

International House magazine



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

—
International
House

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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A new SUIHAA initiative for residents, a wrap-up of the inaugural de Graaff-Elms roundtable, and alumni notices.

“There was an unusual degree of intimacy and trust. We managed to know quite a bit about each other and develop rapport, which has carried through to our future relationships.”

Hannah Yiu, IH 1975-77



We acknowledge the tradition of custodianship and law of the Country on which the University of Sydney campuses stand. We pay our respects to those who have cared and continue to care for Country.

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Cover: Betty Nance Smith, *Tropical Delights*, 2016. [Detail]. Oil on canvas. Donated to International House by the artist. Photo by Sharon Hickey.

Inside cover: View of the Walter Bunning-designed International House rotunda, c. 1970. Photo: International House archives. Photos throughout the magazine are © the University of Sydney, by Sharon Hickey, unless otherwise attributed.



The Wool Room, 1967.
Photo: International House archives.

From the chair of council and director

In this issue, we highlight how our mission is achieved through meaningful interactions among our resident students and alumni. Our distinctive residence life program is the catalyst for these interactions, with its intentional focus on cultural exchange, community engagement and leadership development, sporting and social activities, peer learning and support, and numerous bursary and scholarship opportunities.

The house continues to operate at full capacity with residents from over 40 nations, and the demand for a place at IH remains high despite the expansion of student accommodation on campus.

Our residents and staff consistently deliver what can only be described as an extraordinary number of events and activities including our welcome week program, roundtable discussions, intramural sports, cultural celebrations, the global leadership program, and so much more. For the seventh consecutive year, one of our residents gained a US\$10,000 Davis Projects for Peace grant for a significant project to be implemented in Newcastle, NSW (to be featured in the next issue of this magazine). And at the end of 2018, we celebrated the awarding of three IH fellowships to Dr Harry Bergsteiner, Mr Allan Moss AO and Dr Peter Simpson OAM, all of whom have made outstanding contributions to the house.

Last year we restructured the format of our annual faculty dinner, replacing it with a series of less formal dinners that allowed each event to be more focused on a

specific academic or professional discipline. We also introduced a change to the formal welcome for semester two by introducing a welcome cruise onboard the Mari Nawi on Sydney Harbour (in collaboration with the Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation). This provided our residents with the opportunity to experience a cultural commentary on the Sydney area, and a performance of local Aboriginal songs and dances on Clark Island. These changes enhanced the IH program and the experience for our residents. We look forward to the continued development and enhancement of our program, which offers a transformational experience to students from Australia and around the world.

Since the last edition of the IH magazine, the council has continued to communicate its views to the Senior Executive Group regarding the need for a suitable plan for the expansion and redevelopment of the house and its mission. These communications have continued to be centred around

the redevelopment of the house on its existing site, or at another available location on campus. These deliberations have mainly focused on the options to fund a new IH building while discussing how IH would operate during its temporary relocation to the Regiment building, which has now been postponed until 2021. Further discussions will continue to focus on the funding of a new building and an IH model that is financially sustainable for the future.

Finally, in May the council bid farewell and thanks to three long standing members: Steve Mark AM (Chair), David Croft AM (Deputy Chair) and Rod Thyer (Chair, finance committee), who each served on council for three full terms. Professor Emerita Margaret Harris was elected as our new chair of council, Jackie Korhonen as deputy chair and Bill Salter as chair of the finance committee.

We would like to thank every member of the IH community for their ongoing support and commitment to our mission.



Professor Emerita Margaret Harris
Chair, International House Council

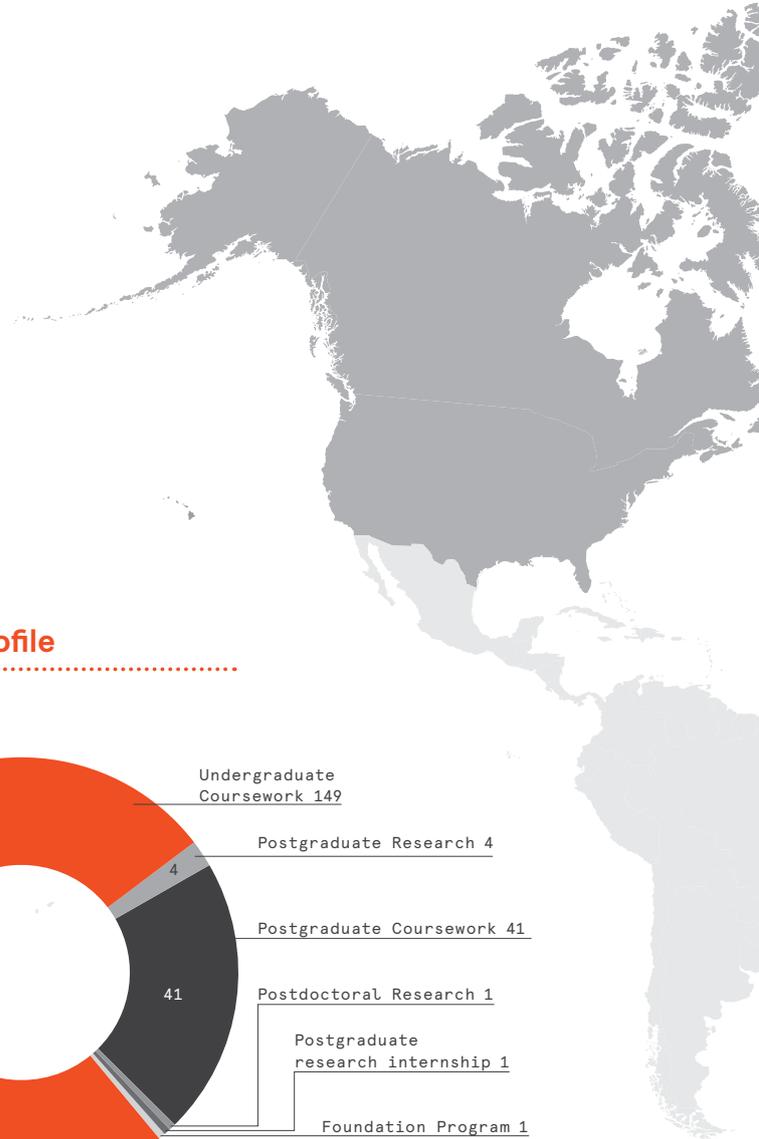


Jessica Carroll
Director, International House

200 residents from all over the world

#HumansofIH

International House is a diverse home to students from Australia and around the world. The incredible mix of cultures in the house is always changing as we welcome new residents each semester.

