



September 2024

# SUIHAA Newsletter

## A Message from the SUIHAA Committee Executive

Welcome to the September 2024 SUIHAA Newsletter. As was true in June, there is an abundance of news to convey in this issue, so we continue to have a Table of Contents, so you can start with the articles that most interest you.

No matter where you start in the Newsletter, you won't want to miss:

- More updates on the IH Cabin, which is now available for booking by IH alumni, plus family and friends.
- The results of your input regarding any updates needed to the 2019 recommendations to the University concerning the key characteristics for the redeveloped IH. Be sure to see the draft of the 2023/2034 recommendations and plans to convey them to the University.
- How to access the recording of the virtual event with the judges of the Rosemary Berrick Photography Competition, plus the record number of photo submissions for the 2024 competition.
- How the planning is already well underway for the 2025 Walter Westman Lecture and the de Graaff/Elms Roundtable.

We are especially delighted to welcome a new member of the SUIHAA Committee: Ian Gutierrez. He is taking the leadership on organizing the 2025 Walter Westman Lecture. Look for more information about Ian in a future SUIHAA Newsletter.

As always, we want to thank the other members of the SUIHAA Committee, who keep the IH vision and mission alive, and organize the different SUIHAA-supported events:

Ian Gutierrez  
Anne Gotsis  
Michael Hirschhorn  
Margaret Lemoh  
Ros Madden  
Taz Rahman

---

*Message from  
the SUIHAA  
Executive*

---

We continue to be especially interested in younger IH alumni who desire to help with work of the SUIHAA Committee. If this interests you, please express your interest in a message to [SUIHAA.exec@gmail.com](mailto:SUIHAA.exec@gmail.com).

Enjoy the various articles in this issue of the SUIHAA Newsletter.

On behalf of the SUIHAA Committee,

Dennis Schatz (*SUIHAA President*)  
 Louise Trott (*SUIHAA Secretary*)  
 Rod Thyer (*SUIHAA Treasurer*)

## Table of Contents

IH alumni contact information still needed -----	Page 3
IH Log Cabin available for bookings -----	Page 3
Upcoming SUIHAA AGM (21 September, 10.00 am AEST) -----	Page 5
Bo Children's Hospital in need of support -----	Page 5
Zoom session with photo competition judges -----	Page 8
Record number of submissions for 2024 competition -----	Page 8
Update on 2025 Walter Westman Lecture, de Graaff/Elms Roundtable -----	Page 8
IH redevelopment and SUIHAA recommendations to the University -----	Pages 9–10
Photos of merit from 2023 competition -----	Page 10
Alumni highlight: Renee Noble (2010–2012) -----	Page 11
Alumni highlight: Lyn (Woodger) Grant (1971–1972) and Graham Grant -----	Page 19

## Still Need Contact Information for Many IH Alumni

Thanks to SUIHAA Committee member, Taz Rahman, we reached an important milestone of getting complete contact information from over 700 IH alumni. But we still need more. Please send Taz ([tasnim.rah@gmail.com](mailto:tasnim.rah@gmail.com)) the following information if you have not already done so:

---

### *Alumni contact details needed*

---

1. Your Name
2. Years at IH
3. Email address
4. Postal Address (optional)
5. Phone number (optional)

If you get an email directly from Taz, please know that it is a legitimate email. Thank you for your help to complete this project important to the future of IH and SUIHAA.

## Now is the Time to Book Your Stay at the IH Cabin: Information from Iqbal Qureshi and Sean Kristoffersen

Iqbal and Sean are excited to have you book a stay at the IH Cabin! It is an easy process:

---

### *IH Log Cabin bookings*

---

Just email both Iqbal ([iaqureshi@hotmail.com](mailto:iaqureshi@hotmail.com)) and Sean ([seank@gmp.usyd.edu.au](mailto:seank@gmp.usyd.edu.au)) to indicate the dates you would like to stay at the cabin and receive a booking form. The cost is 2 nights for \$180 and 3 days for \$240. Alumni can book for family and friends, with the condition that on the booking form the alumnus put his/her name as the hirer so the responsibility rests with the alumnus.

They have installed new benches, plus new carpet tiles in the dining room, living room and kitchen. They bought brand new mattresses and added some LED lights. There are new curtains for the main area, the bunk rooms, plus new shower curtains and tablecloths.

