



ROSS HOUSE
ASSOCIATION

In the house

MARCH 2017

2017 RHA COMMITTEE

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Amber Moore
(Appointed Member, Staff
representative)

Michael Griffiths
(Ex-officio, RHA General
Manager)

1987-2017

ROSS HOUSE

30 years

SAVE THE DATE: THURSDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2017

This year, we are celebrating 30 years at Ross House and since then we have been an integral part of the fabric of Melbourne, providing hundreds of small community organisations a place to call home.

We'll be opening up our doors to the public on Thursday 12th October for an exciting Ross House Open Day. Stay tuned for details, but it will sure to be a day to remember!

Building & Maintenance

There's always a lot going on in this big old building of ours, so please make sure you keep an eye out for the building maintenance emails that circulate regularly.

What's happening?

- ⚙ The front stairwell lights have been upgraded which are operated by motion sensor—they will stay on for approximately 30 minutes each period and are expected to achieve great energy savings.
- ⚙ The wiring for new emergency phones is complete - this will help us communicate better in the event of an emergency.
- ⚙ The Level 2 Foyer has been recarpeted and the dint in foyer floor has been rectified
- ⚙ Stage 1 Eastern Façade (Heritage Restoration Project) is now complete.
- ⚙ The Level 1 toilet is almost finished! A grand opening will be announced soon



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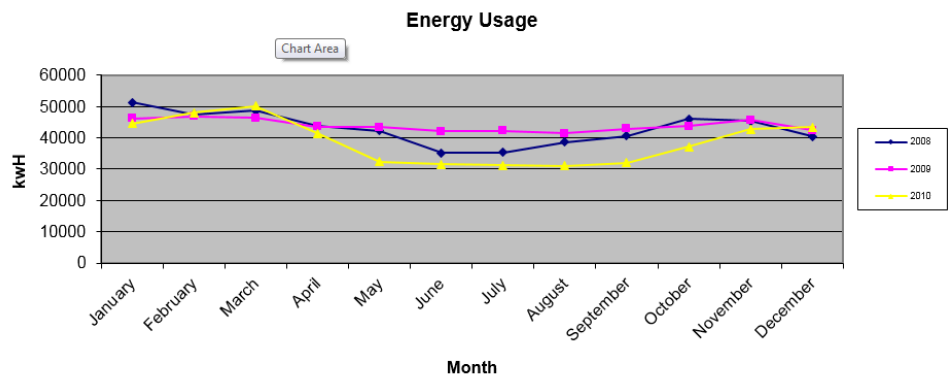
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CITY OF MELBOURNE



Level 1 toilet works in action!

Ross House Association continues to make incredible energy savings as a result of sustainability works to the building, behaviour change and continued commitment from the entire Ross House community. Compared to 2012 the reduction is remarkable!



Welcome to Australia - Call for festival volunteers

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Welcome to Australia is holding a stall at this year's Victoria's Multicultural Festival!

They are partnering with the Islamic Museum of Australia (and Hobspot) and will run interactive activities throughout the day including henna painting, giant Jenga, face painting, Arabic calligraphy, giant Connect Four and more.

Welcome to Australia is currently seeking volunteers to help out on the day, so if you or someone you know is interested in lending a hand, get in touch!

They are also interested to hear from you if your organisation might want to partner with them for a couple of hours on the day to run a fun activity, or if you or someone you know might be interested in doing some henna - it's always so popular.

They are holding a meeting for volunteers from 7-8pm, 8th March in the Level 3 Meeting Room (Jenny Florence) at Ross House. Head along and get involved!

Alternatively, drop by and visit Liz on Level 2 at Ross House or email elizabeth@welcometoaustralia.org.au

Happy birthday Andrew!

Our resident Ross House DJ and Reinforce member, Andrew Daly, turned the delightful age of 60 in January!

The day was celebrated with lovely friends and cake in the Ross House Foyer.

We will look forward to hearing some more of those awesome tunes throughout the year.

#yabbies



Nominations for naming the Ground Floor Meeting Room

In October 2017, Ross House celebrates 30 years!

We're celebrating with an Open Day on Thursday 12th October where we'll unveil the newly named Ground Floor Meeting Room. We're putting it out to the community to come up with the name for the room, so pop your thinking caps on and keep an eye out for the invitation [coming your way soon] asking for your nominations.

Ethical Investing for the over 50's

Melbourne Investment Discussion Group meets monthly to listen and learn more about investing and other issues affecting their financial wellbeing.

