President's viewpoint

There are moments in the SUIHAA Executive Committee when we feel overwhelmed! Overwhelmed by the immense task of keeping the Alumni association active and in touch with its members, but, happily, overwhelmed as well by the enthusiasm and support of a core group of Alumni in all activities taking place here in Sydney or in other parts of the world, and especially overwhelmed by the constant stream of news and letters from old friends and ex-residents of the past 25 years.

The first issue of the new look alumni news has sparked many positive reactions from those who have written to us from far away places. We are constantly pleasantly surprised and delighted by the faxes, letters and phone calls from those we have not heard from for a long time, happy to share with us their news and happenings in life. Our Editor, Pauline Kennedy, as always, has included in this issue some of the news which will no doubt evoke many wonderful memories and nostalgia for you.

As many people are already aware, 1993 is the United Nations Year of World Indigenous Peoples. The world and indeed Australia have supported and promoted activities to recognise the rights and the important contributions made by the world's indigenous people both at national and international level. In hosting the 1993 International House Foundation Day Address, an annual event which commemorates the opening of the House in 1967, SUIHAA has contributed to the development of the process of learning, understanding and sharing ideas and life experience between the indigenous people and their supporters (see Foundation article in this issue).

Indeed, the past year has been exciting and eventful for SUIHAA - a year of change and consolidation. One of the strengths of SUIHAA has always been the support and commitment of all who are associated with International House - be it from the past or the present. The successful functions and activities hosted by SUIHAA have showcased its members' dedication and enthusiasm. As a small organisation SUIHAA is not only proud of its accomplishments but its members who continue to represent diversity of ideas, diversity of ways, of motives and achievements. With your support and encouragement, we can look back with pride and confidently look forward with great expectations. No doubt in the years to come SUIHAA will benefit even more from the skills and expertise of its members.

We wish our readers a very happy festive season and we look forward to sharing with you yet another exciting and challenging year, 1994.

Philayrath "PH" Phongsavan
President, SUIHAA
A word from the Editor...

One of the most enjoyable aspects for me of being at International House has always been when ex-residents "return", either in person to stay for a few days, by ringing up while they are in Sydney, by coming to the House to have lunch after 20 years away or by telephoning to say "hello" from half way round the world when it is morning in Sydney and late evening in Canada!

Please, please keep doing it! We love to hear from you and it is the life blood of the alumni news. Photographs are especially welcome, but it would be a great help to us, bearing in mind that we have to reprint them in black and white and we often have to trim them (hope you don't mind), if the photographs you send could be as clear as possible and also be no larger than 15cms x 10 cms. By having lived at International House you are special and as such there are a lot of us out there who want to know how and where you are travelling in Life!

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Pauline Kennedy
Editor, SUIHAA
THE DIRECTOR WRITES

There are many joys in being Director of International House. While certain aspects of the House remain relatively constant overall, every year is different and it is fascinating to watch and be part of the interactions that take place between so many cultures. Also it is most rewarding to be the recipient of so much news from those who have left and who genuinely miss the place. Several come back to stay for another period, either because living out was not as attractive as first thought or, because they are completing or starting courses of study.

As I reported earlier in the year, the facilities of the House have been improved with the introduction of a telephone in the room of every resident. This facility includes voice mail (a mixed blessing as it enlarges the opportunities for telephone humour!). It has not taken long for the residents to take to it as a natural part of life and to communicate (in some instances) for hours. The record to date is a call to the USA lasting just seconds under four hours!

Other improvements initiated by IHMA, have been to curtain and carpet the Coffee Shop. A café bar has been purchased by IHMA and resides next to the microwave cooker. In recent years the Coffee Shop has been under utilised and the general lack of medium sized recreational space has acted as a barrier to general resident interaction apart from in the dining room. The changes have been immensely popular and have resulted in a sharp increase in use of the Coffee Shop. We have erected a shed under Elkin Wing to house bicycles. Hopefully this will curtail the number of bicycles which disappear over night. Eventually, it is to be hoped that most of the ideas postulated for the Silver Anniversary Appeal will be implemented.

On a different note, while the Log Cabin continues to be popular with certain sections of the House and trips organised to various parts of Australia in the House bus come in a steady flow, there has, regrettably, been a decline in interest over the last year or so in the various opportunities presented to residents by the House. I refer in particular to attendance at the variety of talks given by guests in the evenings. Likewise, there does not seem to be the same enthusiasm to show off one’s culture as of old. It is fair to say that people are working harder, they have to. It is also true to say that the semester system now in force within the University, with exams for undergraduates twice a year, does not help as there are fewer spells of elongated spare time. Then too, traditional activities may have lost some of their relevance. It is a pity though as, in the long run, it is the residents who miss out.

Some things never change directly, more by emphasis. At the time of writing, International Night is about to happen. There is a marquee on the back lawn (not a South Sea Island hangi this year!) and while the number of acts is down (probably a good thing), the quality is excellent and the proliferation of food stalls extraordinary! The House Ball, with the theme "Fantasy" will take place in the middle of September.

Now that the Silver Anniversary year is over, I thought it might be of interest to run a series of brief snippets tracing the history of the House. At some time in the future, an official History will be written and a series of thumb nail editions at this stage would be helpful. The information will come largely from the House Archives. Chapter 1 follows.

