



July 2022

SUIHAA Newsletter

A Message from the SUIHAA Committee Executive

We hope that you have all been keeping well during these difficult past few months for the world.

*Upcoming
SUIHAA events*

SUIHAA is excited to announce the relaunch of the Rosemary Berrick Photo Competition. We also hope that you will join us for an informal gathering in Sydney on 17 September to coincide with Dennis Schatz's visit to Australia. See below for more information on these events.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we would love to hear from you regarding your latest activities if you would like to include an update in future messages (read on for some reflections from Kay Pearse and Paul Gottlieb, IH 1968). Please send us the information, including a photo or two, or post it on the SUIHAA Facebook page (facebook.com/suihaa).

We look forward to seeing you later in the year, either online or in Sydney!

All the best for the next few months,

Dennis Schatz (*SUIHAA President*)
James Kane (*SUIHAA Secretary*)
Brittany Ridley (*SUIHAA Treasurer*)

SUIHAA Committee Update

SUIHAA held its most recent committee meeting on 9 July via Zoom.

Sadly, Brittany Ridley confirmed at the meeting that she will be stepping down as Treasurer in the lead-up to the SUIHAA AGM in September (**date TBC**). Brittany has steered SUIHAA's finances through a very tumultuous time in the history of IH, and the

Committee is extremely grateful to her for all her hard work in this role over the past few years.

SUIHAA

*Treasurer role to
become vacant*

With this in mind, SUIHAA would love to hear from any alumni who may be interested in standing for the role of Treasurer at the upcoming AGM.

Several other vacancies remain on the SUIHAA Committee. In accordance with the SUIHAA Constitution (Section 5b), up to five additional alumni may join as General Committee Members.

Please contact me at iamkane2@gmail.com or get in touch with SUIHAA on Facebook if you are interested in joining the Committee or would like to assist in some other way. We would love to hear from you!

James Kane (*SUIHAA Secretary*)

Rosemary Berrick Photography Competition

Now that everyone is more “out and about” after two years of lockdowns and limited travel, it is time to get your cameras ready— or search through your photo files— for the updated version of the Rosemary Berrick Photography Competition.

The Photo

*Competition is
back!*

Please see the file attached to this Newsletter for information on the competition rules and prizes. The best of the photos will be featured on the SUIHAA Facebook page and in future SUIHAA Newsletters.

The submission deadline is 22 August 2022. The winners will be announced by late October.

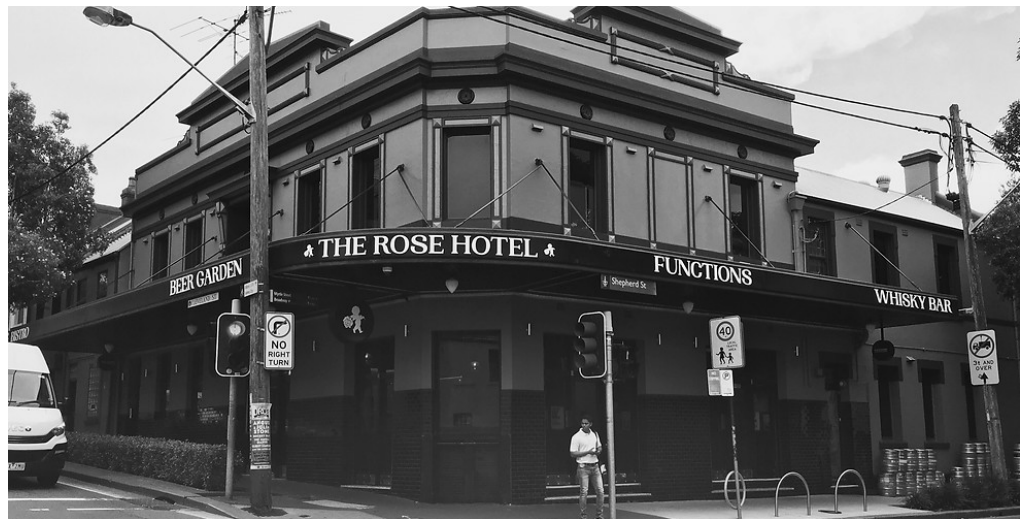
We look forward to seeing your photos!

SUIHAA gathering in Sydney: 17 September

SUIHAA will be holding an informal gathering at the Rose Hotel (52–54 Cleveland St, Chippendale, NSW) starting at 4.00 pm on Saturday, 17 September.

After more than two years without being able to hold an in-person event, we hope that this will give IH alumni the opportunity to reconnect with each other at a well-known pub close to IH (and, of course, close to the hearts of many alumni!).

*Casual SUIHAA
catch-up at the
Rose (17
September)*



SUIHAA President Dennis Schatz will be visiting Sydney with his wife, Leila, from the USA in September and is looking forward to meeting with alumni at the Rose.

