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As I sit and write my reflections for 2015 I cannot believe it has been nearly 12 months since I joined this exciting global community. My knowledge of International House was strong from my days as Head of University College and a long friendship with the previous head, Associate Professor Jane Munro AM. However I have none the less been so very impressed by the student body, tutors and staff and inspired by the individual stories from the students and alumni I have met.

The ethos of the House is prevalent everywhere and the idealistic notion of diversity is built and continued within all parts of the community. Real examples that help build that accepting culture are evident and widespread; and ‘fraternitas’ is no longer an idealistic notion but a realistic and implemented behaviour. Programs driven by the staff and students such as meal plans for those students respecting Ramadan, maintenance men who do not walk on prayer mats, alcohol free events, yum cha, laksa or mee goreng for lunch, Holi festival celebrations, yum sing toasts and second place in the footy are all reasons to celebrate International House.

This year we have seen a real change in the student demographics. International House accepted 55 graduate students with an average age of 25 who have moved into our traditionally undergraduate population. The International House Executive, staff and Council had a plan in place on how these new students were going to enhance our community, but this was just a framework. What we have seen is the development of a new International House Graduate Student Association and the election of a committee, with Jack Cairns as the new President. The graduate students have offered academic seminars and mentoring which is open to the entire community and is now growing in popularity. Within the George Hicks Building, students have hosted community dinners, cheese and wine events and film nights. It is great to see so many nationalities cooking, studying and socialising together in the new study space and Middle Common Room.

With the expansion of our community we have seen a huge demand on space, a positive problem which we are trying to solve with creative master planning and reviewing the way communal areas are used. Many options are being discussed, although large redevelopments are always constrained by budget and feasibility. We have had a very healthy maintenance program in 2015, beautifying many of the tired areas of the college. There is now a five year plan in place to upgrade many of the bedrooms and bathrooms in some of the older buildings. If you are interested in supporting this plan please make contact with me.

With great sadness we lost a dedicated staff member who was tragically killed in a car accident in January. Mrs Laurel Clark worked in the library at International House for 22 years and was always up for a chat and a smile. She will be remembered fondly by both staff and students, and a garden will be created as a tribute to her commitment to the college.

The International House Council will move to a new phase with the retirement of the current Chair of Council, Emeritus Professor Frank Larkins AM. We thank him for his dedication, guidance and ongoing support. Read further for a wonderful article from a current student summarising some of his contributions to the House over many years. In 2016 we will welcome Mrs Vi Peterson as the new Chair of Council and we look forward to her leadership.

In particular, I would like to thank all those who have given philanthropic support to International House this year. Your support allowed me to enter a House with a sound financial future and a scholarship program for students with financial need. We would like to see more of the community giving in the future as every donation makes a significant difference for a student and their future. Our ideal aim is to build our scholarship funds so that International House can be accessed by more students, whatever their financial situation.

Finally, warmest thanks to the whole International House community for your welcome and for a great year in 2015.
The end of an era:
Farewell to Chair of Council, Professor Emeritus Frank Larkins AM

Once a IHer, always an IHer. That can truly be said about Professor Emeritus Frank Larkins AM, who will be retiring from his position as Chair of the International House Council at the end of this year. Monique Edwards, an International House student and Communications Officer, sat down with Frank to learn more about his ‘IH experience’.

Frank, who had always been interested in international affairs, came to International House in 1962 to work as a chemistry tutor. Frank speaks about his time as a tutor with great affection, saying “it was an exciting time in many ways.”

In those days International House was a small community of 50 male students. It was a time where House traditions where forming, many of which continue to this day. At high tables the Warden Sam Dimmick would say the House grace and follow with, “Gentlemen, toast to the Queen. You may now smoke.” Needless to say, the grace continues to this day but smoking at dinner was stopped many years ago!

The International House community at the time was tremendously excited about the opportunity to be in such a diverse space. Not only was it a place to live, but it was also a place to make Australians aware of the wider world. When asked about what the energy in the House was like back then, Frank said, “Students were fired up about international affairs and it was infectious. They were idealistic, and all shared the vision of wanting to change the world in their own way. International House turned students into people with a genuine conscience to be good global citizens.” This it still aims to do today.

Turning to cross-cultural learning, Frank spoke about how the tutors and students felt they were celebrating and raising awareness of ethnic diversity. Many of the residents of the House were Colombo Plan students and the way they were received by Australians varied. For many, “Seeing someone whose skin wasn’t white was not only interesting, but somewhat confronting.”

"Even when I was a student at school, I had never shaken the hand of someone whose skin wasn’t the same colour as mine.”

As International House was the first of its kind in Australia, many important people came to visit. “In the early days influential people were queuing up to come to visit. A week didn’t go by without a distinguished person coming for dinner.” This included Lee Kuan Yew, the first Prime Minister of Singapore, Malcolm Fraser AC, the 22nd Prime Minister of Australia, and even Sir Henry Bolte GCMG while he was Premier of Victoria. The guests wanted to learn about International House and would spend time socialising with students and tutors.

Frank never let go of his love for International House. He remained a tutor at the House for four and half years, and after being awarded the Rhodes scholarship for Victoria in 1966, he relocated to Oxford University to complete a Diploma of Advanced Mathematics and a Doctor of Philosophy. He spent time in America before returning to Australia to take up a position at Monash University. In 1976 he became a member of the International House Council for the first time. In 1983, Frank went to Tasmania before returning to Melbourne in 1990 and taking on the role of Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) at the University of Melbourne. Part of this role...
entailed being the Vice Chancellor’s nominee to sit on the International House Council. Frank’s second time on the Council has lasted since 1991, and he later succeeded Peter Bobeff in 2009 as Chairman.

Frank’s connection with International House began over 50 years ago, and his contribution to the House during this time has been significant. In 2016, he will hand over the reins as Chair of Council to Ms Vi Peterson, who will no doubt make a strong and ever-lasting contribution to the strategic direction of International House.

Reflecting on his time at International House over the years, Frank said, “I have detected a genuine delight [from students] of being a part of the International House community, of being thrilled to have made the decision to come here. Students have always been united in the vision of making the world a better place.”

On behalf of the students, staff, alumni and friends of International House, I would like to thank Frank for his incredible commitment to our College. His linkage with International House will continue because after all, as Frank puts it, “International House is a life time sentence,” and a life changing experience that he will celebrate for the rest of his life.

