

SUIHAA Newsletter , August 2019



Greetings Alumni! In our August newsletter we bring you:

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SUIHAA

Sydney University International House Alumni Association

96 City Road Darlington NSW 2008 Australia | tel +61 2 9950 9800 | fax +61 2 9950 9804 |

Coming events

I-Night 31 August

On behalf of International House Members Association (IHMA), we would like to invite you to the biggest event on the IH calendar, I-Night!

Our residents have been busy choreographing performances and building a Broadway-inspired set for the three-hour production, which will take on the theme **‘The Greatest Show’**.

An all-star ensemble of residents from around the world will be singing, dancing and parading the fashion of International House - and we'd love to see you there.

Please respond on info@suihaa.org.au by Wednesday 28 August letting us know if you can attend. Guests are also welcome.

Cost: \$5 at the door

When: Saturday 31 August, 6.30-9.30pm (end time approx.)

Where: The Wool Room, International House

Walter Westman lecture 11 September

Clare Press - author, podcaster and VOGUE Sustainability Editor – will be the speaker for this year's Walter Westman Lecture on Science, Humanity and the Environment.

The annual lecture, held in honour of International House alumnus Walter Westman, will be held from **7-9pm on Wednesday 11 September**.

This year's lecture topic, 'Can science solve unsustainable fashion?' will uncover the \$3 trillion industry behind what we wear, an enterprise which emits more greenhouse gases than aviation and maritime combined. Alumni, current residents and members of the community are invited to attend.

Clare is author of three books including *The Dressing Table* (Penguin, 2011) *Wardrobe Crisis*, *How We Went From Sunday Best to Fast Fashion* (Nero), and her latest work, *Rise & Resist, How to Change The World* (Melbourne University Press, 2018).

Her podcast, *Wardrobe Crisis*, focuses on the big issues of fashion including justice for garment workers, climate change and plastic pollution through weekly interviews with guests ranging from academics to fashion insiders.



When: 7pm, Wednesday 11 September
Where: International House, 96 City Road,
Darlington NSW 2008

Cost: Free

Register: [RSVP online](#) by Thursday 4 September

Music of the World concert

22 September

Featuring a diverse program by talented IH residents, plus special guests the Sydney University Graduate Choir, conducted by Christopher Bowen.

The highlight of this program will be a re-performance of 'There are three things that will endure in this world', a mixed ensemble work for soprano, piano, flute, clarinet and choir. This work was commissioned by SUIHAA for the 50th anniversary of International House in 2017.

When: 3pm, Sunday 22 September

Where: International House, 96 City Road, Darlington NSW 2008

Cost: Free

Register: [RSVP online](#) by Monday
16 September

SUIHAA AGM 22 September – Sunday 22 September

The Wool Room, International House

12.00 noon for brunch/lunch in the dining room; 12.30 AGM in the Board Room

Please come along to hear about and discuss the future of International House and SUIHAA and elect new Committee members.

AGM agenda and Proxy form are attached to this email. We are hoping for new committee members this year! Gwen and Richard Ng are (again) retiring after incredible service to IH over many years

This year we welcome nominations for the Committee from alumni who are resident in other countries and other states of Australia. We plan to conduct future committee meetings electronically, e.g. via Zoom, to enable this to work effectively (you need a computer and internet to participate).

Recent Events

Food Fair

The annual Food Fair, held in May, was a great success – many memorable moments and worthy prize winners (judged by SUIHAA's very own Moe Hassan)”.



Foundation Day BBQ and reunion

This year the Foundation Day celebration in June took the form of a BBQ repeating the popular menu of the 2017 menu. The event was well attended by alumni and residents. Instead of a single speech we invited short speeches and reminiscences from 5 former residents – one from each decade of the House in its first 50 years – as well as a current resident. These were greatly enjoyed by residents and alumni, and can be heard online here:

<https://youtu.be/fexJg9C-Jcg>

Stargazing - 10 August

While a polar blast was in full swing the day of Stargazing, this did not dampen the moods of 60 residents who journeyed to our log cabin at Belangalo State Forest.

SUIHAA was proud to host yet another fun and exciting event for IH residents that served almost as a weekend retreat from their hectic academic schedules.

While at the log cabin, residents met with our lovely astronomers who had set up camp to showcase all the wonders of the solar system that were on display that evening.



Special thanks to Josh Lee and Pippa Herden for helping organize so many fun activities to keep residents engaged throughout freezing temperatures!

- Moe Hassan

News items

Keshni's Project for Peace

IH resident Keshni Haria's Davis Project for Peace, Breaking Down Barriers, created a platform for conversation and awareness about barriers to education faced by girls in rural parts of Kenya. The girls have been working hard to make wristbands using their creativity and talents, aspiring to support themselves so they don't have to skip school every month.

You can support the project by purchasing a wristband for \$5, with proceeds providing sanitary supplies and educational materials which will help a girl remain in school for up to 3 months. Keshni has sold out of the first batch of wristbands, but the girls are working hard on more. Email Keshni at keshni.h@gmail.com to order yours.