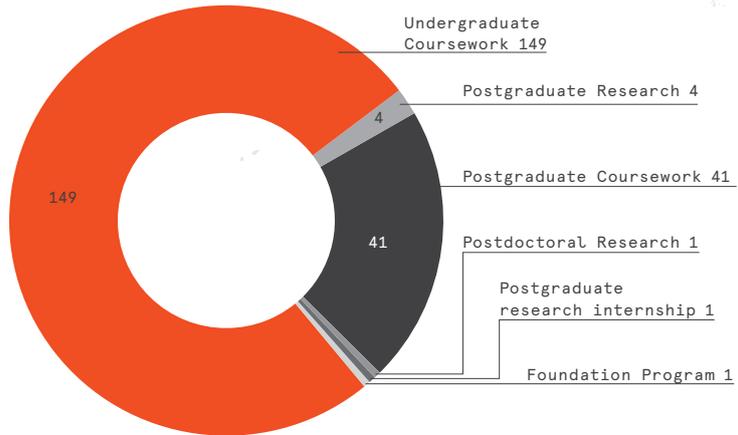


Student profile: Semester 1 2019

Number of residents per country/region

Australia	46
China	28
India	22
Hong Kong	11
Singapore	11
Bangladesh	10
New Zealand	8
Malaysia	6
United States of America	5
Canada	4
Japan	4
Korea, Republic of	4
Philippines	3
South Africa	3
Sri Lanka	3
Taiwan	3
Thailand	3
Germany	2
Indonesia	2
Kenya	2
Nepal	2
Nigeria	2
United Kingdom	2
Vietnam	2
Belgium	1
Colombia	1
Egypt	1
Fiji	1
Ghana	1
Italy	1
Libya	1
Mexico	1
Netherlands	1
Pakistan	1
Peru	1
Spain	1
Switzerland	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1
Somalia	1
Brazil	1
Saudi Arabia	1
United Arab Emirates	1

Academic profile



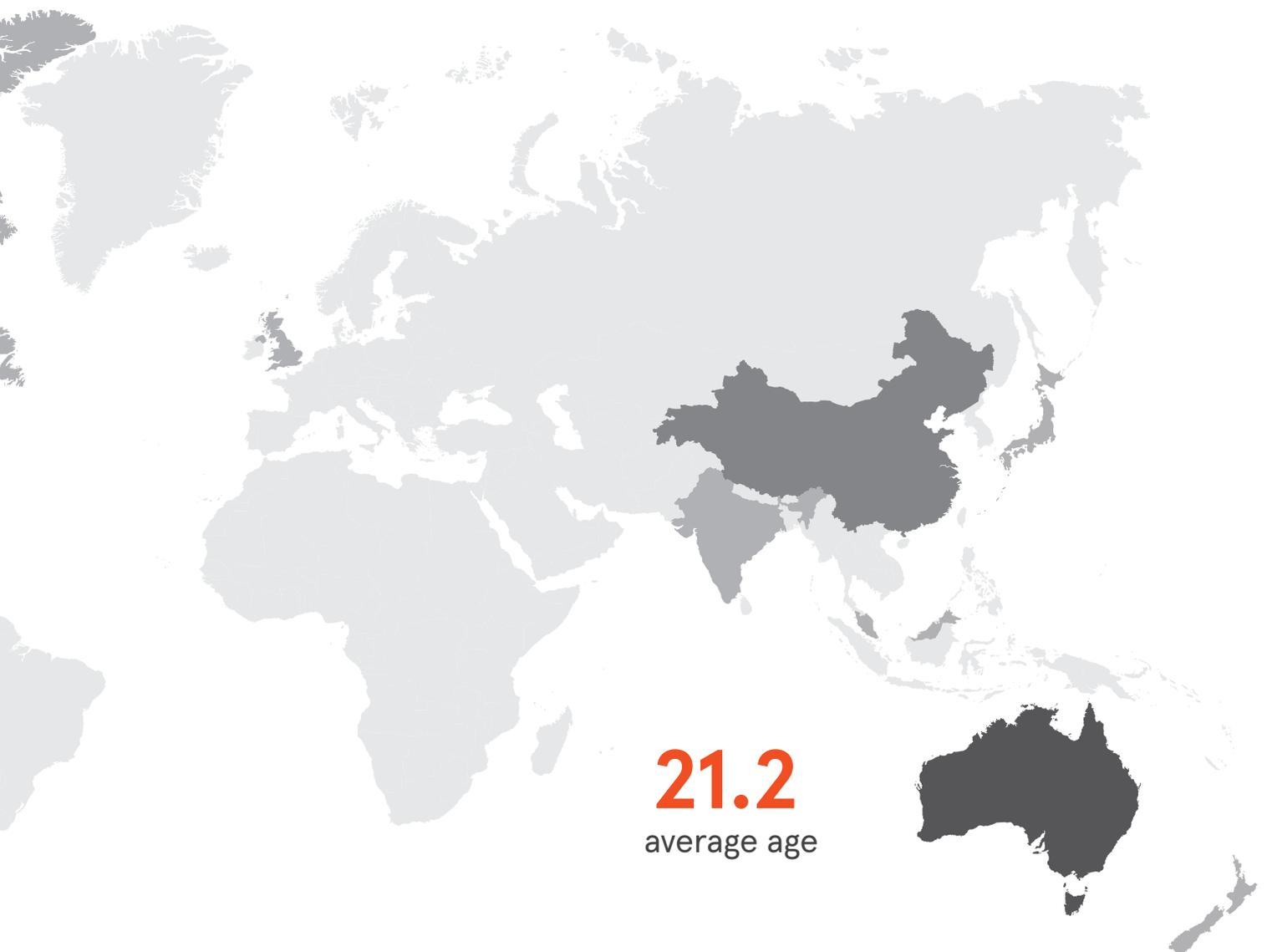
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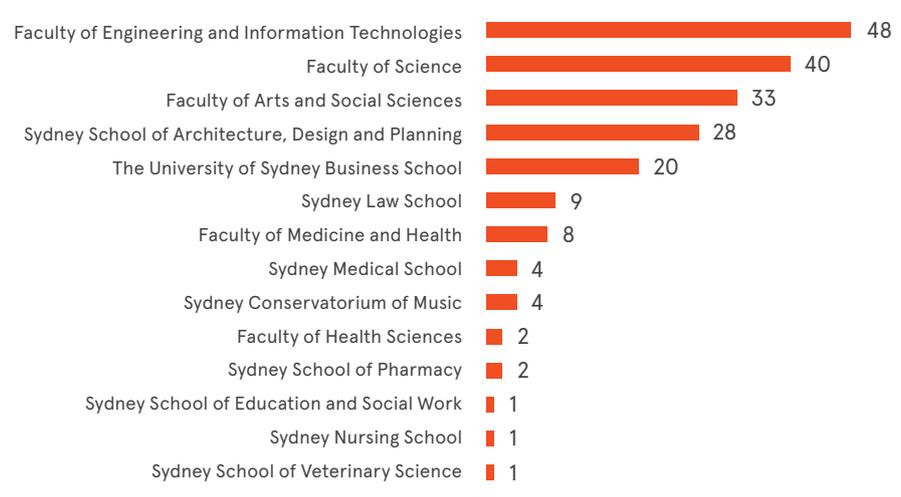


2%



21.2
average age

Faculty and school representation



The gift of art



International House's growing art collection is made possible by generous donations from alumni. We feature a small selection of the works that now hang in the iconic Walter Bunning-designed rotunda on City Road.

