



February 2023

SUIHAA Newsletter

A Message from the SUIHAA Committee Executive

Welcome to the Year of the Rabbit (or Year of the Cat, if you are in Vietnam)!

We hope you all had a pleasant holiday season and are having a great start to 2023. SUIHAA has held two Committee meetings since the last Newsletter in November, which produced some changes to the composition of the Committee, including the election of a new Treasurer, Louise Trott (for further details, please see the SUIHAA Committee Update below). SUIHAA was also deeply saddened to learn of the death of a long-term and active member of our alumni community, Rosemary Williams. You can read more about Rosemary in the Newsletter below.

*Message from the
SUIHAA
Committee
Executive*

The Committee continues to stay abreast of the University of Sydney's plans for the redevelopment of International House, to consider Harry Bergsteiner's Adaptive Rehab proposal for IH, and more generally, to discuss what the nature of the future IH should be. For further details, please see the IH Redevelopment Update below and look for more information in future SUIHAA Newsletters.

As mentioned in the previous Newsletter, the judges for the Rosemary Berrick Photography Competition decided that other photos beside those of the top four winners deserved recognition. We are delighted to share three of those photos in this Newsletter.

We continue to seek people who are interested in helping with IH alumni activities to become part of the SUIHAA Committee. Please let us know if this interests you.

We look forward to connecting with you again in the next few months.

Best wishes,

Dennis Schatz (*SUIHAA President*)
Louise Trott (*SUIHAA Treasurer*)
James Kane (*SUIHAA Secretary*)

SUIHAA Committee Update

SUIHAA held its most recent Committee meetings via Zoom on 3 December 2022 and 21 January 2023.

The following is a summary of key points from these Committee meetings:

- In November 2022, Birute Don wrote to the SUIHAA President and Secretary to announce her resignation as Treasurer. This resignation took effect on 11 December. Louise Trott was elected as the new Treasurer at the SUIHAA Committee meeting on 3 December.
- Moe Hassan attended the Committee meeting on 3 December and was elected as a General Committee Member by a majority vote of those present.
- As a result of these changes, the current composition of the SUIHAA Committee is as follows:

*Recent changes to
SUIHAA
Committee
membership*

President: Dennis Schatz

Treasurer: Louise Trott

Secretary: James Kane

General Committee Members: Harry Bergsteiner, Moe Hassan, Mike Hirschhorn, Margaret Lemoh (*Bo Convenor*), Ros Madden, Paul Reisner

- After extensive discussion of issues relating to the redevelopment of IH on 3 December, the SUIHAA Committee voted on a motion tabled by Harry Bergsteiner that ‘this meeting of the SUIHAA Committee endorses in principle the Adaptive Rehab concept proposed by Harry Bergsteiner’. The motion received three votes in favour; six Committee members abstained.
- At the meeting on 21 January 2023, the SUIHAA Committee discussed a range of matters, including the SUIHAA Constitution, the designation of specific roles on the SUIHAA Committee, and SUIHAA priorities for 2023.
- In the year ahead, SUIHAA remains committed to running the Rosemary Berrick Photography Competition and the de Graff-Elms Biennial Roundtable, as well as exploring possibilities for the revival of the Walter Westman Lecture.

In accordance with the SUIHAA Constitution (Section 5b), up to **four** additional alumni may join the SUIHAA Committee as General Committee Members. Please contact the Secretary, James Kane, at

iamkane2@gmail.com if you are interested in joining the Committee. Your involvement would be most welcome!

Rosemary Berrick Photography Competition

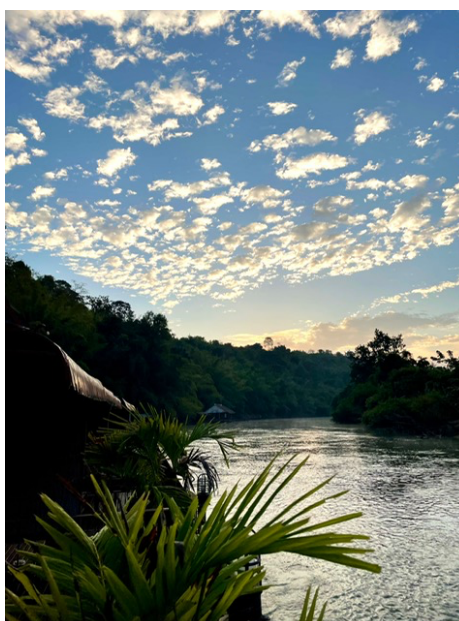
Honourable Mentions

We announced in the last SUIHAA Newsletter the top four winners of the 2022 Rosemary Berrick Photography Competition. As mentioned in the Newsletter, the three judges were sorry they had to choose just four from the many outstanding submissions. Thus, in the next few Newsletters we will feature other photos that the judges thought deserved recognition. We hope you enjoy these beautiful worldwide images from your fellow IH alumni.



