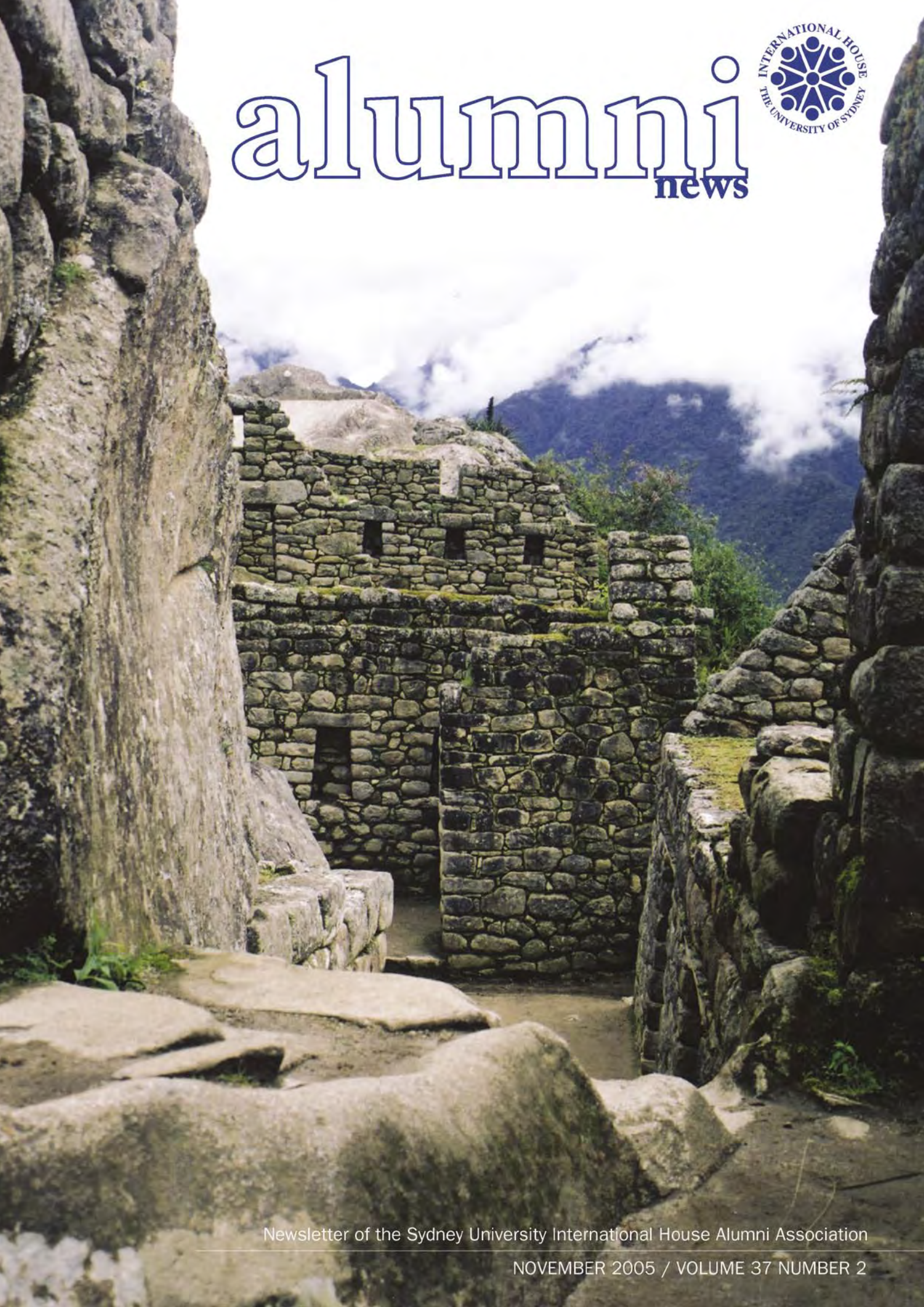
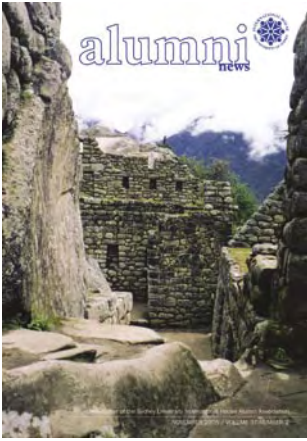


# alumni news





**ALUMNI NEWSLETTER  
NOVEMBER 2005  
VOLUME 37 NUMBER 2**

Cover Photograph:  
'Inside Machu Picchu'  
The Lost City of the Incas, Peru.  
Photograph by Christopher Clarke, Chile

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**FORMAL DINNER**



L-R: Robert Ssali, Nuli Lemoh, Chris Nambulla & Daphne Kok



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### SUIHAA COMMITTEE 2005

President: Nuli Lemoh  
Secretary: Margaret Lemoh  
Treasurer: Sandy Smith  
Lois Tham (C'mittee Member 60s)  
Lan Wehrhahn (Community Contact/C'mittee Member 70s)  
Denise North (C'mittee Member 80s)  
PH Phongsavan (C'mittee Member 90s)  
Binh Pham (C'mittee Member 90s)  
Martin Yap (Publications/C'mittee Member 00s)  
Joan Rowlands (Publications Officer)  
Richard Ng (Webmaster/Database Officer)  
Jun Hung Lee (IHMA Representative)  
Vinci Liu (IHMA Chairman)  
Hilary Gray (Hon. Member)  
Gwen Ng (Tribal Elder)  
Co-opted: Rebecca Bollen (Publications Officer)

# A MESSAGE FROM THE SUIHAA PRESIDENT

The year 2005 has been a year of opportunities and challenges. Even so SUIHAA has proved equal to the tasks.

We re-introduced the Foundation Day Address this year, after a lapse of a few years. There is no doubt that it has a place in our calendar. The opportunity on 3rd September to listen to Hugh Mackay, our Foundation Day speaker, was unique and attended by a large audience. He highlighted change in society, including our current “options generation” – they even leave their shoelaces untied, just in case. With a live band and a lunch included in the programme, it was a lively, entertaining afternoon, a fitting celebration of the anniversary of the inauguration of International House.

Collaboration between IHMA and SUIHAA has strengthened even more this year and consolidated the sense of an International House family, with alumni and current residents participating in occasions such as the Stargazing at Belanglo, I-Night, Pot Luck Lunch, discussing a film about Rwanda, and celebrating the 10th anniversary of Reconciliation with Indigenous People. We at Sydney University International House have something that sets us apart from other colleges – the sense of continuity provided by an active Alumni Association. The challenge now is to maintain the wonderful cordial community atmosphere in the House in the face of spiraling costs which must be passed on to students and which cause them to seek alternative accommodation.



Thulii Dream Dance Company

aboriginal night

Our efforts have not been just towards our own community. Hurricane Katrina caused enormous suffering when it struck New Orleans. SUIHAA decided to donate \$500 to the American Red Cross to help, even if only in a small way.

Jessica Carroll, our Director, gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Hannah, in July and she is now on maternity leave. We miss her, but the dedication she brought to the task of directing the House has been continued by Acting Director, Keith Smith. He has been a tower of strength, supporting SUIHAA and maintaining our close relationship with the House. We greatly value his enthusiasm, warmth and readiness to help.

The SUIHAA Committee, together with IHMA, alumni and IH staff has worked hard to keep the vision of International House alive this year. I would like to thank them all for their support and enthusiasm. Let us be encouraged by the words of Margaret Mead: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Best wishes to you all and I look forward to seeing you at some of our events.

Nuli Lemoh

# FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR'S DESK



Acting Director Keith Smith at his first Formal Dinner at International House, with Vinci Liu (IHMA Chairman) August 2005



'V.I.P. Table' at Formal Dinner: L-R: Reingard Porges, Dr William Porges, Daphne Kok (Chair of IH Council), Chris Nambulla, Lidia Nemitschenko, Dr David Eager, Shona Kennedy, Keith Smith (Acting Director) & Helen Smith

**M**y name is Keith Smith and I would like to introduce myself as the Acting Director of International House. I commenced work at the House at the beginning of July 2005, after being appointed to the position for a period of twelve months whilst Jessica Carroll is on maternity leave. Thanks to the excellent preparation for handover that Jessica had done, settling into the new role was made much easier. One of the highlights in the House at the moment is when Jessica and her gorgeous baby, Hannah, drop in for a visit.

I have been employed in various departments of the University of Sydney over a number of years – initially within the Faculty of Medicine. There I was involved with the development of equipment for applied and research applications, mainly in respiratory, renal, surgical and neurological areas. I became involved in the administration of the department and moved to take on a management role, looking after the business management aspects of a large teaching and research facility.

Shortly after my wife, Helen, and I started a family I was appointed as the Property Manager of the University of Sydney's Camden Campus. We moved out of Sydney and purchased a small farm just outside the village of Thirlmere in the Southern Highlands of NSW, where we currently live with our three children. I am keenly involved in a number of community activities and at the beginning of this year I received

an Australia Day Citizen of the Year award for my contribution to the local region.

The University's Camden Campus is located approximately 60km from the main Sydney Campus. It comprises several properties, with a total area of approximately 3000ha, and is primarily used to support teaching and research facilities in the field of Veterinary Science and Agriculture. I still retain my position at Camden and currently share my time between Camden and International House.

It is both a great honour and privilege for me to have the opportunity to be involved with the University of Sydney's International House. From the very first time I set foot inside the door I could not fail to notice the wonderfully positive and caring atmosphere that is the hallmark of the House. The Staff and Residents are fantastic. At present there are approximately 220 people from 46 different nationalities in residence. It appears to me that it could possibly be the sum of the differences that exist within the House, which produces this great cultural vector that generates such a strong sense of community and international understanding.

International House was officially opened in 1967 and has served both the Residents and the University well. The physical structure remains solid and well maintained, however with generational change comes the need to reassess future requirements. How do we, in a sustainable manner,

provide for future demands with the right balance? Sydney University has just released a draft 'International Strategy' that will establish a framework for its international engagement for the next 5 years. International House is well placed to play an integral part in supporting the goals formulated within this strategy. The House has embarked on its own strategic planning process to ensure that it will be able to adjust to change. Through a procedure of wide-ranging consultation with key stakeholders it is expected that a clearer picture of 'where to from here' will emerge. The continued backing from a strongly supportive alumni association will be essential to ensure that the things that are valued most about the House are identified and retained for the benefit of future residents.

I would like to extend to the executive of SUIHAA my sincere appreciation for the way that they have made me feel so welcome and for the ongoing support that has been forthcoming. I am grateful for the way you have helped me settle into my role at International House so rapidly and I hope that during my time at the House I can in some way contribute to its ongoing success.