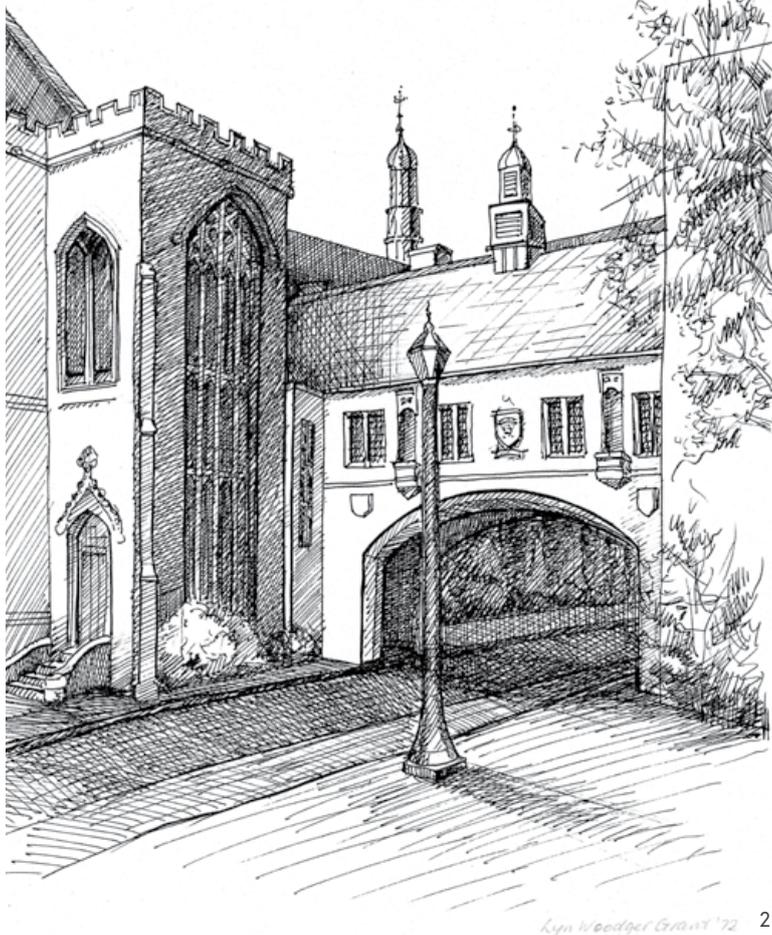
"The Gatehouse" - University of Sydney, 1972. 7/75 in a series of signed and numbered limited-edition prints. Donated to International House by the artist.

The last remaining University gatehouse (sometimes referred to by its original name "the yeoman bedel's lodge") is a charming gothic revival building designed by Sir Leslie Wilkinson and built between 1939 and 1940. This building was a joy to sketch with its palisade fencing, metalwork, gables and slate roof. There were many details to discover such as the unique two-storey bay windows and sandstone mullions. This distinctive

Sydney sandstone dwelling is situated on Parramatta Road and remains a warm and welcoming introduction to the more grandiose vision of the imposing buildings on the hill. (Lyn Woodger Grant 2019).

"The War Memorial Arch" - University of Sydney, 1972. 7/75 in a series of signed and numbered limited-edition prints. Donated to International House by the artist.

Dedicated to the University casualties who died in WWII, the war memorial arch on Science Road was built between 1956 and 1958. This part of the University is a serene and



- 1 Lyn Woodger Grant, "The Gatehouse" – University of Sydney, 1972.
- 2 Lyn Woodger Grant, "The War Memorial Arch" – University of Sydney, 1972.
- 3 Lyn Woodger Grant with a selection of her paintings at the IH 50th anniversary art and history exhibition.



reflective place where buildings from different eras come together to create an aesthetic whole. Built in Sydney sandstone, the simple elegant arch seamlessly blends with the existing gothic revival architecture – a beautiful symbol of remembrance in a place of peace and contemplation. (Lyn Woodger Grant 2019).

Lyn Woodger-Grant (IH 1971-72)

A former artist-teacher at the National Art School, Lyn has been a professional artist for five decades. She has received over thirty awards in both abstract and representational art in the diverse areas of drawing, painting

and sculpture. Solo commercial gallery exhibitions have included the International Gallery Broadway and Blaxland Gallery (Sydney), the Gallows Gallery (Perth) and Primrose Hill Gallery (London). Public one-woman shows have included Imperial College London (1998) and the Royal Geographical Society, London (1999), both highlighting fragile ecosystems in Australia, South East Asia, and the Pacific Rim. Broader subject-based public exhibitions have been at International House, the University of Sydney (1971, 1972, 1985 and 2017), Macquarie University (1973), and at Meriden School – a 30 Year retrospective (1992). Lyn has been a

finalist five times at the Art Gallery of NSW in the Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prizes, and a seven-times-finalist in the Portia Geach Portrait Prize for women. Many of Lyn's works are in private and public collections.

Check out issue #2 of *International House magazine* for a write-up on Lyn's evocative symbolist painting *Ascension VII*, currently on loan to International House:
<http://bit.ly/LWG-Ascension>



1

Djugulul (Ganalbingu, Ramangining, Central Arnhem Land), *Untitled*, n.d. Pigment on bark. Donated to International House by a Dr Lauris Elms AM OBE.

The artist has depicted gurumachi, the wild geese who in the Dreamtime created freshwater holes by spiralling down from the sky and striking hard ground with their beaks. Also shown are nests of eggs and the flowering bushes on which the geese fed. Their story is told in song and dance in the Hollow Log ceremony.



2

1 Djugulul (Ganalbingu, Ramangining, Central Arnhem Land), *Untitled*, n.d.
2 Betty Nance Smith returned to IH in 2017 for the 50th anniversary art and history exhibition, where *Tropical Delights* was exhibited.

3 Betty Nance Smith *Tropical Delights*, 2016.



3

***Tropical Delights*, 2016. Oil on canvas. Donated to International House by the artist.**

These orchids and mango tropical delights came from a farmer's market in Hawaii, USA and were painted from life outside, with marvellous ocean breezes and perfect temperatures, making the experience all the more heavenly. (Betty Nance Smith 2017).

Betty Nance Smith (IH 1979)

Betty Nance Smith came to International House in 1979 from the high desert mountains of northern New Mexico USA on a Rotary graduate fellowship. Living with international

students changed her life for the best. She returned to the US seeing *people* for who they were, not defined by national borders. Since then she has had a long oil painting career, is happily married to Roger Smith, and has raised two daughters. She is an honoured member of Oil Painters of America and is happy to represent her country of fine artists. She loves being a mum and wife, and enjoys travel and adventures. Her time at International House remains one of the best memories of her life and has helped foster her love of people everywhere. Betty's second home is Australia and her Rotary sponsors have become true family.



IH 50th anniversary art and history exhibition, 2017.



Greg, Hannah and Alex paying a “must-see” visit to spot themselves in the historic IH group photos.

Family values

Interview and photo by Dr Bradley Kunda

Geophysicist Greg Houseman (IH 1975-77) and his entrepreneurial wife Hannah Yiu (IH 1975-77) are among the many couples to have met at IH. Their son Alex (IH 2007-09) continues the family legacy, and his parents’ vision for a more internationalist world.

Bradley First, what attracted you to International House, and what were you studying here?