There is an electric lawnmower and a whipper-snipper if anyone would like to do some work around the cabin. It gets you a \$40 discount. There is a gas BBQ, which can only be used outside on the veranda. The charge for each use is \$10.00.



Dining area with new curtains and tablecloths

---

*IH Log Cabin  
refurbishment*

---



Barbeque, kitchen area and new flooring



Outdoor seating area



Iqbal installing new door to bathroom

As always, a big THANK YOU to Iqbal and Sean for taking on this caretaking responsibility. They look forward to your booking your stay soon.

## Don't Miss the Upcoming SUIHAA AGM

---

**2024 SUIHAA  
AGM (21  
September)**

---

SUIHAA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is Saturday, 21 September, from 10:00am to noon Sydney time. It is a virtual meeting held on Zoom, so that IH alumni can join from anywhere in the world. You can join using the following URL:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81042323517>

You received more details about the meeting in a separate email. We hope to see you there.

## Bo Children's Hospital Needs Your Support From Margaret Lemoh

A huge thank you to all IH alumni who have loyally supported the Bo Children's Hospital (BCH) over the years with their donations. The hospital now plays a significant role in the health care network in Sierra Leone and has established a reputation for quality care and treatment of children unable to receive medical attention elsewhere. An average of 500 patients a month seek treatment at the hospital. Many patients turn to BCH after unsatisfactory outcomes at other hospitals. With some



surgery now being available the number of inpatients has increased and all of the 17 beds available are usually occupied.



The hospital policy is to request payment from those who can afford to pay, but no child is denied treatment because the parents cannot pay. Recently an analysis of payments was conducted and it was found that 40% of parents could not afford to pay for any treatment, 30% could pay the costs of laboratory tests, and 20% paid laboratory fees only. Only 5% paid all the medical bills. There are also many patients unable to pay the cost of medications.

---

*Bo Children's  
Hospital update*

---

In June, staff were given a 50% increment in salary to bring their salaries up to the salaries paid to government employees. This has dramatically increased our operating costs to some \$14,000 per month. It is obvious that the hospital cannot afford to continue unless more finance becomes available. Plans to expand facilities (e.g., providing more beds, accommodation for malnutrition patients and visiting staff) have had to be suspended.



For the first time a team of nurses from BCH went out to a village near Bo to conduct a mobile clinic. This is a particularly significant step as many children in outlying villages are not taken to hospital because of the lack of affordable transport. The team saw 71 children. Just over half were suffering from malaria. There were 5 with pneumonia, 10 with malnutrition and 13 with inguinal hernia. There were also cases of epilepsy and meningitis. Appropriate medications were distributed and advice given on warning signs of illness and seeking treatment. It is hoped these mobile clinics can be continued.



---

*Bo Children's  
Hospital:  
support needed*

---

We rely heavily on personal donations, but we desperately need more help. If you belong to a community organisation like Rotary, Lions, or a church, or even your child's school, please propose Bo Children's Hospital as a beneficiary for fundraising activities.

Please note that donations now are to be made through RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Service). RAWCS administers many Rotary projects within and outside Australia. To donate, go to the website, [www.bochildrenshospital.org.au](http://www.bochildrenshospital.org.au) and click on *donate*. You will have the option of donating through Paypal or by Transfer via RAWCS.

## Recording of Zoom Session with the Rosemary Berrick Photography Competition Judges

The three judges enjoyed discussing photography with participants at the Zoom session on 13 July. For those who could not join them, the session was recorded and is available at:

---

*Rosemary  
Berrick Photo  
Competition  
updates*

---

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vZJUDgT9xKsZzbGvynQGft9O15snBQIa/view?usp=sharing>

## Record Number of Submissions to the 2024 Photo Competition

We received a record 70 entries for this year's competition from 27 people. The judges now have the difficult job of picking the top four for this year's awards. The results will be featured in the next SUIHAA Newsletter.

## Update Regarding the 2025 Walter Westman Lecture and the de Graaff/Elms Roundtable

---

*2025 Walter  
Westman Lecture  
and de  
Graaff/Elms  
Roundtable*

---

Thanks to our newest SUIHAA Committee member, Ian Gutierrez, we have already identified the Walter Westman Lecture presenter for next year. He is Randoll Antonio, a Partner at Ernst & Young, who will talk about "The Environmental Impact of Electric Vehicles: A Great Rethink for Australia's Future". The date is yet to be set, but will be sometime in March 2025. Look for more information in the next SUIHAA Newsletter.