Video about the project: <https://youtu.be/L-nzQwDI4k0>

More information: <https://sydney.edu.au/international-house/news/2018/06/25/keshni-s-project-for-peace.html>



Scholarship winners

Manasa Marasani (Master of Architectural Science – High Performance Buildings) was the recipient of a \$500 Graeme de Graaff bursary to attend a sustainable design tour in Germany organized by the University's architectural science department.

Christopher Pine (Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Advanced Studies, majoring in marine science) was the recipient of a \$500 Rosalie McCutcheon bursary to undertake a PADI rescue diver course in Sydney.

IH Future and Alumni advocacy

A new Steering Group has been established to map out the future for IH. Membership includes Council members, resident and alumni representatives and senior staff of the university. Alumni prepared a summary of all the ideas we have developed since early 2017 – included at the end of this newsletter.

Thank you so much to all alumni who have already written to the Vice-Chancellor!

If you have not yet written but would like to help with SUIHAA's advocacy efforts, please write to vice.chancellor@sydney.edu.au (Dr Michael Spence) and dvc.provost@sydney.edu.au (Professor Stephen Garton). Some information about your personal experience, and the benefits you gained from living at IH and how these carried forward into your professional and personal life would be of interest. Please copy us into your letter or forward a copy for our records and (with your agreement) further use.

Alumni news invited

If you would like to contribute to 'people' news in the future please write a brief note (to info@suihaa.org.au), maybe with photos, for inclusion in this newsletter.

Group and reunion news are welcome!

Best wishes to all IH Alumni from the SUIHAA Committee

Ros Madden, SUIHAA President; James Kane, SUIHAA Secretary and all the SUIHAA Committee:

Nicole Dunn, Moe Hassan, Pippa Herden, Julia Krattli, Dominick Ng, Gwen Ng, Richard Ng, Paul Reisner, Brittany Ridley Karen Rowe-Nurse, and Lyn Woodger Grant. With ex officio members: Jessica Sargant (IHMA Chair), Bradley Kunda (IH Residential Life Officer)



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Sydney University International House Alumni Association

Annual General Meeting – Sunday 22 September 2019
Board Room, International House, 96 City Road Chippendale
12.30 pm

Agenda:

- 1. Ordinary Business**
 - 1.1 Apologies**
 - 1.2 Minutes of the 2018 AGM**
 - 1.3 Annual Report: President**
 - 1.4 Annual Report: Treasurer**
 - 1.5 Annual Report: Bo convenor**
 - 1.6 Discussion of IH and SUIHAA future**
 - 1.7 General discussion**
 - 1.8 Other business without notice**
- 2. Election of the 2019-2020 Committee**

PROXY FORM

Fill out the form attached to this email if you will not be coming to the General Meeting and you would like another SUIHAA member to attend and vote on your behalf. This form should preferably be filled out, saved and then emailed to **info@suihaa.org.au**. You can also mail completed forms to:

SUIHAA Secretary
96 City Road
Chippendale NSW 2008
Australia

“Forms can also be mailed to **Secretary@suihaa.org.au** or presented to the Secretary in person by your proxy prior to the commencement of the meeting”. All forms must be received by the Secretary prior to the commencement of the meeting. If you have named a SUIHAA member as your proxy, that member must be present at the meeting in order for this form to be valid.

International House: Alumni ideas on priorities for the future

Purpose

This paper outlines key priorities for consideration by the IH Future Directions Steering Group, and represents the consolidated views of IH alumni. The Sydney University International House Alumni Association (SUIHAA) represents over 6,000 former residents of IH over its 50+ years, people who have been inspired by its objectives and benefited from the IH experience. IH is a success story which enhances the University's domestic and international reputation.

Alumni ideas on the future IH are outlined: its program and culture; the spaces necessary for the community to flourish; how to engage with the university and the wider community. Sources are: SUIHAA strategic work, meetings and consultation since early 2017; correspondence with alumni; letters from alumni to the Vice Chancellor; a special meeting in June where participants focussed on three key 'things' they want to see in a future IH.

Alumni acknowledge that IH's Hall of Residence should grow, perhaps to as many as 500 residents, and the IH program must be further developed to accommodate this growth, and to spread its reach and relevance to the wider university community including international students.

Planning and timing are vital. IH would face an uncertain future if housed for an unspecified period in the Regiment Building. The retention and stability of the IH program will be a challenge. In meetings with Deputy Vice Chancellors (2017 and 2018) SUIHAA has urged the University to commit to a certain future for IH well before the present buildings are vacated.

1. Program and culture

1.1 The core mission and values embodied in IH's constitution should be preserved: the provision of suitable residential and associated facilities and the promotion of understanding and friendship between people of different nationalities and cultures.