By Monique Edwards
Monique is an International House resident and a recipient of the Dawn Wade Scholarship 2013 – 2015. Originally from the town of Henty in regional Victoria, Monique will complete her Bachelor of Commerce (The University of Melbourne) at the end of this year before commencing a graduate program with the National Australia Bank in 2016.
For nearly three years now, International House has been the centrepiece of my University experience – a place where friends, learning and a sense of home all come together into one. During my time as Student Club President, I have become incredibly infatuated with the history of International House - and what a great story it is.

International House offered a safe and caring environment, and a place of mutual respect. To me, the most important value that International House has always supported is to understand, appreciate and respect the principles, cultures and differences of others. We value diversity and are accepting of every person regardless of their beliefs or where they come from.

I am fascinated by the forward thinking of this institution and also the culture that they were hoping to create, and how that culture is still going strong today. International House’s establishment was ahead of its time, and many leaders recognised the value and importance of institutions like ours very early on. From Malcolm Fraser to Singapore’s first Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, and Sir Robert Menzies to India’s first female Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, these guests of the House in the early decades show how much support International House garnered from influential leaders all around the world.

International House is a multicultural melting pot, a community and, for me, a blessing. It is a place that has significantly altered my life and who I am. It is a place that I will forever be linked to, and have a deep emotional connection for. I have learned so much from my time here. I have met incredible people from all over the world, made many good friends, and have countless amazing memories that I will never forget.

I will always be proud of the fact that I’m an ‘IHer.’ Amongst other colleges and the wider community, we are renowned as being incredibly friendly and welcoming to all walks of life. This is a virtue that I will strive to carry with me for the rest of my life.

International House has created a place where everyone can come and be who they are, and do what they want to do in order to attain the future they want.

I love International House and I love the vision that it stands for. The history, the values and the amazing opportunities it offers are truly unique, and invaluable in this modern globalised world we live in.

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Brett Stone is from Shepparton in regional Victoria, and was the Student Club President at International House from 2014 – 2015. He is a recipient of the Dawn Wade Scholarship. Brett will graduate from a Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Melbourne at the end of 2015 and aims to pursue a career in China-Australia relations.
Culture is a powerful concept; it has the ability to create emotion, belonging, tradition, and festivals. This year, the 2015 Café International explored ‘Festivals of the World,’ where people are drawn together for celebrations across the globe. Local and overseas students took this opportunity to show us their own adventures, and we combined them into a night of epic entertainment and excitement. It was a festival of our own.

Vibrant paper balloons hung from the ceiling and cast shadows across the hall, representing the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta of New Mexico. The sounds of “Salut d’Amour” played, with the soft and beautiful notes of the violin and piano. Festivals from around the world came to life through entertainment, rhythm, cuisine and atmosphere.

Hula dancers mesmerised the audience and “Come What May” (Moulin Rouge: Film De Cannes, France) touched our hearts as two students performed the love melody so emotionally. Connor Ross performed one of his own songs “The Chain,” giving everyone a brilliant taste of Australian Blues and Folk.

To display the talent at International House is one adventure; however, Café International is also a fundraiser. Throughout the evening, a silent auction was held with items donated by businesses, alumni, students, friends and family. Fifty per cent of the money raised will be donated to the World Wildlife Fund, and the remaining funds will be spent on equipment and materials to develop the music and arts program at International House.

With so many people involved in Café International, it is one of the largest events held each year in our very own Dimmick Dining Hall. It’s run by a committee who are dedicated to their work, ready for a challenge and who are excited to be a part of such a great experience. This is what makes the event so much fun to be involved in.

Alumni, parents, friends and Rotary have offered their continuous support to International House over the years, and for this we are ever grateful. We hope all our guests enjoyed the evening, and left with a wonderful appreciation of the diverse range of festivals around the world, and the cultures represented here at International House. We can’t wait for the adventure of Café International next year. See you then!

Date claimer: the 2016 Café International will be held on Saturday 7 May. Tickets will go on sale in early 2016. Register your interest by emailing ih-alumni@unimelb.edu.au.
China – the constrained superpower

Abridged transcript of the International House Council Oration

Presented at International House in Melbourne on Tuesday 23 June 2015 by Dr Geoff Raby, and recorded live by ABC Radio National.


Dr Geoff Raby is an Australian economist and diplomat. He served as the Australian Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China from February 2007 until August 2011. He is now the Chairman and CEO of Geoff Raby and Associates, a Beijing-based business advisory firm.

The rise of China as an emergent power understandably can look threatening. Strategic analysts often project their historic readings into the present. One very strong thesis I call the “Rising Power Equals Conflict” thesis, assumes the past will repeat itself as China rises and seeks strategic space and others, particularly the United States, will have to accommodate that strategic space.

Obviously there have been a lot of analogies drawn between China’s rise and the rise of Germany in the 20th century. Certainly in recent times, we’ve seen China starting to throw its weight around, particularly in the South China Sea in the islands dispute with Japan. This action was surprising and provocative and has been taken by strategic analysts and popular media as evidence of the “Rising Power Equals Conflict” thesis. We really don’t know where this might end, although when reviewing it in a positive light it can be seen as more reassuring than the conflict thesis. On the other hand, it’s certainly not wise to base strategic policy on assertions, assumptions or beliefs about China’s intentions.

In geopolitical strategic terms, the world from Beijing, not from Canberra or Washington, has seen enormous growth in economic weight and a huge advance in military power in terms of hardware and equipment. Whether China would have the software and the systems to manage a major conflict is debatable, but their spending on military modernisation has been greater than GDP.

It does look like there is a growing issue; a big country, big militarisation, rapid growth and therefore destabilisation, but what I’d suggest is that China’s capacity to act and to exert force, to project military power is heavily constrained by its history, by its geography and by its resources; and why I think China is a constrained super power.

First of all China is still an empire. It still has within its borders significant unresolved territorial issues. Xinjiang, Tibet, Taiwan and what is perhaps surprising, possibly Hong Kong. These issues imply the greatest impact towards the leadership in Beijing and not surprisingly, demand the greatest resources devoted to security.