AN IDEA IS BORN. As part of the Sydney University Centenary celebrations in 1951, the Lord Mayor of Sydney started an Appeal to raise money for halls of residence at the University. Unfortunately, this Appeal was largely unsuccessful. The minutes of a meeting of AOCOS held on 26 July 1957 state, Sir Richard Boyer said that the main difficulty in bringing students to Australia was the matter of accommodation. In Melbourne an International House has been established and a suggestion has been made to this committee that we take the initiative in establishing an International House in Sydney. In 1958, Sydney University SRC was induced to sponsor the formation of a committee (on which Harold Maze served as the University’s representative), to consider an offer of land at Castlecrag to build an International House which would serve both the Universities of Sydney and New South Wales. Such a site was held to be impractical and other sites were investigated. These included Randwick Tram Depot, the old rifle range at Maroubra, Rosebery Race Course, Eastlakes Golf Course and the Commonwealth Stores at the head of Iron Cove, Leichhardt.

Towards the end of 1958, the SU SRC resolved that a committee of trustees be set up to raise money and build this accommodation and that, among others, a representative of Rotary be included in its members. The first meeting was held in the SU Union on 12th May 1959. The University agreed that the £2,300 (proceeds of a previous appeal for the Lord Mayor's Hostel Fund) would be made available for establishment expenses. The Appeal was under way.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a happy Festive Season and a successful 1994.
SUIHAA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1993

The Annual General Meeting of SUIHAA was held on 21 April, 1993 at International House.

The proposed amendment to Section 6 (a) subsection (a) was unanimously carried, authorising the President to be the SUIHAA nominated representative on International House Council. Section 6(a) subsection (a) now reads:

Section 6(a): DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICE-BEARERS

(a) The President shall in addition to duties under these rules, (i) Supervise the general functioning of the Executive Committee and SUIHAA, (ii) Convene meetings of the Executive Committee, (iii) Preside at meetings of the Executive Committee and General Meetings, (iv) Be the SUIHAA nominated representative on International House Council and attend meetings convened by the Council as required, (v) Carry out other duties normally associated with the work of President.

An amended proposed amendment stating that the AGM of SUIHAA should be convened in the first week of November each year was also unanimously carried. Section 7(a) subsection (a) now reads:

Section 7(a): GENERAL MEETINGS

(a) The Annual General Meeting of SUIHAA shall be convened in the first week of November each year, (i) to receive a Secretary's Report and the Treasurer's audited statements for the preceding year, (ii) to elect office-bearers for the ensuing year, (iii) to determine the Membership Fee for the current membership period, (iv) to transact any other business.

It was also agreed that the Alumni Calendar be set so that overseas/interstate alumni would know well ahead of time when the functions were in case they were able to time their visits accordingly. Effective from 1994, the Log Cabin Picnic would be on the first Saturday in March each year, the Foundation Day Address would be held on the second Thursday in August each year and the AGM/Alumni Get-Together Party would be held on the first Sunday in November each year (see the notice below for future functions and especially for 1994 dates).

The following office-bearers were elected from this AGM to the November AGM 1993:

President: Ph Phongsavan
Treasurer: Joe Saliba
Secretary: Pauline Kennedy

SUIHAA CALENDAR 1994

Log cabin Picnic Saturday 5 March
Foundation Day Address Thursday 11 August
AGM/Alumni-get-together Sunday 6 November

Please contact International House for more details about these events.
Letters from...

Sid Gray (1969-71) has moved south after all those years in Scotland! "We have moved to Warwickshire from Scotland. I have got a job as Professor of International Business at Warwick Business School in the University of Warwick. My wife Hilary is looking for a job as a primary school teacher. We are getting on well and our kids (Helen who is 11 and Peter who is 7) are enjoying the local village school. Best wishes..."

Dangman Yi (1971) has sent SUIHAA a copy of the commemorative publication of his retirement: "Yesterday's Life, Today's Thoughts". "Thank you very much for sending me the Newsletter of SUIHAA. It always gives me a great pleasure. Twenty-two years have passed since I finished the course of the Diploma in TEFL (1971). International House must have changed in many ways. I still miss I.H. and Sydney. I retired from school life as principal of a senior high school in February this year after forty five years in the teaching profession. Now I am a free man. I am thinking of visiting my eldest daughter in Corpus Christi, Texas sometime in the near future, then extending the journey to Europe, Egypt and Southeast Asia, if ever possible. This is my present dream. I send you a copy of the commemorative publication of my retirement. The literal translation of its title is: Yesterday's Life, Today's Thoughts. I am afraid most of its contents are unintelligible to you as they are written in Korean, Chinese and Japanese Characters, except several articles in English. I think they are not so academic as they should be. Yet I felt like sending a copy to I.H. With best wishes to all the residents at International House..."

Mitsuyoshi Adachi (1972) has been in touch again. "Now I have been a principal for 4 years. My high school, Gifu Mita High School, has 1,180 students, who study mainly commercial subjects besides some liberal ones in the commercial course, and some study home economics and dressmaking in the apparel course. We are hoping to find schools in Australia which may like to exchange culture and views as mutual understanding as sister schools between Australia and Japan. Our students range from 15 to 18 years old and are busy studying and being engaged in extracurricular activities, too. As a principal, I am always ready to go and see whoever is interested in our proposal for internationalization. Gifu Mita High School is 10 years old and very active..."

