



November 2025

SUIHAA Newsletter

A Message from the SUIHAA Committee Executive

Welcome to the November 2025 SUIHAA Newsletter. As usual, there is an abundance of news to convey. We continue to have a Table of Contents, so you can start with the articles that most interest you.

No matter where you start in the Newsletter, you won't want to miss:

- Highlights from the 8 November IH alumni reunion
- Save-the-date for the 2026 Walter Westman Lecture
- Report from the latest meeting of the SUIHAA Book Club
- Top winners of the 2025 Rosemary Berrick Photography Competition

Message from
the SUIHAA
Executive

As always, 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:

Ian Gutierrez
Anne Gotsis
Sen Ganbaatar
Michael Hirschhorn
Josh Lee
Margaret Lemoh
Ros Madden
Taz Rahman
Liz Wong

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)

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IH Alumni Reunion on Saturday 8 November

from Taz Rahman

This year we decided to pilot a second reunion in Sydney for SUIH alumni, based on the suggestion by Beth Rohrlach. Under the guidance of the University's alumni services, we sent out a survey after our first reunion of the year asking all of you for what you'd like to see at the reunion events.

Based on the comments we received, we decided on holding the second reunion lunch at the Sounds Cafe inside the Chau Chak Wing museum to coincide with the University of Sydney's annual Community Festival event, which this year marked the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the University's founding. The day was "popping" with University of Sydney alumni across all faculties with pets and family events.



It was my third SUIH reunion. I was more excited than nervous beforehand compared to the initial year. Each reunion has been such a lovely time that I decided to contribute in organising and putting the word out about this reunion in conjunction with the University's alumni office.

For this pilot second reunion for 2025, I was pleased to catch up with long lasting connections and to see many new faces, including Beth Rohrlach and other members of the 1980s IH cohort.

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Top: Our venue at the Chau Chak Wing Museum (photo: Josh Lee)

Bottom: The view from our venue (photo: Taz Rahman)



Standing (L-R): Ben Hassan, Taz Rahman, Zhila Bahman, Roger Wescombe, Richard Ng, Craig Collie, Ros Madden, Mark Uhlmann, Beth Rohrlach, Christopher Webber
Seated (L-R): Elizabeth Hassan, Gwen Ng, Mike Hirschhorn, Mathew Burley, Louis Taborda, Denise North (photo courtesy of Josh Lee)

**IH Alumni
 Reunion:
 8 Nov 2025**

It was great to meet fellow ex-residents who were interested in joining the committee and to have motivating discussions on how to extend the reach of SUIHAA and the IH redevelopment plan. It was also good to catch up directly on campus in the University museum that was completed in 2015. Overall, it was a relaxing day, with the view of the lawns on University Avenue complementing the lovely sunny weather amongst the museum pieces showcased nearby at the cafe.

We are excited to potentially have a second annual reunion next year as well. We would love to hear your feedback about this year's pilot during the University's Community Week. Please send your thoughts and ideas to tasnim.rah@gmail.com.

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

SAVE THE DATE: 2026 Walter Westman Lecture on Science, Humanity and the Environment

from Ian Guterrez

Walter Westman Lecture 2026

SUIHAA is pleased to announce that the 2026 Walter Westman Lecture will be on Saturday, 17 March 2026 from 2:00pm to 3:30pm AEDT (Sydney time).

Our speaker is a brilliant young marine scientist from Griffith University's Global Wetlands Project, Diego Gloria, who will be speaking about the application of AI and automation in marine science and environment conservation.



Photo: Diego Gloria, speaker for the 2026 Walter Westman Lecture

More details on this upcoming lecture will be provided in the next SUIHAA newsletter.

Top Awardees in the 2025 Rosemary Berrick Photography Competition

from Dennis Schatz

It is that time of year again - time to announce the top two award winners for this year's Rosemary Berrick Photography Competition. As in the past, the winners and photos represent the diversity of where people live and where they travel.

The next SUIHAA Newsletter will feature the two runner-up awards.

Rosemary
Berrick Photo
Competition



Winner: *Migration* (7 August 2025) - Tanzania, Africa
by Piyush Shah (IH '03)

After many false starts, the wildebeest were in the river, attempting to climb up the bank on the other side. Their usual path blocked by fear (a recent lion kill had them spooked), the wildebeest were trapped in the swiftly flowing river. Many were washed down river, swimming in circles, trying relentlessly to get up the other side. Until finally, one decided to turn back, climb up our side. And just as suddenly we were surrounded by dust and horns and pounding hoofs, a mass of beasts, pandemonic and raw, almost primordial.