Thanks to the suggestion from SUIHAA member, Birute Don, plus input from three SUIHAA Committee members (Ros Madden, Margaret Lemoh and Taz Rahman), the group is homing in on the topic for the 2025 de Graaff/Elms Roundtable. It will focus on international student housing at universities. See more information in future newsletters.

## IH Redevelopment

The good news is that the Project Control Group (PCG) that will provide input to the redevelopment of IH has started having quarterly meetings. The first meeting was 22 July of this year. At the meeting were key leaders from the university:

- Greg Robinson, *Chief University Infrastructure Officer* (PCG Chair)
- Professor Joanne Wright, *Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education*



- Professor Susanna Scarparo, *Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Life)*

Also at the meeting were representatives of IH Council:

- Greg Houseman, *Chair*
- Craig Collie, *Deputy Chair*

The challenge is that while the University is still committed to redeveloping IH, it is part of the redevelopment of the entire area from the Wentworth Building to IH, and maybe even the Seymour Centre. Planning for IH is still some years into the future. We will continue to monitor the work of the PCG and report to you in future SUIHAA Newsletter.

---

***IH***  
***redevelopment***  
***update and***  
***SUIHAA***  
***recommendations***  
***to University***

---

## Updated recommendations to the University regarding the key characterises of a redeveloped IH

In the last SUIHAA Newsletter, we asked for input from SUIHAA members to the 2019 document that identified the key characteristics required for a successful international house. Taz Rahman, on the SUIHAA Committee, led a group of Committee and other SUIHAA members to update those recommendations. The updated document was sent with the announcement of the AGM, for discussion at the AGM on 21 September. The updated recommendations can also be found at:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RxNDm56\\_Te43XKwbp4EAIf7-oG8uVVKT/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RxNDm56_Te43XKwbp4EAIf7-oG8uVVKT/view?usp=sharing)

These recommendations will be conveyed to the University via the Vice Chancellor's (VC) office, along with copies to other appropriate people at the University, to reinforce the characteristics desired of the new IH when it is built. It will also be shared with the members of the Program Control Group (PCG) that will play a key role in the redevelopment of IH. The memo to the VC, which was shared in the last SUIHAA Newsletter, will accompany the updated recommendations, noting that expediting IH redevelopment will help solve the shortage of housing for international students.

## Photos of Merit from the 2023 Photography Competition

The top five winners of the 2023 Rosemary Berrick Photography Competition were announced in the November 2022 and March 2023 Newsletters. As mentioned in the Newsletters, the three judges were sorry they had to choose just five from the many outstanding submissions. Two of the Honourable Mention photographs were featured in the last Newsletter.

We feature two more photos deserving recognition below. We hope you enjoy these beautiful worldwide images from your fellow IH alumni.

**Yuxiao Chen** lived at International House in 2019 while studying for a Doctor of Philosophy in Architectural Science. He currently lives in Sydney where he is an acoustic engineer. He is happy to have you contact him at [cyuxiao@hotmail.com](mailto:cyuxiao@hotmail.com).

**Photo: Music Stands (July 2014 in Gansu, China)**




---

*2023 photo  
competition:  
photos of merit*

---

It was taken when I was doing some volunteering teaching in a middle school in a very poor village in Gansu, China. The instruments were a huge expense for their families, and they didn't even have proper music stands. But the kids still practiced and enjoyed music as much as everyone else.

**Mark Klemens** lived at International House in 1979 and 1980 while studying for a master's degree in Australian literature. He currently lives in Jacksonville, Florida, USA. After a career as a lawyer, he now teaches English as a Second or Other Language (ESOL) to 7th and 8th grade students in the Clay County, Florida, public schools. He also has a YouTube channel, "ThruAWiderLens", on which he chronicles their travels to Romania, Poland, Cuba, and beyond. He would love to hear from people at [mklemens2@gmail.com](mailto:mklemens2@gmail.com).