Mitsuyoshi Adachi (1972)

Jope Nabou (1972) has been in touch again after many years (he stayed in the House during the 10th Anniversary celebrations in 1977). "My humble apology for being out of touch for so long, two decades slipped by unnoticed but I am glad and proud to contribute to the alumni news 1993. After my one year with the 1972 TEFL Group I returned to Fiji and was posted to the following posts within the Ministry of Education prior to my retirement in December 1984...First Principal of the newly established Ba Provincial Secondary School in the Western Division, Senior Education Officer, Secondary, Eastern Division, Senior Education Officer, Secondary, Headquarters. I retired and spent two enjoyable years on my island, Batiki...white sandy beaches and plenty of fish. In 1987 as I was under oath, and being a member of the Fiji Territorial Force, I was called by the army to act as a Press Correspondent during the Military Coup. In 1989 I was demobilised from the army."
In 1990 I was re-employed at Nasinu Secondary School (Suva) to handle Fijian Culture in Forms 5, 6 and 7. This is a high co-educational institution catering for both boarders and day scholars. A challenging but very entertaining task. My wife, Eleni, has retired from teaching; my eldest son, a graduate in Land Management, is a valuer with Fiji’s Housing Authority and my younger son is a Supervisor with Telecom. My daughter is a Westpac Bank Officer and is a constant visitor to Sydney but always forgets to come and say “hello!” The youngest, Jope Jr, is a Form VI student at Marist Brothers High School. We are all stationed in Suva. That’s about all from Fiji. My regards and best wishes to all those who assisted and at times went out of their way to make the 1972 TEFL course not only successful but also very very enjoyable. Lastly, though belatedly, my deepest condolences to the close relatives of two of Sydney Uni’s outstanding personalities of the century the late Sir Hermann Black and Mrs Mac. Ni Sa Moce...J.N.”

Jope Nabou (1972) taken in Fiji while a member of the Fiji Territorial Force in 1987-88.

Kui-Nyuk Bong (1972) keeps in touch regularly..."It's a great pleasure to receive the alumni news which makes me recall my memorable time in Sydney in 1972. I have retired from school Headmastership for 3 years up to now and I am working with a Life Assurance Corporation as an Agency Officer. Recently, my wife and I went to Perth, W.A. to attend my eldest son's Graduation Ceremony on 14th April, 1993. He has successfully completed his course in the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at Curtin University. My youngest son is still doing his 3rd Year in the Medicine Faculty in Taiwan. My wife and I would like to express our sincere thanks to Dr. and Mrs Nicholas in Fremantle, Perth for their warm hospitality and assistance in all aspects rendered to my son and my wife and I while we were in Perth."

Leon Le Leu (1979) was in touch in April..."I have of course moved (from Adelaide to Queanbeyan) in this way to be closer to International House but, at the same time, I have taken up a new job at the Woden Valley Hospital in Canberra as Senior Specialist (Director), Occupational Medical services. I was pleased to note that Ben Fong is doing so well at Prince Henry Hospital...I am glad to see that all is well over there. There will be more of a chance to visit since I am just down the road a bit."

A welcome letter from Hu Zhuanglin (1979)..."Thanks to my education in the University of Sydney, I have been teaching courses on linguistics, such as General Linguistics, Applied Linguistics, Pragmatics, Discourse Analysis, etc. I have also acted as Vice Chairman and Chairman of the English Department, Peking University for 10 years. I visited International House again in 1987, but I found no one to talk to. All new faces! And Pauline was out! The alumni news reminds me of my old acquaintances, say, Mr. Graeme de Graaff, Miss Joan Round, Mr. Ben Fong. My best wishes to them and to all SUHAA members!"

It was nice to hear from Ed Harris (1980) again! ..."Recently, Ann Harris-Davidson and Stephen White were kind enough to send me a copy of the SUHAA Newsletter. It showed me you are still writing your dates backwards and spelling some words funny. It also showed me I have been missing something by not staying in touch. I would very much like to be on your list to receive alumni mailings. Please use my home address...After 1980 at IH, I returned to the States and attended law school. I practice (sic) law in Cheyenne, Wyoming, working mostly in environmental law. My wife MaryAnne Martell, is also a lawyer. To keep in touch with the International community, we sometimes host exchange students who live in our home and attend local schools. For excitement (I can’t be lawerly all the time) I have taken up skydiving. It would be great fun to hear from people I remember at IH. My part of the U.S. is not often visited by world travellers, but we have beautiful mountains and wide open spaces nearly as impressive as Australia’s. Anyone from IH who comes this way is most welcome to contact me."

(Editor's note: please contact Pauline, at IH if you would like Ed's address).

Hiromi Taki (1983-84) has become a permanent Australian resident..."After I finished my M.A. in 1985, I was back in Japan for 2 years but I came back to Australia in 1988 having obtained my permanent residency. I have taught Japanese at ANU (1988-1989), Sydney University (1989-1991) and I am now teaching at Griffith University since 1992. I still keep in touch with a few ex-IH residents from during my stay in 1984. Sounds like a long time ago!"