Hannah I came to International House in the last term of my honors degree in oriental studies. By then, having lived in Australia for four years, I was mostly spending time with Asian friends, living with my two brothers in the suburbs, and working at Grace Bros down the road. Then my brothers moved away, and I felt that this, my final year at university, was my last opportunity to experience

something different. A friend who had lived at International House the year before introduced me to the place, and I found myself taking a forward leap and doing something neither my parents nor I would have ever considered acceptable. I'd be going to a co-ed residence, a place I don't know much about, where the people and perhaps the context would be completely different to what I was used to. Back then I was a very sensible 'to-do-list' person; I'd get high marks, I'd get good grades, and I'd further my career. But International House presented me with something totally different, so I thought that I would give it a go. It was life-changing.

Alex With both parents having gone to International House, I had a healthy scepticism about following in their footsteps! There was an initial suspicion about what the place would be like, and whether it was the right place for me. I think I had very few expectations, but I was really drawn to this stylized idea of many countries sitting around the table. I didn't really know how that would be lived-out in practice. It was definitely more chaotic and crazier than I expected it to be – in all the right ways. The friends we made and the experiences we had were not in line with the sensible mold that my parents had set up for me. That was for the best, I think.

Bradley What about you Greg? Was it chaotic or sensible?

Greg I have to say that I knew nothing before I moved in. Then arriving here was really like an explosion of new kinds of experiences with different people, and an opening of my eyes to a bigger world. That's kind of the way I look back at it now, with this realisation that the world is a huge place, but that the people in it, wherever they come from, are basically the same in many ways. They

have the same kinds of motivations, and the same kinds of emotional reactions to things.

Bradley Hannah, you mentioned that it was a life-changing experience. Did the house have any significant effect on your personal life?

Hannah Personally, it was very significant because I met Greg – against strict parental instructions! The ensuing few years were full of conflicts, but the life-changing aspects were not limited to the personal and romantic. More important was the sense that I could break away from the fairly utilitarian

“One of the things that strikes me now in retrospect is that what I learned in formal classes here at Sydney University was probably less important than what I learned at International House.”

Greg Houseman

and functional parts of life that my parents, and my Asian, Chinese background, has prescribed for me. Until then, it was all about getting onto a career path: I applied to the public service, I went for interviews, I was going to work in Canberra, going to get good grades, and was going to start thinking about a house deposit and all that stuff. But International House exposed me to diversity and literally a world of difference – that there was a great deal more to life than just getting onto the property ladder or a career path. That there's something called 'life experience', which included romance with a non-Chinese person, and which involved

leaving Australia and its safety net to see the world. It was life-changing in the sense that I was no longer the same girl who had left Hong Kong in 1971.

Bradley Alex, what effect did International House have on your world view?

Alex I suppose there were some significant experiences that happened while I was living in the house, but I think the more substantial experiences have been *after* I left the house, with all the people I met there. In the last few years I've been to weddings in Pushkar of mates who met at International House. I remember traveling through Denmark and Berlin and Paris and back to England, at each stop catching up with someone with whom I had formed a bond while living at IH, and who is now doing something completely different. On that same trip, travelling back through Asia, I spent time living in Beijing and visiting Hong Kong and Shanghai. In every one of those cities, I was able to meet someone from IH and continue our relationship.

I think that the period of time since I left IH has been as influential, if not more influential, than the years I was actually there.

Bradley Greg, can you relate to Alex's idea of the continuation of the IH experience?

Greg I think so. One of the things that strikes me now in retrospect is that what I learned in formal classes here at Sydney University was probably less important than what I learned at International House. Living in a place like International House meant you learned how to communicate with people and how to share experiences with them. This has carried on for me. Even though I've stayed in the same scientific discipline, this perspective has remained in a way that's quite natural.

It's since been easy for me to engage in international scientific projects, and to lead them in places like Eastern Europe and Turkey. In that sense, the experience of International House was really formative for me.

Hannah My experience after International House has been slightly different from both Greg's and Alex's. Alex's friendships carried on immediately after they all left the house, whereas I didn't continue with too many of them until only in the last few years, since we returned to Australia and picked-up friendships with people we met 35 years ago.

The post-residential experience for me was directly related to my confidence in developing Asian food for a Western audience. You probably don't know this, but in the 70s, when I first arrived in Sydney – and even through to the 80s – you couldn't buy the kinds of groceries and foods that you grew up with at home. You used to have to go to dedicated stores in the back-alleys of places like Dixon Street, which was where you'd get all the things that you loved from home. Coles' and Woolworths' mainstream variations were totally unacceptable and different from what you'd have available for take-away meals. My brothers and I were directly responsible for creating additional access to authentic Asian ingredients in Woolworths and Coles in the late 1980s. I then worked directly with Australian food writers, and later with the sponsorship of the Thai Government, to popularise the inclusion of Asian style cooking in Australia.

Alex Were you not responsible for seeding Mie Goreng into o-weeks?

Hannah That's right! For years, o-week and the Easter show would have bags of Mie Goreng. We had to persuade the manufacturer to give us some, and they subsidised it. That

was my role: talking to them and persuading them to support us, if not in money, then at least in-kind, so we had products to give away.

Bradley Since we're talking food, what was your experience of food like at IH?

Greg When I was chairman of IHMA, it was the most controversial topic in the house. It was the thing that got people excited. There was always about half the population that weren't very happy with it. I get the impression that things have changed since then.

Alex I think the general picture is that meal times were critical rather than the meal itself.

Greg Exactly. What I remember about eating at International House is not the food. It's the people I ate with.

Alex It's something you can't quantify the value of. It's just like saying, what's the value of a conversation?

Greg And it was such a diverse range of conversations. It wouldn't be the same if you always ate with the same people every day, but if you're eating with this large group of diverse people, the conversations took on all kinds of flavours that you didn't expect.

Bradley Did you feel that you could ask questions of other people that you might not ordinarily be able to ask?

Alex Absolutely. You see these people every day. There's this new level of intimacy that you would never have otherwise.

Hannah This is why it's so important to actually have this meal time and meal plan.

This is a huge campus. Even in my days when it wasn't even half as big, you would just casually drop in for lectures and then you'd be off. IH, by contrast, is the place where you'd live and breathe, and most importantly have many events. You'd go to

international nights, and there'd be Japanese visitors, so you'd have Japan night, China night, etc. You'd get friendly and then you'd work with each other. That creates an unusual degree of intimacy and trust. I don't know whether it's common to other colleges, but with International House, we managed to know quite a bit about each other, which helped us develop this sense of trust.

Bradley Do you think the IH vision of fostering international understanding and friendship is relevant today?

Alex Yes, more than ever.

Greg I think it's a neglected vision, and the world neglects it at its own risk. The idea of a narrow, nationalistic, conservative view is not just a bad idea, but it's been shown to be wrong. You've only got to read history to see how wrong it is.

Hannah That's right. It was an inspired vision in 1960 and it has been carried on by the house today. If you look at the past two or three generations of residents – and you can actually see it in Alex's generation – none of them have a 'blinker'd' view of world: that *this* is one particular race, and *that* is another particular nation. To them everyone is all part of humanity. We are all humans, and we should have one world and one vision.

“I suppose there were some significant experiences that happened while I was living in the house, but I think the more substantial experiences have been *after* I left the house, with all the people I met there.”