China is still trapped and constrained by its history and geography. China has 14 countries on its borders with 22 000km of land requiring defence. To make matters worse, China at different times has been in conflict with most of the countries it boarders. It fought a war against Vietnam which it instigated in 1979 and was defeated, it has had ongoing military skirmishes with India, but the big one, of course, is Russia and don’t be misled by the happy snaps of Putin and Xi Jinping together at different international meetings. Behind that is deep mutual suspicion and fear.

The Russians fear a billion-plus people who seem to consume resources like there’s no tomorrow looking over the border at vast underpopulated areas in Siberia, rich with resources. And China recognises that Russia historically and even today, as we’ve seen with the Crimea and Ukraine, seeks to achieve its security through occupying territory. So China has a very deep suspicion of Russia and it’s reciprocated by Russia towards China.

The major security challenge for China is also how to police 22 000km of border and how to manage 14 complex relationships, with only one (Pakistan) looking anything like a relationship based on trust. Additionally, China’s existential anxiety is the collapse or implosion of the North Korean state of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK). China wants nothing more than the status quo to continue indefinitely but they also know that it can’t continue with the policies and the behaviours of the regime. A collapse of the DPRK means two things; a US ally creating a military ally on China’s borders; secondly many of the troops, in excess of a million are Korean ethnic Chinese. Many provinces in China continue this trend. Shenyang for example is one of the few cities in the world that doesn’t have a Chinese restaurant downtown but has a Korean town in the downtown area.

Thirdly, fourthly rather, there’s Japan and the historical issues both unresolved and unresolvable. The tensions will wax and wane as both sides, Japan and China, use nationalism for domestic purposes and beat up the nationalist drum. This is an enduring and ongoing source of tension and problems.

Additionally, China’s behaviour towards South East Asia is continually difficult to explain. Their broad strategic objective with South East Asia is basically to balance US power in that part of the world. It doesn’t seek to remove the US from South East Asia, from East Asia rather,
because the US presence there actually serves China’s interests. It helps manage the Japanese issue. It also helps on the Korean peninsula and certainly a US presence prevents a nuclear arms race between China, Japan and South Korea. So what China is trying to do is to balance rather than remove US power from the region. China’s assertiveness and actions over the Spratly Islands have largely undermined many of the big gains that China made in its foreign policy up until 2007 or 2008 when it started to adopt a more muscular approach to this issue. So as China tries to assert itself in that region, it actually encourages and drives those countries towards the United States and provides a basis for the United States to enhance its presence, therefore undermining China’s longer term objective of balancing US power.

One of the most important constraints is the fact that China has now become utterly dependent on world markets for all their resources, energy and increasingly the food it needs for its own survival. Historically China has been a very rich country. It’s got a fantastic natural resource base. Iron ore for example - China still supplies over 40% of its iron ore requirements. It’s got the biggest coal reserves in the world, and it’s been able to feed huge populations for centuries. It is a very productive and a very well-endowed resource country. China has a huge population, and economically they were doing well when the majority of the population were really poor, but now a lot of them are becoming quite rich and so the demand for resources has increased enormously.

From the mid 1990’s, China has been through a series of tipping points where it went from being largely self-sufficient as a resource or energy source, to becoming a significant importer, to becoming a major net importer and in many cases the biggest importer in the world. Up until 1995, China was largely self-sufficient in crude oil. It was importing its net imports rise. By 2000 it was a major importer and with increased growth, China today is the world’s single largest importer of crude oil. And you can trace this pattern in nearly every commodity group. China has become a huge vacuum cleaner, sucking up these resources from around the world for its own economic development.

Interestingly enough there’s an anecdote. I first went to China in May of 1985 when the Japanese had started to build infrastructure in China. The first electrified line in all of China’s history was built by the Japanese to ship coal to the port of Qinhuangdao. The Japanese had started to build infrastructure in the middle of Beijing woke up in the middle of the night screaming at the ceiling saying, “Chairman Mao what have we done? We have made ourselves utterly dependent on these foreigners. It’s not in the plan!” This was a consequence of unexpected success and the massive growth that occurred throughout the 2000s. Compare this to the rise of the US after the civil war. The United States as it rose to world power and dominance; it had no unsettled issues inside its borders. It had no hostile borders and within its borders it had every single thing it needed for its economic growth way into the 20th century, other than three people. America sucked people out of Europe in huge numbers who had, by the way, already been educated and trained at the expense of European taxpayers. The conditions of the United States’ rise to a great power status could not be any more different than those which face China today.

Now there’s a very big strategic implication behind all of this for China and its resource dependency, and that is currently that China is utterly dependent on the Straits of Malacca. Nearly all of these resources that China needs pass through the Straits of Malacca. It is the major strategic vulnerability that China faces and the Chinese leadership and military planners know that they are twenty, thirty maybe more years away before they could challenge the United States in that area. So they don’t actually have a military option by which to achieve their security. Enter the new Silk Road Policies, which are trying to and intending to give China strategic options and doing so by opening up transport routes for the first time directly into the Indian Ocean. They have completed the twin pipelines from Kunning to Burma, allowing for Iranian crude oil to go straight to China for the first time ever.

China built a major port in its friendly neighbour, Pakistan, on the Indian Ocean. Many strategic people worry that this is part of an attempt by China to project military power in the Indian Ocean. There could be truth in this theory, although its main purpose is to deliver a port to service Xinjiang and the western parts of China. China plans to rebuild the road up through the northern areas of Pakistan and into Xinjiang. The truck traffic is just astronomical.

When I first went to Chongqing as Ambassador it was 2007 and the mayor of Chongqing, Mayor Huang, was explaining to me how they are building a railway from Chongqing to Dortmund in Germany. And I knew where Chongqing was, but I didn’t know where Dortmund was. Chongqing is approximately 2000km from Shanghai, so all the goods from Chongqing (a major manufacturing centre with a population of about 30 million people) have to go down the Yangtzi and then be transferred onto bigger ships to go all the way to Europe or Germany, taking 36 days. He was talking about doing it by train in eight days and I thought, “yeah, yeah, yeah, I hear this all the time.” Well the railway has been in operation for nearly two years and it’s so successful that every city (and this is another fact of life in China) wants to get in on the game – to get a railway to somewhere in Europe. There’s one, I think, from Wuhan to Madrid. There’s one from somewhere else through to Gdansk. This is another alternative to the Straits of Malacca and now we’ve got major gas pipelines from central Asia, soon from Russia.