Margaretha Widiastoeti Soeryanto ("Widi") (1985) has sent us a glorious wedding photo of her daughter's wedding and news..."My 'Hello' for every I.H. alumnius, especially the 1985s. The photograph I enclose was taken during my daughter's wedding party in 1992. We were
dressed in Javanese style. The bride (Mexitalia) is a doctor who is now helping patients in a remote place, very close to the jungle in the heart of Kalimantan Island. She has to work there for three years. The bridegroom (Seno) is a graduate from the Animal Husbandry Dept who works in South Kalimantan. Dina (Mexi's sister) is a graduate from the Fishery Dept who is now working in Surabaya (Jawa). Mexi, Seno and Dina are alumni of the University of Diponegoro Semarang. They are eager to study at The University of Sydney and stay at I.H. My special greetings for my TELF classmates Godlief and Amrin who are doing their PhDs at the Linguistics Dept of La Trobe University in Melbourne.

Margaretha "Widi" Soeryanto (1985) (second from left) at her daughter, Mexitalia's, traditional Javanese wedding in 1992.

It was great to hear from Saadia (1985-87) & Paul Durham (1987) from New York!..."Paul and I arrived in New York in December '92. It is a noisy, crazy, dirty city but we love it and are having a ball. Paul is working in the Downtown area (opposite the World Trade Centre site) after his office in Midtown burnt down! I am studying Modern Art with Christie's. A few weeks after we first arrived, on my way home from Greenwich Village, I ran into Shannon Mason (1988). Not sure who was more surprised - I expected Shannon to be enconced in the life of Hilton's Head Island, and she thought I was in Sydney. It was a strange coincidence to meet on a NY subway - we still haven't quite gotten over it. Shannon is well and working hard at making a name for herself in the world of NY Theatre. Since then Fadi (1986-87) and Tamya Geha (1987) arrived from London for a 5 month stint and are living 2 blocks away from us. In March Michael Kulper (1987-89) was over for a brief visit that, much to his dismay (?) was extended due to a snowstorm. We all had a crazy IH reunion in Soho. A few days later Sandra Lee (1984-87) and fiancé Frank Nueman came to stay for a week of their 3 month world tour. I have also had a visit from Peter Ponniah (1983-85) who lives in Washington DC and is hoping to come to NY later in the year to do an MBA. In February I received a letter from Leela Underwood (1985-87) in Sydney saying she'd been in NY in December/January and was sorry we'd missed each other. We are looking forward to seeing Geoff Heenan (1987-89) in September when he starts his PhD at Columbia. New York is a crossroads for ex IH residents? Who would have thought it? N.B. Big Hello to Bil Farrell!"

Raymond Tsang (1987) wrote a most interesting letter to PH..."Thank you very much for sending me the alumni news. I am sorry to say that since I've moved to Canada, I've lost contact with a lot of people already. Reading the news sure reminded me of all the good time I've spent in International House and all the good friends I had when I was there. A lot of time, I'd think back of the life in Sydney, and it gave me a sense of homesickness. I always show people my pictures taken in Sydney and I'd tell them that in Australia, International House is my home. Felt so excited to learn that Kerry Mckimen and Evanor Palac really got married. I'm so happy for them. If you have their address, would you be able to send it to me? I'm also glad to know that Miyuki Endo and Jaja Hanafie are getting married too. Could you also send me their address? They will be surprised to hear from me. It's such a pity to have to miss all
the activities that are held by the IHMA and also the 25th Anniversary celebration of the International House...Life is pretty steady up here in the North. I work five days a week as a dentist and usually weekends are my activity days. Since winter is such a long season up here, we usually do our sports on snow. So many times, we went out and froze our buns off and swore we would never camp in -25 Centigrade weather again but once we return, we would be busy planning for our next trip. The feeling of being outdoor is great. There was once that we were camping outside and in the middle of the night, I was waken up by the chill and the "urge" from the nature and when I looked up to the heaven, I saw the most beautiful northern light I've seen in my entire life. That time, the adventure had made itself worth it. The weather here is very interesting. We just got past a month of total darkness in January and now we are approaching a time when we've got daylight for the whole day. It feels good to be in the middle of this phenomena. The population of the town I'm living in is evenly divided between the White Canadian, the Native Indian and the Inuit (Eskimos). I'm glad to be able to observe yet another culture and another different lifestyle....please say 'hi' to the people that I know...

Christian Gall (1989-91) sent the House a fax in July..."I now work as an Improvement Consultant within Gemini, a consulting firm in change management, which works in USA, Europe, South Africa and Japan. In my work, I had contracts in London, North Ireland, Sweden, France and now Switzerland. Please say hello to PH and Mr Andrews. I still consider 1990 as one of the 2 best years in my life...

Amy Sissons (1989) writes that she has received her MSc in Space Studies, an interdisciplinary programme of the University of North Dakota which teaches Space Law, Technology and Policy. She hopes to become a writer, primarily of science fiction.

