Major events involving SUIHAA have this year included:

- Careers nights and faculty dinners, the IH flag ceremony, and the foundation day dinner in Semester 1, all of which were attended by members of SUIHAA. The new-look faculty dinners in particular benefitted greatly from several alumni giving their time and expertise to support current residents in the pursuit of their studies.
- Stargazing at Belanglo: SUIHAA committee members participated in the organisation of the event and other alumni attended and helped with food preparation and walks through the forest.
- SUIHAA-organised end-of-semester valedictory events for residents, featuring the much-loved STUVAC coffee cart and cakes. Welcome letters from the SUIHAA president were given to departing residents (who automatically become alumni).
- Two rounds of the Graeme de Graaff and Rosalie McCutcheon Scholarships were awarded by the SUIHAA executive.
- IHMA charity night in both semesters: SUIHAA members attended and contributed skills and items for the auctions. In Semester 1, the Bo Children’s

Hospital was again the recipient of the funds raised. Funds in Semester 2 went to drought relief (Red Cross).

- Rosemary Berrick photography competition: alumni judges Lyn Woodger Grant and Karen Rowe-Nurse selected the winner and eight finalists for this SUIHAA-funded award (See the photos on pp. 24-5 of this issue).

We also hugely enjoyed i-night and congratulate IHMA on the highly energised chocolate-themed entertainment!

Key events in 2019 will include the first de Graaff-Elms roundtable, and a major reunion of alumni in the Wool Room.

As reported in my last magazine article, SUIHAA has continued to discuss how we can best support the house as plans are explored for its redevelopment. We are trying to support the IH planning process, help enhance the idea of an international centre, and communicate with key university decision-makers. In line with this thinking, in Semester 2:

- We provided to new council members and the DVC (Education) our celebratory document, featuring a brief history of the house, a section on notable alumni, and a final section reflecting alumni thoughts about the future of IH (<http://bit.ly/50years-SUIHAA>).

- We held a meeting with the DVC (Education) Professor Pip Pattison on 2 July 2018. Four alumni – Professor Sidney Gray, Associate Professor Philayrath Phongsavan (PH), Dr Dominick Ng, and Dr Ros Madden explained the house’s history and desirable futures. In thanking her for the meeting, we said we would welcome, by the end of this year:

“A commitment from the University to the future of IH, to its physical redevelopment in fit-for-purpose buildings in the same or an equivalent precinct as currently, and to collaborative processes that would ensure its character and principles are sustained and its programs developed to capitalise on its achievements.”

Please be sure to read my email entitled ‘IH Alumni: IH Future!’ for more information on this matter.

All members of the SUIHAA committee have contributed throughout the year to these activities and events. During the year we sadly accepted Josh Lee’s resignation from the committee. As president and committee member he made a huge contribution to the life of the house and the work of SUIHAA. As always, it has been a pleasure to work throughout the year with the IH director and staff, and with the IHMA executive.

Written by Dr Rosamond Madden AM,  
SUIHAA president  
[president@suihaa.org.au](mailto:president@suihaa.org.au)



## Notices

### Spotted in the press

Renee Noble (IH 2010-12), finalist in the *Australian Women's Weekly* "Women of the Future" awards (*Australian Women's Weekly*, September 2018).



### Engagements

Vy Nguyen (IH 2013) and Jieyang Low (IH 2012-14)

On 10 October, after 5 years of long-distance dating, Jie proposed to Vy after dinner at a small Italian restaurant in downtown Seattle.



James Kane (IH 2007-09) and Stephanie Wong (IH 2007-10)

James writes: "We got engaged on 1 October and will be getting married on 18 August next year. We first met in the house in February 2007, though we weren't together while we lived there (not until late 2009). In any case, we're very happy to be contributing to the long tradition of IH couples!"



### Wedding

Chiara Schiantarelli (IH 2015-16) married Roberto Magrin on 15 September 2018. Chiara writes: "When I was in IH, Roberto was living in Chicago and when we both moved back to Europe, we decided to get married. The wedding was in a beautiful island in Tuscany, called Isola d'Elba. We are both Italians, however we have now relocated to Switzerland."



### Birth

Julia Krattli (IH 1999-2001) gave birth to Tilda Kathryn Chase on 13 June 2018 at Randwick. Tilda came into the world weighing 2.92kg and measuring 49cm.

Do you have news to share?  
Please write to  
[suihaa@sydney.edu.au](mailto:suihaa@sydney.edu.au)  
so we can include your notice  
in our next issue.





#### **Vale**

**Robert Charles Bland**  
(30 July 1925 - 3 March 2016)

The house pays its belated respects to the family of Robert (Bob) Bland.

Robert was a member of the IH council from 1986-87. Prior to this, he served on the WH Maze building committee. Robert was made a fellow of International House in 1985.

Robert had a long-standing relationship with the University and its buildings, which commenced with his study of architecture at the University in the 1940s. In 1964, following a period of private practice that included commissions from the University, he was invited (in his own words, "perhaps summoned") by WH Maze to become the University Architect.

The 1960s and 1970s proved to be a time of extraordinary growth in the University's physical infrastructure, which including the expansion of the University's campus into Darlington and the construction of many new buildings, including International House. On his retirement in 1985, Robert recalled that "It was exciting to be associated with the design and establishment of International House and to have worked with the Director over the past two decades to create an institution unique in Australia."

Robert died peacefully on 3 March 2016 and is survived by his wife Dorothy and three of his four children.

#### **2018-19 SUIHAA committee:**

- Executive: Dr Rosamond Madden AM (President), Dr James Kane (Secretary), Brittany Ridley (Treasurer).
- General members: Nicole Dunn, Julia Krattli, Dr Dominick Ng, Gwen Ng, Dr Richard Ng, Paul Reisner, Karen Rowe-Nurse, and Lyn Woodger Grant.
- Ex officio members: Brieanna Watson/Jessica Sargant (IHMA Chair), Dr Bradley Kunda (IH Residential Life Officer)

#### **For more information**

International House  
The University of Sydney  
96 City Road, Darlington NSW 2008  
ih.info@sydney.edu.au

#### **Our community**

International House brings together Australian and international students from all over the world. Our diverse and close-knit community has been home to over 6000 students and scholars since we opened our doors in 1967.





The Wool Room, interior. Photo: Loklan Glance



# Support our community

International House welcomes donations to support our mission of international understanding and friendship.

By supporting IH and its distinctive residence life program, you will help ensure that the life-long friendships and deep cultural understanding that comes from living at the house continues to thrive in the hearts and minds of the next generation of residents.

[sydney.edu.au/donate-ih](https://sydney.edu.au/donate-ih)



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