Alex Houseman

From Glebe to Mashal – creative projects that make a difference



Joan Rowlands at the 2017 fellows' lunch.

Each year, the Cormack-Rowlands award continues to inspire residents towards acts of service, benefitting disadvantaged communities in Australia and abroad.

About the award

Dr Joan Rowlands has had a far-reaching influence on the lives of residents at International House, first as a resident herself in 1970, then later as assistant director (1979–80) and subsequently as president of SUIHAA (2000–2003). She has continued to be a very involved member of the IH alumni association. Joan was also a student of the University in the area of public health. To all these roles, she has brought her extraordinary intellect, dedication to the ideals of International House, wealth of life experience, genuine interest in people of all ages and backgrounds, and her wonderful sense of humour.

A truly renaissance woman, Joan is an inspiring role model and mentor to all those fortunate enough to know her.

On the occasion of Joan's 90th birthday, two of her closest friends acknowledged her outstanding contribution to the IH community by inaugurating the Cormack-Rowlands award, to be awarded annually as funding permits for a project to overcome disadvantage in Australia or anywhere in the world.

In this issue, we share the two most recent Cormack-Rowlands award projects undertaken by IH residents.



Summer camp for Mashal School, Pakistan
– Rehan Rana (IH 2017-2018)

Mashal school is a charity school in the Ghiyala Village of Pakistan (Near Faisalabad), which has a distinctive curriculum and is unique in many ways. Mashal is built in a very rural area to assist thriving minority groups who are geographically and educationally disadvantaged. It is the only school in the district to have no ethnic or religious affiliations. The school has its own curriculum, which is regularly updated and extends beyond books to extra-curricular activities, life skills, personal development, and professional skills. The school also extends its educational reach to supporting the learning needs of parents.

The Cormack-Rowlands award enabled Rehan to run a summer camp for Mashal School students during the month of August 2018. The funds

went towards extra classes, sports activities, and professional skills courses including traditional stitch art, handmaking soft toys, and make-up sessions. Rehan also organised a session on maternal health, where essential hygiene supplies for women were distributed.

Most of the students had never been outside their local district, so as part of the summer camp they were taken to a nearby metropolitan city to visit the museum. The project succeeded in introducing a strong spirit of self-worth, leadership, teamwork, gratitude and development. The school is very thankful for the support, as Ghulam Mustafa, the president of the Mashal Foundation, expressed in a letter to International House: “I believe together we have achieved something great here. The way the funds were utilised will continue to bring positive impacts within our community. From the bottom of my heart and the hearts of our beneficiaries, thank you.”



Main image: Mashal School students engaged in professional skills workshops, including traditional stitch art, as part of Rehan’s summer camp. Image supplied.

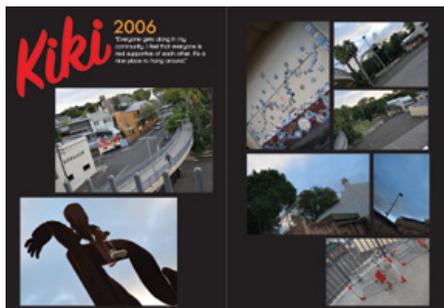
Above: Rehan Rana with students from the Mashal School. Image supplied.

“We are just teens” photo-voice project – Kasumi Higewake (IH 2016-17)

The main purpose of Kasumi’s project was to use photography to raise awareness of a specific community of young people in Glebe, NSW. Kasumi writes: “I’ve noticed that in a lot of existing literature, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are often portrayed as ‘the other’. The literature tends towards historical or cultural differences, which are often portrayed negatively and can sometimes be tokenistic. I therefore wanted to work on a project in collaboration with young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youths in Glebe that focused on their age and similarities rather than their cultural differences. Focusing on age and youthful experiences felt appropriate, as all of us would have gone through that complex experience of being a teenager in one way or another. By celebrating what makes them youthful, I wanted to emphasise the similar experiences of being young, regardless of cultural differences.”

The result was a collaborative partnership with the Glebe Youth Service (GYS) on a photo-voice book of images taken by the participants

Kasumi’s photo-voice book *We are just teens*, is available online: <http://bit.ly/WeAreJustTeens>

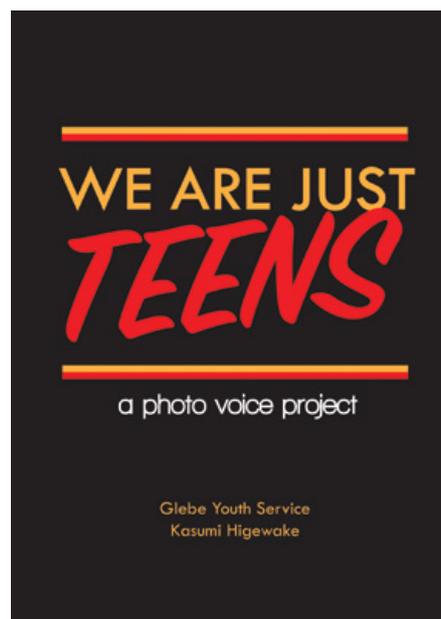


in Kasumi’s project. Photo-voice is a social work research method and advocacy tool that empowers participants and increases awareness of the community that is involved. The book was published with the support of the University and the images were also exhibited in a photography exhibition.

Kasumi’s project aimed to focus on the similarities that unite, rather than differentiate people within community. She achieved this by shifting the focus from cultural difference to instead acknowledging that Indigenous and non-Indigenous people share similar experiences of youth and the rights of passage associated with it. At the same time, and to celebrate the Indigeneity of the young people being featured in the publication, the artwork for the book was based on the colours of the Aboriginal flag. Kasumi aimed to give young people a platform to raise their voices and express their worldviews. Other aims also emerged during the project, which included creating opportunities for participants to engage with photography, enabling

them to use it as a tool for rapport-building with their peers and other youth workers.

For Kasumi, “Working with these young people has been really rewarding because they taught me so much about a specific community. The generational and covert racism that persists in our society negatively impacts the experience of the young people I got to work with. These experiences include bullying and substance misuse, which are detrimental to anyone’s health and wellbeing. I therefore wanted to debunk any misconceptions people might have by celebrating and presenting our similarities of being young – the things that unite us as a community. Beyond producing the art book to create a platform for young people to be heard, working in partnership with these young people has opened opportunities to share stories. It was rewarding to see that providing an opportunity to play with cameras was a small act that encouraged them to attend their centre drop-ins more regularly.”



Can you support this award?

Your gift to the Cormack-Rowlands award fund will truly make a difference, enabling future residents of International House to implement projects like Kasumi’s and Rehan’s and improve the lives of others.

Email ih.info@sydney.edu.au to request information on donating to this fund.

In my room



In this first instalment of “in my room”, Ka Man (Carmen) Ip shares with us some of her personal possessions – items which make her IH room feel like home.

Appropriately for a student of veterinary biology, an animal theme connects many of her treasured objects; reminders of home in Hong Kong and life before moving to Sydney.

Photography by Matthew Smith

1 Deedee

This was a parting gift from my parents when I moved to Sydney. Whenever I study back at home in Hong Kong, my dog Deedee always sleeps beside me. She’s really chubby and she literally looks like this when she sleeps. So, when I’m here in Sydney, I don’t have to miss having her with me as well.

