



March 2024

# SUIHAA Newsletter

## A Message from the SUIHAA Committee Executive

Welcome to the March 2024 SUIHAA Newsletter. We hope your new year is off to a good start.

We were delighted with the number of IH alumni who were able to attend the IH alumni reunion on 17 February at the DUCK INN. Be sure to see the article and photos later in this Newsletter. We plan for this to be an annual event, so next February we look forward to seeing again those who were there, plus those who were unable to make this year's reunion.

The Walter Westman Lecture is now scheduled for Saturday, 27 April at 1:00pm Sydney time. See more in the attached "poster" about our distinguished lecturer and when the Lecture will occur in your time zone. The URL for the virtual connection is also on the poster.

We just learned recently that the judges of the Rosemary Berrick Photograph Competition have graciously agreed to offer a web-based session to discuss their criteria for identifying eye-catching photographs. Look for an announcement of this event later in the year.

Be sure to see the Bo Hospital report in this Newsletter that shares the benefit concert in Sydney (17 March) and CD that features pianist Tonya Lemoh, daughter of SUIHAA Committee member Margaret Lemoh.

If you haven't had a chance to check out the updated [SUIHAA webpage](#) on the University's website, please take a moment to do so. The University has agreed to update the page as new Newsletters and other information become available, plus the revised SUIHAA Constitution is now on the webpage.

Finally, we want to thank the other members of the SUIHAA Committee, who keep the IH vision and mission alive, and organize the different SUIHAA-supported events:

Anne Gotsis  
Michael Hirschhorn  
Margaret Lemoh  
Ros Madden

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*Message from  
the SUIHAA  
Executive*

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Taz Rahman

We would love to have more alumni who desire to help with the work of the SUIHAA Committee. If this is something that interests you, please express your interest in a message to [SUIHAA.exec@gmail.com](mailto:SUIHAA.exec@gmail.com).

Enjoy the various articles in this issue of the SUIHAA Newsletter.

On behalf of the SUIHAA Committee,

Dennis Schatz (*SUIHAA President*)

Louise Trott (*SUIHAA Secretary*)

Rod Thyer (*SUIHAA Treasurer*)

## IH Alumni Reunion (17 February): Report

### From Taz Rahman:

It was my first reunion. I was nervous as I had not been in touch with old classmates since lockdown, and to rectify this I recently joined the SUIHAA committee a few months prior. My nervousness quickly disappeared after meeting alumni at the venue, ranging from 1967 all the way up to 2020! I was especially glad to meet fellow ex residents from my time at IH and have motivating discussions on getting the ball rolling on the new IH getting built.



Peter Murray (2004-06 and 2008-09), Taz Rahman (2012-13 and 2015-19), Toby Wong (2018-21), Enda Seyama Heneghan (2017-18), Gordon Yen (2017-2019)

I was also particularly happy to finally meet Louise and Ros in person after only meeting for committee Zoom calls.



Ros Madden (1968-69) and Louise Trott (1980-81)

The friends I made at International House are like a family to me, and I look forward to making more memories at reunions and staying engaged with SUIHAA.

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*IH alumni  
reunion (17  
February 2024)*

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**From Louise Trott:**

The reunion event went very well, with about 25-30 folk attending. All ages, from those at IH in 1967 to those who lived there in 2020. There was a solid contingent from the 1960s and 1970s.



**Top photo:** Elizabeth Hassan - wife of Ben Hassan; Karl Wehrhahn 67-69; Roger Wescombe 67, 74-75 ,82-86; Richard Ng 67-69  
**Bottom photo:** Ben Hassan 70; Lan Wehrhan 68-69



Ros Wood Madden 68-69; Gwen Burrows Ng 68-69; Elizabeth Hassan - wife of Ben Hassan

There were also about seven folks from the younger cohort in the 2000s. Sadly, there was nobody there from my era, early 1980s, but that forces one to talk to folk you don't know, which is a good thing!

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*IH alumni  
reunion (17  
February 2024)*

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The shady downstairs Beer Garden was an ideal spot on an extremely humid and hot Sydney afternoon. And the beer was cold!