Mana Khanijou lived at IH from 2007 to 2011 in Room 352. He now lives in Bangkok, Thailand, where he is Head of Commercial & Investment Consultant at Merkle Capital (Cryptomind Group). They are the first leading digital asset fund management company under the SEC license regulation in Thailand. They help investors bridge the mindset from traditional asset classes towards the digital asset space, with confidence. Mana also looks at strategic partnerships for the company that can add value for both parties. You can contact him at mana.khanijou@gmail.com.

Photo: *The River Kwai Meander*
(21 November 2020 – Kanchanaburi, Thailand)



This photo was taken from the bank of the River Kwai at the River Kwai Village Hotel at 7.00 am. Mana comments: ‘It was a beautiful morning with a refreshing atmosphere, as if the river was actually flowing within me.’

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Josh Lee stayed at IH from 2007 to 2011, when he worked on a Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws. He currently divides his time between Darwin (NT, Australia) and Sydney. He is between jobs at the moment, but was formerly a session academic and manager of data science and analytics at the University of Sydney. Josh can be contacted via Instagram at [@jfslee](#) where he posts daily photos like this one (and has been doing so for the last 18 months or so).

Photo: *Reflected Light*
(23 February 2022 – Darling Harbour, Sydney)

Rosemary Berrick

Photo

Competition:

honourable

mentions



This photo was taken at Darling Harbour after a heavy downpour—something which Sydney and most of south-eastern Australia saw only too much of in 2022.



Thushara Gamage stayed at IH in 1999, when she worked on a Bachelor of Arts (majoring in English). She now lives in Canberra, where she is an applied linguist, currently working as an online learning specialist. She can be contacted at thusharagamage@gmail.com.

Photo: Jellyfish
(26 January 2016 – Palm Beach, Sydney)



Thushara comments: 'My daughter and I love going for walks on Palm Beach, our favourite beach in Sydney. During one of our walks, on Australia Day in 2016, we noticed many jellyfish. The one in the photograph was very photogenic!'

IH Redevelopment Update

As noted in the last SUIHAA Newsletter, the Project Control Group (PCG) at the University of Sydney that leads the effort to redevelop IH met in November 2022, followed by an IH Council meeting later in November. The University approved developing a master plan for the area between the Wentworth Building and IH, possibly including the Seymour Centre. While the master plan will include the entire area, the first construction would be around the Wentworth Building. This means that construction of a new IH will likely be in five to seven years.

SUIHAA is committed to being engaged as much as possible in the redevelopment plans. At our Committee meetings, we regularly discuss what needs to occur to ensure that what is built allows IH to serve its mission to promote the aims and ideals of international understanding within the University of Sydney and the wider community. The SUIHAA Committee will be revisiting the recommendations it made to the University in 2019 to revise as needed and reiterate the characteristics required to have an effective IH in future.

*Update on IH
Redevelopment*

On a related subject, progress has been made concerning the IH Log Cabin in the Belanglo forest. With the closing of IH, the Cabin has been neglected. Recently, we learned of two IH alumni who are interested in becoming caretakers of the cabin. They met in December with Dennis Schatz, representing SUIHAA, and representatives of the University and IH Council to determine what needed to be done to accomplish the transfer of responsibility. These two alumni and IH Council representatives visited the cabin in January, and the entire group will meet again in February to determine what needs to be done next.

Alumni lunch with Michael Hwang: postscript

words by Ros Madden

*Lunch with
Michael Hwang:
postscript*

A postscript and apology for the story in the last Newsletter about the lunch with Michael Hwang in August 2022: I focussed on the day and not all the work that had gone before. As well as Michael, several alumni helped with the organisation, notably Anne McCarthy, who very sadly could not attend the lunch because of a bad bout of influenza. Thanks and sympathies to Anne, who tells me she was 'fine' by November.

Vale Rosemary Williams (Elias)

words by Kay Owens



Rosemary Williams, born in December 1946, studied Social Work and later Psychology Honours and worked in this professional area in Papua New Guinea and Australia. She was a resident of International House in 1969–1970 and a regular attender at SUIHAA and IH Pioneers meetings. Although a first lesion of the spinal cord occurred just before graduating with her Social Work degree, it was many years before she was told she had multiple sclerosis. Despite this, she went on with life, marrying

Ron Elias in Papua New Guinea and living in the village and later in the town of Lae before bringing her two children to Sydney. There, she continued her career and caring not only for her two children but also at various times the three children

of Ron's second wife. The children are all good friends as only Rosemary could have achieved with her love and acceptance. She could be rightly proud of her children's beautiful characters, professionalism and achievements. Alyson, a nurse, cared so much for her mum, and Sean is an ICT specialist. All the grandchildren brought her joy, too.

Rosemary's concern for social justice encouraged her to advocate on many occasions for children here and abroad, and she was a member of the



Bennelong Friends of Refugee and Bennelong Reconciliation Group. Despite her difficulties in getting around, she would attend philosophical meetings, musical events, meditation, church, IH meetings and continue shopping for as long as she could independently, gradually accepting more help from her friends. She was still carrying on conversations about important issues and enjoying life until she departed this life on 24 December 2022. An inspiration for all. Vale, Rosemary.



*Remembering
Rosemary
Williams
(1946–2022)*