China will spend whatever it needs to give itself strategic options, and that is a major way it is seeking its security, where it feels utterly dependent on the rest of the world. It’s also trying to achieve its security in addition to the Silk Road concept, by building regional institutions and by launching the Asia Infrastructure Bank. We can expect there is going to be many more of these initiatives by China. Already there is a Shanghai corporation organisation, and the bank operated by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS). But really, proposing and now establishing the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank is going beyond anything they have done before.

It’s unbelievable that Australia, to my mind, or the Australian Government, was so off-balance over this. They found it so difficult to get a position on this initiative, and unfortunately, we lost the early mover advantage had we gone in at the beginning. As the first major developed country to embrace this and jump up we could have named our price in terms of senior positions, organisations and so on. So we have to learn to live with China, that is constrained in its capacity to project force. This is a good thing, and I hope you go home tonight and sleep a little easier after this.

China will understandably and inevitably look for ways to achieve and realise its security, particularly in its region, and remove its strategic dependency or at least mitigate or reduce it. It will never go entirely on the Straits of Malacca, but it will also engage in regional institution building and these will change the world in many ways. The change of trade routes, such as the opening of the sewers canal 200 years after Vasco da Gama’s travels, brings with them major changes in geopolitical balance. This is the world we are living in now - a world of change and flux. I don’t think it’s a dangerous world. It’s a world where there are lots of risks, but that’s always been the case. The regional geopolitical order is being remade as we sit here this evening. So for Australia, I think our best response in all of this is to recognise the inevitability and reality of it. We must be supportive of China’s efforts to find security in the region and in doing so seek to influence the outcomes in ways which reflect our interests as well. Thank you very much.
I do not remember the subject of the first conversation I had with Laurel, but what has remained with me was her overwhelming passion for the students of International House, and spreading her love of books with all of us.

Laurel was born in 1947 in Donald, Victoria, attending the local primary school and high school, and obtaining her HSC (VCE) at Bendigo High School in 1964. She started an Arts degree at Monash University, but deferred for a Diploma of Librarianship at RMIT. Her first job as a qualified librarian was at Melbourne Boys High School and Mac.Robertson Girls High School.

In 1969, Laurel married Malcolm Clark, then a tutor in the statistics department at the University of Melbourne. From 1970 they lived in Sheffield for three years, where Malcolm completed his PhD in mathematical statistics and Laurel worked at Sheffield University Library.

In 1969, Laurel married Malcolm Clark, then a tutor in the statistics department at the University of Melbourne. From 1970 they lived in Sheffield for three years, where Malcolm completed his PhD in mathematical statistics and Laurel worked at Sheffield University Library.

When they returned to Australia in 1974, Malcolm became a senior lecturer in Monash University’s Department of Mathematics, and for most of the following twenty years, Laurel worked as a reference librarian at Monash University and at the University of Melbourne in the Baillieu Library.

In 1997 Laurel completed her Master of Arts at Monash University, specialising in the bibliographical and book trade history. She was always a ‘book person’, with several hundred books at home. She published several articles and small books on the history of small bookshops in Melbourne and Geelong. She also became an authority on the works and life of F. F. Bailliere, a 19th Century Australian publisher, and in 2004, she wrote a 130-page book about him.

In 1992, Laurel became the librarian at International House. In one of our first conversations, Laurel shared with me that as soon as she saw the stained glass in the Hilda Stevenson building, where the library used to be located, she knew that this was the job for her.

Most IHers would have known Laurel through her displays in the foyer of snippets of International House’s history, or had the pleasure of requesting a book – no topic too big, or too small! Laurel loved working at and for IH.

Almost every evening at home she would be sending emails to the students and chasing up orders for books. She had a talent for digging-out information from unexpected sources and over her career as a reference librarian in tertiary institutions, she would have helped hundreds of students.

One of Laurel’s most fundamental contributions to the International House community was her assistance to Professor Ross Humphries in his book, “Of Many Nations: A History of International House, the University of Melbourne”, published in 2004. Without Laurel, International House’s history would have not been as celebrated as it is. Her immense love for the community was contagious, and Laurel’s investment in her work cannot be understated.

Sadly Laurel died in a car accident near Queenscliff on the 12th of January 2015 whilst on summer holidays. She is survived by Malcolm, their children Fiona and Alistair, and grandson Jamie.

She loved the garden at IH: she loved looking out from the library to the garden, an oasis from the bustle of the city. She is to be commemorated by a small garden that will be known as the Laurel Clark Garden (see insert for more details).

Whether we only managed to have one conversation with Laurel, or saw her eating lunch in the Dining Hall, her time working at International House affects us all. Without Laurel, students would have not had great assistance finding sources for their University work, a collection of history for all IHers past and present to enjoy, or a very welcoming smile when we entered the library. Not to be forgotten, of course, was Laurel’s amazing shoe collection!

Laurel’s memory will always live on at International House through her contributions to the library, our archival history, and to each student who benefitted from her immense knowledge of and enthusiasm for our community.
International House runs tutorials for first and some second year university subjects on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights. These tutorials offer supplementary learning and are compulsory for first year students.
REDEVELOPING THE LIBRARY

The Angus Mitchell Library is at the heart of learning at International House, providing an exceptional resource and a collaborative facility that is well-used by undergraduate and graduate students alike. But as the concept of learning changes, and student numbers increase, the House is ready to rethink the library – in particular its size, function and ethos.

International House has a proud history of empowering the young leaders of tomorrow, and anyone who has had the opportunity to live at the House will appreciate the unique environment that we have. Since we were established our focus has been on developing global awareness and intercultural communication skills in our residents – whether these are needed when working for a global investment bank, an NGO, a hospital in multicultural Melbourne, or perhaps designing and building a bridge in Thailand or the Congo. But just as important are our learning spaces and facilities.

The intake of 55 graduate students this year increased student numbers, and placed International House as the second largest residential college at the University of Melbourne. While this is a tremendous feat, it also puts things in perspective. Nearly 60 years ago we were starting out as a community with just 42 young men, and the library consisted of only a few bookshelves. Now our community is almost 350 strong, and contemporary learning has changed – dramatically.