A long letter from Godlief Vertigo (1985-87)..."At present I live in Melbourne, Victoria, as I am doing another post-graduate study in sociolinguistics (Ph.D) at La Trobe University, in Melbourne. I have been living in Melbourne since 1991. I do not live in a sort of College or a University's House as I used to (live at the IH of The University of Sydney)"
when I did my Diploma in TEFL and my M.A. in Applied Linguistics. Now I live in a unit (flat) together with my wife, Emmie, and my two sons - Verto (9 years old) and Stormy (almost 5 years old). Verto and Stormy go to a local state school. Verto is now grade 4, and Stormy is grade "pre-school" now - he finished his kindergarten in December last year. Verto and Stormy did not speak English at all when they first arrived in Melbourne last year. Now they speak English well - with an Aussie accent. In October 1991 on my way back to Melbourne from Brisbane, I made a call on the IH hoping to see Mr. Andrews, the IH Director, and other friends; and in fact I met Mr. Hendarto and his family at the Maze building. We had a lovely afternoon there. Last January, during my two week holiday with my family in Sydney, I also went to visit the IH hoping again to see Mr. Andrews and Ms Hilda Nolley, an IH resident at that time. Although I could not see them as they were away at that time, I was glad to hang around the IH - my former temporary home. Different faces of the IH residents did not at all make me feel like a stranger at the IH. I even felt at home, realising that our different faces and different languages in the past and now, have, in any way, made the House international - the name we are proud to have. Apart from that, I believe that the past and the present IH residents still hold the IH slogan that our brotherhood and also sisterhood may prevail. This is a slogan which, in my opinion, will never ever fade away as long as we see others - regardless of their race, languages and cultures, as our brothers and sisters. Believe it or not, the International House of the Sydney University has been promoting this sort of attitude and feeling since the time of its establishment. Last but not least, is my very warm hello to all IH residents - particularly those of the 1985 - 1987 period. Please send my best regards to Mr. Andrews...

It was good to hear from Chi Yeun Song (1986-89) ..."My family miss so much all members and activities of IH. It is a pleasure for us to hear what is happening at IH from the alumni news. I'm working with Taegu University as a Senior lecturer. My family, Eun Hee, Yu Sun and Mun Sun, are going quite well. My best to everyone!"

Melinda Pennman (1988-91) has been in touch after quite a while..."It seems another lifetime since I was a resident there and I have been terribly remiss in my plans to stay in touch with everyone. So, for everyone interested, a brief note to let you know what I have been doing for the last 18 months. After moving back to Taree, I managed to obtain employment in a local restaurant as a casual employee and worked in that particular job for approximately 14 months, 8 months of that as a full-time casual employee, all the while looking for a position suited to what I wanted to do and a position offering a bit more challenge. In April 1993, I applied for a job as a travel consultant for a company called Flight Centres International. I have worked for them now for 4 weeks and am loving every minute of it. I have also enclosed some business cards. Anyone with plans to travel can feel free to contact me as I can guarantee to offer fares as low as any found in Sydney. So that is my employment at the moment and for quite a while in the future. During the last 18 months have bought a car and a house, which was bought in conjunction with my brother, so now have become quite settled in Taree. I am still very much single and no plans to be otherwise in the near future. Montia (Chan) (1988-89) is working in Brisbane still and I saw Nicola Sternberg (1990-92) not so long ago who tells me Linda Sills (1989-92) is working in Lightning Ridge. Hi, to everyone in the office, especially Claudia and Pauline, and Bill and all his staff. If you have a minute, let me know how everything is going at the college. I trust things are a bit more settled than when my "disruptive" presence was felt!..."

Maria Cadiz (1990) has been in touch..."I'm back at my university since November 1992 teaching undergraduates, diploma students and advising postgrad. thesis students in development communication. I'm currently awaiting official word from Macquarie University granting my PhD degree, which my supervisor has indicated is coming. (I transferred to Macquarie University the year after my fieldwork in 1991 as my supervisor transferred there first). Back with my family, parenting is tending to be more exciting with my eldest now a teenager at 14! My warmest regards to all friends from IH!"

Jeff Moray (1991-92) says..."I did it! Received Bachelor of Arts Degree with High Distinction and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. I have received a fellowship to continue studying government and economics. I will be doing independent research for one year in Oz, PNG, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan. Not a bad deal, eh? I've seen a lot of IH alums this year. In fact I'm writing this card as I sit on a plane going to Dallas, Texas. Kathleen Meserole (1992) and Peter Del Solar (1992) are getting married this weekend (?). Two weeks ago I saw Manish Soni (1989-92) in Boston. I have seen Donna Abbott and Emmanuel Toutin (1992) twice this year - once in New Orleans in December and once in France in March. I also saw Marc Nicnamis (1990-91) in Beverly back in January. I hope everyone is doing well as you head into Semester I exams and winter as we look forward to summer. Good luck to everyone and I hope to see folks this Aug/Sept. Take care..."

Henry Okolo (1992) has "settled in quite well to the Port Moresby environment though I still find it difficult to forget the Sydney atmosphere. I've got the hang of my job now (academic) and am handling the challenge quite well though I still get caught out nervous at times. I was given a flat on the campus on the 8th of this month (April)...I still miss the unique spirit of IH. Anyway, I hope everything is alright there and you're all doing well in your studies. See you all in October - November. Cheers!"
What ever happened to...

Nalini Abeyesundere (Staff 1967) wrote..."I often recall the interesting days we spent in International House and feel so privileged to have known Rosalie (McCutcheon)..." Nalini's husband is the Chief of World Health Organisation in Bangladesh now. He obtained his Diploma in Public Health from Sydney University.