Please contact SUIHAA via Facebook or email (Dennis Schatz: DSchatz@pacsci.org; James Kane: iamkane2@gmail.com) if you have any questions about this event.

We hope to see you there!

IH Redevelopment Update

The IH Council met on 15 June with Greg Robinson, Sydney University's Chief Infrastructure Officer, to discuss the current considerations and options related to the redevelopment of IH. The conversations covered three topics related to IH:

1. **International House Redevelopment** – The University has a number of capital construction projects in planning and development. IH is just one of them. This makes it difficult to identify a specific IH redevelopment schedule. IH remains part of the planning to decide what should happen in the area from the Wentworth Building to IH.

*Update on IH
redevelopment,
including the Log
Cabin and artwork*

2. **Future of the IH Log Cabin** – The University recently cleared the vegetation that grew up around the cabin and cleaned the insides, so no rubbish is left to invite animals to visit. If the primary purpose of the cabin is to give international students “a taste” of the Australian bush, there was discussion of whether other University facilities would be better suited for this goal, such as the Arthursleigh facility just outside Marulan. Dennis was tasked with finding out how much the IH Cabin was used in the three to five years before the COVID pandemic and what interest there is by alumni to maintain the Cabin and schedule its use.

3. **Future of artwork in the current IH buildings** – There is still valuable artwork in the current building. Discussions within the University are ongoing regarding possible loans to other parts of the University until IH is redeveloped.

We hope to have more information to share with you about the IH redevelopment in our next Newsletter.

Bo Children’s Hospital Update

2 June was the tenth anniversary of the opening of Bo Children’s Hospital, marking 10 years of care for children in the Bo district and beyond. It was SUIHAA that gave the initial impetus to the building of the hospital by raising \$100,000. To build a hospital is one thing, to sustain it is another, and it is thanks to our loyal band of donors, many of whom are alumni of IH, that it is still thriving today, despite Ebola and Covid.



Opening ceremony of the Bo Children’s Hospital (2012)

Currently there is a daily outpatient clinic and twice a week vaccination clinics are held. In the last two months approximately 200 patients a month have presented. There are 17 beds currently available for admitted patients for 24/7 care by our nursing staff. Most patients have malaria, which is endemic, but respiratory diseases (especially in the rainy season), gastro, typhoid, worms, malnutrition are also frequently reported as well as fractures, burns, etc.

Our new medical superintendent, Francis Bangali, a qualified Community Health Officer (a 4-year university degree), has been on the hospital staff from the beginning. He completed a surgical training course at Masanga, Hospital, Sierra Leone last year and recently did a three-week internship in surgery at a children's hospital in Germany. He is keen to offer simple surgical procedures on site. At the moment surgical cases are referred to the Bo Government Hospital. Obviously surgery is a new level in our small hospital but we hope to expand our facilities to be able to offer some limited surgical services with a high standard of aftercare. It is also hoped to add accommodation for visiting medical staff and volunteers.

This year we have employed a pharmacy assistant and two CHOs formally working as volunteers while awaiting their certification are now salaried staff.

*Bo Children's
Hospital update*



Outpatients clinic at the Bo Children's Hospital

Earlier this year we acquired new equipment for the laboratory which not only provides an excellent service to our patients but also earns some revenue for the hospital by offering services to outsiders. The x-

ray machine we have is old but still functions and is also made available to others. A digital x-ray machine is on our wish-list. Another major move was to pay for a reliable internet connection through CADAP, a West African internet provider, so that our staff can consult medical professionals in other parts of the world in the expanding area of telehealth. The potential for online training is also highly desirable. Unfortunately, this is still not completed as we are awaiting components which have been held up somewhere in the supply chain.

We are constantly looking for ways of upgrading the skills of our nurses. Recently we became aware of a scheme run by Médecins Sans Frontières called the MSF Academy which offers workshops and training for nurses in the field. Hopefully we will be able to tap into this.

We are always open to suggestions and advice from anyone with knowledge and experience in Health. If you know anyone interested in volunteering as a nurse or doctor at the hospital we would love to hear from them.

Finally thank you again for supporting this wonderful work, the vision of the late Dr Nuli Lemoh (1967 resident of IH). Please visit the Bo Children's Hospital website (<https://www.bochildrenshospital.org.au>) for further information.

Margaret Lemoh (*SUIHAA Bo Convenor*)

Alumni News: Kay Pearse and Paul Gottlieb

IH 1968

It's been 54 years since we met at International House (IH). Back then, the White Australia Policy had just been repealed (1966), a huge majority of Australians had voted in a referendum for Indigenous Australians to be included in the national Census (1967), the American and Australian war in Vietnam was at its peak, compulsory conscription was still in force, Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy were assassinated, apartheid was still enforced in South Africa, and we had just seen the first pictures of the dark side of the moon and the 'earth rise'.