**Top photo:** Margaret Lemoh 67; Paul Reisner 83-87, 93; Louise Trott 80-81  
**Right photo:** Bobby Khan - 03, Doug Murray - 02-03 and Lorenzo Serva 10-12





Gary Lung 72-76; Heather Montgomery Lung 75-76

I gave a welcoming speech on behalf of SUIHAA, and Greg Houseman (Chair of IH Council) gave a speech on behalf of the IH Council, outlining the situation with the building developments planned along City Road, and dealing with the University. Craig Collie, the Co-Chair of IH Council was also there.

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*IH alumni  
reunion (17  
February 2024)*

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Louise Trott 80-81; Craig Collie 68; Greg Houseman 75-77

I look forward to the next annual IH alumni reunion in early 2025. Stay tuned for details in future SUIHAA Newsletters.

## **IH Redevelopment Update**

The IH Council met on 4 December 2023. Greg Robinson (Chief University Infrastructure Officer) and Stephen Phillips (Vice-President, Operations) provided us with an update on the University's planning for the area from the Wentworth Building down to IH. As noted in prior SUIHAA Newsletters, the demolition and redevelopment of the Wentworth Building is the current priority.

Greg and Stephen indicated that the University will reinstate the IH Program Control Group (PCG) or an alternative group such as a Steering or Advisory Group. This Group will have its first meeting during the first quarter of 2024. I expect that both Greg Houseman and Craig Collie (Chair and Deputy Chair of IH Council) will be on the Advisory Group, so IH's interests should be well represented.

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***IH***  
***redevelopment:***  
***latest news***

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The Council was also encouraged that the University will likely look at other International House models around the world as part of the decision-making process. International Houses in New York, Berkeley and Chicago were specifically mentioned, along with ones at the University of Queensland and University of NSW.

Also to be considered are:

- What does International House want to achieve in terms of the 25,000 international student cohort at the University?
- How can IH be relevant today when half of the University student cohort are international students, a much larger proportion than when IH first opened in 1967?
- How does the IH structure intersect with the support that the University currently provides to its international students?

As part of this process, SUIHAA will involve you in reviewing its 2019 recommendations made to the University regarding the criteria for a successful and effective redeveloped IH. We will be seeking input from IH alumni in the coming months.

Dennis Schatz (*SUIHAA President*)

## **Contact Details: SUIHAA Needs You!**

Taz Rahman on the SUIHAA Committee has kindly taken on the task of compiling a more comprehensive list of IH alumni than we currently have. Please send an email to [tasnim.rah@gmail.com](mailto:tasnim.rah@gmail.com) with the subject "IH alumni contact update" that includes:

1. Your Name
2. Years at IH
3. Email address
4. Postal Address (optional)
5. Phone number (optional)

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***Please update***  
***your contact***  
***details with***  
***SUIHAA***

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Thank you for helping us to develop a more comprehensive list of IH alumni.

## Rosemary Berrick Photo Competition: Runners-Up

As noted in the last SUIHAA Newsletter, the judges had 50 photos to review this year, almost twice as many as last year. The judges were challenged to settle on just two runners-up, so it was finally decided to give three runner-up awards – see the photos from the runners-up below. Like last year, the judges found other photos that deserved recognition. We will share some of these in future Newsletters.

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**Nora Vitz Harrison** lived in International House during 1978 while completing a master's degree in English (on a Rotary Foundation Graduate Fellowship). She worked in health care communications before starting her own corporate communications firm in 1988. She recently retired, so now has more time for photography, personal writing, live theater, hiking and other fitness pursuits. She now lives on Bainbridge Island, Washington, USA.



**Photo: Great Blue Heron (2022 on Bainbridge Island, Washington, USA)**



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*Rosemary  
Berrick Photo  
Competition  
runners-up*

I walked down to the beach at sunrise to take a photo of Mt Rainier. But it was obscured by fog. Instead, I met this heron. She posed magnificently for me. Reminder: Be open to the unexpected. (Shot on an iPhone 11 Pro).