Another completely unexpected visit was from Alison Lewis (née Dandle) (1968-69) who suddenly appeared at Pauline's counter on the morning of Friday 7 May. She teaches in Biology and had wandered over to see if her son (Andrew aged 20) was eligible for Non-Resident membership (he is, since he is a university student). Alison and Gary's daughter, Eleanor, is studying at the Conservatorium of Music which is also attached to Sydney University.

The telephone rang early on Tuesday 4 May morning and the cheerful voice said "Hi, Pauline! This is Michael Chao...it's 10.45 p.m. and I'm just reading the latest alumni news and thought I would just give you a ring to say "hi!" Michael Chao (1969 - 73) sounded as if he were ringing from next door (he was actually ringing from Canada!) and we chatted about various people he was reading about in the news. Michael has two children, one of whom is nearly 17 years old. He hoped that if he had to visit Asia at the beginning of November, he would be able to fly down to Sydney to be at the AGM at Graeme de Graff's home on Sunday 7 November. We hope so too!

Geoffrey Burchfield (1973-75) has taken 10 months off from the ABC "Quantum" programme to take up a Knight Science Journalism Fellowship at Havard MIT in America.

Paul Taylor (1978-80) called the House while in Sydney briefly in July. His newsletter had been re- addressed from an ancient address for about 7 years so he thought he should upgrade his address at last! He had talked with Kieran Gregory (1975-79) and his wife Virginia Chin (1978-80) who have a dental practice in Westmead in Sydney.

Iain Gosbell (1982) has written to let us know that he is alive and well and living in Old Toongabbie; he is currently working in Infectious Diseases/Microbiology at Liverpool Hospital and is
about to complete his final year of FRACP. Iain has married since leaving International House.

On reading the University of Sydney Gazette, a small article was noticed about Devinder Raj (1983) who has recently joined the British Council in Kuala Lumpur as the English Language Project Officer. He will be establishing and running a support program for the Ministry of Education’s campaign to upgrade the teaching and learning of English in Malaysia.

Belated congratulations are in order to Peter and Celia Callow (née Khoo) (1983-86) on the birth on 20 December 1992 of Matthew Francis (2870gms/49cm). We do catch up eventually!

It was lovely to have a surprise visit from Galayanee Guptawadin (1974, 1984-85) in early May 1993! She was in Australia for the Thai Government liaising with various ELICOS centres in Australia. She had lunch with one of our current residents, Pattama Sappapan, before going to Macquarie University to visit the ELICOS Centre there.

Jamieson Lee (1985-86) sends his regards to Hendarto Setino, Verna Lee, Peter Edmonds, Tracey Goldsworthy and Choon Yong Lee.

Carol & Ian Carney (1981, 1987-88) are now living in Lemon Tree Passage. Ian is doing thoracic medicine at the John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle. Kyle started kindergarten this year. Jonathan turned 2 in May and Carol was then going to help out in Kyle’s classroom. Ian has bought a 24 foot yacht which he and his brother sailed up from Sydney.

Otto Chuang (1989-90) and Lilli Mulyanti (1990-92) have sent the most romantic wedding photos taken in Taiwan!..."...We will never forget the International House since our love bloomed there. (We met each other first over there, and then fell in love.)" Otto is working in a computer company and, at the time of writing, Lilli was learning Chinese language and hunting for a job.

Rosemary Fisher (Assistant Director 1989-91) and her husband Dr. Wayne Wobcke have had an around-the-world holiday before arriving at Stanford University for Wayne's Sabbatical term from September to January 1994. They had a few days in Thailand before going to London where they stayed for 10 days with Wayne’s Ph.D Supervisor who lived just out of London. From London they flew to the States and visited New York and then their friends who live in Bloomburg, Pa. They will stay in Palo Alto in the cottage of a Japanese student who will be in Japan doing research work. They are still learning their way round campus but Rosemary has already found the shortest route to the bookstore!

Komang Damarjaya (1990-93) was in touch with IH in May. He is now a Lecturer and is called "Mr", something which never happened at the House!(Although he was called "Farmer Brown" often due to his preoccupation with Agriculture!). He misses the company of House people and going to the "Duck and Swan" or to a movie (something which people at home just do not do: they are more interested in their form of Lotto and picking the winning numbers!) Komang hopes to return to Sydney sometime in 1995 to do his PhD.

Kabita Chakma (1990-93) sent a charming postcard to The Director from India. She wrote it on the train to Calcutta returning from a Seminar in Madras on Ecology. She said that Madras was a city of sculptures, both traditional and modern and she had had the opportunity to visit a few galleries and meet some artists. She was hoping she could return to Australia from her home in Bangladesh in October for her graduation.

Beatrice Mornet (1991) with Sameer (1990-92) and Dori (1992) Handa taken when Beatrice had a short holiday in Fiji.
Welcome back...

Miriam Barasch (née Gottlieb) (1968-70) was in Sydney for 2 months in July and August while on Sabbatical Leave from the JDC-Falk Institute for Mental Health and Behavioral Studies in Jerusalem. She was working at Uni. of NSW mainly but also visited Sydney University and Macquarie. She came for lunch near the end of August and brought with her a surprise visitor Addy Pross (1968-70) who is visiting Professor in Chemistry at Sydney University for 18 months while on leave from his University in Israel. Miriam’s daughter, Tammy, was studying at Vaucluse High School with Addy’s son, Guy, in Year 11, while Michael, Miriam’s 17 year old son was working as a builder’s labourer for his uncle and aunt, Paul Gottlieb (1967, 69-70) and Kay Pearse (1968-69) who are excavating under their house in Brisbane in order to renovate. Addy also has a teenage daughter, Tamar.