Of crucial importance to students today is uninhibited access to Wi-Fi, digital resources, multimedia technologies, textbooks, reference materials, recreational reading, and most importantly – ample space for collaborative and individual learning. Our students are working on tablet and smart devices, participating in cross-faculty collaboration, forming alliances for entrepreneurial endeavours and engaging with content in radical new ways. Given the change we are now seeing in education, the communal spaces at the House are under review with plans to extend the Angus Mitchell Library underneath the Founders Building and redevelop its function to embody these ideologies.

As you can understand, this redevelopment exposes considerable resource constraints. Importantly, and quite optimistically, we have always had strong support from our community. Over the years, the House has been fortunate enough to receive donated books and funds from many groups, including The Rotary Club of Balwyn, to help build the Angus Mitchell Library. Now it has a collection of over 6000 resources, most with a focus on Asian and South-East Asian material.

We would like that support to continue and strengthen, allowing us to respond to changing educational demands of students for today and tomorrow. As we embark towards this new vision for our library, the House has removed a wall to allow for an expansion of the library into the computer room. This area is now a multipurpose space which provides some temporary relief for students, allowing use of the computers, wireless internet and printers.

A complete overhaul of the library is tipped to dramatically reshape and inject new purpose into learning at International House. It will provide much-needed space for students to study and collaborate on new ideas, and quality infrastructure for the future.

International House is a self-funded, non-profit organisation that was founded through the efforts of philanthropists and volunteers. Over the years we have continued to rely on the generosity of our benefactors to provide funds and in-kind support for existing and new projects. If you are interested in supporting this exciting new development, you can learn more by visiting www.ihouse.unimelb.edu.au.
The Angus Mitchell Library is at the heart of learning at International House, providing an exceptional resource and facilities. As student numbers increase, the House is ready to rethink the library – in particular its size, function and ethos. A complete overhaul of the library is tipped to dramatically reshape and inject new purpose.

Dr Richard Ng
Professor Emeritus Robert Officer AM & Ms Merryl Officer
Mr Robert Oke
Mr Andrew Oppenheim
Mrs Lyndal Pascoe
Ms Vi Peterson
Dr Anne Peterson
Mr Tony & Ms Kathy Puah
Mr Quah Sek Cheng
Dr Deborah Seifert
Dr Richard Shiell
Mr Toshihiko Shirabe
Mr Gordon Spence
Mr Asgari Stephens
Associate Professor Don Stewart
Dr Roger Thiessen
Dr Barrie Thistlethwayte
Mr Peter Torokfalvy
Mr Charles Tseng
Dr Nicholas Uren
Dr Gordon Walker
Ms Pera Wells
Dr Philip Wong
Dr Yen Yap

Organisations

The Antipodean Family Foundation
Cater Care Australia
The Invergowie Foundation
McCracken & MacCracken
Rotary Club of Melbourne
Rotary International
Rotary Inter Southern Districts
Shine on Awards Committee
Sunshine Foundation
V N Sanders Charity Trust

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THE LAUREL CLARK GARDEN
HELP US BUILD A PLACE OF REMEMBRANCE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

International House is developing a garden to pay tribute to those we have lost together as a community. The garden is currently under construction and will be a quiet area for students and staff to use for personal reflection.

The garden will be located outside Greycourt Building near the Deputy Head's apartment, and will be named the Laurel Clark Garden after our former Librarian. Laurel dedicated 22 years of service to International House before being tragically taken in a car accident in January this year.

The International House community will be able to use this quiet place to remember those who have passed, and to take time out to enjoy the garden.

To make a contribution to the Laurel Clark Garden, visit www.ihouse.unimelb.edu.au or contact Tamra Keating by emailing ih-alumni@unimelb.edu.au.
Michael Kerrison

Recipient of the 2015 Dawn Wade Scholarship

“A LITTLE GIFT CAN MAKE A VERY BIG DIFFERENCE

“Being granted a scholarship to live at International House took a lot of the stress out of making a very stressful, life-changing decision. As a regional student, the options are either attending one of a couple of regional universities or moving to the city.”

“But moving to Melbourne would have put my parents under an awful lot of financial pressure. When I found out that my scholarship application had been successful it was an unbelievable relief for me, as it meant that I could go to one of the best universities in the country without burdening my family financially.

“I am honestly surprised that I’ve already subconsciously started to refer to International House as home. I suppose I had expected it to be more like a boarding school, but college life has really pulled me in – between making new friends, eating with 250 other people every day, a bit of floor camaraderie, and participating in college and inter-collegiate activities, I’ve been absolutely immersed. I haven’t had one defining moment where I’ve thought, “I’m an IH-er”; I’ve just gradually become one, and I have no idea when it happened!

“There is really nowhere that compares to Melbourne and the University – the sheer wealth of opportunity is staggering. There are too many subjects I’d like to take, and it seems like every day there are a dozen things I want to do, or lectures I want to hear, or people I want to meet. Although I’m only half way through my first semester of my first year, I already feel like I’ve made the right decision.”

Michael Kerrison is from Traralgon, Victoria and is a recipient of the 2015 Dawn Wade Scholarship at International House. He is studying a Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Melbourne, majoring in Economics.

Visit www.ihouse.unimelb.edu.au to find out how you can support a student experiencing financial need to live at International House.
From the tutors

By Greg Roebuck, Dimmick Tutor

In addition to 280 undergraduate students and 55 graduate students, we also have 16 residential tutors living at International House this year. The presence of so many residential tutors in the House, and their involvement in college life, is one of the great strengths of International House, I think. I am constantly amazed by the talent and diversity of interests in the tutor group at International House. This year alone, we have a lawyer working at the Fair Work Commission, two mathematicians, two postgraduate medical students, a qualified doctor with many years of clinical experience, a postgraduate psychology student, an academic with a PhD in history, an anthropology PhD student, a zoologist, a musician studying at the Australian National Academy of Music and several professionals working in the accounting and finance sectors.

In semester one of this year, we held 74 weekly tutorials and seven regular consultations between tutors and students. This undoubtedly helped the students to achieve some very fine university results. In all, 55.5% of students at International House achieved at least one First Class Honours (‘H1’ or 80% and above) grade and 28.3% of all of the grades received by students were H1s. Tutorials not only help students to achieve good marks but also provide them with the opportunity to meet other International House students who are studying the same subjects and to debrief with these students about their experiences. The solidarity and camaraderie that college tutorials create among students is a really wonderful aspect of college life.