I also have a shirt with my dog’s face on it, which was a birthday gift.





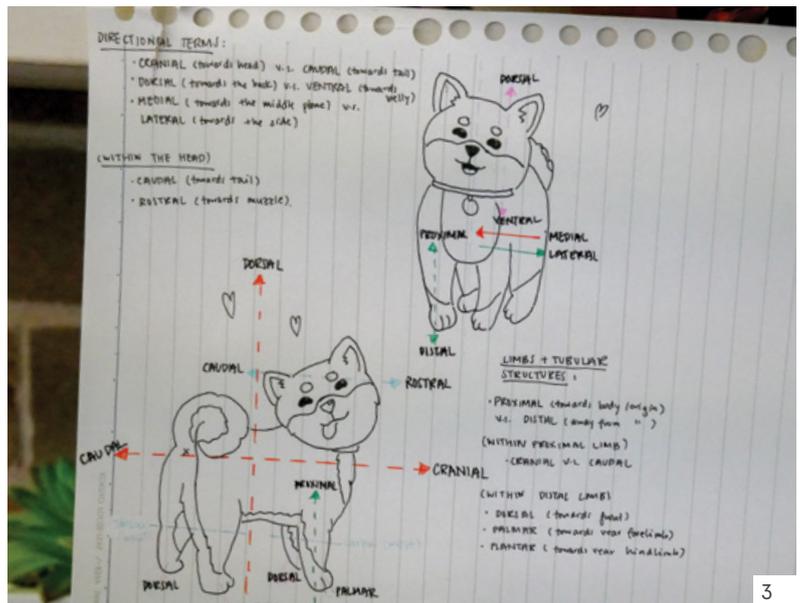
2 Postcard wall

The postcards are from my family and primary school friends. There are also photos from various trips I've taken, including to New York and Iceland. It's a nice reminder of the people who are close to me, and a friendly distraction when I'm studying at my desk. The Pusheen cat post-it-note is from Toby, a resident and CRA at International House, who drew it for me.



3 Anatomical sketch

This is a sketch of my dog in anatomical terms, which I had to learn as part of my vet science studies.



4 Essential oils

These are essential oils my mum sent me. The red one is for allergies, and the green one is for stress. Obviously uni is stressful, so I put a few drops of stress oil on my pillow before I sleep. It's a nice smell and a good way to start the day.



5 Good luck token

My dad bought this for me when he was in Taiwan. I don't think we have them in Hong Kong. They're quite popular in Asian cultures, and there are various ones for health, friendship and relationships. A couple of other residents also keep them in their rooms.

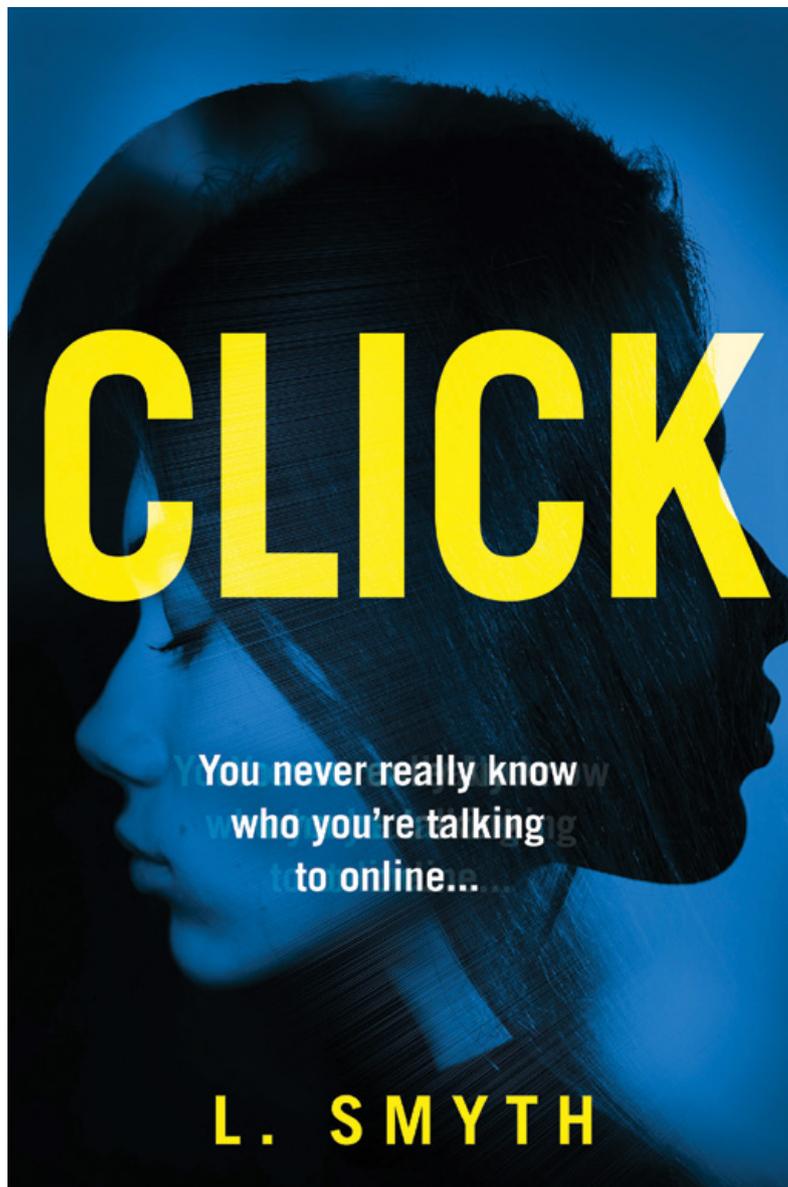
A cautionary tale for an online world

The first novel by IH alumna Lulu Smyth reveals the dangers of modern technology, and the slippery slope of controlling your personal narrative in an online world.

Written by Sophia Halpin

CLICK

L. Smyth, *CLICK* (HarperCollins GB, 2019). 400 pp. A\$19.99.



There are few people of my generation who could honestly say they've never indulged in a bit of a Facebook stalk at one time or another. Or perhaps on Instagram, or Twitter. We all know the feeling of emerging, blinking, to find you've lost track of time, wandering down the social media rabbit hole. Eva Hutchings, first-person narrator of *CLICK*, has that particular bug even

worse than most millennials; for her, it forms an obsession, and one with horrific consequences.

The story unfolds in fragments, jumping back and forth in time, tempting the reader with ominous foreshadowings before cutting back to a seemingly unrelated piece of narrative. It tells of Eva's first year at university, when she meets the mysterious Marina. During this time,

she is living in a student dorm, and I could not help but envision her in my old room at IH, the light of her computer screen spilling onto the brick walls. The university where she studies is set in England, but my imagination kept sneaking jacaranda blossoms into the background. And the dingy student house party where undergrads spout self-important philosophies over red wine! Against



Lulu Smyth (IH 2012-13) spent her study abroad year at the University of Sydney, where she lived at International House. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in English literature from the University of York and a master's in renaissance literature from Oxford University. As well as her novel *CLICK*, she has written culture pieces for *The Financial Times*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *Prospect* and *The Times Literary Supplement*. She lives in London, where she works as a scriptwriter.