Wishing you all the very best for a successful and enjoyable year ahead.

Keith Smith  
Acting Director



Director Jessica Carroll with her husband, Phillip Milton, and our new International House baby and Honorary Alumna – Hannah Milton.

Probably the most outstanding event in the second Semester of 2005 was the Foundation Day Address and Lunch held on September 3rd in the Dining Room of International House. Our speaker was the well-renowned Hugh Mackay, keen social observer, distinguished writer and speaker on social issues. He shared his insights with an audience of current residents and alumni and their guests. If you could not be there you missed an exceptional opportunity to listen to a brilliant and lucid speaker, a rare species these days.

Before the address there was a delicious smorgasbord lunch and the opportunity to talk to old friends and meet new people. About 60 alumni and guests were present, mainly from the 1960s and 70s. A band, 'Viva', played lively music creating a relaxed, cheerful atmosphere.

The success of this event was largely due to the hard work of Philayrath Phongsavon (PH) and Claudia Morales. We hope to reinstate the Foundation Day address on the annual calendar. The Committee will welcome any suggestions or offers of speakers.

In July there was a 'Pot Luck Lunch' attended by twelve alumni and five current residents of the House. It was an informal, relaxed afternoon at Nuli and Margaret Lemoh's with good food and the chance to catch up with one another. We would like this to be an annual event also. Please get in touch if you would like to host it next year.

The Stargazing evening at Belanglo on the 6th August was informative and entertaining. About 50 students came, though only a few alumni. Everything was very well organised. Keith Smith, the Acting Director, and his wife, Helen worked tirelessly, cooking and organising the catering. It was perfect astronomer's weather – clear and cold – but plenty of students left the cosy warmth of the Log Cabin to queue up to peer through telescopes under the enthusiastic guidance of our friends in the Macarthur Astronomers' Society.

The Graeme de Graaff Scholarships were both awarded in the second semester this year. Vinci Liu, chairman of IHMA, received one and Marion Roche, from Canada, the other.

A hallmark of 2005 has been the close collaboration between IHMA and SUIHAA. The groundwork was laid last year by Chris Clarke and his team. IHMA Chairman for this year, Vinci Liu, and our IHMA rep., Jun Hung Lee, have worked very closely with SUIHAA to keep us informed about events in the House and include us in such occasions as I-Night, the information evening about Rwanda and the IH Ball.

The AGM is coming up on Sunday, 27th November. The Committee is hoping that new people will step forward and take on some of the organizing of SUIHAA activities. Three alumni have already offered and we hope others will also be inspired to participate more actively, especially those from the 80s and 90s. So come along and get involved.

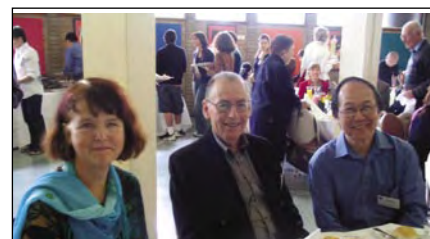
Finally, I would like to say how much we appreciate the support of the Director and office staff of International House. They are always receptive to our suggestions and so ready to help "on the ground" - seeing to all the details that ensure the success of functions, whether it be arranging flowers, name tags, designing and posting invitations, arranging menus and seating, or a myriad of other essentials.

# FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION and LAUNCH OF THE IH HISTORY APPEAL

Hugh Mackay



Guy White, Belinda Lamb, Denise North, Judith North, Louise Fitt, Dr G.J. White



Eva Krattli, John Friend, Richard Ng



Grant Ireland, Satoko Ishigami, Nuli Lemoh, Akiko Tamatsuri, Elena Aza-Ponce



Yoshifumi Okawa, Robert Ssali, Kazuto Nakajima, Gerald Tan, Edwina Halim



Louise Tham, Margaret Lemoh, Gayle Avery, Anne Gotsis, Harry Bergsteiner



Lauris Elms, Graeme de Graaff, Sheila O'Neill, Hugh Mackay, Christabel Wescombe, Brendan Quinlivan



"Viva" Band

International House officially opened in 1967 as a residence for 125 Sydney University students. It was unique in that it accommodated both female and male residents, undergraduate and post-graduate, local and overseas. Since then over 4,000 residents have lived in the House, representing almost 100 nationalities.

Over the years, the foundation of the House has been celebrated by an annual function organised by the IH Alumni Association (SUIHAA) and marked by an address by a prominent speaker. Past speakers have included such well-known figures as Irene Moss (current ICAC Commissioner), Robyn Williams, (Science journalist and broadcaster) and Sir Zelman Cowan – Governor General of Australia.

The traditional Foundation Day celebration was revived with much success on Saturday 3 September 2005, when a sumptuous lunch for residents, Alumni, IH Fellows, members of IH Council and the Women's Committee, and friends was held in the Dining Room at International House. Entertainment for the occasion was provided by the internationally acclaimed band, **'VIVA!'** and distinguished social commentator, psychologist, and author, Hugh Mackay, gave the special Address.

Hugh Mackay is an inspiring and mesmerising speaker. Comprehensively informed by his research, he can relate fascinating facts and figures about our society, all interspersed with, and illustrated by, amusing anecdotes. The main

theme of Hugh's talk was the "Cultural Revolution" which has occurred in Australia over the last 20-30 years, and which has not only energised our society and made it more exciting, but has also left some people feeling that change has been too fast, and that things are out of control.

According to Hugh, there are four dimensions to this Cultural Revolution, any one of which would have been enough to destabilise many Australians. The gender revolution has affected all aspects of Australian life, including marriage, the birth rate and the work place and the restructuring of the Australian economy, which has resulted in a more robust and internationally competitive economy, has changed the working environment in Australia

from one in which there was stability of employment to one in which there is no job security – “if you’ve got a job, it’s because they haven’t worked out how to do without you” – and long hours worked by those who do have jobs. Technological advances, especially the revolution in infotechnology, have affected the way we live, work and communicate. These advances have had at least as much effect on society as the 19th Century Industrial Revolution, and have led to equating the terms “data transfer” and “communication” as though they were synonymous although, as Hugh remarked, “e-mails are no substitute for a meeting”. Finally there has been a revolution in what we think of ourselves. Although Australians say that this is the best country in which to live and bring up kids, they also worry about the changes inherent in our social and cultural evolution. “Diversity,” said Hugh, “is a slippery peg on which to hang our national identity”.

To illustrate the implications of the changes in life in Australia over the last 25 years, Hugh presented a series of “snapshots”:

40-45% of contemporary marriages will end in divorce. 25 years ago the percentage was only 8-9%. Thus, in one generation, the divorce rate has changed from almost zero to almost half. This phenomenon has produced pain and anguish on a large scale.

The marriage rate is the lowest in 100 years, and is still falling. The generation now coming to marriage consists of people who have only known life during the Australian “Cultural Revolution” and their philosophy is characterised by an attitude of “keep your options open”, “don’t get too committed”, “hang loose”, “wait and see”. Only 36% will be married by the time they are 30 years old.

The birthrate is plummeting, and probably still falling – and the main factor driving the rate down is the rising education level of women.

Finally, there is the phenomenon of the shrinking household. The fastest growing household in Australia is the single-person household. Apparently, according to Hugh, “If you live with your own (and only) spouse, and are living with three children of your own, you are part of the eccentric fringe”!

Posing the question, “What has

happened to our herd instinct?” Hugh noted that this instinct now looks for another outlet – which may be a good thing, as people now look beyond the “domestic” herd for company. Hence the popularity of book clubs – “Hardly a woman doesn’t belong to a book club, or attend adult education programmes, coffee shops and food courts” – this last Hugh sees as “grazing with the herd”.

In response to his next question, “What does it all mean and where is it taking us?” Hugh observed that, at the end of the 1990s, Australians reached the point where they were worn out with changes and wanted to disengage from the national agenda. They started to focus on the minutiae of their lives, such as home renovations. The dark side of such a phenomenon is that people appear prejudiced, less compassionate and less tolerant. The upside is that people start to examine themselves more, and this self-analysis leads them to match up their values with the pattern of their lives. However, there is also a related pro-regulation phenomenon.

According to Hugh, the most encouraging thing to come out of all this is that the “hang loose” generation – the under-30 age group – is more fiercely tribal and “connected” than any other generation, and has realised that, amidst all the turbulence around them, their most precious resource is each other. Thus we may be on the cusp of another revolution – away from being individualistic and competitive, and back to being connected and belonging to herds or communities – “a mark of a civilised society of which we can be really proud.”

### **Launch of the IH History Appeal**

After Hugh Mackay’s address, Keith Smith, the Acting-Director of International House introduced the project that International House has recently embarked on: the History of the House from its inception to the present day. The History will include:

- The establishment of the House, the early days, and its residents.
- The involvement of the Women’s Committee and Rotary International.

- International House and its involvement in international relations.

- The special place and important role the House plays within the University of Sydney and as a link to the international worldwide community.

The book will also include personal accounts of how and why International House has had an effect, not just on the people who became residents of the House, but also on thousands of people around the world.

Keith Smith then invited Professor Richard Waterhouse, IH resident 1968-69, and currently the Head of the School of Philosophical and Historical Enquiry and Bicentennial Professor of Australian History, to launch the “History of International House Project”.

Professor Waterhouse explained that it was intended that the book would be principally a social history, with only a small element of institutional history. It would not be just a history of International House but would also present an insight into the role played by universities in the late 1960s and would document the important cultural change in Australia as it became more engaged with the rest of the world. It was planned that the money already raised for the project would initially be used to fund a research assistant.

### **Vote of thanks**

Nuli Lemoh, President of SUIHAA, and Rashi Kalra, representing the residents, thanked Hugh Mackay, Professor Waterhouse, and everyone else who had made this Foundation Day such a great success. Special mention was made of the gorgeous Miss Hannah Milton, who was present at the lunch with her mother, Jessica Carroll (IH Director, currently on maternity leave)!

*[The Editor of this Newsletter would particularly like to thank Gwen Ng, whose assiduous note-taking resulted in this comprehensive account of a very successful occasion.]*

# TWO INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CHAIRPERSONS HONOURED

In the Queen's Birthday Honours list, Emeritus Professor Hans Freeman was created a Member of the Order of Australia for his services to education. Hans Freeman was teaching in the Chemistry Department at the University of Sydney when IH was established in 1965. A member of the Sydney chapter of the US International Houses, he had been party to that group throwing its support behind our House. By the time of our official opening in 1967 the Senate had appointed him to our Council. Hans Freeman served actively on the Council and its committees for a quarter of a century, including a period as Chairperson. In the late 1980's he led the project to modify the buildings and the associated fund-raising drive.



