



November 2022

SUIHAA Newsletter

A Message from the SUIHAA Committee Executive

As we approach the end of 2022, we hope that you are all doing well and are looking forward to an enjoyable festive season.

This has been a busy quarter for SUIHAA. Our AGM on 3 September saw the election of a new Treasurer—Birute Don—along with the re-election of James Kane as Secretary and Dennis Schatz as President. Later in the Newsletter, you can learn more about our new Treasurer and read a summary of the AGM. We send our thanks to Brittany Ridley for all her work as SUIHAA Treasurer over the past five years, and we look forward to working with Birute.

The results of the Rosemary Berrick Photography Competition are now in. The three judges were challenged to identify the top four images from the 33 excellent photographs submitted by 11 IH alumni. The winning photographs are highlighted below and will be featured on the SUIHAA Facebook page (facebook.com/suihaa). The judges thought that there were a few other submissions that also deserved recognition. We will feature these in future SUIHAA Newsletters. Congratulations to the winners!

Several IH Pioneers (residents from the earliest years of IH) had an enjoyable lunch on 21 August when Michael Hwang was visiting Sydney from Singapore. Please read on for Ros Madden's report on the event, with photos.

You can also read below about Dennis' meetings with University staff regarding the redevelopment of IH while he was visiting Sydney from the USA.

All the best for a great beginning to 2023. We look forward to connecting with you again in the new year!

Dennis Schatz (*SUIHAA President*)
Birute Don (*SUIHAA Treasurer*)
James Kane (*SUIHAA Secretary*)

*Update on recent
SUIHAA activities*

Alumni News: Birute Don (Leveris)

IH 1971–1973

Birute Don, who stayed in IH from 1971 to 1973, recently became Treasurer of SUIHAA. Birute received her Honours Arts degree from the University of Sydney in 1974. Soon after she moved to Melbourne to work as a Geographer with the Australian Road Research Board and also to be a live in tutor in Geography at St Marys College University of Melbourne.

*Meet Birute Don:
new SUIHAA
Treasurer*

After helping to plan the Monash Freeway, Birute worked as a Town Planner in various local councils in Melbourne. Birute was also the Director of a consultancy firm in Melbourne for about 10 years. She was fortunate to be sponsored by VicRoads to go to the World Road Congress in Paris in 2006. Birute retired in 2019 just prior to Covid.

Birute has enjoyed being involved in various U3A activities such as photography, heritage walks, computing, tennis, bridge and Yoga. Birute is also keen on family history and historic buildings. She goes to Sydney often to see her now 98-year-old mother and former IH residents. In October, Birute met up with former IH residents at Parramatta and at Sydney University. See photos below.



Birute's Graduation (1974)



Birute in Melbourne (2021)



Parramatta Club (18 October 2022)



Sydney University (21 October 2022)

Rosemary Berrick Photo Competition Results

Top Award Winners



Sana Kurien lived at IH between January 2013 and December 2016. He currently lives in Sydney, where he is a part-time data engineer at the Brain Dynamics Centre in Westmead Hospital and completing an M.Phil. in Computer Science at the University of Sydney, focusing on Machine Learning in Health.

Photo: *Countenance* (February 2019 – Jaisalmer, India)



*Rosemary Berrick
Photo Competition
winners*

Although the person in the photograph was almost staged in a tourist spot in the Jaisalmer Fort, Rajasthan, what couldn't be artificial is the resilience in his expression. One could almost see the decades of arid desert breeze on this gentleman's face. But here he was, showcasing his craft to earn a living, perfectly camouflaging the tough human behind that gentle smile. The fascinating thing about this photograph or perhaps photographs in general is that such philosophical notions only come retrospectively. What was striking at the moment I took the picture was the colours and the scene, perfectly staged to be a photogenic moment for any passers-by, but the feeling it invokes is much deeper and changes every time I look at this image.



Sen Ganbaatar lived at IH between 2016 and 2017 while she studied Economics and International Business. She currently lives in Sydney and works within the financial services industry as a Marketing Manager. On the side, she helps small business owners increase their brand visibility. **Sen can be contacted at tsenguunee.g@gmail.com.**

Photo: *Up the Horizon* (2 July 2022 – Mongolia)



It was taken during a family road trip to celebrate our long overdue reunion due to COVID travel restrictions. The photo features my mother wearing a Deel (traditional Mongolian clothing) and pointing to Lake Khuvsgul, the largest freshwater lake in Mongolia.