Photo: Small Barn (7 September 2022 in Krzyzowa, Poland)

---

*2023 photo  
competition:  
photos of merit*

---



The photo was taken in Krzyzowa, Poland south of Wroclaw. My wife, Barbara, and I were visiting the small village that her grandfather was from. The small houses with attached barns were so pretty. Adjacent to this property is the Krzyzowa Foundation for Mutual Understanding in Europe, a Polish NGO that hosts people from all over the world for conferences on reconciliation. Their beautiful campus, which is open to the public, is at the center of the village.

## Alumni Highlights

Renee Noble (IH 2010–2012)

---

*Alumni  
highlights:  
Renee Noble*

---



Women's Weekly Women of the Future finalists event, 2018



Renee receiving the Champion of Change award, Women in Digital 2023



I was an IH resident from 2010 to 2012 during the first three years of my Combined Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical and Biomolecular) and Bachelor of Science (Computer Science, Chemistry) degrees, moving from Coffs Harbour in Regional New South Wales to IH for uni. I can safely say that that living in International House changed the trajectory of my life so dramatically that nothing I will tell you of how my life is going today could be true if IH was missing from my journey.

Coming to live at IH, just shy of 18, I was also shy in many other regards. While I had always had a desire to be involved in things and to be part of a community, up until coming to IH I had never had the confidence to jump in and join something. But joining IH in a year with a large intake of new students (roughly 100), I was in a place where so many people were new. I seized that chance to get involved, thinking “you’re all just as new as me”. This landed me the position of IHMA Food Coordinator, where I would soon find myself in the chaos of organising a Food Fair and setting up the first ever Dessert Fair. The next year I found myself as the IHMA secretary, and in my final year I walked both sides of the “party line” as both Social Coordinator and Senior Resident.

---

*Alumni*  
*highlights:*  
*Renee Noble*

---



Team Australia in Food Fair 2010

During my time I was firmly entrenched in the happenings of the house and that really helped me get over my shyness because having a purpose help me find my voice – whether that was making sure people remembered to turn up to choir practice, or roping in passersby in the foyer to make sure we had the minimum numbers for the social netball game that started in less than 10 minutes (and teaching them the rules on the way to the court!).





IH Social touch footy team 2012

---

*Alumni  
highlights:  
Renee Noble*

---

Amongst the madness of bringing various IH events together I discovered that you don't have to have some special "talent" or be the "chosen one" to make a difference in a community, you just have to have the **want** to do it and the **drive** to figure out **how** to do it! (I think I realised that when I found myself alone setting up the iNight lighting rig! A job that few other people were jumping to do.) With that knowledge in hand, I have signed myself up for all manner of things over the past 10 years.



Renee as IHMA Secretary, 2011



Renee as an IHMA Social Coordinator in 2012

Another very important thing I picked up at IH was a love of computer programming. I said earlier that I got a computer science major as part

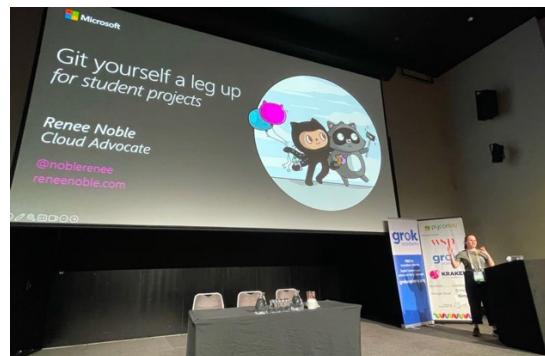
of my studies. Well, that was not part of the plan on the day I moved into IH. But a few weeks into Semester 1, a couple of my fifth-floor neighbours thought it would be “fun to teach Renee to code” at 11pm. So, they did, unlocking a world that I had never known about. Within half an hour I had uncovered a superpower that I had had no idea you could do on just a regular laptop. One thing led to another, and I ended up squeezing that extra Computer Science major into my degree and even finding a way to combine coding and machine learning with my Chemical Engineering thesis on renewable power optimisation.

With the power of coding and confidence the rest of the story really takes off. I’m still in Sydney and find myself wearing many hats - basically finding any way possible to combine technology, education, and community (with a healthy dose of feminism in there too). By day I’m a Cloud Advocate at Microsoft, helping create better ways for people to learn and build with the latest technology through live streams, blogs, workshops, and code samples. But I’m most known for the things I spend my weekends and nights doing through the Girls’ Programming Network (GPN) and the charity I led the founding of, Tech Inclusion, which supports the GPN national expansion.