Prof. Hans Freeman : AM 2005



Dr. Daphne Kok and Aboriginal Dancers 2005



L-R Member of the Thulli Dream Dance Group,  
Daphne Kok (Chair of International House Council) ,  
Chris Nambulla

Mrs Daphne Kok, the current Chair of Council, has also had a long association with the House serving on the Council for several periods, initially as the Senate representative. She was at different times Deputy Chancellor of the University. Daphne Kok was involved in the appointment of the second, third and fourth Directors of IH. She has also had the distinction of being the mother of a House resident.

At a recent ceremony the Chancellor of the University conferred the University honour "Fellow of the University" on Mrs Kok.

Graeme De Graaff



# IN MEMORIAM

by Dr Christopher Moore (IH, 1974-76)

Melda Fajardo, who was a resident of IH in 1976, passed away in Los Angeles in May after a long battle with cancer. She was born in Manila, Philippines and excelled academically in everything she did, completing Doctor in Dental Medicine and Masters in Public Health degrees at the University of the Philippines and topping both her year and also the national board registration exams for that year. After that, she came to Australia to do a postgraduate Diploma in Dental Public Health. Australia was to become her home.

She was a very popular and respected resident of IH, and quickly established a reputation as a superb organiser. She produced not only a Philippines Cultural night, but then moved on to produce International Night, both events highly successful. Having been roped in to assist her (not the last time in our lives together that she would do that...) I can attest to the level of detail and planning that went into everything she was involved with.

Her professional life after we were married the next year was no less successful. She was a reluctant dentist in many ways, and much preferred public health and administration, an area which she slowly but surely moved into. She had an innate ability to deal with all types and levels of people, typified by her taming and controlling a large number of chauvinistic and stubborn dental technicians at Westmead Hospital. When asked how she achieved that, she replied: "Simple. I didn't study children's dentistry for nothing..."

But her real niche was organisation, particularly involved with medical research, teaching and administration, and she specialised in developing infrastructure from scratch. She was an expert financial administrator and took great pride in the fact that the departments she was involved in never went over budget, and that accreditation

reviews invariably resulted in rave reports.

Her finest achievement without a doubt was her establishment of the Health Research Foundation operating out of Liverpool Hospital. She did everything – staffing, financial, operating and fundraising strategies, world best practice research grant evaluation procedures and much more than it would be possible for me to list here. Within two years she had produced a level of achievements which similarly funded concerns in Sydney had taken almost ten years to achieve. Especially noteworthy was her organisation of fundraising dinners, which routinely raised over \$1,000,000 for medical research. Everything she organised was meticulously planned and ran like clockwork. She rubbed noses with Premiers, Government ministers, local business identities, professors and medical staff of all levels and had them all literally eating out of her hand.

Speaking of which, her culinary skills were exemplary. Her speciality was a Chinese banquet of upwards of 13 main courses, prepared and served professionally and with great care. Another favourite of mine was what I called "Beef with Indescribable Sauce" – she made it up on the spot with whatever she could find, and it always worked. One day we were having lunch together in Bowral, and the owners put great store in their home-made pesto. We liked it, but on the way home, Melle (without a trace of arrogance) promised me she would make a better one. That evening, she did precisely that.

There are so many highlights of our life together that I could really write a book. Instead, I distilled it all into a song I sang at her funeral and her memorial service here in Sydney – that expressed how I felt about her better than anything else I can say or do.

She leaves behind many friends and memories, and a son, David, who is her true legacy in life.



## EACH TIME Refrain:

*Each time I walk with you  
Each time I talk with you  
I feel I'm loving you more and more  
My life I give to you  
My life I offer you  
I'll share with only you  
None but you, now.*

*Your love has touched my heart  
Filled a void I never knew  
You give me meaning too  
Now I know what I can do  
Because it's you who makes me feel  
Life starts anew.*

*Now that you're a part of me  
I can ask for nothing more  
Now that you're beside me  
I can open any door  
Because with you I know I'm true  
Forever more.*

Christopher Moore.



'Melle dancing at the 1976 Philippines Cultural Night'

# Life Through a Lens – the Power of Photography

By Marion Roche, Canada

*This is the oration I gave in the Intercollegiate Oration Competition at Wesley College in August. I represented International House, with amazing support from friends in the*

*house including Keith and Brendan. I received 3rd prize in the competition.*



**Marion and other kangaroos**

In the remote Peruvian Amazon there are 8,000 people that go about their daily lives without any contact with the outside world – these are the Aguaruna. Before last year the only thing the world knew about the Aguaruna was the legend that they shrank the skulls of their enemies in wartime. I was sent to the Cenepa River to study the nutrition and health of the women and children, but also equipped with a Cannon AE 40 fully manual camera made in the 1970's. It was as if I had stepped into the middle of a National Geographic article. I battled with urges to capture everything in order to explain this exotic grass hut community, and then an urge to save the images for the Aguaruna and myself.

The Aguaruna had never seen pictures of themselves, let alone looked at their reflection in a mirror, yet they somehow have the instinct to look directly into the lens of a camera. Maybe this is because a person would naturally look you in the eye, or perhaps the importance given to the camera is quickly learned. The children had some type of reaction every time the camera was pulled out: some of them would hide behind palm trees, others would gather into large groups and stick their hands up in the air wiggling their fingers, insisting that tons of pictures were taken, and one little boy in the community of Mamayaque would expose himself every time I intended to take a picture. Although the ethics

research committee had suggested it would be OK to take pictures of naked children, I did not want to have to explain this last act.

I decided I wanted to take pictures that showed a healthy people with a subsistence lifestyle, yet upon returning to North America it was hard to explain why little children enjoyed eating worms and that they really were happy without material goods. I wanted pictures that would let people respect the Aguaruna and what their subsistence lifestyle was really like, without causing too much curiosity.

The Maya stopped letting people take pictures of their children, as they believe that they steal the child's soul. They believe that children should be constantly changing and learning from life. By taking a picture of a child, they believe that the child has been frozen and their soul prevented from moving forward. They believe that the human body must stay complete throughout life, and that a picture freezes part of the body in time. They also believe that a child, who is shown photographs of growing up, will create memories based on the pictures, which will replace existing memories.

There is much wisdom in this distrust of photography. If someone takes your picture, who owns that image? Usually, it is the photographer who has ownership of the image, and the photographed subject (or perhaps 'object') has no sovereignty over his or her own image. This may become a problem because a photograph has no context to aid significance. A photo taken in a quite uncontroversial context can be made volatile by retouching it or by simply surrounding it with eruptive text – a technique tabloids and newspapers employ all too frequently.

She was one of the world's most famous faces, yet no one knew who she was. Her image appeared on the front of magazines and books, posters, lapel pins, and even rugs, but she didn't know it. Now, after searching for 17 years, National Geographic has once again found the Afghan girl with the haunting green eyes. The mysterious Afghan girl, whose direct gaze has intrigued the West for so long, is Sharbat Gula. She lives in a remote region of Afghanistan with her husband and three daughters. Sharbat was located nearly two decades after her picture appeared on the cover of National Geographic magazine in 1985. "She had no idea her face had become an icon," said Steve McCurry, the photographer who made the famous portrait for National Geographic in 1984, and who tried to find her again during many subsequent trips he made to Pakistan and Afghanistan. In January 2002, a National Geographic team returned to the Nasir Bagh refugee camp in Pakistan, where Sharbat Gula was originally photographed, Sharbat has been photographed on only two occasions: in 1984 and at the reunion with Steve McCurry this year. She had never seen her famous portrait before it was shown to her in January. According to McCurry, Sharbat Gula has returned to anonymity; the latest publicity about her name and face is unlikely to draw attention to her in Afghanistan, although she is being taken care of.

"She has become a symbol that National Geographic has used to illustrate the circumstances of refugees like her, and many people have inquired about her," he said. "She stood for an entire group of refugees, not just Afghan refugees. She has helped us with our mission of educating people about other cultures and regions—and she's helping us again by drawing attention to the lives of Afghan women and girls in general."

Phan Thi Kim Phuc, a name that means 'Golden Happiness', was age 9 in June 1972. She was photographed when a South Vietnamese plane mistakenly dropped its flaming napalm on South Vietnamese troops and civilians. The photo, by Nick Ut of AP, 'made America conscious of the full horror of the Vietnam War.' Thi Kim Phuc, who had spent 14 months recovering from her wounds and underwent 17 transplants and other operations, has become an anti-war symbol in the West – Vietnam had used her as an anti-American symbol before her defection in 1992. In November 1997, Kim Phuc was named a Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO, 'for a culture of peace'. Kim Phuc now lives in Canada, aspires to learn French and has signed up for language courses in Montreal.

Both Kim Phuc and Sharbat Gula's photographs changed their lives, and also helped to gain attention for bigger human rights struggles within their countries. What was it about these pictures that had such an impact? Was it the quality of the photographs? Or perhaps at the time these were unlike any other images people had seen. It seems that, with the power and expansion of the media today, people are desensitized to images of war and injustice.

It may be that there are other ways to escape reality. Photographers have gone to refugee camps in Darfour to try and show the rest of the world the amount of devastation. A Canadian photographer described his battle to decide how many people he should include when taking a picture of a refugee food line, 'as a balance between enough that people would pay attention to the situation and not so many that people won't be able to tolerate the images.' A similar number of people line up for hours in Australia and North America to be on reality TV shows. In 'Survivor' they try to outwit, outplay and outlast their competitors in a place where locals have been happily living for generations, yet the locals don't have the luxury of kicking out the annoying members of their tribe on a weekly basis – possibly a policy some of us might like to implement in our colleges, but unfortunately this is not reality...

Reality TV is easy to watch, and sometimes the names of the show are so unbelievable that you just have to check it out. At the end of an hour of "My roommate is a big fat slut", we have only briefly escaped without learning anything new about the world. If in the Maya culture one picture of a child is 'stealing a soul', then to be constantly photographed and controlled by an anonymous voice called "Big Brother" might be seen as 'selling their souls' – but what comment would they have for the people who sit in their living rooms watching these people?

# THE MERCY CENTRE : KLONG TOEY, BANGKOK

By Martin Yap

Music lessons : Street Kids learning to play musical instruments.