Runner-Up Winners



Bernard Delcourt lived at IH in 1972 for a one-year postgraduate year at the University of Sydney Mechanical Engineering Department. He currently lives in Belgium and is now retired after 40+ years of professional activity. His last position was with the European Commission in Brussels, where he was in charge of evaluating and monitoring EU-funded collaborative projects (notably in the Balkan countries and Turkey). He is still

occasionally active as a management consultant in European Union projects. **Bernard can be contacted at bdelcourt@compuserve.com.**

Photo: *Sunset Dance* (28 August 2021 – Milna, Croatia)

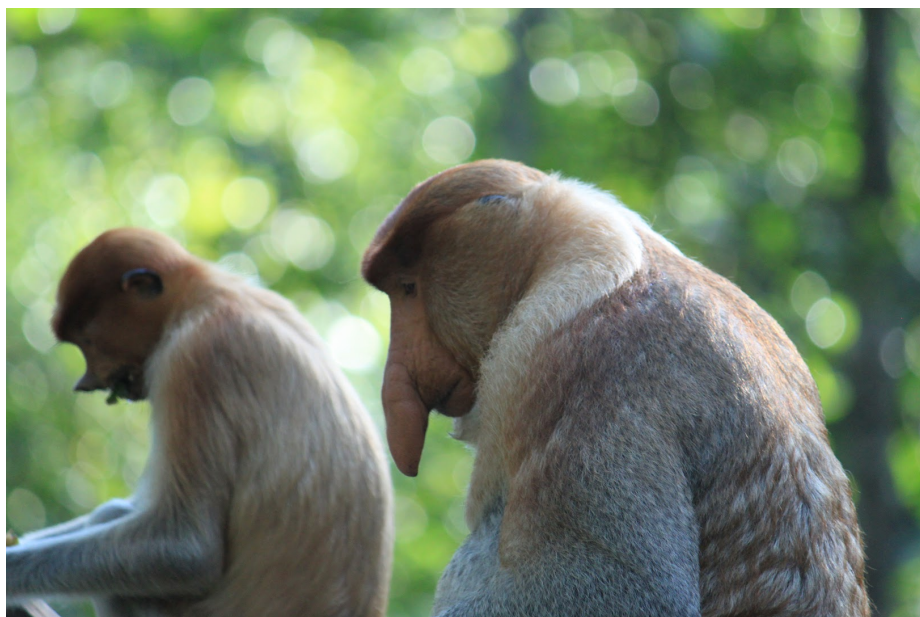


This photo was taken moments before the sunset at Milna, a delightful small harbour on the Brac island (pronounced 'bratch'), which is located off the better-known city of Split, Dalmatia, Croatia. The whole island is very beautiful (so is Croatia); it enjoys great sunshine most of the year with usually very hot weather in summer. I was leisurely strolling around the place and enjoying the relatively cool weather after an almost painfully hot day, when I noticed these two kids happily jumping up and down on the deck of a far-away anchored sailboat. I just managed to take the picture before they stopped their music and dance.



Rama Arianto lived at IH for one year (2018–2019) while studying Urban and Regional Planning for a Master’s degree. He currently lives in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia, where he teaches Urban and Regional Planning at Universitas Islam Bandung. Having this occupation supports his photography hobby, specifically during field observations and survey. **Rama can be contacted at rama.arianto@hotmail.com.**

Photo: Sage Wisdom (25 June 2014)



The photograph was taken at Tarakan Island, located in the north-eastern part of Kalimantan, Indonesia. In 2014, this island was in the middle of making a detailed spatial plan and the local government asked my team to make it. This photo was taken during our field observation session at a local fauna sanctuary that houses many species of endemic flora and fauna, one of them is the proboscis monkey or what we call *Bekantan*. As the park ranger told us, these species typically do not come so close to humans. But that day, a troop gathered close to us calmly. This calm behaviour inspired me to take the photograph and give it the above title. Taking inspiring photographs that could tell the story of the location is an important aspect of urban and regional planning. I hope I can inspire my students by participating in photography contests.

2022 SUIHAA AGM

SUIHAA held its most recent AGM on 3 September 2022 via Zoom.

The following is a summary of key points from the AGM:

- Dennis Schatz (SUIHAA President) provided an overview of the activities of the SUIHAA Committee for 2021–2022 and reported on meetings with IH Council and University staff.
- As in 2021, the outgoing SUIHAA Treasurer, Brittany Ridley, reminded alumni that SUIHAA no longer receives membership fees from residents due to the closure of IH in 2020. This means that SUIHAA no longer has a main source of revenue. SUIHAA's existing funds should nevertheless be sufficient to cover minimal ongoing expenses until the reopening of IH.
- Margaret Lemoh (SUIHAA Bo Convenor) provided a thorough update on the Bo Children's Hospital in Sierra Leone.
- A thorough discussion of the future of IH and the redevelopment of the House was held at the AGM. In this connection, Harry Bergsteiner spoke about his adaptive rehab (AR) proposal for the original IH buildings as an alternative to redevelopment.
- Following a vote held in response to a motion proposed by Harry Bergsteiner, it was moved that SUIHAA invite an independent firm of architects with a proven record of having designed and realised AR projects to evaluate Dr Bergsteiner's adaptive rehab proposal for IH and in a two-step process advise on:
 - A. The conceptual soundness of Dr Bergsteiner's AR proposal, with regard to the key issues listed in the Appendix. (Dr Bergsteiner confirmed his willingness to contribute \$1000 of his own money to defray this cost if the architectural firm requires money for Part A.)
 - B. The estimated cost of preparing a preliminary set of sketch plans with indicative costings sufficient for the university to be able to assess the feasibility and efficacy of the AR option.
- The election of the new SUIHAA Committee was then held, with Roger Wescombe acting as returning officer during the vote for President, and Dennis Schatz acting as returning officer after that. The following alumni were elected to the SUIHAA Committee for 2022–2023:

President: Dennis Schatz

Treasurer: Birute Don

Secretary: James Kane

*Key points from
the 2022
SUIHAA AGM*

General Committee Members: Harry Bergsteiner, Mike Hirschhorn, Margaret Lemoh, Ros Madden, Paul Reisner, Louise Trott

Moe Hassan later confirmed via email to the Secretary that he will also remain on the SUIHAA Committee.

In accordance with the SUIHAA Constitution (Section 5b), up to **three** 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!

The new SUIHAA Committee wishes to thank members of the previous Committee for all their efforts during what has continued to be a challenging time for SUIHAA. Special thanks to Paul Reisner for taking the 2022 AGM minutes in James Kane's absence.

A full copy of the 2022 AGM minutes will be distributed to alumni in advance of the 2023 SUIHAA AGM.

Alumni lunch with Michael Hwang: 21 August

words by Ros Madden

How fortunate were all those who were able to attend Michael Hwang's invitation to a wonderful lunch at Matt Moran's *Crafted* restaurant at the NSW Art Gallery on Sunday, 21 August. Michael was in Sydney, working for several weeks, and wanted to take the opportunity to catch up with early residents of IH, especially those from 1967, as well as from 1968. He generously hosted about 30 of us. Roger Wescombe master-minded a large poster collating pictures from 1967.

*Alumni lunch in
Sydney with
Michael Hwang*



We all enjoyed a wonderful slow lunch just check the website! There were opportunities before and after to circulate and catch up with old friends, some of whom we had not seen for some time. Michael and Brian Farmer reminisced about IH and what it had meant to them. Jessica Carroll was there and told us about her new life post-IH—it was lovely to see her looking so sparkling. Graeme de Graaff and Lauris Elms were there, too, and alumni were delighted to see them and hear about the activities of their musical family. John Webb came up from Melbourne, with most others coming from around the Sydney region. We are all older, moving to smaller dwellings, worried about the world, but still sharing stories about treasured activities. We are involved with family, friends and grandchildren. We are pursuing activities such as croquet, tennis, new studies, organising literary festivals, writing books, running local campaigns for constitutional recognition of Australian First Nations people and a Voice to Parliament for them, and continuing to support the Bo Children’s Hospital in its lifesaving work in Sierra Leone.

And of course, the talk ranged over many memories of our dear friends from these early years and speculation about what they might be doing now. So, if you have time to write to SUIHAA from anywhere in the world, you can be sure there will be people who would love to hear what you are doing.

SUIHAA gathering in Sydney: 17 September

SUIHAA held an informal gathering at the Rose Hotel in Chippendale on Saturday, 17 September to coincide with Dennis Schatz’s visit to Sydney.

Different generations of IH alumni had an enjoyable afternoon and evening catching up with one another and making new connections at IH’s long-standing local pub.

*SUIHAA
gathering at the
Rose*



IH Redevelopment Update

The Project Control Group (PCG) at the University of Sydney that leads the effort to redevelop IH meets on 4 November, with an IH Council meeting to convene later that month. The outcomes of these meetings will be communicated in the first SUIHAA Newsletter of 2023.

Efforts to advocate for IH have continued even while waiting for the PCG and IH Council meetings. Roger Wescombe recently had the opportunity to ask the Vice-Chancellor, Mark Scott, about IH at a benefactors' function in the Great Hall, Dennis Schatz and Greg Houseman (Vice-Chair of IH Council) met with Joanne Wright, the University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education), and Dennis met with Greg Robinson, the University's Chief Infrastructure Officer, while he was visiting Sydney. The VC seemed less aware of IH than we would like, but both the DVC and Greg Robinson were clearly supportive of IH's mission and its redevelopment.

*Recent and
upcoming meetings
regarding IH
redevelopment*

At this time, the Biomedical Accelerator facility is the top priority for capital development and construction at the University. This will impact the timeline for the plan to redevelop IH, which is expected to be part of an overall development plan for the buildings between the Wentworth Building and IH, perhaps even including the Seymour Centre. We should learn more at the next IH Council meeting.

The meetings with Joanne Wright and Greg Robinson also brought up other topics relevant to IH redevelopment, some of which have been discussed before. These topics included:

- The need to have around 500 residents for IH operations to be financially viable.
- What amenities are desired by today's students? Do they want a meal plan that requires eating in the dining room, or more options that include: ordering in food, cooking their own, and eating at other establishments on campus?
- Recent trends in student housing have tended to focus on a shared house model, with 6 to 10 individual room/bathroom sets around a shared common kitchen/lounge. Could this be suitable for IH, along with an appropriate program space that can accommodate all residents?