1.2 The IH Hall of Residence must remain a home for residents, not just a dormitory. Alumni and current residents all speak with emotion about IH as their home while at the university, characterised by safety, understanding and friendship, as well as fun and extraordinary cultural stimulation. This atmosphere has been integral to IH philosophy and a hallmark of its success over the years.

1.3 The IH program provides a rich experience for some 200 students currently (see Dropbox papers on Residence Life Program model and evaluation, and Nous summary). Specific measures will be needed to sustain this valued experience into the future with a larger number of residents and a potentially wider membership. A wealth of ideas – introductory events in smaller groups, group activities to promote engagement of all residents and a potentially broader membership – can be developed and discussed with residents and alumni.

1.4 Residents should continue to be a mix of Australian and international students, from diverse cultures and countries, and of post- and under-graduate students. Further diversity could be provided with family friendly accommodation. Indigenous connections and scholarships should continue to be fostered.

1.5 Non-resident membership could be re-introduced, taking account of the rights and needs of both residents and non-residents. IH could offer a home-away-from-home base for students from distant places living in rental accommodation and at risk of isolation. Staff-student contact is a valued part of the current IH program. Its expansion and availability to non-resident members of IH should be considered.

1.6 The IH program should be further developed to ensure its attraction to a wide variety of residents, non-resident members and ‘villagers’ (see 3.1) – maintaining the present intellectual tradition and fostering of inquiry to complement the social and leisure aspects of IH and its surroundings. Visiting academic and postgraduate residents, as well as IH staff, can further enrich the program. Concerts, Roundtables, lectures and more, valued in the existing program, can be opened to a wider audience within the university and the community.

1.7 Governance of IH has worked well, and should continue to reflect the stakeholder composition of the existing Council as set out in the constitution, including representation of residents and alumni. SUIHAA will review its constitution in the future, for example, Committee membership of overseas-based alumni or non-resident members, and fund-raising capabilities.

2. Spaces that enable community: physical design, facilities, infrastructure

2.1 The physical and social infrastructure of IH is key to its positive student experience and to the overall success of IH. Successful features of the residence should be built on, and potential new features researched, including those in other IH models around the world. Spaces that enable community connection must be designed into the future IH.

2.2 Communal dining opportunities are essential. Shared meals and the IH round tables have featured in alumni reminiscences and evaluations, as key promoters of mixing and understanding (see SUIHAA celebration document in Dropbox). Berkeley IH, with a resident population over 500, recognises the importance of ensuring there are good dining facilities for many social and cultural reasons; their dining hall has recently been redeveloped to seat 340 and offers extended dining times, serving some 1800 meals per day.

2.3 The heritage and aesthetic value of existing buildings designed by Walter Bunning (architect of the National Library of Australia), most notably the Rotunda, should be factored into future designs. Public spaces, as now provided by the Rotunda, should be carried over into the new IH, offering meeting and tutorial rooms and small-medium function/conference facilities. Some of these facilities could become profit-making enterprises of IH (as with other IHs).

2.4 The IH/SUIHAA log cabin in the Southern Highlands has the potential to be more widely used, following renovation, for specialist ‘stays’, for example, in small retreats, environmental courses and leadership programs.

2.5 Student-centric design is essential, to be achieved by effective consultation with current and recent residents.

2.6 Spaces that attract the university and wider community to IH must be designed in parallel with the redesigned and expanded program outlined above

3. Outreach and relevance to the university and wider community

3.1 An International Village of selected cafes, retail outlets and other commercial enterprises, within the City Road precinct and adjacent to IH, would complement IH public facilities (cultural, social, meeting and seminar spaces). The Village would provide an integrated attraction for students and staff with its multinational emphasis, and would connect IH to the surrounding university community.

3.2 The new IH should be developed on the present site. An international village and residence is a highly appropriate gateway to the University of Sydney, sending a message to the wider public of the values the University promotes. Its proximity to Victoria Park and pool has been valued for many years by IH residents.

3.3 IH could also anchor a Global Engagement Hub. The hub would focus on practices that foster positive practical outcomes, including international engagement, understanding and friendship, via learning, experience and practice. Its relationship to other similar entities within the university, as well as its possible involvement in interdisciplinary research into the outcomes of the practices developed by entities of the Hub, could be further explored. Visiting academics, including residents of IH, would contribute to the intellectual life of the House and of this Hub or Centre.

Written on behalf of and in consultation with the IH alumni community and the SUIHAA Committee for 2018-19:

Ros Madden, SUIHAA President; James Kane, SUIHAA Secretary; Brittany Ridley, SUIHAA Treasurer; and other members of the 2018-19 SUIHAA Committee: Nicole Dunn, Moe Hassan, Pippa Herden, Julia Krattli, Dominick Ng, Gwen Ng, Richard Ng, Paul Reisner, Karen Rowe-Nurse, and Lyn Woodger Grant. With ex officio members: Jessica Sargent (IHMA Chair), Bradley Kunda (IH Assistant Director)

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