---

*Alumni  
highlights:  
Renee Noble*

---



Renee presenting on behalf of Microsoft at PyCon AU 2023



Renee running a GPN Sydney event for 180 girls in 2019

The story of me and GPN starts with learning to code that night on the fifth floor which eventually lead me to volunteer for the Girls’ Programming Network, a tiny organisation running out of the School of IT, where a handful of women were helping girls (maybe 30 at the time) learn to code for free. With some apprehension about my only

recently acquired coding skills, I eventually got involved. This led me to unlock a whole new kind of confidence and community, that as a woman in tech I was sorely lacking. And when it came to a point that GPN needed some ostensibly temporary leadership support I asked what was involved – knowing that I had built up so many skills in my time at IH. I was told “send some emails and turn up early with the fruit”, and I said “sign me up” knowing I had done much more complex things in my time at IH. It turns out that was a gross underestimation of what was involved, and that it wasn’t so temporary... but I was hooked and I quickly found ways to make it even more complex and far reaching than anyone had imagined.

Since that time, nearly 10 years ago, I’ve leant on that mantra I discovered at IH “you just need the **want** and the **drive**, you’ll figure out **how** to do the rest” to reassure myself when a new challenge presents itself. This has helped me learn and accomplish all sorts of things, from learning graphic design, to growing a team of skilled and dedicated volunteers, to establishing scalable processes and pedagogy, to ultimately starting a charity. It’s been an exciting journey of learning and growth, and one I am glad to get to bring other people along on.

---

*Alumni  
highlights:  
Renee Noble*

---



GPN Canberra Term 1 2024



GPN Sydney Term 2 2024



GPN isn't a tiny organisation operating out of the School of IT anymore. It's a national organisation teaching 2000+ girls to code a year with the help of 300+ volunteers. And all those IHMA meetings and my three-year stint as SUIHAA Treasurer are really coming in handy now as I steer the ship as CEO of GPN and Chair of the Tech Inclusion board. It's been a crazy journey, full of wonderful people, exciting personal growth, and a few very exiting accolades along the way - including being one of Women's Weekly's "Women of the Future", being listed on the Australian Financial Reviews "100 Women of Influence", and last year being named Champion of Change 2024 by Women in Digital. But the journey is by no means over, there's more to do and more to learn! GPN is always growing, forever looking for new students, volunteers, university partners, and sponsors to help take this community to more girls around Australia. If you want to be part of making change to the underrepresentation of women and gender-diverse people in tech, please get in touch with me any time!

---

*Alumni*  
*highlights:*  
*Renee Noble*

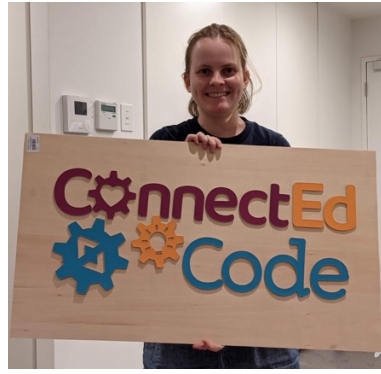
---

Amongst all that work, I still manage to fit in a bit more! Pre-COVID I was a die-hard swing dancer and was even teaching a weekly class for three years. Then with all that extra time to reflect during peak-pandemic 2020, I decided I would found my own business, ConnectEd Code, to take my learnings from GPN into schools and support teachers in delivering the mandatory tech curriculum through exciting events and materials that have kids coding their own escape rooms or solving murder mysteries with tech. Luckily, I have a wonderful business partner (and life partner!), Jack, who makes sure the business keeps ticking along, since I picked up my role at Microsoft in 2021.



Renee and her dance partner Cameron





The founding of ConnectEd Code

And to wrap up the final loose end or things that would not be the same if IH wasn't part of my journey. If I had never learnt to code I never would have taught at a computer summer camp, where I met my lovely fiancé. The yin to my yang, Jack supports me in my many endeavours, but ensures I take the time to be a human at least once in a while – letting me find the final piece of the “Renee puzzle”, myself. Jack and I got engaged last year in October and December, through our agreed upon plan to both surprise each other with a proposal. We are excited to be getting married this October and moving into our first apartment in July with our two cats, Bibi and Artemis!