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Piyush Shah lived at IH in 2003 studying for a Master of Commerce in Accounting. He now lives in Balmain, NSW, where he is a sole practitioner Chartered Accountant - public practice, specialising in tax.

He is happy to have you contact him at piyush@aya.yale.edu.

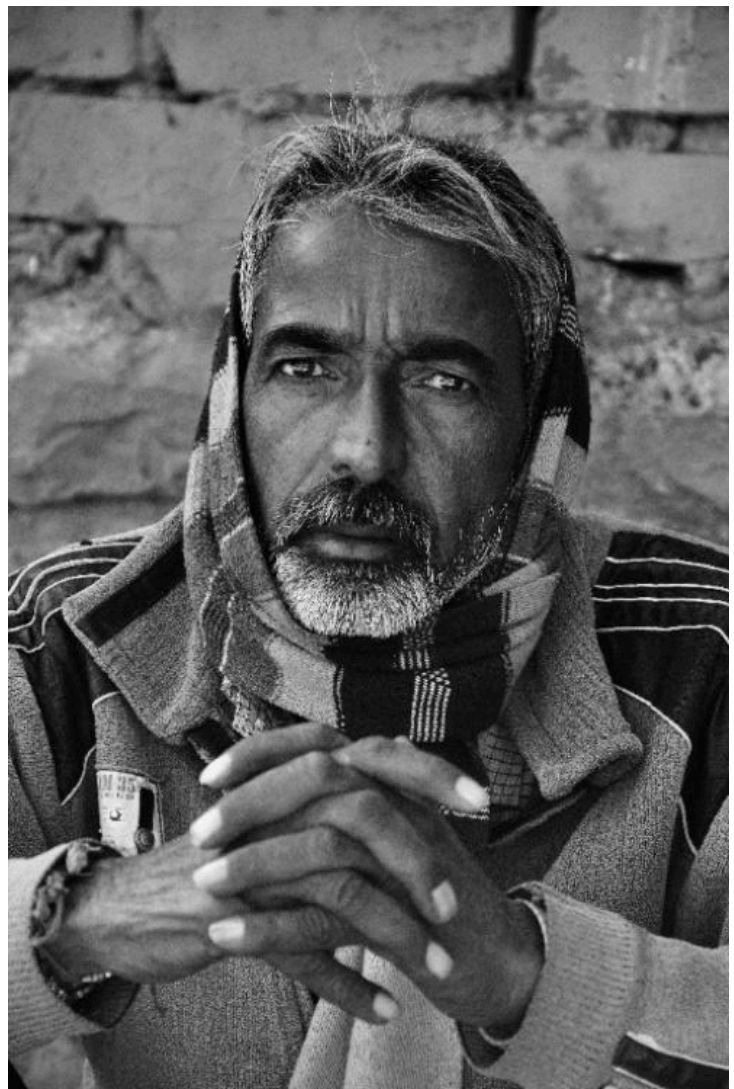


Lalit Bhadresha lived at IH from March 1999 to Sept 2002 while he studied veterinary science. He currently lives in South London where he works part time as a primary care vet surgeon.

He is happy to have you contact him at lalitbhadresha@hotmail.com.

Winner: *Gentleman in Jaipur* (2017)
Jaipur, India
Lalit Bhadresha (IH '99-02)

While visiting Jaipur with a friend, I had some time to kill while searching for a cup of chai, and this was the dude selling the tea. He didn't say a word but nodded once when I pointed to him and then my DSLR.



IH Redevelopment

from Dennis Schatz

Sydney University's IH Council, which advises the University regarding IH redevelopment, met on Monday, 10 November, where we received an update on planning for the opening of an interim IH. As mentioned in the last SUIHAA Newsletter, Craig Collie (IH Alumnus and Deputy Chair of IH Council) continues to meet with the University's Working Group that is doing the planning for an interim IH to ideally open for the 2027 academic year. Craig has interviewed a number of people involved with the operation of IH, so that he can provide the best advice on the structure and programming required for a successful IH.

REMINDER: Connect with SUIHAA via Social Media

from Sen Ganbaatar

**Redevelopment
and SUIHAA
social media**

We're making it easier than ever for you to stay connected with the International House community. SUIHAA has launched an official Instagram account and would love for you to join us!