Both of us were born in 1946 and were vanguard members of the Post-War Baby Boomer Generation.

Paul: I grew up in Canberra (population then about 15,000) and went to a government co-educational school with a healthy mix of children of local farmers, local workers, ANU Academics, Commonwealth Public Servants, European Immigrants, and Diplomats – multicultural but entirely of European ancestry.

Kay: I grew up in Southeast Queensland, in the South Burnett and the Darling Downs - on various peanut, wheat, and cattle farms.

Kay and Paul: IH was a revelation for us. We began to understand the world through daily living with academic, postgraduate, and undergraduate people, many from Asian backgrounds, totally different from our mainly Australian and European experiences.



Kay and Paul in the University of Sydney Quadrangle, 1970

Kay: After IH, I worked as a High School science teacher before traveling to the UK by ship to work as a Laboratory Assistant and travel through Europe, and then back to Sydney where Paul and I were reunited.

Kay and Paul: We moved to Melbourne in 1973 to begin Paul's work at the Aeronautical Research Laboratories (ARL) where I learned a lot about Aeronautical Engineering. Kay completed a PhD in Genetics at Latrobe University and then took up a postdoctoral position at Stanford University in California.

Paul: In 1979, I took leave from ARL in Melbourne to travel to the US and meet up with Kay, and we spent the next 6 months traveling around the USA and Canada in a camper van.

Kay and Paul: We returned to Melbourne in 1980. Kay had a Postdoctoral position in genetics at Melbourne University. Paul left ARL and got a job at the CSIRO Division of Mineral Chemistry in a team building a computer-controlled Electron Microscope as a mineral analyzer for use in Mineral Processing and began to understand Primary Metallurgical Engineering.

Kay: After conducting 24-hour laboratory experiments and nursing a six-month-old baby, I decided that academia was not for me, and I found a new career in management of small health and disability service providers. Our second son was born during this time.

Paul: In 1992 CSIRO built new facilities for the Mineral Sector in Brisbane where Kay's mother lived, and we decided to relocate to Queensland.

Kay: I worked in disability in Brisbane and developed the Queensland Labor Disability Policy. I was invited to join the new Labor government as the disability advisor and later appointed Chief of Staff in the ministerial offices of Natural Resources and Mines and then Health. These were the best jobs I ever had. I was also appointed to several Board positions including the Board of IH in Brisbane.

Paul: I rose through the ranks of CSIRO to become a Senior Principal Research Scientist and continued to be the Project Leader for the development and commercialization of Mineral Processing Technology. The technology was used in Africa, North & South America, and Asia. In 2003 I retired from CSIRO to become the Chief Technology Officer of a spin-off company and later a US company that bought the spin-off. This involved regular overseas trips and I have no doubt that my time at IH contributed to my understanding of international culture.

Kay and Paul: Paul retired again in 2014 and then had an opportunity to continue similar work in Brno in the Czech Republic. We intended to stay about 2 years but loved it so much that we stayed for more than six years until 2021.

Paul: I was responsible for the technical and business development of similar technology to what I had developed at CSIRO and broadened the application scope to Geological Research and including China and

Europe. The company had about 700 employees, but I was only the second non-Czech or Slovak employee.



Kay: I was an enthusiastic volunteer in Brno – I wrote reviews for the Brno Expats newspaper, supported Czech academics to get papers published in international journals, mentored Czech academic women, became a founding manager of the Brno English Speaking Theatre (BEST), and had a large group of young ex-pat women friends who needed a feminist “Mother”.



Paul & Kay: 2020 was tough for most people. Paul was working from home and became quite depressed in lengthy lockdowns in the Czech Republic. We had a short break in mid-summer, but towards the end of the year, we decided to return to Australia. We made several attempts with flights to Brisbane, Sydney, and Melbourne but all were canceled. We eventually got a flight to Perth, where we were in quarantine for two weeks. Finally, we made it to Brisbane and

continued life “Couch Surfing” as our apartment was leased until the end of 2021. We visited old friends from IH in northern NSW, Sydney, and Canberra, got caught in a lockdown while visiting Melbourne, and returned to Brisbane to discover that Paul had oesophageal cancer. After major surgery and recovery, we were able to refurbish our apartment and move in just in time for the Brisbane Flood. As in 2011, the flood inundated our basement, damaged our electricity supply, and disabled all our elevators.



Soon after the flood, Australia opened up and, after two years, we finally managed to get to Vietnam to see our older son and his family in Ha Noi. Our younger son lives in Brisbane with his US-born partner.

We are not sure what the future holds. We can't wait to go visit our friends in Europe and the US and maybe spend more time in Vietnam. Whatever, we will always look back on IH with fond memories and gratitude for teaching us to be global citizens.