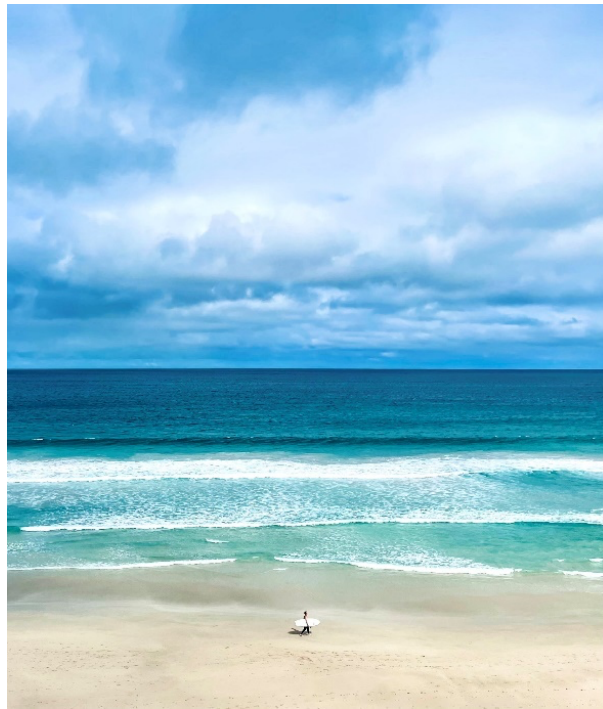
~ ~ ~

**Tasmiah Rahman** lived in International House during Semester 2, 2017 while pursuing her Master of Professional Engineering in Electrical Engineering at the University of Sydney. She now lives in Adelaide, South Australia, where she currently works as a Solutions Engineer at Enernet Global, where her work revolves around modelling microgrids in Australia with sustainable energy sources.





**Photo: The Lone Surfer (19 March 2023 at Corny Point, Yorke Peninsula, South Australia)**




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*Rosemary  
Berrick Photo  
Competition  
runners-up  
(cont.)*

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During our road trip across Yorke Peninsula, my friends and I stumbled upon a hidden gem of a lookout. We parked our car and made our way to the edge, greeted by a breathtaking vista of the coastline and the endless expanse of the Ocean.

The wind played with our hair, and the sun painted the water's surface with shimmering shades of blue. We were in awe of the pristine beauty that stretched before us, content in our own silence, taking in the splendour of nature.

As we were lost in this serene moment, a lone surfer drove up in a weathered, sand-covered pickup truck. With deliberate calm, he retrieved his surfboard from the back, seemingly unaffected by our presence. There was a certain aura of self-containment about him, as if he and the ocean had an unspoken understanding.

Without a word, he began to gear up, pulling on a wetsuit as if it were a second skin. It was clear that he and the sea shared a language all their own. With his board under one arm, he approached the water's edge, his eyes fixed on the distant horizon.

The photograph I captured at that moment tells a story of solitude and connection, of a surfer who was, for a brief time, the custodian of the infinite beauty of nature. We watched in silent admiration as he rode the waves, a solitary figure in the vast expanse of the ocean, a reminder of the intimate relationship we can have with the world around us, even when we're all alone.

**Rama Arianto** started living at IH from Fall 2018 for one year, while studying Urban and Regional Planning for his Master's Degree. He currently lives in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia where he teaches Urban and Regional Planning at Universitas Islam Bandung, a local university in Bandung. Having photography as a hobby supports what he does, especially in experiencing urban spaces. He hopes he can inspire his students by participating in photography contests.




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*Rosemary  
Berrick Photo  
Competition  
runners-up  
(cont.)*

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**Photo: Long Time No See (31 May 2023 in Bandung, Indonesia)**



The photograph was taken during a reunion event for one of Indonesia's best universities. It was an amazing moment where people met up and renewed old friendships. Reuniting with old friends is akin to discovering long-lost treasures buried deep within the sands of time. It's a journey back to shared laughter, dreams, and bonds that time and space failed to diminish. In the comforting embrace of

familiar faces, we find renewed inspiration to embrace the future with courage, knowing that the chapters we write together will be just as beautiful as those we've already penned in the book of friendship.