To catch up on alumni news, find out about upcoming events, and relive some of your favourite IH moments, do follow us on the handles below.

Additionally, we are seeking stories from our community. If you would like to share your updates or memories from your time at IH, please send them to suihaasocial@gmail.com.



[@suihaa.official](https://www.instagram.com/suihaa.official) on Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/suihaa.official>)



[@suihaa](https://www.facebook.com/suihaa) on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/suihaa>)



[@suihaa](https://www.youtube.com/@suihaa) on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@suihaa>)

SUIHAA Book Club Update

from Jon Berrick

The SUIHAA Book Club continues to meet every two months and gained a couple new participants to build from the original number of members. We still have space for a few more people. If you would like to join the group, please contact Liz Wong at wongoonoo@hotmail.com.

The last book we read was *Grey Bees* by Andrey Kurkov. It is much more than a simple tale of a beekeeper's determination to transport his hives to attractive woodlands for their honey-producing spring and summer months.

For, the beekeeper, Sergey, is based in the Donbas area of Ukraine, and the time is early 2018, midway between the Russian incursions of 2014 and 2022.

His mission is to relocate his hives from an almost deserted village in the "grey zone", a region trapped under the shelling of opposing militia. This is the background to a quietly charming insight into the values and attitudes of apolitical folk already used to coping with the hardships of rural life through laconic stoicism, mutual support and irony (for instance, the village church at the end of Lenin Street is known locally as "the Leninist church"), in the face of now greater misfortune and threat.

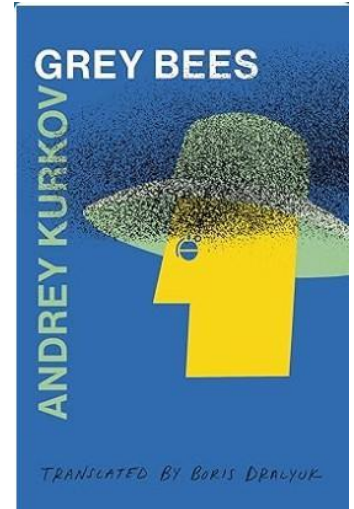
In his travels, Sergey is our guide to Ukraine's cultural and natural diversity, suggestive of unspoken patriotism on the author's part. Numerous dream sequences add a further layer to the book: how much of it is metaphor relating to the ideological and military struggles? In what way are "grey bees" themselves a metaphor?

A most agreeable read, and a rewarding re-read.

Future Book Club meetings and titles:

3 January 2026 - *Sophia: Princess, Suffragette, Revolutionary* by Anita Anand

28 February 2026 - *Bark Petitions* by Clare Wright



SUIHAA
Book Club
update



Bo Children's Hospital Update

from Margaret Lemoh

The new management team has settled in well and introduced a malnutrition program aimed at reducing the high incidence of malnutrition in children. There are two aspects to this program: one is to diagnose and treat children with malnutrition, the other to educate parents about nutrition and the importance of giving children nutritious food. The hospital has introduced monthly outreach clinics as a way of reaching communities in areas with difficult access to transport.

This month, a team comprising two clinicians, a lab technician, pharmacist and assistant nurses held a community clinic for three villages in an area two miles from the hospital. They assessed and treated children, testing them for malaria and other common diseases. One severely malnourished child was taken to the hospital for further treatment. The team also vaccinated children and distributed medications such as anti-malarials, antibiotics and anti-fungal creams.

Bo Children's
Hospital
update



Photo: Testing for malaria at the outreach clinic

A key element in the programme is a nutritious high protein cereal mixture called Benimix which is produced locally. It can be mixed with water to make an easily digested and nutritious porridge. Packs of Benimix were handed out to mothers attending the clinic. These mothers also received guidance about safe feeding practices. An example of the importance of this guidance: one common method of feeding young children is to scoop up handfuls of a rice gruel and pour it into the child's mouth, sometimes while pinching their nose closed to encourage swallowing. Children fed this way are at risk of choking or inhaling food into the lungs, which can be fatal. Mothers are taught to feed their children with a spoon from a cup instead.

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Photos: Benimix is also an important part of the treatment of severely malnourished children who are admitted to the hospital. After receiving emergency care, they are fed regularly with Benimix porridge to build up their strength.