I (Pauline) was so sorry to miss Mohammad Gaffar (1970-71) who visited the House briefly in
July after I had left work! We now have his updated address and Claudia also gave him the latest alumni news.

Rami Reddy (1973-75, 1977) stayed in the House for 3 nights in July. He is still working at the Aeronautical Research Laboratory in Melbourne.

It was such a lovely surprise to see Michael Bennett (1974-76) appear at my desk after all these years (I think the last time I saw him was in 1984 when he and Fatimah (Hassan) (1975-76) visited the House before Masni was born in May of that year!) He was in Sydney attending a Conference. Michael and Fatimah are very happily ensconced in Kingston Beach, Tasmania and Michael is still lecturing in History at the University of Tasmania and Fatimah, when she is not looking after Masni and their one year old baby, does some part-time teaching in a high school.


The 1993 International House Foundation Day Address was delivered by Ms Irene Moss, Australian Federal Race Discrimination Commissioner of the Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission, at 1 p.m. on Thursday 12 August at International House. The title of her talk was "Australia post Mabo", a most provocative title given the recent state of affairs in Australia!

Irene Moss began her talk by focusing on the global picture: the issue of tolerance being the key issue in race relations today, a quality that seems to be tragically missing from much of the global picture. She presented snapshots from around the world based on research done by Professor Stephen Castles from the Centre for Multicultural Studies at Wollongong University. She talked about Africa where colonialism re-shaped already complex patterns of inter-ethnic relations throughout the continent. She went on to describe the situation in South America where the rights of indigenous populations in several countries are being violated, for example, in Guatemala, Ecuador, Venezuela and Brazil. The Asian continent which accounts for half of the world's population, is also marked by enormous cultural, political, economic and geographic differences.

Ms Moss then asked the rhetorical question: is it any better in the First World, to which we nominally belong? The status of indigenous people in the United States is well documented. Europe has not been immune to racist violence either - far from it. She referred to Germany and the neo-nazi activities, African immigrants' appalling living conditions in Italy, the French and Flemish speaking communities in Belgium, the Czech and Slovak nations which can no longer co-habit in one state and finally she looked at The Balkans where a number of ethnic groups managed to live peacefully under a federal banner and yet are now locked in destructive warfare.

The Commissioner then moved on to Australia which is a fairly cohesive nation where a culturally diverse society is working well, given 40% of the population are immigrants or children of immigrants and over half of those are of non English-speaking background; 2% of the population are indigenous Australians, from either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities. Our relationship with indigenous Australia leaves much to be desired as was borne out by the National Enquiry into racist violence a couple of years ago which found that racist violence, intimidation and harassment against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is an endemic problem in Australia.

People of non-English-speaking backgrounds do experience racism, although not at an alarming level. But indices of success for a multicultural nation depend not only on the lack of inter-ethnic
nation depend not only on the lack of inter-ethnic conflict, but also on the quality of life that each member of society may enjoy. Hence we must keep in mind the broader, “quality of life” issues in order to successfully manage cultural diversity and to make the most of it. It is not only the quality of life indices that are sadly lacking in respect of our indigenous population, but basic human rights. What nation can be proud when its original inhabitants have a life expectancy substantially lower than the national average and an infant mortality rate much higher? When Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are much poorer than any other in the land, and live in conditions that would not be tolerated by the people descend from those who took their land away?

Australia is currently uniquely placed to re-examine its relationship with indigenous Australia, in light of the High Court decision in the Mabo case. Ms Moss then explained briefly the decision saying that there is nothing inherently threatening or sinister about the Mabo decision. The latest Saulwick poll on Mabo demonstrates that Australians broadly understand the limits of the High Court decision and its effect on land titles and do not believe scare mongering about their backyards being threatened. According to the poll, 88% of voters understand the principles of the High Court judgement.

Many of the comments by prominent people relating to Aboriginal culture and civilisation have not been germane to the issue. Some of the major issues are: Right of veto, the way native title will be determined and the real significance of Mabo - that is, should it be a subject of determination or assumption? How it is extinguished? Issues of compensation and how that is determined.

Irene Moss felt that many Australians, even those who feel that White Australia is morally bound to recognise certain Aboriginal land claims, may baulk at the idea of special rights. They would justify this stance by saying that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be treated like everyone else and no one else has those particular rights. It works on the simplistic notion that an egalitarian society is one where everyone is treated in the same way. The problem with this position is that it fails to take into account the fact that to mete out even-handed treatment when two groups are not on a level playing field is to continue perpetrating injustice. In some cases, the only way to be fair is to provide special treatment for one group to make up for past injustices. There is a distinction between "equal treatment" and "justice" and equal treatment does not necessarily result in a fair outcome. A compassionate, just society must realise that in certain contexts only different treatment can achieve genuine justice for all its citizens.