At 10am on **Thursday 9th March** in the Hayden Raysmith Room (Ross House) there will be an interesting talk on the subject of **Ethical Investing** from David Patterson, Development Manager at UCA Funds Management, which is a social enterprise of The Uniting Church in Australia, and Australia's first dedicated ethical funds manager.

If you are interested in investing, but don't want to support industries that you consider unethical, then you will find this presentation particularly helpful. A Question and Answer sessions will follow this informative talk, after which morning tea will be available.

Melbourne Investment Discussion Group is an autonomous group within the Melbourne City Branch of National Seniors Australia (RHA Associate Member).

Talks sponsored by the group provide general information only, and do not provide individual advice or recommendations.

Visitors are welcome at all our meetings - for more information, please contact Neville on 9500 1037.



Melbourne Metro Tunnel

On Wednesday 22nd February 2017, Ross House hosted the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority (MMRA) for a member and tenant information session on the Melbourne Metro Rail Project and construction of the nearby CBD South station.

Members and tenants had the opportunity to ask specific questions regarding the potential impacts of the planned works on their organisations as well as hear an overview of the project. The major works that will affect Ross House will be the construction of the CBD South Station, on the site of Port Phillip Arcade, situated between Young and Jacksons and the Nicholas building. Proposed timings of works at this site are detailed below:

Port Phillip Arcade / buildings between Young and Jacksons and Nicholas building

- ⚙ Expected to be acquired for demolition in late 2017
- ⚙ Main contractor will then begin construction of shaft and station entry in early 2018
- ⚙ Flinders Lane will remain open to all traffic throughout construction
- ⚙ Scott Alley will be impacted by construction – program to be confirmed by the main works contractor
- ⚙ Proposed that construction vehicles will travel into the site via Flinders Street
- ⚙ Swanston Street will remain open to all traffic (including pedestrians) throughout construction
- ⚙ Degraes Street will remain open throughout construction

A number of questions asked at the presentation required the MMRA to follow up on. Once these responses become available, we will pass them on to the membership.



A PDF of the MMRA's presentation is available upon request from rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au

Opportunity for Ross House members and tenants to make a submission - Foreign Policy

The Australian Government is developing a foreign policy White Paper to guide our international engagement over the next five to ten years. This will be Australia's first foreign policy White Paper since 2003. The Foreign Policy White Paper Taskforce will accept submissions until 28 February 2017. The call for submissions paper identifies the key issues and questions to stimulate debate and discussion.

Go to: <http://dfat.gov.au/whitepaper/submissions/make-a-submission/index.html>

Futures Forum 2017 - Asking Big Questions

The second Futures Forum for 2017 is being held from 5:30pm until 7:00pm in Cinema 1 at ACMI (Australian Centre for the Moving Image) in Federation Square on Thursday 30th March.

Non-members can book through the website (www.futuresfoundation.org.au/events/) where tickets are normally \$55, but as a special offer for Ross House members, if they enter FORESIGHT in the promotion code box they will be able to attend at the member rate of \$20.

Please note that the forum will be recorded for rebroadcast by Radio National Big Ideas, and hence will commence promptly at 5:30pm.

Professor Rob Sparrow



School of Philosophical,
Historical and
International Studies,
Monash University

30 March in Melbourne

WILL MY ROBOT LOVE ME BACK?

Maybe in the future all of us will own a robot, and it seems we will develop emotional attachments to them. Will they have the capacity for emotional engagement with us?

Professor Rajiv Khosla



Director,
Research Centre for
Computers, Communication
and Social Innovation
Latrobe University

End of Year Celebration - 2016

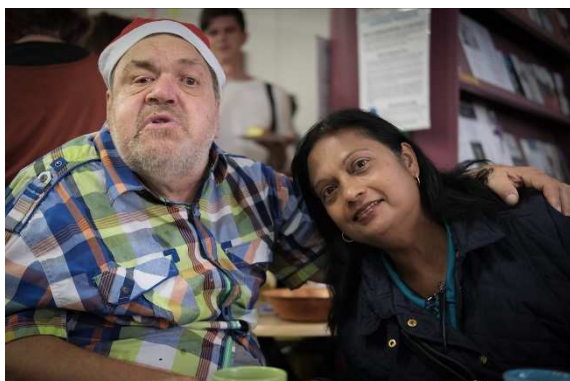
2016 was a big year! By the time the End of Year Celebration came around, it seemed we were all in the mood for a party... and what a party it was. Members and tenants gathered in the foyer late on the afternoon of Thursday 15th December for a tea themed event – as it was International Tea Day.