Cooking Class 101 : skills like learning to cook and carve fruits will give them a better chance to make a decent living

**W**hen I first started to write this piece about the Mercy Centre, a centre for the poor in the heart of Bangkok's largest slum area, the Klong Toey, I set out to tell people about their plight, their suffering and their toil, in the hope that people could understand the problems that they faced in the slum – their sadness, their joys and all the emotion that I first felt when I went to visit the Centre a few years ago. I felt it was an important story to tell because it is a real problem, a real situation that sadly is not uncommon in the world. But I soon realized that whatever I had originally planned to write wasn't all that interesting. I felt that to grasp a situation like this, it really had to come from someone on the inside, someone who knows what it really feels like to live in Klong Toey, and just how bad the situation is. For this reason, I have taken an excerpt from the book 'Welcome to the Bangkok Slaughterhouse', which was written by Father Joe Maier, the priest who started this Centre back in 1974. But before I get to that, let me give you a brief introduction to the world of Klong Toey, one of the worst slums in Bangkok.

The Klong Toey slum is a dangerous area, especially if you do not belong there. Most taxis would not venture into the neighbourhood. It houses approximately 100,000 of the poorest people in Bangkok, some of whom have come from the villages in the countryside in search of work opportunities in the city. It is a tightly packed area of timber built squats, with narrow roads and terrible sanitary conditions. The slum is a hotbed for infectious diseases, and there is always the constant threat of massive fires occurring. Klong Toey is home to a tightly knit community, and they have an enormous resolve to survive against all odds. Yes, life can be very challenging indeed, but wait, there's more...

Nowadays, the people in the slums have become far worse off. Prostitution has become a common occupation (mostly forced upon them), and as a consequence the AIDS epidemic has become widespread; there is an increase in drug trafficking and the custom of selling kids still remains. One can only imagine the dire consequences to this community. Many adults are drug addicts and are HIV positive; most are forced into undesirable jobs, while some live in jail. The kids, on the other hand, have an even worse fate: some, who are born with HIV and forced into child prostitution, would probably have to take

care of their dying parents, or fend for themselves while their parents serve time in prison. Education levels here are low and, being a slum area, it is forgotten by the Government. Many kids do not even receive a basic level of education. Without the means to educate themselves, there is no future for them.

However depressing life is in Klong Toey, there is always hope, especially when there are people like Father Joe Maier. Father Joe, an American Redemptionist priest who came to Bangkok almost thirty years ago, has made it his mission to help the people of Klong Toey, and especially to bring hope to the kids. Some have dubbed him 'Bangkok's Mother Theresa', and he lives among the residents of Klong Toey. He, together with Sister Maria (who incidentally is my aunt), started the Human Development Foundation (HDF), to help the kids towards a better chance of survival through education. Beginning as a single kindergarten aimed at providing the slum children with a basic education, the HDC grew into an umbrella organization for 31 schools - 30 kindergarten and one primary, all located in the slums around Bangkok. They developed the Mercy Centre – a shelter for street kids – four orphanages, a hospice, and a home for mothers and children with HIV/AIDS, a 500-pupil kindergarten, a community-meeting place, and a serene haven in the slums, with small gardens and playgrounds. Originally built on a forsaken piece of Port Authority property, the Mercy Centre has stood in some shape or form for 30 years. In 2000, it was rebuilt, through a generous gift, to accommodate their expanding services to orphans, street children, and children with HIV/AIDS. A strong staff of 300 dedicated people do what they can for the people of Klong Toey, giving education, free meals, and much needed medicine, especially for the HIV patients. The Mercy Centre is a centre for hope, especially for the street kids, who are given a second chance in life. The older ones are taught basic skills in cooking, playing an instrument or learning carpentry skills. Unfortunately, not all will make it, but as they say there, take things one day at a time, tomorrow is a new day ...

Here is an excerpt from the book 'Welcome to the Bangkok Slaughterhouse', written by Father Joe Maier. Brace yourself people.... all these stories are real

## A Ride on the Wild Side of Mercy

The story of a terminally ill nine-year-old is a lesson in how to live in grace and light.

Up until two months ago, a few mornings each week, just before his kindergarten class, Master Note, a nine-year-old boy in our care, rode his imaginary broomstick horse around our Mercy Centre compound.

Note always rode behind his partner, Master Galong, who has a faster make-believe vehicle - an imaginary motorcycle. Sometime Galong has make-believe trouble starting his chopper. Master Note told him that choppers are hard to start in cold weather. Note is extra smart and school bores him. He is small for his age. You can blame Aids for that. Got it from his mom at birth who got it from his dad, both whom died when Note was three. Says he remembers his mom who cared for him as long as she could.

Note's life - lived in that deep part of his soul where nobody else can go - seems to be filled with light and beauty. He loves to draw and, except for the occasional fire-breathing dragon (a monster many kids seem to draw in times of death and sorrow), Note's sketchbook is a kaleidoscope of joyful colours and happy imagery.

Note is small for his nine years, frail and fragile, but he has lots of street savvy. He also knows the morning racing circuit with Galong is imaginary. Galong, at age 35 with a form of Downs Syndrome, isn't as sure. He likes to believe it's real and who are we to tell him it isn't?

Note rides behind Galong because he worries about him. When Galong is in his make-believe world, he rides his chopper with reckless abandon. Sometimes the chopper breaks down in the middle of the street, which especially worries Note, who knows Galong has little use for real traffic in his make-believe landscape.

A few months back Note went through a bad patch when his Aids kicked up and we almost lost him. Spent three weeks in the hospital for communicable diseases. He's okay now, but weaker, so he won't be riding behind Galong for a while. Galong was upset and cried until Note told him that his horse wasn't feeling well.

Like most of our children, Note came to us by a circuitous route. After his parents died in Bangkok, his grandmother raised him in Rayong until she too died, at which point he moved to his aunt's home in Bangkok, where his health deteriorated and he was hospitalized. When recovered, his aunt brought him to the Mercy Centre.

Living in different homes in our care, Note and Galong first met when we took them both to the hospital for a check-up. Galong was frightened and Note, who has plenty of experience with hospitals, calmed him down. A lasting friendship began. We don't know much about Galong's history. We first found him sleeping on the sidewalk in front of a sleazy backstreet bar. He would open the door for customers and blow a whistle to wave down a taxi when needed. Apparently, he didn't like his job because, without knowing us at all, he asked if he could live with us. That was it. He had no earthly possessions, no documentation, and he didn't know his name, his family, or where he's from. The traffickers like them that way, with no identity, so if they disappear nobody cares.

Somebody here conveniently named him Galong which means 'a little bird which has lost its way' in Thai, and he took to it right away.

That was seven years ago and he's graduated from our kindergarten each year. It gives purpose and order to his life. He loves school and helps the other children. Also, physically he's not too much bigger than his young classmates, so he's not too intimidating.

These days, while Note is still weak, we've asked Galong not to ride his chopper before school, but sometimes he does, and we have to look other way.

After the bell rings at the end of the school day, Galong likes to help the teacher clean up the classroom. Then it's karaoke time. He changes his school uniform for street clothes, picks up his raspy voice, but only for about an hour. He's strict about that. Note told him that if he sings more than five or six songs, he'll hurt his voice, and Galong believes him.

Note has been with us almost two years and his auntie visits the first Sunday of each month. He takes his daily, almost-complete cocktail of

drugs. The public hospitals enter most of our children with Aids in their free medical campaign. You have to be poor and we qualify for that.

But we must pay for some expensive drugs that are not covered in the hospital budget, and ultimately the doctors select which children are eligible. While that free medicine greatly helps many of our 40 children with Aids, eventually the kids go through a bad patch that sends them spiraling.

Recently, I've been told, the adults can also get the medicine if they are sick enough and have the '30-Baht Card,' but not until next year.

But back to Note... a friend to all, especially the vulnerable ones. Recently he's persuaded Galong to join him at art class three days a week. It's a ritual now. Galong (who can't read a clock) waits in kindergarten class for Note to call him.

Galong puts on his necktie for art class, it's that important. He has poor hand-eye coordination, so it was fascinating to see his first self-portrait in pencil (under Note's guidance) - a reasonable likeness, kind of. In any case, Galong was proud of it.

Meanwhile, Note's not feeling well most days. He can't digest his food properly and he has a blood disorder along with AIDS. So it's three days well and four days sick, as they say in Thai. But right now, as I write this, he is well. And every sunrise is a new day - a gift.

The new issue of the day is tattoos. Somewhere Galong saw a photograph of a guy on a motorcycle with a tattoo, and now Galong has decided he must have one. Note likes the idea. In fact, it took him two weeks to explain to Galong the story of Winnie the Pooh and how wonderful it would be to have a glue-on tattoo of Pooh. Galong only wanted to know if Pooh would ever ride a chopper. Note wasn't quite sure. He tended to think not.

Note continues drawing. Perhaps his most moving piece is the one of the birthday party with the family he never had. It's among the few drawings Note won't explain to anyone. So it seems that the lady sitting at the head of the table is mom, and there are presents for everyone and a bit of cake with candles and probably brothers and sisters he never had sitting around the table. It's a joyful picture. But it's his secret.

When Note dies, as die he will, we will look after Galong as best we can, perhaps not as good as Note but certainly better than the bar where we found him. And we'll do our best, too, to assure Note of our care for Galong.

The boy worries about such things.

[All these stories can be found in 'Welcome to the Bangkok Slaughter House: The Battle for Human Dignity in Bangkok's bleakest slums.' Written by Father Joe Maier, it has more true stories of the lives of people living in the slums. All proceeds will go to supporting the Human Development Foundation.