## Alumni Update: Tasnim Rahman (IH 2012–2013, 2016–2019)




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### *Alumni Update: Tasnim Rahman*

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I was an IH resident from 2012-2013 during my B. Sci. (Adv) neuroscience honours year, where I became happily absorbed by IH's community culture and was encouraged to get involved in the college's activities. I participated in prop-making for IH's performance event International Night (Inight), and was both a co-host and item maker for Charity night.



I also competed in Food Fair, performing in Choir, and joined residents for Star Gazing at the SUIHAA Cabin. My involvement in these activities eventuated in my senior residency for my final honours semester, where the staff team were incredibly welcoming and provided many opportunities to develop my leadership skills.

I returned as a Maze Building resident during my postgraduate research studies in Psychiatry 2016–2019, where I contributed to Dessert Fair, Roundtable seminars, and the SUIHAA musical soir e.



The activities at IH again facilitated numerous opportunities, including growth in cross cultural knowledge, success in winning travel and conference grants, and cementing lifelong friendships.

One of my many dear memories at IH includes the Warm&Fuzzies support activity during the summer break. For this activity, residents would craft a stocking to be held in the Wool room for other residents to anonymously write post-it notes and deliver to any stocking of their choosing to brighten each other's days.

Since receiving my doctorate in 2021 and having a minor stint as an academic researcher, I've been a contract research analyst. My extracurricular and outreach roles specifically contributed to me gaining the privilege to work on projects in the biotechnology and policy fields.

For the SUIHAA Committee, which I joined in 2023, I'm currently building an updated and consolidated alumni contact list. As requested earlier in the Newsletter, please email your contact information and years at IH to me at [tasnim.rah@gmail.com](mailto:tasnim.rah@gmail.com) with the subject "IH alumni contact update". Please also ask your IH alumni friends if they would like to stay up-to-date with SUIHAA events and feel free to send this contact info request to them. Thank you.

## Bo Children's Hospital Update

Margaret Lemoh (*SUIHAA Bo Convenor*)

### Sydney Concert and CD to Support Bo Hospital Activities



**“I Dream a World”**  
**Tonya Lemoh, pianist**  
**Upcoming ABC Classic Album release inspired by the**  
**Bo Children’s Hospital**

**I Dream A World**

I dream a world where man  
 No other man will scorn,  
 Where love will bless the earth  
 And peace its paths adorn  
 I dream a world where all  
 Will know sweet freedom's way,  
 Where greed no longer saps the soul  
 Nor avarice blights our day.  
 A world I dream where black or white,  
 Whatever race you be,  
 Will share the bounties of the earth  
 And every man is free,  
 Where wretchedness will hang its head  
 And joy, like a pearl,  
 Attends the needs of all mankind-  
 Of such I dream, my world!

- Langston Hughes, Harlem 1941

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*Bo Update:*  
*Tonya Lemoh’s*  
*new album*

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Described as “powerful and eloquent” by Gramophone magazine, Australian/Sierra Leonean pianist Tonya Lemoh has enjoyed a career spanning several continents, having studied and performed in

Australia, Africa, America and Europe. She has performed extensively as concerto and recital soloist, and as associate artist with international vocalists and instrumentalists.

### About the album

The concept of this lovely piano album was inspired by the pianist's father, International House alumnus Dr Joseph Nuli Lemoh, a Sierra Leonean paediatrician who founded the Bo Childrens' Hospital. He had unshakeable faith in the uniquely precious state of childhood, and the hope that each new generation represents of a better future. Tanya is the daughter of current SUIHAA Committee member, Margaret Lemoh.

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*Bo Update:  
Tonya Lemoh's  
new album  
(cont.)*

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The selected works on the recording embrace this hope, exploring childhood from different angles. Some capture personal nostalgia and memories of childhood, while others are connected to the rich cultural heritage in the music of Africa, Europe, America and Australia. Drawn from four different continents, this music explores emotion and memory, and how across the globe we are all united by the joy and hope for the future that children represent.

Composers represented on the album include Robert Schumann, Elena Kats-Chernin, Florence Price and the British-Sierra Leonean composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor. The CD also includes two original works by Tonya Lemoh which are based on Sierra Leonean melodies.