International Tea Day was established to raise awareness of the injustices suffered by many with regard to the production of tea. Tea originated in China thousands of years ago and today is a global billion dollar industry – the tea trade produces more than 5 million tonnes of tea annually, but farmers and workers at the beginning of the chain don't always get a fair share of the benefits of trade with tea growers and pluckers (workers who pluck the tea leaves) earning a fraction of the price tea fetches on the international market. Not all trade is fair! Such injustices are what drive *Fairtrade* to do what they do; *Fairtrade* advocates for stable prices, decent working conditions and the empowerment of farmers and workers around the world. The *Fairtrade* movement enables consumers to help put these injustices right... visit the *Fairtrade* website for more information @ www.fairtrade.net

A lucky door prize of fair trade products went to Jan Coles from Brain Injury Matters. It was a gorgeous hamper, coveted by all – nice work Jane Coles!

Party goers enjoyed some live jazz played by local band The Boys whilst sipping the Membership & Tenancy Officer's special concoction – the Sam's Adventure Very Special Party Edition Punch. It packed quite a punch, so much so that we ran out!

Thanks to everyone who came along to toast to 2016.



Ross House website update

As you may be aware, we are in the final stages of upgrading the Ross House website and it's very exciting. Admittedly it has taken a little longer than expected, but that is only because it is going to be so fantastic!

The new website will not only look very different to the current one, it will include an online booking system, unlike one we have had before, that will allow you to see what rooms are available in real time, and allow you to make bookings on the spot.

Another main difference with the new website, is that you will now need to have a user account. But don't worry! Because you are a tenant/member, we will set this up for you. Once your account has been created, we will send you an email advising of your user account name and temporary password.

When the new website is up and running, by logging into your account, you will be able to:

- ⚙ See room availability in real time, and make a meeting room booking on the spot
- ⚙ Keep your organisation details up to date, such as administration and billing emails, contact and phone number details, and also the list of people authorised on your key register (if you have one)
- ⚙ Check your current balance and view past invoices

Because you are a tenant/member, billing arrangements will not change and we will still make your priority/bulk room bookings at the end of each year, for the upcoming year, the same as we do every year - never fear!

We'll be running some in-house training sessions for you all very soon. This will ensure that you are up to speed with how to use the new online system. Please keep an eye out for this email, which will be sent out in the next coming weeks. In the mean time, you can email any questions to Amber at amber.moore@rosshouse.org.au or call 9650 1599.



Celebrating 30 years - Join our Facebook group today

As a part of this community, you'll know just what an integral part of the fabric of Melbourne we are. To help get the word out there about this special place, that has provided hundreds of small community organisations' a place to call home, we've created a special Facebook Group that will act as an online community and as a space where we can celebrate all things Ross House! We invite you to join the [30 Years at Ross House Facebook Group](#) – once you've joined you can post your memories of your times at Ross House on our page throughout the year, and share to help spread the word of how wonderful we are!

What to do

- ⚙ Log in to Facebook
- ⚙ [Click here](#) (via email) to join the group (or ask at the Front Desk)
- ⚙ Share, like and upload your memories of our beautiful Ross House community!



Jane Rosengrave receives National Human Rights Award

Jane is a long time Reinforce member and well known around Ross House was awarded the Tony Fitzgerald Memorial Award at the [Australian Human Rights Awards 2016](#).

This is an incredible achievement and attests to Jane's tireless work in promoting the rights of people with intellectual disabilities and her huge contribution to exposing the abuse suffered by people who were incarcerated in state run institutions. Jane is a proud Yorta Yorta woman and self advocate, who grew up in state run institutions from the age of 6 months until she turned 21. Jane gave evidence to the Royal Commission into the Institutional responses to Child Sexual Abuse inquiry about the abuse she suffered as a child living in an institution, she then worked with People with Disabilities Australia and travelled across the country encouraging others to speak up and supporting them to give evidence. She now has a home of her own and is "free as a bird" from those who impacted on her earlier life. Jane is a sought after public speaker, has done numerous TV interviews and made many videos about disability rights. She is a long time member of Reinforce Inc., is on the board of the First Peoples Disability Network and undertakes peer education with SARU.



Congratulations Jane!

You can see an interview here with Jane here: <http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2016/s4584838.htm>

CMVic Music Camp

Community Music Victoria, the state's peak body for community music, is holding its fourth annual music camp in Grantville, Gippsland on March 31st - 2nd April, overlooking Western Port Bay.