[www.periplus.com](http://www.periplus.com) [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

If you want to know more about Mercy Centre and would like to help, please go to [www.mercycentre.org](http://www.mercycentre.org)]

Father Joe and Galong



Picture of Note

# I-NIGHT



'New Generation' Celine Roux, Erica Rounsefell, Carmen Wijermans, Anuja Walavalkar, Samantha Yari, Candice Chiu, Jenny Long, Zhang Xiaofang, Vera Qinyi Lim, Huey Hsin Gan, Steven Eamegdool, Roanna Thomas, Edwina Halim, Marion Roche, Rashi Kalra, Nehal Kapadia, Jennifer Leete, Findy Au, Ruchir Punjabi, Jamie Bain



'Tears and Compromise' Jim Boby Jacob, Slava Kungurtsev, Jin Choi, Yoshi Kamiya



Jamie Bain  
'New Generation Trainer'



'Fashion Show' Canada:  
Candice Chiu and Marion Roche



'There are flowers' – An Israeli Song  
Rachel Wallach



'Illusion Night 2005' Kazuto Nakajima, Ryo Ishida



'Fashion Show' Fiji:  
Nehal Kapadia and Samantha Yari



'Fashion Show' Aimee Kresica, Kelly Braun, Zhang Xiaofang, Vian Chung, Jenny Long, Virginia Lam, Grace Ying, Minju Jang, (Eric) Jayoo Shin, Lucas Rye, Samantha Yari, Nehal Kapadia, Deen Sheikh, Ruchir Punjabi, Rashi Kalra, Candice Chi, Marion Roche, James Carr, Peter Murray, Sami Koussa, Naresh Tulsi



'Fashion Show' India:  
Ruchir Punjabi, Naresh Tulsi and Rashi Kalra



'Finale'



'Sajana' Nehal Kapadia, Anuja Walavalkar,  
Shabnam Valiya, Sandhya Rachaputi



'A guy, a girl and a demigod' Gad Tan, Leng Hong Tan,  
Sern Li Lim, Jun Hung Lee, Joseph Shazarin, Kern Ng,  
Vera Lim



Adi Hoek, Adi Roen Hoek, Sami Koussa, Rachel Wallach, Adham Eiraky



Lee Ser Poh, Pei Nee Wong, Lucas Rye, Sally Qian, Findy Kin Yee Au



Georg Anetsberger, Samantha Yari, Shardindu Pandey, Bart Jensen



Anna Vuong, Ada Alingog, Manh Duc Nguyen, Lien Thi Kim Nguyen, Ngoc Bich (Elisse) Lai, Van Khoa Nguyen



(front) Christopher Wong, Bang Kern Ng, Huey Hsin Gan, (Middle) friend, Ines Prasdha, Vanessa Chong, Siew Yin Lee, Leng Hong Tan, Joseph Shazarim, (back) Lee Ser Poh, Gad Tan, Sern-Li Lim, Norman Lim



Patricia Law, Virginia Lam



Ryan Sullivan, Adham Eiraky, Adi Roen Hoek, Rachel Wallach



Rashi Kalra, Samantha Yari, Shabnam Valiya, Christopher Clarke, Hector Barrera



Naresh Tulsi, Rashi Kalra, Mercedes del Valle Sullivan



Erik Nahnsen (the food coordinator)



Anna Miaczewska



Ned Pastor (Macarthur Astronomical Society), Min-ju Jang, Ah-Young Kim



Keith Smith, Vinci Liu, Ali Sharifzadek

## Food fair pics!

## Stargazing



Campfire

# A REPORT FROM IHMA : APPROACHING ANOTHER END OF THE YEAR



Vinci Liu IHMA Chairman

In the last issue of the Alumni News, I wrote about how 2005 began for IHMA and what the residents had planned for the coming year. Sitting here after I-Night and only a few weeks before the end of another year, I reflect on all that has been done and on how the residents developed as a community and IHMA developed as a team.

There is an ecstatic feeling among many residents after I-Night. It is a great accomplishment putting together such a diverse show, and a lot of credit goes to all the participants, on-stage and off-stage. I-Night is a time when many new talents emerge and many new friendships are formed in the collaboration process. Nehal Kapadia, one of our Social Coordinators, was the Show Director and she did an incredible job organising the show and coordinating the many groups – including lighting, sound, decorations, backstage, and the acts. Daniel Ackland, the former IHMA Secretary, and Sami Koussa, a committee member this year, stepped up to the plate and organised the technical crew. Also commendable were the efforts of Rakesh Nair, who headed the lighting crew, and Ryo Ishida, part of the lighting crew on top of appearing in two acts.

This year's I-Night had 16 different acts. Some of the most memorable performances include Rachel Wallach and Akiko Tomatsuri playing an Israeli song on the guitar and piano, the Singaporean-Malaysian production of the comic A Guy, A Girl, and A Demigod, and an extremely professional New Generation dance performance by Jamie's International House Academy of Dance – yes, that spells JIHAD (thanks, Marion). The story behind this semester's dance class is really incredible. With both of our dance instructors from Semester 1 unavailable, some of the residents approached Jamie – one of the catering staff at IH who just happens to be a professional dancer whose previous job was a dancer on cruise ships. After many nights of hard work preparing and serving food, Jamie volunteered his time to teach dance classes on Sundays and choreographed a performance for I-Night. Thanks Jamie!

This year's Fashion Show during I-Night was extremely creative. Hosted by Kelly Braun and Aimee Kresica, many interesting skits were performed during the Show. This included the memorable battle in the Japanese act between Kazu Nakajima and Lucas Rye, one using a sword and the other a pair of chopsticks. And Ryo appeared in the background as a certified Japanese drunk, holding an unusually large bottle of sake. The Canadians appeared in their winter gear, complete with snow shoes. Yes, Candice and Marion, beavers are indeed noble animals. And we will never forget Sami in his trendy black-hooded attire and Naresh Tulsi in his fashionable Salvo gear.

Another highlight of the year was IH's participation in the Intercollege Oration. Marion Roche, a Master of Public Health student from Canada, bravely 'volunteered' to be our representative. Marion's



Marion Roche, Candice Chiu, Vian Chung



L-R Lucas Rye, Ryo Ishida, Kazu Nakajima

speech on the oration topic – 'Life Through A Lens' – drew on her personal experiences travelling On South America. In the end, Marion tied for third place, although the IH cheerleading squad (the largest showing by any of the colleges) all objectively and impartially agreed that she deserved first.

To all the residents in 2005: I'm grateful for the opportunity to have served as the chairperson this year. It was definitely a learning experience for me, as well as for all the IHMA committee members. Not many people have the opportunity to coordinate an association of this diversity and I gained many valuable insights on how such an organisation functions. Quite a few residents were surprised to find that neither I nor any committee member receives financial incentives for our work in IHMA. I believe that the experience gained is reward enough and I encourage all residents to participate in IHMA and similar organisations, whether you are back at IH next year or half-way around the world.

Finally, thanks to all the IHMA Committee Members who supported me throughout the year. Thanks to Ian and Jun (Secretary and Treasurer) for helping to keep IHMA afloat. Thanks to Peter, Nehal, and the rest of the Social Coordinators for putting on so many successful events. And thanks to Daniel (honorary committee member) and Naresh for all the support and 'Door-Jobs', Ryo for the reliable publication of the IH Bulletin, and Marion for 'volunteering' for everything. Many talents were developed by the residents this year and one can only wonder what they will achieve in 2006.

Vinci Liu  
IHMA Chairperson  
26 September 2005

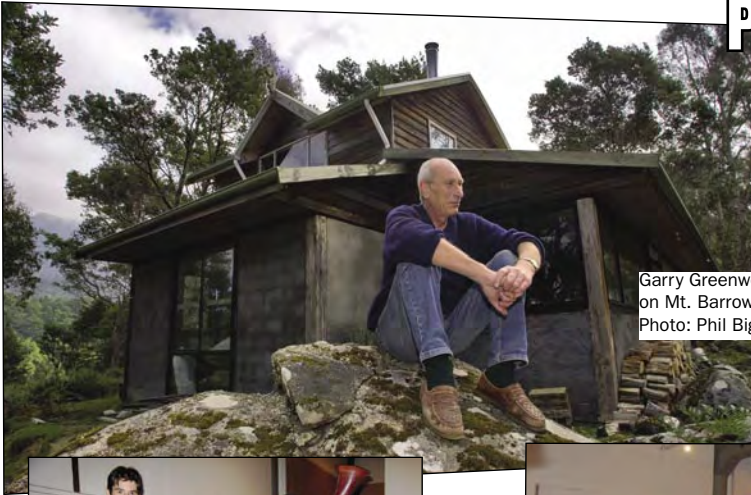


# PLAYING WITH LEATHER

## GARRY GREENWOOD

### – ARTIST IN LEATHER

By Joan Rowlands



Garry Greenwood: Outside his studio on Mt. Barrow, Northern Tasmania  
Photo: Phil Biggs



"Pod Study" 1975



The Chordwainers at the opening of the Exhibition in February 2005



The Chordwainers: Playing at Garry Greenwood's last exhibition at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston, Tasmania/Feb 2005

**M**y first contact with Sydney University's International House was in 1970, as an 'overseas' student from Tasmania, and at the end of the year I returned to Tasmania.

Life in Tasmania in the 1970s, although moving at a slower pace than in the Emerald City, had its own unique attractions. For me, foremost amongst them were the many and diverse arts and crafts exhibitions arranged by Garry Greenwood and his wife, Gail, at the Deloraine Bowerbank Mill Art Gallery. Garry had bought the old Bowerbank flour mill at Deloraine in 1972 and converted it into a residence, studio and gallery space when he moved to Tasmania from Sydney. The exhibitions held there ranged from painting, glasswork, the fine gold and silver jewellery and hollow ware of Ragnar Hansen, to Garry's own work with moulded leather prototypes. With a little training in leather embossing at school, I was particularly intrigued by Garry's concept of leather as an artistic form.

Formerly a graphic designer and a folk and bluegrass musician, British-born Garry embarked on the exploration of the potential of leather for the sensual forms he moulded, first in vegetable tanned cowhide and later in exotic leathers such as buffalo, emu and ostrich. He soon lost interest in purely functional objects, such as bags, belts and saddles, and replaced them with leather and hessian hangings, followed by fanciful leather boots and quirky medieval shoes. He then turned to free-standing sculptural forms, both anatomical and organic, derived from nature, and became increasingly interested in exploring the many properties of this natural medium: it was portable, versatile and required little special equipment for his construction techniques of wet-forming (hammering wet leather over a smooth, rounded river stone into shapes which set when dry), laminating and carving.

In 1985 Garry moved to Canberra and established the Leather Workshop at the Canberra School of Art where he was appointed Senior Lecturer. Here he did his original research into the acoustic properties of leather and had the opportunity to work with dancers and actors, constructing elaborate leather masks as well as being involved in set design.

After returning to Tasmania in 1989 Garry re-established a studio in Deloraine and later in Launceston, where he continued with his theatre work. On his return, as a musician who had mastered guitar, mandolin and banjo, he used this knowledge, his expertise with leather and his inventive and often witty approach to his work, to produce leather instruments that could actually be played – his first instrument was a violin – and he thus extended his unique knowledge of the acoustic qualities of leather.

According to Garry, although his instruments could be played, they controlled the player. He was fascinated by the fact that you could play a leather tube as well as anything else – the quality of the sound was determined by the diameter, the length and taper of the instrument. Having established that his instruments could be played, he crafted an amazing variety of improbable shapes with whimsical names: pocopods, bowhorns, dragon bassoons, ektaras, tromba marinas, suspended harmonics, Mountain Harps and a giant Windform, which later became the basis of the Tasmanian Leather Orchestra. Their musical qualities are described as strange and exotic and Garry continued his development of them in close collaboration with musicians such as the Launceston 'Chordwainers', who have continued to expand the Leather Orchestra's repertoire and have recently produced a CD.