---

*Alumni*  
*highlights:*  
*Renee Noble*

---



Proposal 1: Renee → Jack - our favourite beach, Cabaritta

---

*Alumni  
highlights:  
Renee Noble*

---



Proposal 2: Jack → Renee – Australian Museum, the site of their first date.



Renee and Jack at Coding Camp, in a foreshadowing moment



Renee and Jack and their two cats, Artemis and Bibi.

---

*Alumni  
highlights:  
Renee Noble*

---

It all started at IH, and I could never have imagined a future so rich and meaningful when I walked through those doors the very first day.

**Lyn (Woodger) Grant (1971–1972)**

Some IH alumni from the 1970's would have met my husband Graham, who was embraced by the IH family after we married in 1975.

---

*Alumni  
highlights:  
Lyn (Woodger)  
Grant*

---

On Australia Day this year Graham was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for his distinguished service to biomedical engineering as a pioneer of innovative equipment development, and to medicine as an anaesthetist.



Lyn (Woodger) Grant and her husband at his AO Investiture

---

*Alumni  
highlights:  
Lyn (Woodger)  
Grant*

---

Graham always had a strong belief that it was necessary to combine the disciplines of engineering and medicine at the professional level to undertake the design of improved and safer medical equipment. This has now come to pass (Biomedical Engineering), but there was no such entity when he started out, and he had to create a situation to give himself enough free time to work on his own ideas and construct working prototypes, some of which are now in the Museum of the Australian Society of Anaesthetists.

It is heartening for Graham to see the new generation now able to take biomedical engineering as an undergraduate course, and later to be able to have some financial backing to provide for the creative freedom necessary to bring forth new concepts in developmental work.



---

*Alumni  
highlights:  
Lyn (Woodger)  
Grant*

---



H.R.H. Princess Alexandra looking at the prototype of the new portable premature infant incubator at the opening of the new Oxygenaire factory in Basingstoke U.K. in October, 1964.

(In foreground from left: Graham Grant, Princess Alexandra, Mr Stephen Sullivan, Managing Director of Oxygenaire Limited.)



Graham Grant with the first production prototype of the portable premature infant incubator he developed and designed.

## RECOGNITION

## Engineer turned anaesthetist honoured for inventions



**DR GRAHAM GRANT  
AO (NSW)**

When Dr Graham Grant started practising as an anaesthetist in the UK in the 1960s he had already established himself in his first career as an engineer of medical equipment.

After completing an engineering degree at the University of Sydney he travelled to the UK where he graduated in medicine after attending St Mary's Hospital Medical School in London.

Now aged 90, he has been appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the 2024 Australia Day Honours list for "distinguished service to biomedical engineering as a pioneer of innovative equipment development, and to medicine."

Dr Grant is responsible for the development of anaesthesia equipment over many years, including the Grant Humidifier and the Grant Respiration Assistant, as well as other healthcare devices and resources.

Many of his inventions were developed while he continued practising as an anaesthetist in private and public practice in Sydney. He retired from the specialty in 2006 having established a reputation as a prolific inventor of anaesthesia and other specialty devices.

Dr Grant's first invention in 1959 was a "weighing bed" for Sydney Hospital and his last in 2002 was a low-cost respiration airway monitor. One of the earliest of his many inventions was a portable incubator for premature babies, which saved them from dying in freezing winter temperatures during transportation to hospitals in the UK.

Some of his other inventions include a safety drug administration needle (1991), a portable electric anaesthesia ventilator (1982) and a laryngoscope (1977).

Dr Grant says while he has formally stepped back from inventing devices "the mind never stops."

He has been a jazz pianist since the 1950s and only stopped performing at a local restaurant a few years ago.

"When I look back on some of my inventions they almost seem a bit passé now because everything is done with computer chips and increasingly, artificial intelligence."

Asked to nominate a "Grant" invention that he believes has had the most impact he highlighted the portable incubator.

"I suppose in its day the portable incubator I invented did save a lot of lives of premature babies in the 10 years between 1960 and 1970. That really did make a difference to how premature babies were treated."



**MKII GRANT HUMIDIFIER\***



**ABOVE**  
Historical photos and newspaper cuttings highlighting Dr Grant's inventions, including the portable incubator (bottom).

*Alumni  
highlights:  
Lyn (Woodger)  
Grant*