

# SUIHAA Newsletter, January 2019

Greetings to all IH Alumni!

In our March Newsletter we bring you:

- Coming events
- Recent events
- IH Future, Alumni advocacy and letter from SUIHAA Presidents
  - Involving the IH Fellows – from Harry Bergsteiner
  - An Invitation to share news



SUIHAA

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## Coming events

### **The first De Graaff-Elms Biennial Roundtable** *Sunday 7 April, 2.30-4pm, in the Wool Room at IH.*

This is a free event. But bookings are **essential** to ensure catering accuracy. You are welcome to invite friends.

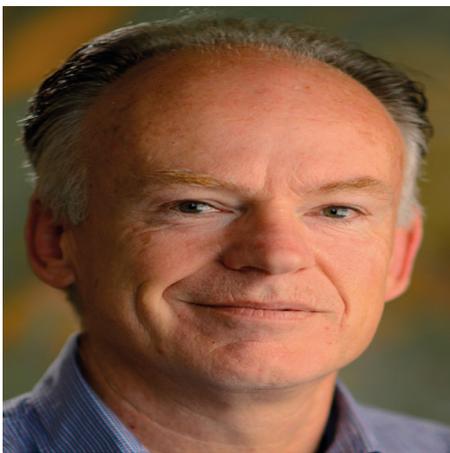
The event, to be held on Sunday 7 April, will feature Professor Mark McKenna, Patricia Garcia AO and Andrew Ford OAM.

#### **Topics on the table:**

- The philosophy and practice of constructive international relations
- The pathways to peace and global citizenship
- The role of music and the arts in promoting the appreciation of cultural diversity across the world.

More information and on-line bookings at <https://sydney.edu.au/international-house/news/2019/03/08/de-graaff-elms-roundtable-panelists-to-explore-pathways-to-peace.html>

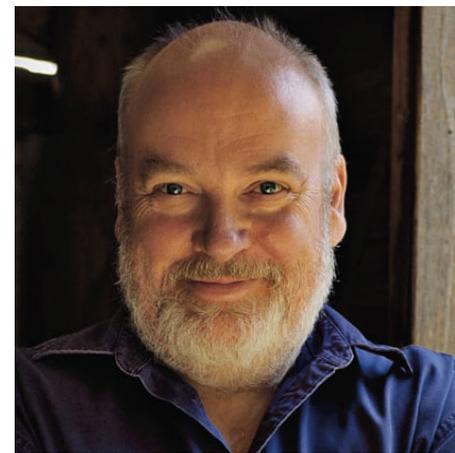
#### **Panellists:**



Mark McKenna is Professor of History, acclaimed author of historical books, papers and the remarkable Quarterly Essay *Moment of Truth: History and Australia's Future*.



Patricia Garcia AO is a Rotary Peace Fellow and Visiting Scholar working on peace, humanitarian practice and development issues.



Andrew Ford OAM is an award-winning composer, writer and broadcaster.

As experts in their respective fields, the trio will offer a fascinating glimpse into their professional careers as well as personal insights into building international understanding.

## Recent events

### Calendarfest to welcome new residents

IH welcomed a wonderful, enthusiastic and energetic new batch of residents in February. This great group of new residents was interested to hear about the Calendarfest tradition and grateful to receive the calendars. Thanks so much to all alumni who sent calendars to keep this lovely tradition alive.

The event was heart-warming for the alumni there also. In the middle of the struggle for IH's future, seeing that the spirit of IH is still vibrant is an inspiration to keep working on our advocacy and other efforts.

### Flag dinner

The House now has residents from 40 countries. It is always such a joy to see residents celebrating their countries and hearing all the languages from around the world.



## IH Future and Alumni advocacy

The Council and the House are continuing to work hard to develop good options for IH's future, in preparation for their next meeting with the Vice-Chancellor.

The SUIHAA Committee has written to the Director and Council Chair to outline Alumni ideas about the future of IH, to inform and support IH redevelopment proposals. We have garnered these ideas from work over the last two years in SUIHAA working groups, meetings and communication from Alumni. Among other things, we said:

“There is a golden opportunity for the University to build on one of its successes and mould its future at a time when international education and engagement have become critical to the University's success, and require new thinking ... International House can be developed not only as an enlarged residential college, but also a strategic space for international engagement, and a hub for scholarly learning and research, social and cultural interaction. We hope the University will grasp the opportunity and devote the necessary time and thought to building on its magnificently successful international niche 'brand' – International House.”

If you would like more information about what we said, please contact [president@suihaa.org.au](mailto:president@suihaa.org.au)

**Thank you so much to all alumni who have already written to the Vice-Chancellor!** We hope to publish excerpts from some letters in a future Newsletter, with your agreement. If you have not yet written but would like to help with SUIHAA's advocacy efforts, please write to [vice.chancellor@sydney.edu.au](mailto:vice.chancellor@sydney.edu.au) (Dr Michael Spence) and [dvc.provost@sydney.edu.au](mailto: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.

**Almost all past SUIHAA presidents combined in sending a letter to the Vice-Chancellor.** A total of 20 of the living alumni presidents, representing 44 of the 52 years of life of International House (44 of 50 years of the alumni association), wrote to the Vice-Chancellor pointing to the successes of the IH program and its relevance to and promise for the future. The letter is attached to this Newsletter.

Among other things we said:

“We are proud within International House to have been a proven best practice model in promoting engagement, belonging and cultural understanding. The diversity of countries represented by current and recent International House residents not only promotes engagement among groups of students at the University who would not otherwise interact, but is also highly relevant to a sustainable business model for the University and its strategy of increasing diversity in its international student market.”

## Involving the IH Fellows – from Harry Bergsteiner

On 26 October 2018, Ros (Wood) Madden sent a momentous email to all alumni, in which she outlined communication IH had received from the university to the effect that IH was to be ‘temporarily’ relocated to new student accommodation on the former Regiment site, a building that was totally unsuited to IH’s needs. For me, as a Council member from 2006–2016 and one of IH’s three newest Fellows, this was a watershed moment. Having participated in negotiations with the university over a 10-year period in what can be described as a diplomatic, professional and respectful manner, the peremptory ‘advice’ from the university, came as an unexpected shock that justified, if not demanded, a robust response. I therefore asked IH Council whether I could address the Fellows Lunch, on IH’s future. I have since supplied three key documents to all Fellows: “How and why IH’s future is in jeopardy” (outlines the history of the SU-IH negotiations), “Proposal for IH adaptive rehab” (addresses the university’s unsubstantiated claim the IH buildings have reached the end of their useful lives and need to be demolished), “Going forward – securing IH’s future” (proposes a way forward, however, this has been overtaken by unexpected but favourable developments). Essentially, initiatives now being pursued by certain key Fellows will support initiatives that SUIHAA is undertaking, the collective objective being to bring about a change of mind on the part of the university.

### **An invitation to share news**

If you would like to contribute to ‘people’ news in the future please write a brief note, maybe with photos, for inclusion in this newsletter. Group and reunion news welcome!

### **Best wishes to all IH Alumni**

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)