One part of the job that tutors enjoy very much is the opportunity to get involved in college life. The Student Club this year, led by Brett Stone and Evie Dowling, did a wonderful job of organising events that brought IHers together and allowed them to develop and display their talents. In semester one, tutors had a great time at various O-week events, Spanish National Night, Café International and Rowing Day. The inclusive “from each to his abilities” spirit in which these events are conducted I think typifies the friendly and welcoming culture that we are so lucky to have at International House. One duty that fell to me, and which was something that I have to say I never thought I would be called upon to do, was judging the male beauty contest held at the House, “Mr IH” (deservedly won by Mr IH 2015, Jun Kit Wong). In second semester, we were treated to Fame, the International House musical, Japanese National Night and the footy grand final, but unfortunately the students were not strong enough to claim the coveted “threepeat” (or third premiership in a row).

As the year rapidly draws to a close, I would like to thank all of the tutors for their hard work and contributions to the House. Special mention is reserved for Taraneh Arianfar and her husband Omid, who welcomed their beautiful son Soren into the world earlier this year, and Daniel Byamukama, who celebrated his marriage to the lovely Fari in July.

May 2016 be every bit as good as 2015!

Greg Roebuck is from Geelong, Victoria and tutors in Law at International House. He is studying a Doctor of Medicine at the University of Melbourne.
George Lyndon Hicks

Retired economist, book collector and author George Lyndon Hicks has made an incredible contribution to International House by supporting a new residential facility for graduate students. But few people know of George Hicks, and that he was a former resident of the House in the early days.

George Lyndon Hicks was born in 1936 to prominent Victorian businessman George Franklyn Hicks, who founded the successful industrial chemicals company Applied Chemicals. He was the oldest of four children, and lived at International House from 1958 – 1959, during the same period as Dr Rajaratnam Sundarason, a founding member of International House.

During his time in residence at International House, George had a strong affinity with the values of the House. In an article he wrote for the first edition (1959) of “Satadal”, George championed the cause for Asian immigration and condemned the White Australia policy.

George wrote, “Despite the friendship we show and the efforts towards a better understanding, White Australia poisons the atmosphere, raises the spectre of the colour bar and the suspicion that we do not respect Asians as equals. As an immature gesture of nationalism, it is both out of date and out of line with the more liberal sentiments of the nation.”

As he pursued his career, George worked up an impressive reputation as an economist, businessman, book collector and writer. His area of specialisation was Southeast Asian and Asian politics, economics and history; and he has since authored and edited over 17 books and lived in various parts of Asia for more than half a century.

George’s connections with Asia began in the late 1950s, first through involvement with the overseas student movement and subsequently as an economist travelling north to conduct research on the nationalisation of Dutch enterprises in Sukarno’s Indonesia.

During this period, George purchased a wide range of rare Dutch works about Asia and the 19th century economic history of Indonesia, that were later presented as a gift to the Indonesian Academy of Sciences (LIPI). George was living in Indonesia during the tumultuous years of 1963-65, but following the attempted coup in 1965, he left to return to Australia to continue his work.

In the late 1960s, George moved to the Philippines to pursue further studies on the background of Southeast Asian economic development. On the basis of this research, he published “Trade and Growth in the Philippines: An Open Dual Economy” (Cornell University Press, 1971). The studies, reports and monographs he accumulated during his stay in the Philippine Islands were added to his growing library.

George moved to Japan in the 1970s to pursue economic research and conducted a study of the Korean minority in Japan, which was subsequently published as “Japan’s Hidden Apartheid: The Korean Minority and the Japanese” (Ashgate, 1997). During this period, he also accumulated a wide range of books about Japan and Korea’s economic and cultural history.

The two decades which the Hicks family spent in Hong Kong during the 1970s and the 1980s saw Mr Hicks’ business interests, as well as his scholarly interests and library, expand greatly. He acquired many China-related books during this period.

After settling in Singapore in the 1990s, George continued to travel (and purchase books) widely throughout Asia, and began to increasingly concern himself with Japanese denial – described as either amnesia or concealment – of World War II atrocities. He subsequently spent five years researching and writing his famous study “The Comfort Women: Sex Slaves of the Japanese Imperial Forces” (Singapore: Heinemann Asia, 1995). This work has been translated into Chinese, Japanese, Korean and French.

Over the last number of years, Mr Hicks has maintained a strong linkage with International House and the University of Melbourne, attending numerous Alumni events including the International House 1957 – 1963 reunion in 2013. In 2014, he made a significant donation to the new graduate building at International House, which he named in honour of his father, George Franklyn Hicks.
George Hicks Building opening

Wednesday 18 May 2015

Professor Emeritus Frank Larkins AM, Mrs Julia Hicks, Mr George Hicks, the Honourable Alex Chernov AC, QC, Mrs Elizabeth Chernov and Professor Glyn Davis

Mrs Megan Morgan, Ms Natcha Limpianunchai, Ms Monique Edwards, Ms Lynne Zichy-Woinarski and Professor Emeritus Peter Matthews

Former Head of College Associate Professor Jane Munro AM and Mr George Hicks

Former Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Alex Chernov AC, QC addresses guests
Alexandra (Alex) Rushan lived at International House in 2012 after moving from Bendigo to Melbourne to pursue International Development studies at the Australian Catholic University. During her time at the House and after leaving, Alex became involved in a variety of social causes and began a movement called One Road Home, which focuses on alleviating the struggle for homeless people.

Many things led to the creation of One Road Home. As part of her International Development course, Alex undertook a fieldwork placement working with local NGOs in East Timor in 2014. Describing it she says, “I came home and I felt so lost but so passionate at the same time. I didn’t know what my purpose was in Melbourne, but I began to realise that we have an entire community living in our backyard that need our support and I don’t need to work internationally in order to make a difference – I can start here.”

Everything just snowballed from there. She wanted to find a way to raise money and began creating hand-made crystal jewellery to sell, using Instagram as the major platform for promotion and awareness. She then used the money to put together packs of food to give out to people on the streets. For about ten months, Alex hit the streets every week to hand out food. She worked with her boyfriend Rinaldy Oosterman, also a former International House resident (2010 - 2012). It was a really personal process, she said. “I wanted to create an environment where people could really open up. It’s been over a year now and I have made some amazing friendships with people experiencing homelessness.”