Hailed by Music Victoria as one of the [Top Community Music Festivals to attend and join in for 2017!](#)

CMVic Camp is a celebration of community music-making and the weekend will feature fully participatory workshops open to singers and instrumentalists of all levels, from absolute beginners and upwards, and singing and instrumental workshops for kids, too. Stay for the whole weekend or purchase a one-day-wonder ticket and come along either Saturday or Sunday.

Workshops will run for two full days. There are seven indoor venues and plenty of choice for players of all instruments, from brass and strings to accordions and ukuleles and plenty of singing too. There will be more opportunities to play marimbas at this year's camp as they are extremely accessible to anyone playing for the first time; they're played easily in a group, and they're FUN! Last year they went down a storm.

There will also be six separate fully facilitated singing and playing sessions across the weekend for kids of all ages, a Saturday night dance party and a street band-style procession on the Sunday.

"The aim of the camp is to get people of all levels of ability to participate" says Jane Coker, chair of Community Music Victoria. It also offers a great opportunity for anyone interested in teaching, mentoring, leading workshops and starting community music groups to come along, find support and learn more.

The camp is a family friendly event, open to everyone, members and non-members of Community Music Victoria, regardless of age, ability or skill level. For bookings and more info follow this [link](#)

For more information, contact Deb Carveth: 0410 735 331 or Community Music Victoria: 03 9662 1162



www.cmvic.org.au

Top Grant Writing Tips

1. Follow the guidelines and align your project to what the funder is looking for. If you're unsure, contact the grant provider directly.
2. If you see a grant that you may be eligible for but it closes in less than 7 days – think twice! Quality applications require plenty of time and attention.
3. Keep it short. Sometimes grant providers have to read 100's of applications. Concise yet informative applications will stand out and be appreciated.
4. In strategic giving, it's all about the outcomes. Be focussed on your outcome and how this aligns with your organisations mission statement.
5. Acknowledge your key risks and how you will mitigate them.
6. Advise how success will be measured.

Grants News

There are many grants open at the moment, but here are a couple of grants that look great!

The **Mercy Foundation's** Social Justice Small Grants Program is currently open and offering grants of up to \$5,000. Applications are due 27 March 2017.

The Mercy Foundation awards small grants to a range of social justice and community initiatives.

Innovative projects that require seed funding to increase social equity and inclusion and challenge unjust structures and systems will be prioritised. Your project must have a social justice emphasis.

The focus for 2017 is on projects that address social justice issues concerning older people. This means that projects that bring about a more inclusive society for older people, restore dignity to older people and foster solidarity among all generations, especially the young and old, will be prioritised.

The Social Justice Small Grants Program is only available to not-for-profit organisations.

For a full list of guidelines and eligibility criteria, please visit

<http://www.mercyfoundation.com.au/grants/index.cfm?loadref=18>

The **Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust** General Grants Program is currently open and offering grants of various amounts, dependent on your project. Applications are due 24 March 2017.

The Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust (VWBT) supports innovative projects that advance the rights and opportunities of women and girls in Victoria. They welcome applications for projects that assist women and girls to live safely, achieve their potential and enjoy full participation in the community, within a framework of promoting social justice and systemic change.

The VWBT is interested in facilitating a number of medium sized grants that embrace new approaches, challenge orthodoxy and work toward lasting community benefit. In this context, they are open to considering projects that may require longer time-frames. They are also interested in applications for smaller grants, especially those that offer grass roots support for women and girls.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposal with VWBT prior to submission.

To be eligible for funding:

- ⚙ your organisation must have DGR status
- ⚙ your project must address the needs of women and girls living in Victoria

For a full list of guidelines and eligibility criteria, please visit <https://www.vwt.org.au/applying-for-a-grant/>



Welcome to Australia

Welcome to Australia engages everyday Australians in the task of cultivating a culture of welcome in our nation. They believe that cultural diversity should be celebrated for the beauty and depth it adds to our society, and they encourage the compassion, generosity and commitment of Australians to giving all people a fair go. Through a variety of programs in a number of states across Australia, they aim to offer a positive, dignified and warm welcome to asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants.

www.welcometoaustralia.org.au



Tenant Moves

- ⚙ New members Welcome to Australia are now tenants on Level 2
- ⚙ SHINE for Kids have moved into the Ground Floor

Welcome Back Brunch

Last year flew by and now this year has kicked off at a rocketing pace so to celebrate the return to Ross House this year we held the Welcome Back Brunch.