Garry held twenty-six one-man exhibitions, was a member of the Leder-Gilde in Munich and his work is represented not only in the major Art Galleries in Australia but also overseas. Ros McMillan, Senior Lecturer in Music at the University of Melbourne, described Garry's instruments as stimulating the senses in ways achieved by few instrument makers: 'apart from their aural and visual qualities, there is a deliberate sensuousness to the designs which, with the smell and tactile nature of the leather, produce an irresistible urge to handle the instruments, an important aesthetic consideration for their creator.'

I followed Garry's career at intervals over the past thirty years and became the fortunate owner of several of his leather sculptures. In January this year I returned to Tasmania to discover the amazing advances he had made with his wide range of playable acoustic instruments, and had the pleasure of hearing some of them played by the 'Chordwainers'. I also met Garry again and learnt, sadly, that he was terminally ill. No one would ever have guessed – in spite of the wretched chemotherapy he was still his puckish, smiling self. I told him how much I enjoyed my collection of his sculptures and mentioned that the earliest one, a 'Pod Study', had suffered from much travelling. He instantly insisted that I send it back to him so that he could 'fix it up' and I, reluctantly, posted it to him when I returned home – not really with any expectation that he would feel able to do it. But he did, and returned it to me, polished, signed and dated and with a completely new base. Less than a month later he died.

Garry Greenwood is gone, but he leaves a rich and unique legacy of his passion for music translated into visual form. As he himself described it:

'Shapes and form have a rhythm and texture all of their own'.

**A**fter her time at Sydney University studying Arts and Commerce, Emma FARRELL (1997 - 1998) worked for the NSW Government in environmental policy development, developed a community garden in Marrickville, Sydney, and completed a Masters of Environmental Management at the University of New South Wales. Since late March 2005, Emma has been living and working in Kiribati as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development. The Republic of Kiribati, formerly known as the Gilbert Islands, is a group of thirty-three coral atolls scattered in the central, tropical Pacific Ocean, with a population of around 100,000. The biggest island and capital city, Tarawa, where Emma is based, is located about half-way between Australia and Hawaii and very close to the equator. Emma is working with the Catholic educational organisation Betero Tiroi as an environmental programs officer. The aim of her program is to improve environmental and justice education in the schools and local communities of Kiribati. She is conducting workshops on sustainability, practical earth care and protection of resources. The idea is to give the local community the knowledge to allow them to make their own environmental assessments in the future, and develop initiatives that are sensitive to the local environment.

After a week in Kiribati, Emma Jotted down some of her first Impression.

'Internet connection in Kiribati is really unreliable, and phone communication is equally as difficult, so I'll probably have to rediscover the art of letter writing!'

I'd prepared myself for a densely populated slither of land, but no amount of preparation can ready you for the reality. There is just one road that goes up and down the island, connected by causeways in the south of Tarawa. On one side of the road is lagoon, on the other beach. About 60% of the population is under the age of 15. Kids are just everywhere and everyone lives on top of each other. Families are huge and it is customary for everyone to sleep together in a maneaba (a traditional meeting house which is essentially just a large thatched roof). I live in an I-Matang house which is a block work kind of box. I live on my own, but you're never really alone here. The village is surrounded by kids, squatters, nuns, a school and plenty of dogs. Chickens, rats, crabs and pigs roam my backyard all the time. Kiribati is incredibly dirty by our standards (you would not want to have to go to hospital here), but you get used to it. It is not that things are unclean, as such, it is just that rubbish is everywhere and the water is not very drinkable. I am tidier now than I ever was in Australia in an attempt to keep the rats, geckos and cockroaches at bay, but I seem to be cleaning up after various critters in my kitchen everyday. The locals don't kill rats. In fact, they talk to them, sometimes asking them to go bother their neighbour, telling them there are nice bananas over there.

Scale is such a different concept here. The only place where you can experience open space is in the water and most people are generally afraid of the water. They will swim in the shallows of the lagoon and go off into the deep sea in un-seaworthy dinghies, but swimming is not a pastime. I'm going on my first boat trip tomorrow and I'm quite nervous about it. The lost-at-sea stories, due to drunken boat operators or engines failing, abound.

I've only been here a week and have already met the President of Kiribati twice. Once at a mass held for the Pope's funeral, which was a huge event, and the other day at a humble little environmental workshop at the Centre of the University of the South Pacific with only about 15 attendees and we were all addressed as 'distinguished intellectuals'! I certainly didn't feel very distinguished in my sarong, barefoot, and caked in sunscreen, sweat and mozzie repellent! On the main island national politics is so much closer to the people (in a physical sense anyway). It may also be because you simply can't avoid the problems here. Everything is really in your face - waste, death and



Children in rural North Tarawa, Kiribati.

abuse. There is no such thing as a private sphere. We all live in a fish bowl here, with the dead buried in backyards that can also double as landfill. However, the waste is not as big a problem as in the past because there have been some great waste initiatives implemented in the past couple of years, including a container deposit scheme for aluminium cans and batteries - a first for the Pacific!

It feels very safe here. The only threat that seems to exist is the dogs. Dogs are not pets here. They have gone feral and get into packs and just go wild, especially at night and if you're moving past them quite fast. I went for a jog the other day which was a stupid idea. It just attracts packs of dogs. I've already almost been bitten and throwing something at them just gets them more fired up. For the first time in my life I'm preferring cats over dogs - at least they keep the rats away. Dogs seem to have no function here.

There's a pretty strong network of volunteers and expats, who have nice houses and televisions, etc., which I can imagine become important after you're here for a while, because there is very little to do here. These people have very full social calendars and organise many dinners, movie nights etc just to stave off the boredom. But I think it's hard to get bored in the village I'm in. People are up all hours singing and dancing and drinking kava or sour toddy. There are kids always around, playing volleyball or brandings.

Nutrition is quite poor here. I really miss salad. The only green stuff you can buy is cabbage and occasionally a cucumber. The traditional food is actually quite nutritious, it is just the influence of imported goods that is hiking up the rate of diabetes and other nutrition related health problems. No one drinks pure water here; everyone puts sugar in it, and also in the bread. It is hard to find salted bread, it is always full of sugar. I think the sugared water comes about because they are used to drinking coconut milk, which is sweet. I had a traditional, and nutritious, feast at the workshop yesterday which included raw yellowfin tuna, giant clam, moray eel, breadfruit, pandanus fruit, and two varieties of local spinach. There are some people working on encouraging families to grow home gardens but there is still quite a battle to be won on the nutrition side of things.

There are no such things as street names or house numbers here, so it is very interesting describing to people where you live. I'd better go now. My organisation is having another welcoming party for me and someone has written me a welcoming song. The people of Kiribati are constantly singing and dancing and laughing. There is always a "botaki" (type of celebration/gathering) going on even when there's no reason to celebrate. They last about 4-5 hours and are quite formal with an MC, speeches, dance and singing rounds and plenty of food. I fall asleep most nights to the most amazing harmonies coming from somewhere in the village.

# NEWS FROM NEW DELHI. September 2005

By John Webb

It's Sunday evening after a weekend spent, like a postgrad student, dragging my feet over completing a big report for the High Commission on the state of science in India and opportunities for cooperation with Australia. Too daunting a task when I'm still constrained by scientific caution, so aware of how little I know, when I have to transform my mind into officialdom's confident certitude. One distraction was Saturday's broadcast of the Aussie footy final from Melbourne. It coincided with one of the big storms to hit Delhi, with monsoonal downpours bringing us up to the expected total rainfall at last, but also cracking lightning and heavy thunder. I had bar duties at the social club where about 30 Aussie travellers had gathered to see this quasi-religious event. We were all challenged by the break in transmission... almost a form of psychological torture, the image freezing, breaking into colour squares, remaining immobile for up to a couple of minutes when it started again; we had no idea what went on in the breaks. The final quarter was uninterrupted though so the fans were satisfied....

Only a day after returning from a couple of weeks in Perth, where my wife, Sandy, received a special medal for her work on IVF legislation from the Governor, I was off to Kolkata for a fascinating two days there. We had a meeting of the executive group of the Association of Education Agents who send students to Australia; we are encouraging them as they develop into a professional association with a code of ethics etc. We held the meeting on a boat, called there a steamer though there was no steam anywhere other than in the kitchen...a nice five hours moving along the Hooghly river which I only there realised was part of the Ganges, so it's special. It was time for a festival giving puja to, yes, the God of Things Mechanical and so all trucks and taxis were garlanded with orange marigolds and bits of green varying from leeks to banana fronds. This was pretty tame compared to the BIG festival for Bengal of Durga Puja in a month's time. We went to wander around that little area where the statues are made, from bamboo, straw and then covered with clay from the river. They can be huge; 4-5 meters tall though most are life sized images. They are elaborately painted and decorated before, at the end of the festival, being sent off down the river where they disintegrate,

poisoning the fish! Biodegradable paints are replacing the cadmium, lead and mercury ones, at last. I even got to visit a little memorial for the Englishman Ronald Ross who discovered, in Calcutta at a hospital lab, the way in which malaria is transmitted through the mosquito. He won the Nobel Prize in 1902 for this discovery and so began the series of Nobel prizes from India, and all, yes, all of them come from Bengal or have strong connection to that region, a source of great pride to Calcuttans.

I've finally found some time to be a tourist in Delhi and visited Humayan's Tomb, an extraordinary example of Mughal architecture and garden planning that was the prelude to the more famous Taj Mahal in Agra. But this one is ten minutes away, not five hours on a challenging highway. I went with a visiting puppet artist/manager and we wandered for three hours in the heavy Delhi humid sun, entranced by the geometry, history and gardens. We balanced the Mughal experience by then heading to one of the larger Hindu temples, Birla Mandir, still an active site of worship but pretty quiet at the end of a hot afternoon. No photos allowed but a friendly environment to explore: the main temple has Vishnu and his consort, while outside were shrines to my favourites, the monkey god Hanuman and the god to remove obstacles, Ganesha. His festival in Mumbai had been held recently, a very big affair, with the statues floating out to sea at the end of it all.

And, finally, just back from three days in Kuala Lumpur at a meeting organised by the international committee of the Red Cross/ Red Crescent on preventing hostile use of the life sciences, basically, about preventing bioweapons coming into the hands of either States or terrorists. Codes of ethics were the focus, a topic that a colleague Bob Mathews and I had been engaged with for some time. The flow of visitors continues with two Premiers arriving in this coming week: Premier Rann from South Australia and an old Murdoch friend, Premier Gallop from Western Australia. We will be all on our best behaviour this week!

[John Webb was a recipient of the Alumni Award for Achievement in the 1990s. Ed.]