Things began to change as she learnt more about the conditions on the streets and made connections with members of the homeless community. “Food is actually very accessible for the homeless, but there are all these other things that we don’t think about that are vital, like moisturisers and lip-balm to stop their skin and lips cracking from the wind, or sanitary products for women.” One Road Home shifted its focus to hygiene products and started giving out little survival packs.

One Road Home continues to grow and reach people. In its current form, Alex is making a variety of handmade creations that fund a hygiene and sanitation program. In fact, she’s started making leather wrapped crystals, a technique taught to her by a man experiencing homelessness with whom she has formed a long-term friendship.

One Road Home is really built on a genuine connection with the local community, and corporate sponsors and fellow not-for-profits have been quick to join in. Recently they began working in partnership with 300 Blankets – a charity that provides blankets and social support for the homeless in Victoria. Alex took on a role as their Volunteer Manager, and has enabled both blankets and hygiene packs to be distributed together across the city at Soup Vans and during Street Outreach. In an exciting new development, One Road Home was sponsored by Libra Australia to provide much needed female sanitation products for the packs.

Alex recounted one heart-warming story about a friend of hers on the street. He had a large amount of his belongings stolen, a common occurrence for the homeless. She reached out to her followers on Instagram and within 24 hours was able to provide him with everything he needed to survive on the streets – even a fold out camper bed! He’s now moved into housing and Alex recently saw him buying groceries.

“Once he started believing his situation could change, things started happening for him. These moments make me so motivated and hopeful.”

The journey of Alex and One Road Home really shows the power of social media and how community involvement can truly make a difference. “Anyone who thinks that the rise of social media is a bad thing just needs to see how powerful it is when used correctly. People really do want to help but they don’t know how. It all starts when you have someone pointing them in the right direction. That’s what I do.”

Almost 800 people follow the One Road Home movement both in Australia and overseas, and it has impacted positively on the lives of hundreds of people who are experiencing homelessness in Melbourne.

More information about One Road Home is available on Instagram @oneroadhome, or online at www.oneroadhome.com.

Author Bridget Loughhead is a recipient of an International House General Scholarship and a Communication Officer in the IH marketing and development office. She is from Mildura in Victoria, and is in her second year of a Bachelor of Science at the University of Melbourne.

Alumni story: Alex Rushan (2012)
On the shoulders of IH:
The Indefinite Four

Alumni story
By Emma Randles

International House has always been, and probably will always be, a very musical college. Featuring and celebrating music together has been a huge part of the college experience for me, and even last Friday night I was treated to an impromptu sing-along in the Junior Common Room.

However, back in the day International House had its own version of The Beatles. They met at International House in 1966 and formed their group, calling themselves the Indefinite Four because, in a macabre but classically IH way, they didn’t know how long they would be able to stay together.

They released their debut EP record called “Do As They Say” in 1966 under the W&G record label, featuring a song written by Peter Whipple, one of the members, but also the Beatles song “Rain”, an American folk song called “I Know You Rider” and Bob Dylan’s “A Hard Rain’s Gonna Fall.”

The members used their music as some time off from study and used to rehearse at International House. Peter Whipple came from Massachusetts in the USA and came to Australia to do postgraduate work after receiving a Rotary Fellowship.

Han Hoon Tan came from Malaysia to study architecture and gained his Australian citizenship in 1965. He played in a harmonica band in high school but then began playing the guitar.

Barrie Webster was from Kelowna in British Columbia, Canada and had finished his Master of Science at the University of British Columbia before he came to Australia in 1965 to do his PhD in organic chemistry. He played piano since the age of seven, but his main focus was playing the cello.

Enver Bajraszewski came to Australia from Poland and was studying medicine, graduating in 1966. Described in the press as a “most unusual group”, The Indefinite Four represents what International House is all about: Fraternitas. A band made up of people from three different continents meeting up in a fourth would have been a great challenge to understanding how cultures interact at a time when multiculturalism wasn’t even an official Government policy yet.

The Indefinite Four did continue on, releasing a single for Astor Records, “Images of Night”, and becoming grand finalists in the Australian talent show “New Faces” in 1969, with the addition of new member Jim Forsyth replacing Barrie Webster. Jim was replaced by Det Thieme in 1975.

They continued to perform for the next ten years, and during this time they released two more LP albums – “Thoughts Captured” in 1975; and “Second Thoughts” in 1977. Over the span of their career, the Indefinite Four had done over 40 television and radio appearances and released four records, a select number of which are available as collector’s items.

The band split up in 1985, after a 20-year run of making music. According to a comment I found online, they still get together and jam every so often. The Indefinite Four are an inspiration to all of us IHers, not just because they are a symbol of our musical community, but also because of that awesome moustache Han Tan had.


Notes taken from the International House Archives. Photographs were donated by Peter Whipple.

Author Emma Randles will graduate from a Bachelor of Arts majoring in history at the University of Melbourne in 2015. She is a recipient of the International House Lyndal Pascoe Scholarship and is from Perth, Western Australia.
Mentoring: a gratifying experience

Judge Joshua Wilson QC
International House Council Member 2001 - present, former resident 1980 - 1982

International House has always been forward thinking and practical. Historically, its visionary approach to life has set it apart from other colleges. So it came as no surprise that International House would be innovative and forward thinking when it offered one of its law students not only luxurious accommodation in the George Hicks Building but also mentoring. Let me explain.

Jack Cairns is a country lad from a place near to Geelong. He achieved undergraduate success and now lives at International House while studying the Juris Doctor (JD) at the University of Melbourne. As with each of the learned professions, in the law a newcomer needs professional links, contacts, and a leg-up, no matter how academically credentialed the student may be. So when Head of College, Dr Deborah Seifert, told me Jack was studying law and needed a wing to be taken under, I was delighted to agree to act as Jack’s mentor. This is how our arrangement works.