The community gathered in the Hayden Raysmith Room on Tuesday 7th February, with 50+ members present, we enjoyed great conversation over yummy hot soft tacos provided by Ross House catering favourite Dos Amigos.

Ross House Association's Development Program Manager, Amber Moore, made up some of her incredible fruit platters and we heard from the Membership & Tenancy Officer on behalf of the Ross House Association Community Development Subcommittee about the latest on the celebrations in our 30th year at Ross House.



Dos Amigos

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Future Girl Cocktail Party

Proceeds funding the education and empowerment of girls and young women at Akili School for Girls, Kenya and other approved grant recipients

7.30pm 29th April at THE POINT, Albert Park Lake
Award winning wine, beer, canapes, live music and entertainment

Tickets are \$135 each or \$1250 for a booking of 10

Ross House-keeping



- * Please remember payment terms on invoices are 14 days. Invoices that remain unpaid will incur a late payment fee of \$15 + GST. If you anticipate a delay with paying your invoice, it's important to contact Junxia and let her know - email junxia.xu@rosshouse.org.au
- * Friendly reminder! Please ensure that all chairs and tables in meeting rooms are cleaned and returned to their original positions- in a roundtable layout (except for the Hayden Raysmith room). Please do not leave tables piled on top of each other or outside rooms in the corridor.
- * Our bookshelf in the foyer needs some extra loving. Please bring down pamphlets you may have.
- * The Ross House e-bulletin goes out weekly to nearly 800 subscribers. It's a great opportunity to promote any events or happenings within your organisation. If you would like to contribute, please email Katie on rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au with details before Thursday of each week.
- * Set up and packing down times must be included in the booking times – this is still an ongoing issue for RHA, please consider extending your booking if extra time is required.

Sunflower Foundation gears up for Massive March

The month of March is immensely significant for the Sunflower Foundation, with three events aligned to International Women's Day on Wednesday 8th March.

Future Girl is the Sunflower Foundation's annual cocktail party with proceeds from the fundraiser going towards educational grants for Akili School for Girls in Kenya, among other approved grant recipients. During March, the Sunflower Foundation will launch its *Future Girl* social media campaign.

Future Girl will be held on 29th April 2017, 7.30pm, at The Point, Albert Park. Tickets are \$135 per person or \$1250 for a booking for 10. Bookings can be made at www.trybooking.com or, for more information, please contact Tejas on 0403 079 007.

GlobalGiving is the world's largest crowd funding site for non-profits and is running its Girl Fund campaign from 1st to 15th March, featuring highly effective projects that provide education, so girls can thrive and make a difference to their communities. Bonus Day, with a 30% match for donations, is on 8th March. Look for the Sunflower Foundation on www.globalgiving.org and help us achieve our donor target for the campaign.



Finally, thanks to Ross House, the Sunflower Foundation will be taking over one of the display windows at the main entrance, from 1st to 31st March. We will be refreshing our content, including International Women's Day and *Future Girl*, so remember to keep looking. If you see something inspiring, let us know.

www.sunflowerfoundation.ngo

Christina Noble's Children's Foundation 2017 Challenges

Join Christina Noble Children's Foundation in their challenge events in Vietnam and Mongolia!

Mongolia Noble Challenge

The challenge is 9 days of cycling, hiking and horse-riding awesomeness!
Without a doubt the best way to discover this spectacular country as you wake up to the sun rising over the open plains and fall asleep under the brightest stars you have ever seen. Join us on a journey that will take you through the history and culture of the country with stunning landscapes and experience Mongolian hospitality at its best.

Where: Mongolia
When: August 2017



North South Vietnam Noble Challenge

Join us on an exclusive 10-day Noble Challenge Cycle adventure from North to South Vietnam.
This cycling challenge, starting in Hanoi, will take you through some of the most breathtaking scenery in the world, visiting the remote Hill Tribes of Sapa, visit the unique caves of Tranh An cycle through paddy fields, ancient cities, along stunning coastlines, rural villages and immerse yourself in the culture of Vietnam.

Where: Vietnam
When: October 2017

To find out more, please visit www.cncf.org or visit their office on level 3 in Ross House.






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in the house is a Ross House Association internal publication, produced six times a year.

If you would like to contribute an article, promote an event or share some exciting news about your organisation, keep your eye out for an email from Amber, advising of submission deadlines.

Please send all submissions to:
rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au

SUBSCRIPTION

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a member of Ross House Association. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send an email to amber.moore@rosshouse.org.au with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

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