Common sense must tell us that social conditions and historical experience of systematic differences should be taken into account. The recognition that different backgrounds can lead to different outcomes is the motivating force behind the federal government's access and equity strategy. It is also a principle recognised by the Racial Discrimination Act and the Sex Discrimination Act in their provision for special measures.

It is within the developing framework of the rights of indigenous people that we must contend with concepts such as Terra Nullius; with land rights and self-determination; with the notion of collective rights; and with compensation and restitution...to mention just a few. Indigenous people are arguing for a right to be different, and to be recognised as peoples with a pre-existing, inherent, distinct status. Such status would confer on them the right to self-determination as a precondition for the exercise of all other rights. The weight of these concepts must make us examine our own use of the word "rights".

Australia is currently being given an opportunity to examine these issues. The local consequences of the High Court Mabo decision raise similar issues to those being considered by the Inuit people in the Circumpolar regions. Let us not debase the importance of the issue, locally and globally, with irrelevant squabbling and point scoring. Australia has a chance at the moment to engage in important dialogue with her indigenous population - something it has avoided doing for two centuries. The consequences are far-reaching. No one will be completely pleased with the final outcome of the Mabo debate. We can almost take that as given, so trade-offs will have to be accepted by all participants. Perhaps this society will have to accept that giving meaning to social justice may mean a lower level of wealth production. Ms Moss went on to say that this goes against the grain of those who argue that achieving the highest level of wealth production can only mean good for everyone. But this may not be so in the case of indigenous people whose attachment to the land is neither proprietary nor necessarily material.

So in reference to the title of her paper: "Australia Post Mabo", Ms Moss concluded by saying that she could not foresee how the current period of the Mabo debate would actually end and therefore how Australia would advance into the post-Mabo era, but that it was an interesting process getting there and she used the term in the full knowledge of the old Chinese curse: "May you live in interesting times!"

All in all, it was a most successful function with 100 people there including International House residents. An extremely delicious light lunch was served after the talk and guests chatted for quite a while afterwards. Just to keep it "all in the family" Irene happens to be married to an ex-resident Allan Moss who lived in IH from 1970 to 1972!
ALUMNI AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT

The Tenth Anniversary celebrations at International House during 1977 brought to everyone’s attention the great and lasting impact the House has had on their lives. To foster this remembrance, the House has introduced the Alumni Award for Achievement. The Award is seen as an encouraging contribution to the aims of International House, as a link between present and past members of the House. The Award does not place emphasis on superior academic or sporting ability but rather on achievement resulting in the advancement of international understanding. Any achievement which fosters friendships and cross-cultural understanding, which stimulates new ideas or attitudes or up-grades existing services within the community will merit consideration for the Award. Definite preference shall be given to achievement that is a form of service to the international community rather than one providing employment or gain to the nominee. The Award will be made by the Council of International House upon the recommendation of the Alumni Award Committee to a recipient who is or has been a resident member of International House for a minimum of one academic semester. The Award is a silver sculptured pin based on the International House logo designed by an alumnus of the House, the late Trevor Allen.

If you wish to nominate someone please send (or fax) the necessary details to: International House.

The following headings will give you a guideline.

NOMINATION FOR THE ALUMNI AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT

1. Full name of nominee:
   Address:
   Course undertaken while resident at International House:
   Year(s) resident at International House:
   Age now:

2. What was the achievement? Briefly describe its nature and purpose, and the goals it set out to achieve. To which community or group was the achievement directed?

3. When was the achievement? Of what duration?

4. Where was the achievement and where will its benefits be felt?

5. By what was the nominee motivated, to meet a current crisis, a long-standing problem, to improve the climate for future accomplishments and developments, to fulfil one or several long-range goals? Was the activity of the nominee performed on a voluntary basis or as part of his/her employment?

6. How was the achievement accomplished - what techniques were used, organisations involved, media enlisted or innovations used?

7. Analysis of achievement - conclude the nomination by assessing the achievement of goals of the project or programme and the impact it had. What effect has the achievement had on the community to which it was directed? How was the advancement of international understanding accomplished?

Note 1. Attach any substantiating or illustrative material.
2. If space is insufficient to satisfactorily answer any particular question, please attach a separate sheet of paper with the relevant information.

Nominator:
Address:
Position:

How long and in what capacity have you known the nominee:

Supporting referees (if any).
WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO ... ?

If you move house or leave a country and don't tell us, this newsletter will no longer appear in your mailbox. As a life member you are entitled to receive 2 newsletters each year and to be informed of all events and activities pertaining to SUIHAA. Unless you keep us up to date on your current address, your name will disappear from our mailing list. So, please take time to either contact Pauline at the House or fill in the "What ever happened to..." form in the following section and return it to International House. We love to hear from you!

Please complete the relevant section below and post (or fax) the entire form to:

International House,
96 City Road,
Chippendale ,
NSW 2008 Australia.

Your name
Surname: ________________________________
Other names: ________________________________

Years in the House: ________________________________

Your current postal address
House number and street: ________________________________
Suburb: ________________________________
State/country: ________________________________
Postcode: ________________________________

Messages: Feel free to tell us what you are doing or planning to do, and what you would like to see happening in SUIHAA. If you would like to send a recent photo of yourself (and/or your friends) to put in the alumni news that would be good too!

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

I am happy to have my letter published in the alumni news.

Signature: ________________________________ Date: ________________________________