**2005  
SUIHAA  
Reunion  
BBQ/AGM**

**12.00 noon – 3.00 pm**

**Sunday 27 November 2005  
International House Roof Garden**

**Family and Guests welcome**

**Cost: \$25.00 (incl GST) per person**

**Children under 10 years half price**

**RSVP by Monday 21st November 2005 by returning this form, with payment, to:**

**SUIHAA, International House, 96 City Road, Chippendale, NSW, 2008.**

**The cheque should be made payable to "SUIHAA".**

**Enclosed is a payment of \$.....for.....places for the following people:**

**In the payment, I have included \$.....donation towards**

**- the Graeme de Graaff and/or Rosalie McCutcheon Scholarships**

**- the running of SUIHAA**

# NEWS OF ALUMNI

Ex-Director **Graeme de GRAAFF** instructed ex-Assistant Director **Toshiko MORI** in the game of croquet at the ABC Gardening Festival in August.



Graeme de Graaff instructs Toshiko Mori in croquet.

Jonathan Berrick, the son of **Rosemary BERRICK**, a member of the Women's Committee in the early years of International House and later the Honorary Archivist, recently contacted SUIHAA to inform us that she has moved into a nursing home. She is well and happy there and still enjoys photos from her IH days.

Walking New Zealand's spectacular Milford Track in February this year were **John FRIEND (1968-70)**, **John MALTBY (1968-72)**, **Kay (PEARSE 1967-70)** and **Paul (1967-69) GOTTLIEB**, and **Gwen (BURROWS 1969)** and **Richard (1967-69) NG**. Fitness varied greatly within the group, but everyone enjoyed the breathtaking scenery, good company, and a great sense of achievement at the end of each day. The photo shows the intrepid walkers at Mackinnon Pass, the highest point on the Track.



(L-R) Paul Gottlieb, John Friend, Kay Gottlieb, John Maltby, Richard and Gwen Ng walking the Milford Track in New Zealand.

**Michael CHAO (1969-1973)** recently wrote to say: "it was a hectic summer at the Chao's. **Karen (MOK 2002)** and **Eddie (EDWARD CHAO 2001-2002)** came back to Toronto to have their wedding and their reception." Congratulations Karen and Eddie - another IH wedding!



L-R: Richard, Jenny, Edward, Karen, Michael, and Christina Chao

**Fani (MANIKAKI) NICOLANDIS (1969-1973)** Fani wrote to thank us for our congratulations on the success of the Greek Olympic Games. 'For me it was an experience to remember for life. I apologise for not writing to you at once. When in Athens I look after our lovely 93-year-old mother and that takes all my energy. As my husband and I don't work any more, we spend a lot of time on the remote island of Kajos, trying to restore an old house. There we lose track of time! I remember many old IH friends and the photos I am sending will tell you more...the photo with Rebecca in the Newsletter was great.'



Fani (Manikaki) Nicolandis volunteering at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.



Fani (Manikaki) Nicolandis and Rebecca, daughter of Belinda Lamb(1997) volunteering at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.



Fani (Manikaki) Nicolandis and her mother celebrating her mother's birthday.



Fani (Manikaki) Nicolandis, her husband and daughter Gelly on Gelly's wedding day.

**Abdul Ben HASSAN (1970-1971)** Hassan was one of a large group of Alumni who attended the very successful Foundation Day Lunch and Address, which was held at International House on September 3rd. He recently moved to the Blue Mountains where he is much involved in his new career as an olive grower. He has arranged to host a group of alumni friends interested in his new project - and also, no doubt, in purchasing olive oil direct from the grower!

**Minoru KONO (1976)**, upon receiving the last newsletter, wrote: "I enjoyed reading Ali Gandomi's News in the newsletter. He was one of my TEFL peers at the University of Sydney in 1976. His news reminds me of our good old Sydney days. Like Ali, I retired from Akita University, Japan, in March 2004, and was then awarded the degree of Professor Emeritus by the same university. I am still teaching there part time. In March this year, I went on a field trip to Australia to investigate the recent trends of the language education policy development down there. On 18 March, I visited International House, where I met Ms Jessica Carroll, Director. She was so kind as to show me around the House and invite me to be a guest at the Flag Dinner. I appreciated her courtesy and my good luck to visit the House at the appropriate time."

**Bernard COHEN (1978-1979)** Bernard described 2004 as "a mixed year" year. "I took voluntary early retirement in July, then started a new, part-time job one week later for WHO, on an interesting measles project on giving measles vaccine as an aerosol. So far, this has involved travel to India, Thailand and Mexico and some challenging lab work."



Minoru Kono on IH Roof Garden



Flag Dinner: L-R Zeev Drtzian, Margaret Halfpenay, Brendon Quinlivan, Faith Gamban-Sevilla, Joe Sevilla, Minoru Kono

**Ben FONG (1978-1980)** recently wrote: "I am going to join the Chinese University of Hong Kong in December as the Director of University Health Service. There are 5,000 staff, plus their dependents, and about 15,000 students to be looked after by seven doctors and five dentists in our Service."



Ben Fong (far right) pictured with colleagues.

**Penny (AITKEN) MAGUIRE (1983)** wrote recently with some news of her family: 'although I only spent one year at IH, I have very happy memories of friends made there. I am now the proud mother of two gorgeous boys adopted from Korea, now aged 4 and 2, so they keep me busy. Since leaving IH I've done many jobs, lived in Switzerland and travelled extensively, but my boys are enough for now! I would love to hear from any old friends.'

**Penny KEABLE (1989-1994)**, recently attended the Foundation Day Lunch and Address, and has kindly contacted us to express her interest in SUIHAA and the House. We look forward to having her around!

**Andrés GÓMEZ DE SILVA GARZA (1995-2000)** continues to teach several subjects related to Computer Science, full-time, at a small university in Mexico City. In June/July, using a free frequent flyer ticket, he traveled to Australia for his (northern) summer holidays and had a great time driving around Western Australia and then visiting Sydney, where he caught up with fifteen or so former IH residents. In his spare time he tries to carry on with research projects, which allow him to submit papers to international conferences in order to travel some more. Three weeks after returning to Mexico from Australia he went to Chicago to present a paper at the Fifth International Conference on Case-Based Reasoning. (Andres can be contacted via the SUIHAA webpage's Contact Alumni database).

**Tomoko (SAWAKI) SAWAKI-GILLARD (1997-1998)** wrote to let us know her new address: "I just want to give my new address, to receive Alumni Newsletters. Thank you and hope all is well for you!"

**Nick PELLOW (1998-2000)** was recently featured in a *Sunday Telegraph* article about expatriate life. He has been living in Munich, Germany, for more than three years, working as a software engineer. He recently wrote to say: "I have quit work here and am coming back to Oz in November! I am really looking forward to getting back. Before then, Karin [Nick's girlfriend] and I are going on a road trip down through Croatia and hopefully to Greece!"

As reported in in last year's November newsletter, **Brian GIBEL (1997)** and **Hyun-hee KIM (1997)**, who met in IH, were married in 2004 in Brian's native Arizona. The couple recently celebrated their first anniversary in Seoul, where Brian is working for the US Embassy and Hyun-hee Kim is teaching.



Brian Gibel and Hyun-hee Kim.

**Sarin YAP (1996-1999)** and **Chong TZE TEC (1995-1996)** recently had a wedding getaway in Bangkok. It was a union of Asian cultures. Family and friends took the opportunity for a holiday travelling from all over Asia (China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore), Australasia and the USA to attend. The couple, who is now settling in Boston, send their warmest regards and a special thanks to IH friends who travelled from far and near to attend their wedding. Congratulations Sarin and Chong - yet another IH wedding!



Sarin and Chong on their wedding day.

**Estanislao (Stanley) FERNANDEZ (1993)** recently wrote: "In March 2005 I moved back to Sydney to live. Before moving to Sydney I was a practising architect for 10 yrs in an Architectural firm (Francisco Manosa & Partners) in Manila, Philippines (1994-2004) and was a Senior Lecturer, teaching part time, at the College of Architecture in the University of the Philippines (1994-2004).

Even though I had been away for about 11 years, I had vivid memories of my Australian "adventure" and had always considered Australia, Sydney most especially, like a second home. My fondest memories are the ones of Sydney University and International House. Luckily I have been able to come back and have been surprised with the infrastructure growth and development; Sydney has really changed (more for the better) since 1994.



Pictured in a Greek restaurant in Enmore are Stanley's family (clockwise from front left) wife Roxi, daughter Tricia, son Marco, Stanley and Arthur and Rebecca Manalac

I am now working in an architectural firm in Chatswood. Although it is taking me a while to get my "feet planted on the ground", a lot of friends are helping us get settled into the system, and have tirelessly given us advice on Sydney-living beyond University-Life."

**Ning GU (1999-2002, 2004)**, who is currently living in Manly, recently wrote: "I just handed in my thesis, finally, and I am very happy and relaxed now. Next week, I will start working on a research project for my supervisor, which I am really looking forward to." Congratulations Ning!

**Brett MARSHALL (1999-2000)** Brett, now known as Abraham Rushdi since his conversion to Islam, was recently interviewed on the ABC's 'Lateline'. He is currently at Monash University in Melbourne, doing an Honours thesis concerning studies on terrorism, and gave some interesting comments of his perspective on this. He was emphatic about the importance of encouraging police to work with networks of the Muslim community.

**Christian HEIN (2000)** recently organised a barbecue with a group of IH alumni at Centennial Park, Sydney. The afternoon was very enjoyable and allowed a group of around fourteen alumni catch up on each others doings Christian is in his last six months of work towards a doctorate in Geology/Geophysics at Sydney University. He is living in Newtown and keenly awaiting the arrival of his girlfriend **Nina SIEMSGLUES (2000)** from Germany later in the year.

**Nicholas (Nick) PARSLow (1995-2000)** also attended the barbecue at Centennial Park. Nick is writing his thesis for his doctorate in physics at Sydney University, and currently lives in Chippendale. Nick recently completed six months of research in Tsukuba, Japan.

**Shatal THAPA (1997-2003)** is working as a pharmacist for a pharmacy in the centre of Sydney and lives with **Ajaysinh (Ajay) CHOUHAN (1999-2002)**. AJ and Shatal both attended the barbecue. AJ recently returned from a trip overseas, during which he visited his home country Zimbabwe, and also travelled to Madagascar. AJ works for an engineering firm in Neutral Bay.

**Nicola (Nikki) BRIGHT (1998-2001)** recently returned from two years working as a speech pathologist in Scotland, England and Germany. Nicki is now living in Lilyfield and is working in Galston. Nicki also came along to the barbecue.



At an informal IH reunion in Centennial Park recently (L-R) Ajay Chouhan, Nikki Bright, Svenja Becker, Hao Vuong, Shatal Thapa. In the background: (closest to farthest) Karen Smith, Emily Christian, Amanda Arnavotic

**Svenja BECKER (1999)** is currently in Australia for three months documenting Germans living in Australia for the television production company that she works for in Berlin. Svenja also attended the barbecue in Centennial Park.