Sophia Halpin (IH 2012) spent one of the best years of her life at IH and has since made sure to always be involved in international communities and cross-cultural education. She now works as a teacher and social program coordinator at Twin English Language Centre in London (moonlighting as a theatre reviewer in her spare time). She has completed a Bachelor of Arts (Languages), followed by postgraduate study in publishing and editing, and a CELTA teaching qualification.

my will, I was transported right back to my first year and a share house at 123 Cleveland Street. Any USYD arts student will recognise the characters populating this book, but the worst thing to realise is that we probably *were* those characters, at some point, and to some extent.

And this realisation does come with a cringe, because all the figures in *CLICK* are distasteful at best, and downright hateful at worst. Even the protagonist is unlikeable – and perhaps it is her cynicism and misanthropy which inform the reader's judgement of the supporting characters; Eva is anything but a reliable narrator. As the story progresses, she is drawn into a tangle of deceit and false façades, much of it of her own making. The novel's tagline is "You never really know who you're talking to online..." but really, this story is about the webs of lies which people have always woven, more than it is about the worldwide web. The internet may provide a platform for Eva and Marina to perform and experiment with

identities, but this novel is so much more than a cautionary tale about the dangers of modern technology. It's about the desire to control your own narrative and how others perceive you, and about the struggles for power that underpin so many human relationships. I could go all Sartre on you here, but I worry that'd make me sound too much like a character from this novel.

I have to be honest, the first half of this book moved quite slowly, and if I were to put my postgrad editing degree into use (cheers, USYD), I would advise cutting it down a fair bit in order to speed up the plot and keep the tension humming. When it picks up though, it's a truly thrilling read, and I devoured the whole second-half in one sitting. The twists and turns and high-stakes intrigues kept me hooked, and as manipulators became victims and vice versa, I was reminded strongly and positively of *The Girl on the Train* and other modern hits of that genre. Those who remember Lulu's acerbically clever articles for *Honi Soit* back in 2012-13

won't be surprised that the writing is insightful, eloquent, witty, and evocative. And it's surely the sign of an excellent writer if you tear through most of the book on the edge of your seat, despite wanting to push the protagonist off the IH rooftop.

“This story is about the webs of lies which people have always woven, more than it is about the worldwide web.”

Head to the HarperCollins website to purchase a physical or digital copy of *CLICK*: <http://bit.ly/LSmythClick>

Semester 1 events





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- 1 Residents take to their national flags at the conclusion of the annual flag dinner in week 1. L-R: Shreya Rekhapalli, Idhika Sahi, Huzaifa Zia, Clarissa Lim Yi Jin, Ari Chinniah and Aqil Azrif.
- 2 Loyal and enthusiastic supporters cheer the women's and men's teams in the finals of the intramural futsal competition.
- 3 The stellar men's team fell just short of winning the final in the intramural futsal competition.
- 4 Residents celebrate Holi on the IH rooftop.
- 5 Now an annual welcome week event, the IHMA amazing race kicks-off with games in the Wool Room (including an orange juice relay) before teams tackle a series of challenges throughout the Sydney CBD area.
- 6 Community relations advisers host a 'check-in' event early in semester. New residents take to some mindful colouring activities and enjoy chocolates and conversation with returning residents.
- 7 Kaori Sato and Yumiko Watanabe on the Japan stall at food fair.
- 8 Residents at the IHMA harbour cruise. L-R: Christian Schmitt, Catherine Yang, Yumiko Watanabe, Young Chan (David) Han. Photo by SMARS Photography.

Message from the SUIHAA president

SUIHAA continues to organise and support internationally-oriented events for current and former residents alike. Three key events rounded out 2018 and launched the new year, each one reminding us how the IH ideals and traditions continue to inspire new generations.

SUIHAA and IHMA jointly organised a farewell to residents in the Wool Room on 29 November 2018. It was the first such event and included reminiscences, the passing of IHMA responsibilities from the outgoing to the incoming committees, and renewing the ties of cooperation across generations. Former IHMA committee members have recently joined SUIHAA. The whole evening was judged a success – to be repeated in 2019!

At the beginning of this year SUIHAA also continued the tradition of gifting calendars and cards with welcome messages from alumni to new residents. As always it was a great opportunity for us to introduce alumni to new residents and demonstrate what IH still means to them. The newest residents were a delight to meet.

The IHMA charity night was held on 12 April. Alumni provided support, mainly by donation of items for auction. Margaret Lemoh spoke about the Bo Children's Hospital in Sierra Leone, which we were delighted was again the recipient of the funds raised.

The inaugural de Graaff-Elms biennial roundtable

A highlight of this year's activities was the first de Graaff-Elms biennial roundtable. Proposed and funded by SUIHAA, this inaugural event was planned jointly with IH and held on Sunday 7 April. Panelists included Professor Mark McKenna, Patricia Garcia AO and Andrew Ford OAM. These extraordinary leaders offered fascinating glimpses into their professional fields as well as personal insights into building international understanding. Lauris Elms and Graeme de Graaff attended and were delighted with the discussion and the great participation of alumni and current residents.

Topics on the table included:

- 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

Patricia Garcia is an Honorary Associate of the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, and a Rotary peace fellow working on peace, humanitarian practice and development issues. She explained the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, which are based on an inspiring international commitment towards improving the lives of the poorest and most disadvantaged people on earth.

Andrew Ford is an award-winning composer, writer and broadcaster. He challenged us not to think simplistically

about communication. For instance: is music another language? No, he said – music communicates *music*. We hear it, we produce it, it flows through us, we may feel we understand it. But there is no dictionary which allows us to 'translate' music into the written word.

Mark McKenna is Professor of History, acclaimed author of books, papers and the remarkable Quarterly Essay *Moment of Truth: History and Australia's Future*. He shared insights into encounters with early invaders/settlers and reflected on the gradual appreciation of Aboriginal society, which has been a necessary step towards understanding the contribution Aboriginal cultures could make to modern-day Australia's society and environment. For Mark, a response to the Uluru Statement from the Heart is required, worthy of the consultations and negotiations among the first Australians who produced it and offered it to the nation.

Head to our YouTube channel if you would like to listen back to these discussions:

- Patricia Garcia: bit.ly/IH-Roundtable-Garcia
- Mark McKenna: bit.ly/IH-Roundtable-McKenna
- Andrew Ford: bit.ly/IH-Roundtable-Ford
- Q&A session: bit.ly/IH-Roundtable-QandA

SUIHAA support for IH

SUIHAA continues to advocate for and support IH. We sent the director and council chair a compilation of alumni ideas for the house's redevelopment, as gathered since early 2017 in consultations and working groups, for use in future planning and discussions with the Vice-Chancellor.

Almost all past SUIHAA presidents combined in sending a letter to the Vice-Chancellor, highlighting the successes of the IH program and its continued relevance for the future.

The letter was endorsed by 20 of the living alumni presidents, representing 44 of the 52 years of International House at the University.

The SUIHAA committee continues to communicate with alumni around the world. We report on events and advocacy activities in our new-format newsletters and will continue to update alumni on progress regarding the house's redevelopment. Ideas for news and articles for these newsletters remain most welcome.