Each Monday Jack presents himself in my chambers at 9 am. He wears a suit as he is likely to meet clients, some of my fellow Silks or junior barristers. Irrespective of what I am doing Jack does it as well. If I am in court, Jack assists in the pre-court preparation and he then accompanies me to court where he observes all that goes on. If I am advising in chambers, he reads all the papers ahead of time and observes the way the conference unfolds. Before the conference Jack and I discuss issues likely to arise especially managing client expectations, addressing difficult points of law or evidence, sensitivities, client vulnerabilities and best-case outcomes. For Jack that opportunity is invaluable and for me I get a different, newer perspective on the case to hand. Time permitting, at lunch I take Jack to the Bar café and restaurant where other barristers meet and interact, reminiscent of a Rumpole setting at Pommeroy’s.

The arrangement works best when the student and mentor connect at both a professional and personal level. Happily, Jack and I do. This arrangement illustrates how committed International House is towards the welfare and betterment of its students.

On Thursday 29 October 2015, Judge Joshua Wilson QC was appointed to the bench for the Federal Circuit Court.

Mr Jack Cairns
International House graduate student

I chose to live at International House this year to meet a diverse range of people from around the world and to participate in the graduate student program in a brand new facility. As I was taking my first classes in my JD course early in the year, I had no idea how much professional development and guidance I would be able to receive from alumni at the House. Having met very few lawyers before, it came as both a welcome surprise and an amazing opportunity to be given the chance to be mentored by an acclaimed Queen’s Counsel such as Josh.

Law school tends to be very much focussed on academic matters, leaving students with little understanding into the way that the profession operates in practice. It has been an immense benefit to get first-hand insights into the way a busy barrister’s practice is conducted. I have been able to read court documents and exchange ideas with Josh, sit in on meetings, and go to court with him. As a result of this arrangement, I feel more confident about joining the profession, more ready for the world that awaits after graduation, and feel that I have a stronger knowledge of how to make use of the rules and principles that I am learning in class.

Josh inspires me by the amount of work he does in giving back to the community. This includes not only undertaking pro-bono work, but also being involved in an array of public interest boards and organisations. Access to justice for the broader community is an important issue and I aspire to have a similar level of commitment to these activities in my own future career. I am also inspired by Josh’s positive attitude towards the benefits of further academic advancement well beyond a basic law degree – right up to PhD level.

All of this has been very valuable as a student, and I would strongly suggest to International House alumni to take any opportunity to mentor a student. Students will be grateful to learn what they can from those with experience, to develop a professional connection, and to have an all-too-brief reprise from the textbooks!

Jack Cairns is the 2015-16 President of the International House Graduate Student Association Inc.

“For Jack that opportunity is invaluable and for me I get a different, newer perspective on the case to hand.”

“All of this has been very valuable as a student, and I would strongly suggest to IH alumni to take any opportunity to mentor a student.”
Mentoring is a rewarding experience for both mentors and mentees on many levels. Giving your time and expertise through the International House Mentoring Program will increase the opportunities for our students, and enable you to feel rewarded by giving back to our community.

To enquire about mentoring opportunities at International House, contact us by emailing ih-alumni@unimelb.edu.au.
Our community

International House weddings


Tree planting ceremony

Celebrating the 90th birthday of Lady Valerie Stephen with a formal tree planting in the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne. Lady Stephen was an ardent supporter and fundraiser for the International House cause in our early years, and her husband Sir Ninian Stephen served on the IH Council for 11 years.

Graduate Student Association

We are pleased to announce that the International House Graduate Student Association (IHGSA) has now been officially incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

This is exciting news for the IHGSA, and represents a new era for our college!

The end of the Self-Help Program

Self-help was always a common talking point amongst the residents at International House. No matter how you felt about the compulsory nine hours of work each semester, it was a core part of our community from the very early days. Gardening, cleaning, scrubbing dishes, and working in the library or the marketing office each semester allowed students to get to know the staff (and each other); and was actually implemented to keep the fees down and encourage a sense of communal respect amongst the residents.

In 2016, the Program will cease to exist and residents will instead be encouraged to use that time towards volunteering initiatives, study or well-needed time out.

What were some of your self-help memories? Let us know ih-alumni@unimelb.edu.au.
News
Dr Joshua Wilson QC (1980 - 1982) was appointed to the bench for the Federal Circuit Court on Thursday 29 October 2015. Congratulations Josh!

Congratulations

We were delighted
to show Edwin (2005 – 2007), Adrian (1996 – 1998) and Stacy (2001) Tan around International House when they were visiting Melbourne from Malaysia earlier this year.

News
Dr Deborah Seifert took a tour of the Cameron Highlands with Professor Dato Khalid Yusoff (1973 – 1976) while she was visiting Malaysia in April this year.

Head of College
Dr Deborah Seifert took a tour of the Cameron Highlands with Professor Dato Khalid Yusoff (1973 – 1976) while she was visiting Malaysia in April this year.

Have your next conference or event at International House!
We have a number of indoor and outdoor spaces and can tailor packages to suit most budgets with full catering if required.

- Business meetings and seminars
- Social events, weddings, anniversaries and birthdays
- Formal dinners
- Cocktail parties
- BBQs
- Casual bed and breakfast accommodation out of term time

Contact our Conference Coordinator for more information:
Mark Gordon
P: +61 3 9345 7576
E: gordon.m@unimelb.edu.au
W: www.ihouse.unimelb.edu.au
See all the photographs from International House reunions and events in 2015 by visiting our Facebook page www.facebook.com/internationalhousemelbourne

1957 – 1965 IH Reunion
Thursday 28 May 2015

1995 IH reunion
Thursday 10 September 2015

2005 IH reunion
Thursday 17 September 2015
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Ms Catherine Fairlie

Librarian
Mrs Caroline Brown (Jan – Jul)
Dr Caitlin Stone (Aug – present)

Gardening
Mr Michael Dale
Mr Alex Krasovskis
Ms Lara Campana

Building and Maintenance
Mr Gary Verona
Mr Steve Verona

Kitchen (Cater Care)
Ms Colette Khan
Ms Vassi Georgakakos

Cleaning (Spree)
Mr Vince de Fazio
Mr Manuel Fredes

Resident Tutors

Mr Greg Roebuck - Dimmick Tutor
Ms Kimberley Oh - Tutorial Coordinator
Ms Taranah Arianfar - Self-Help Coordinator
Ms Upeka Bandaranayake
Dr Daniel Byamukama
Mr Alden Cai
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To RSVP for one or more of these events, email ih-alumni@unimelb.edu.au.