The album is due for release on the 15 March 2024. There will be a live performance by Tonya to mark the release on Sunday 17 March at the Galston Uniting Church in Sydney at 2 pm. Tickets available through <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1186224>

### Want to make a difference?

The Bo Children's Hospital is a non-profit organisation which attends to the medical needs of children in rural Sierra Leone, a country which has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world and is sorely in need of better medical infrastructure. If you would like to contribute to the hospital, please purchase a **hard copy CD** of the album.

**All proceeds from these CD sales will be donated directly to the hospital.** Cost of CD is \$25 AUD plus postage via Australia Post.

To pre-order or organise purchase of the “I Dream a World” album on CD, please contact Margaet Lemoh at; [mlemoh@gmail.com](mailto:mlemoh@gmail.com)

The album is also available commercially through the ABC website <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/classic/shop/>, as well as online through Spotify, iTunes, Apple etc.

Thanks for supporting the Bo Children’s Hospital!  
(<https://www.bochildrenshospital.org.au/>)

### Bo Children’s Hospital Update

One of the programs Bo Childrens Hospital (BCH) participates in is the Malnutrition program sponsored by the Sierra Leone Government. Malnourished children are admitted and fed a nutritious diet based on Bennimix, a powder made of ground sesame seeds, rich in protein and minerals and manufactured locally in Bo. It is made into porridge and fed to children or added to normal dishes as a supplement. Previously malnourished patients were referred on to other institutions for treatment but now they are admitted to BCH.




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*Bo Update:  
hospital news*

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### Malnourished Child Admitted to BCH Gets Meal Rich in Protein and Minerals

At last, a vaccine against malaria has been developed and WHO has supplied Sierra Leone with 550,000 doses to be distributed throughout the country. This is exciting news. Malaria is endemic in Sierra Leone where the deadliest form, *Falciprum* Malaria is

prevalent. Approximately 25% of deaths in children under 5 are due to malaria. BCH will add this to the immunisation program which vaccinates children under 5 against the major childhood diseases including Tetanus. (Every month there are still some deaths from neonatal tetanus, although numbers are declining with immunisation and safer birthing practices).



**Child receiving a “marklate” from a nurse at the outpatients’ clinic**

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*Bo Update:  
hospital news  
(cont.) and  
fundraising*

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Unfortunately, the Belgian doctor who was going to join the staff in February accepted a position elsewhere, but we hope she may join us at a later date.

Another helpful development is that the location of the hospital is now included in the town electricity grid. This will mean less reliance on generators which often had to be used to supplement the solar power batteries, the main source of electricity previously.

#### **Fund Raising Events for BCH.**

1. Tonya Lemoh, daughter of alumnus Nuli Lemoh has recorded a CD of solo piano music to be released on 15th March this year. All money from the sales will be donated to the Hospital. See more information at the beginning of this BCH report.
2. For those who cycle the annual “Bobbo” event, it will take place on Sunday 24 March on Sydney’s North Shore. This is a



fun ride from Karuah Park in Turrumurra through the beautiful Kuringai National Park down to Bobbin Head and back to the starting point. There are various levels for participants, from a relatively gentle family-friendly ride of 27 km to a long haul (104km) out to West Head and back for the intrepid. Organised by three local Rotary Clubs it raises funds for a number of charities including Bo Childrens Hospital. Visit the website for more details: [www.bobbinheadcycleclassic.org.au](http://www.bobbinheadcycleclassic.org.au).

### **Book recommendation**

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*Bo Update: book  
recommendation*

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If you are interested in reading about the delivery of health services in a developing country, I highly recommend a book published recently by Canadian researcher, Nancy Edwards, called *Not One, Not Even One*. In it she recounts her experiences as a community health nurse volunteer working with Sierra Leonean colleagues in villages around Bo in the 1980s. Told with humour and respect for her Sierra Leonean colleagues bringing health services to communities unfamiliar with Western medicine and attitudes to health it's a good read, full of adventurous incidents and insightful reflections.

Thank you for your ongoing support for Bo Childrens Hospital. Please visit the website and our Facebook page. [www.bochildrenshospital.org.au](http://www.bochildrenshospital.org.au).