Our most urgent need at present is a digital x-ray machine. The current x-ray machine (which is actually a veterinary device) is in dire need of replacement. Its application is limited and expensive, and harmful toxic chemicals are needed to process the images. A digital x-ray machine would be far safer and more efficient. As the hospital is connected to the Starlink network, digital images could be shared with specialists, who could then offer advice on diagnosis and treatment to hospital clinicians. This has the potential to substantially improve patient outcomes.

Bo Children's Hospital update

The hospital building has just undergone much needed maintenance. It now sparkles with a coat of fresh blue and white paint, providing a clean, inviting environment for patients and staff.

Other projects in the pipeline are a playground onsite for children, enabling them to enjoy fresh air and exercise while receiving treatment at the hospital. In the interest of improving security in the hospital grounds, we intend to erect fencing around the perimeter when funds are available.



Photo: Freshly painted!
Entrance to Bo Children's Hospital

Finally, thank you all for your interest and support for the Bo Children's Hospital and for keeping it going for 13 years. It is now well recognised and respected for its high-quality care of children. We hope it will continue to flourish and grow to become a major provider of health care for children in one of the poorest countries in the world. Your care and support make a real difference.

Donations are always welcome. Please visit bochildrenshospital.com to donate and to read more about Bo Children's Hospital.

Alumni Highlight: Sen (Tsenguunee) Ganbaatar (2016)

from Sen Ganbaatar

The year 2016 at the University of Sydney, I came prepared to study global markets as a bachelor's student majoring in International Business and Economics. What I actually gained, however, was an incomparable global education, one lived, breathed and shared within the walls of International House.

As a student from Mongolia, a country geographically and culturally distant from Australia, stepping into a new environment was a significant transition. I carried with me the perspective of a nation known for its vast steppes and nomadic heritage, a land where the saying goes, there are more horses than people. This unique lens was instantly welcomed into the IH tapestry, a place structured around the principle that understanding is essential for a successful community.

**Alumni
highlight: Sen
Ganbaatar**



After arriving in Sydney in February 2016, one of the first excursions we took was the Spit to Manly walk.

I discovered that the greatest intellectual enrichment came from fellow residents and staff. The common areas, from the library to the Wool Room and the rooftop, were alive with debates and discussions between future doctors, lawyers, engineers, artists, and more. IH was a perpetual forum that transcended borders and academic silos.

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IH provided an enthusiastic stage to share my culture. At the annual Food Fair, I led a team (ably assisted by fellow residents from Australia and the Philippines) in serving traditional dishes like khuushuur and niislel salad, a vivid culinary demonstration of my home country. Later, I proudly showcased our national costume, the deel, during iNight 2016. This active participation was a deeply rewarding opportunity to connect with others by sharing a piece of home and helped me appreciate my own identity.



iNight Fashion Show 2016 featuring the Mongolian traditional costume, the deel.

The learning truly went both ways at IH. IH fostered a commitment to local understanding, providing unique opportunities like meeting Aboriginal students and learning about their enduring culture and history. Attending a synagogue or learning about festivals and beliefs different from my own became part of my life at IH. This constant exposure was the most effective way to foster the respect and curiosity required for true global citizenship.

After graduating, I built a digital marketing career in Sydney, a city I hold dear to my heart. In marketing, success hinges on connecting with diverse audiences, a skill I practiced daily while living and collaborating with my fellow residents. Now, as I pursue my MBA at Cornell Tech in the heart of NYC, I find myself in a similarly diverse environment.

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I currently support IH's mission as a proud Committee Member at SUIHAA, managing our social media communications. This role allows me to actively contribute to our alumni network, keeping our community strong and engaged. Looking back, International House was far more than a place to live; it was the foundation where I blended my Mongolian heritage with an expansive worldview focused on connecting people across borders.

**Alumni
highlight: Sen
Ganbaatar**



Dessert Fair 2016 with fellow residents Cory Jiang and Stephanie Gascon.

Blast from the past - mimeographed SUIHAA newsletters from 50 years ago

from Dennis Schatz

**SUIHAA
newsletters
from 1975**

While cleaning out some old files, I found two SUIHAA Newsletters from 1975. They were printed on differently colored paper using the mimeograph process that I remember because I am old enough. I thought you would like to see what SUIHAA members were talking about 50 years ago. You can find them at the links below:

[March 1975](#) [August 1975](#)