Dr Rosamond Madden AM
President, SUIHAA

2019 SUIHAA committee:

Executive: Dr Rosamond Madden AM (President), Dr James Kane (Secretary), Brittany Ridley (Treasurer).

General members: Nicole Dunn, Moe Hassan, Pippa Herden (until April 2019), Julia Krattli, Dr Dominick Ng, Gwen Ng, Dr Richard Ng, Paul Reisner, Karen Rowe-Nurse, and Lyn Woodger Grant.

Ex-officio members: Jessica Sargant (IHMA Chair), Dr Bradley Kunda (IH Assistant Director & Residential Life Officer).



Maze block residents from 2015 Or England and Yoni Israeli married on 9 September 2018 in Jerusalem. Photo supplied.

Alumni notices

Weddings

Yonatan (Yoni) Israeli (IH 2015) and Or England (IH 2015)

Yoni and Or were residents in the Maze Block in 2015. They married on 9 September 2018 in a place called Hagan, Ma'ale HaHamisha near Jerusalem, where they currently live.

Yoni writes: "The whole wedding was under the sky, in a beautiful open garden, during a perfect Israeli summer evening with lots of trees and lights. We had the traditional Jewish ceremony with a rabbi blessing us. After replacing rings, reading our vowels and breaking a glass in the traditional Jewish gesture, we were officially married. To start our new life as a married couple we enjoyed a crazy two-months' honeymoon in 'heaven', including a backpacker's adventure in central America and a grand finale in the Caribbean islands."

Shu Chun Philip Tai (IH 2015-16) and Mindy Zhang

Philip and Mindy registered their marriage on 28 November 2018 at the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages in Sydney. They celebrate their formal wedding ceremony on 28 September 2019 in Chengdu, China (Mindy's hometown). IH alumni attendees in Sydney included Camille Wee (IH 2015), Haowen (Jessica) Yang (IH 2015-16) and Guoxin (Cindy) Yan (IH 2015-16).

Do you have news to share?
Please write to
suihaa@sydney.edu.au
so we can include your
notice in our next issue.

Yonatan Bley (IH 2008-09) and Natasha Daga (IH 2008-09)
 Natasha and Yonatan met at IH in 2008 and started dating the year after. They got engaged in the Kangaroo Valley two years ago and married on 15 December 2018 at

Mali Brae Farm (Southern Highlands, NSW), where the couple had a two-day Indian wedding. A significant number of IH alumni attended from the years 2007–2012. L-R: Jacob Stretton, Nanette Van Jaarsveld, Elle Kershaw and her partner John,

Jonathan Ribot, Minal Khilani, Yonatan Bley, Natasha Daga, Antonia Yue, Gagandeep Kaur, Andrew Hilliar, Josh Lun, Dan Palise, Michael Neely, Richard Warwick, Alex Houseman.

Photo by Ben Newman (Ben Newman Photography)



Nominate a fellow

A fellowship of International House recognises a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the house.

International House fellows (including year elected as fellow)

Mrs Thelma Bate (1980)
 Sir Herman David Black AC (1980)
 Sir Nathaniel Bernard Freeman (1980)
 Dr Geoffrey Langford Howe (1980)
 Mr Wilson Harold Maze MBE (1980)
 Mrs Rosalie McCutcheon (1980)
 Mrs Kathleen O’Neil (1980)
 Sir Harold Stanley Wyndham (1980)
 Dr Lauris Elms AM OBE (1981)
 Mrs Doreen Langley (1981)
 Mr Alex Dix (1981)
 Mrs Rosemary Berrick (1984)
 Mr Brian Farmer (1984)
 Ms Una Henderson (1984)
 Mr Robert Bland (1985)
 Mr Ian G. Hudson AM (1985)
 Mrs Pauline Kennedy (1985)
 Mr Graeme de Graaff (1986)
 Ms Mollie Burns (1987)
 Mr George Lean (1989)

The Hon. David Selby AM (1989)
 Mrs Renata Messerle (1991)
 Mrs Betty Boulton (1992)
 Professor Hans Freeman (1993)
 Dr Basil Voyagis (1997)
 Mr Tim Beckett (1997)
 Mr Geoffrey C. S. Andrews (1999)
 Justice Dennis Cowdroy OAM (2000)
 Mrs Gwen Ng (2002)
 Dr Richard Ng (2002)
 Mr Richard Wilson (2002)
 Mr Bruce Downie (2002)
 Dr Ruth Shatford AM (2002)
 Dr Joan Rowlands AM (2004)
 Mr Roger Wescombe (2006)
 Professor John Gascoigne (2007)
 Dr Keith Suter (2008)
 Magistrate Daphne Kok (2009)
 Professor Sid Gray (2010)
 Ms Rosamond (Wood) Madden AM (2010)

Associate Professor Emeritus Robert Kuzelka (2011)
 Mr Michael Hwang S.C. (2012)
 Mr David Shannon (2013)
 Mr Dennis Schatz (2015)
 Ms Julia Krattli (2016)
 Dr Harald Bergsteiner (2018)
 Mr Allan Moss AO (2018)
 Dr Peter Simpson OAM (2018)

Fellowship nominations for 2019 are open until 31 July. Make your nomination online at bit.ly/Nominate-IH-Fellow or download a copy of the nomination form from bit.ly/IH-Fellow-Form to print and return to IH.

Letters from alumni

As International House contemplates a new future for itself, alumni across all generations write to the Vice-Chancellor to share some of their life-changing experiences of living and sharing the world.

That year, 1967, was the happiest and most rewarding year up to that point in my life. All residents spontaneously reached out to each other on a daily basis, in an environment where they were eager to know more about one another, their cultural backgrounds, and of course their personal qualities.

Michael Hwang (IH 1967)

If I can summarise some of the key things that made IH so special, they would include, first and most importantly, the central dining room. This was where most of our friendships were consolidated. Then there were the floor arrangements with their invaluable kitchens. And finally, the rotunda, which became the centre for entertainment, eating, gatherings, and general fun and relaxation.

Lan (Tjhioe-Lan) Wehrhahn
(Née Tan) (IH 1968-70)

This is an exceedingly unique place to practice multiculturalism. The IH experience benefits students in many ways, whether for personal growth, gaining exposure, nurturing a spirit of common humanity among us, or preparing for the business world after graduation. I am certainly a beneficiary of the International House legacy.

Larry Kwok (IH 1978-80)

Though its many successes are comparatively unheralded, IH has quietly gone about its business of providing a comfortable, welcoming, and, in many cases, life-changing home away from home for both undergraduate and postgraduate students from Australia and around the world.

Dr James Kane (IH 2007-09)

These excerpts are quoted from complete letters sent to the Vice-Chancellor in the past few months. For more information, please contact suihaa@sydney.edu.au

Support our community

International House welcomes donations to support our mission of international understanding and friendship.

By supporting IH and its distinctive residence life program, you will help ensure that the life-long friendships and deep cultural understanding that comes from living at the house continues to thrive in the hearts and minds of the next generation of residents.

sydney.edu.au/donate-ih



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY
—
**International
House**