**Amanda ARNAUTOVIC (1999-2001)** was also in attendance at the barbecue. Amanda recently moved to Chippendale and is working as an insolvency accountant in the city.

**Emily CHRISTIAN (1999-2000)** came along to the barbecue. She is working on her thesis for a doctorate in Ancient History at Sydney University, and currently lives in Petersham.

**Mark JACOBS (2001)** also attended the barbecue. Mark lives in Leichardt and works for Waverley Council as an environmental ranger.

**Hao VUONG (1999-2000)** also attended the barbecue in Centennial Park. Hao lives in Sydney and is working as a software/internet application developer.

**Katie BROOKES (2000-2004)** has sent us emails of her most recent travels. She gave excellent descriptions of her trips around Ireland, Scotland, Switzerland and Scandinavia, but the one on Scandinavia ran to more than 8,000 words - so I think we'll all have to wait for her book to be published for further details! But although it was good to hear that her eye infection had settled, she had an accident in Ireland that resulted in what was apparently a fractured coccyx - or as Katie herself put it, 'a pain in the ...!' She is not due home until the end of the year, so we most sincerely wish her freedom from any further infections and injuries and a safe return.

**Juan Camilo REYES HERNANDEZ (2000-2001)** recently wrote: "I am currently working for ExxonMobil as Territory Manager of the largest industrial and wholesale accounts in the west of the country (Colombia), basically Sugar Mills and some big construction companies. Because of my work I have recently moved to Cali, the salsa dancing capital of Colombia - haven't been dancing yet though. I'm happy here but I'm hoping to go back to Australia again, I really miss the place..."

**Dominic TAY (2001-2002)** recently got in touch with **Shatal THAPA (1997-2003)** via the SUIHAA website, and in this way was able to update his details on the SUIHAA website.

**Vincent MALAYAPILLAY (2002-2003)** The editor was very pleased to have a brief note from Vincent, after a long silence: 'I hope my name is still familiar to you. I was the Malaysian who was the IHMA secretary in 2002. I do apologise for not keeping in touch all these years. I am now currently working in Kuala Lumpur... How are things with SUIHAA?' Great to hear from you again, Vincent. We most certainly do remember you, so the next time you write give us a few more details of life back in Malaysia.

**Idit REGEV (2003)** 'With all that is happening in my life it seemed to be time to write again. I'll start from the 'outside': On the national level, my country is going through hard times during the pullout from the Gaza Strip. For the few of you that may not have heard of it, it's the Israeli Government's decision to evacuate all Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip (this area was conquered in the 1967 war between Israel and the surrounding Arab states). Let's say that's a very quick overview. I find myself watching the news and crying for the horrible situation that we're in. It feels as if there is no one really to blame for it: sometimes we encourage things and, as time goes by, we realise how deep in the mud (and that's the polite word) it has got us into. I think that Sharon, our Prime Minister who led this process, is doing the right thing, because before the pullout there were 8000 Jews surrounded by 1.4 million Palestinians. The only thing that worries me is the fact that this move is not accompanied by some sort of peace process. There is no way of telling whether it is worth it, but I can only hope that it will be interpreted by the Palestinians as a hope for coexistence rather than a sign of weakness. My boyfriend, Itai, is one of the many soldiers that are making this pullout happen. I believe that he is going through a very unusual 'summer vacation' in the Gaza Strip. Although I'd rather he was elsewhere, I can definitely trust his good judgement in this delicate mission.

Speaking of summer vacations, I'll move on to mine. About three months ago I had a week's vacation from my work in a finance position in a mobile phone company. This vacation apparently was crucial because during it I decided that this type of work was no good for me and I decided to make a career change and open my very own delicatessen. I gave two months notice to the phone company and since the beginning of July I have been working on learning this new

business: the field, the competitors, thinking of where to have it, looking at surveys regarding consumers' habits and so forth. Two weeks ago I started working in a spice shop in the market in Jerusalem, and along with that I work twice a week in a boutique cheese-making farm - learning the cheese-making process. Well how about that!!

Another thing that is really worth mentioning: **Glenn CHU (2002-2003)** and yours truly paid a visit to London and **Irene RICHTER (2003)** at the beginning of June. We had a week together and it brought to life again all the IH experience and our triple trip to West Oz. Irene is planning to make a 'courtesy' visit to Israel at the end of September. I find it just great that the exchange program is going to last forever. On these sad days we are going through I find it important to use the greeting of Love and Light - much love and light, Idit.'

**Grant IRELAND (2005)** recently emailed us with their family's good news (and some very beautiful pictures):

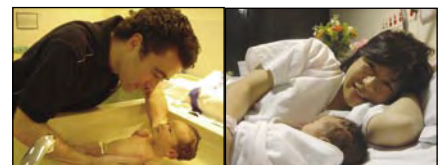
'We are very happy to announce the birth of our first child - a boy - on Friday, September 9th, 2005.

At 4.12kg (over 9 lbs) Satoko did amazingly well, labouring through 58 hours. Baby, Satoko and I are all beaming with high spirits and, being incredibly well, are ready to return to our Sydney home tomorrow morning. All our love to the world for this amazing moment.

Grant, Satoko and Baby!



Satoko and Grant Ireland at their informal wedding reception at the Rose, with IH and other friends.



Grant Ireland with baby Lotus.

Satoko and baby Lotus.



Satoko and Grant Ireland on their wedding day, with baby Lotus

**Gancanapol VAN COMPERNOLLE ("Pon" 2000-2003)** recently wrote to say 'Since returning to Bangkok, life's been rather adventurous. I've been a lecturer at University, started a Masters program, and am now an Assistant Fund Manager at an Investment Firm here. On top of this, I'm still trying to get my golf handicap to single digits!! Luckily, friends from IH still drop by, **Kozo (IINO 2000), Maverick and Claire, Martin and Vidur (KANODIA 2002)** are regulars; **Kiichi (TOTANI 1997-2001), Geol Soo (KIM 1999-2004), and Joseph (Yong Chuan GAN 1998-2002)** came by for a mini-reunion, **Andrey (SANKOR 2002-2003)** and **Shatal (THAPA 1997-2003)** visited during a stop-over, so it's been fun. Thus, the next time anyone from IH decides to have a stopover in Bankok

and requires a personal escort service, let me know.' (Pon can be contacted via the SUIHAA webpage's Contact Alumni database)



Taken in Bangkok earlier in 2005: Peem PANITPICHEDVONG (2000-2001), Pon (Gancanapol) VANCOMPERNOLLE(2000-2003), KichiTOTANI(1997-2001), Top, Paul (Pornchai) SOMBATSRI SOMBOON (1999-2000), A, Joseph (Yong Chuan) GAN (1998-2002), Geol Soo KIM (1999-2004)

**Noel BAKHTIAN (2003)** recently wrote: "I miss you guys so much!! I hope you are all doing very well and are as crazy as ever! Post-graduation, I went to Morocco with my family (and saw **Emily [CHRISTIE 2002-2004]** there - how crazy is that!! Both our Dads were at the same neurosurgery conference! The photo of us is in the airport in Casablanca). Then, I did some teaching assistant work at an astronomy camp in California, and I was supposed to go to Croatia (I miss you **Masa [CRNJAKOVIC 2003-2004]**!) but my passport messed things up... Anyways, I am off to Cambridge in a few weeks for a yearlong Masters program in engineering (anyone else gonna be anywhere in Europe?! I'll come visit!) and then I got into a PhD program at Stanford, so that's basically the next six years of my life! Peace out for now! I miss you all so much!"

**CONGRATULATIONS!** This is now our third 'IH Baby' as his parents have spent this past year in one of the IH Maze Units. He has joined **Yan Yin Chan (1980)** and **Hannah (Carroll) Milton (2005)** to form a very select little trio whom we all regard as 'Honorary Alumni' of IH...

**Jeffrey LAU (2003)** 'Greetings from Singapore! I'm still an Education Counsellor at IDP Education Australia (Singapore). But I may be switching to...teaching! I'm contemplating becoming a History teacher. It's a 4-year Ministry of Education contract that I have to sign, so I'm still unsure. But really, I think I need a change. Need more time to 'be myself' again. I have lost contact with so many people because I'm always 'too busy' (a lousy excuse, I know).'



Noel Bakhtian and Emily Christie in Cairo airport

## AGM Agenda

### 1. Ordinary Business

- 1.1 Apologies
- 1.2 Minutes of the 2004 Annual General Meeting
- 1.3 Annual Report: President
- 1.4 Annual Report: Treasurer
- 1.5 Alumni Award for Achievement
- 1.6 Other business without notice

### 2. Election of the 2006 Exec

Please make nominations using the form provided below and post to:  
The Returning Officer, SUIHAA, International House, 96 City Road,  
Chippendale, NSW, 2008 by Monday 21 November 2005.

The Proxy form should be posted in the same way.

#### Nominations for 2005 Executive and Committee

	President	Secretary	Treasurer	Committee
Nominee				
Nominator (years at IH)				

#### Proxy Form

Fill this form if you will not be coming to the AGM and you want another SUIHAA member to attend and vote on your behalf.

Your name	
Years at IH	
Your address	
Your choice of Proxy	<input type="checkbox"/> I want the person I've named to be my Proxy: Name (years at IH): <input type="checkbox"/> I want the Chairman to be my Proxy

# SUIHAA MEMBER FEEDBACK

TO: **SUHAA, International House  
96 City Road, Chippendale  
N.S.W. 2008 Australia  
E-mail: info@suihaa.org.au**

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATED & RE-CONNECTION

The SUIHAA database is usually updated within a week. We recommend that members use this feedback sheet or the form provided at the web site. we are happy to help you if you have lost touch with a friend from IH. Place your letter in a sealed envelope and send it to us. We will forward it.

### Please tick and supply information.

In providing this information, you acknowledge that your name and years at IH will be shown on the SUIHAA website, and your e-mail address will be accessible by specific search. The remaining information will be kept on the restricted access SUIHAA database and used only to facilitate communication between the Alumni Association/IH and members.

#### A Membership

- My address was correct but i provide additional information below.
- My address was not correct.

Title    Mr    Mrs    Ms    Miss    Dr    Prof    Other

First Name:.....Surname in IH:.....

Year(s) in I.H:....

Address:.....

.....

Phone:   (H).....(W).....

Fax:   (H).....(W).....

E-mail:.....

Can we release your home phone number to other SUIHAA members?    Yes    No

#### B News/Comments (You can also email to info@suihaa.org.au)

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