

ROSS HOUSE
ASSOCIATION

2017 RHA COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Christine McAuslan
(COSHG)

DEPUTY CHAIR

David Martin
(Asbestoswise)

SECRETARY

Alba Chliankhtine
(ABRISA)

TREASURER

Keith Bettles
(U3A City of Melbourne)

Charles Brass

(Futures Foundation)

De Grebner

(TreeProject)

Jeff Fielder

(HAAG)

Scot Muirden

(CBSF)

Sue Smith

(AMIDA-SARU)

Valerie Elliot

(Handknitters Guild)

Samantha Thornton

(Appointed Member, Staff
representative)

Michael Griffiths

(Ex-officio, RHA General
Manager)

IN THE HOUSE

DECEMBER 2017

New website!

Ross House Association launched its new website on Wednesday 22nd November!

The website upgrade proved to be a massive and complex project, but we finally got there and we hope you like the look of it!

As with all new things, there are small glitches that we are still working through; we just ask for your patience while we fine tune all the new functionality and ensure all of the member and tenant information is up to date.

Account Log-in details

By now, you should have received your account details via an email, please make sure you share these details with the people in your organisation who make bookings. If you are the handful of people who did not receive this email with your account details, please contact Amber Moore on amber.moore@rosshouse.org.au, who will reset these login details for you.

By logging in your account you will be able to:

- * See room availability
- * Make bookings online
- * Keep your billing information up to date
- * View upcoming and past bookings

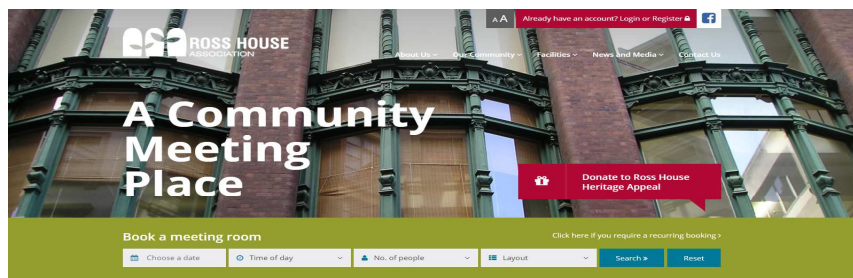
Billing

We can confirm that your billing arrangements will not change. You will still be invoiced at the beginning of each month and payment terms will still be 14 days.

Training

For members and tenants needing some extra training on how to use the new website, please do not hesitate to contact the Ross House Front Desk on (03) 9650 1599.

For any other questions or concerns, please contact Amber Moore, Development Program Manager on 9650 1599 or email amber.moore@rosshouse.org.au



**Ross House is the only
self managed and
community owned not-
for-profit building in**

Ross House is the only self managed and community owned not-for-profit building in Melbourne, Australia and has been an important part of the social justice and environment community in Melbourne for over two decades. Ross House is a place for community groups to grow, connect and evolve. The five-storey heritage listed Ross House building in Flinders Lane provides affordable, accessible office space to over 50 small not-for-profit groups.



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.

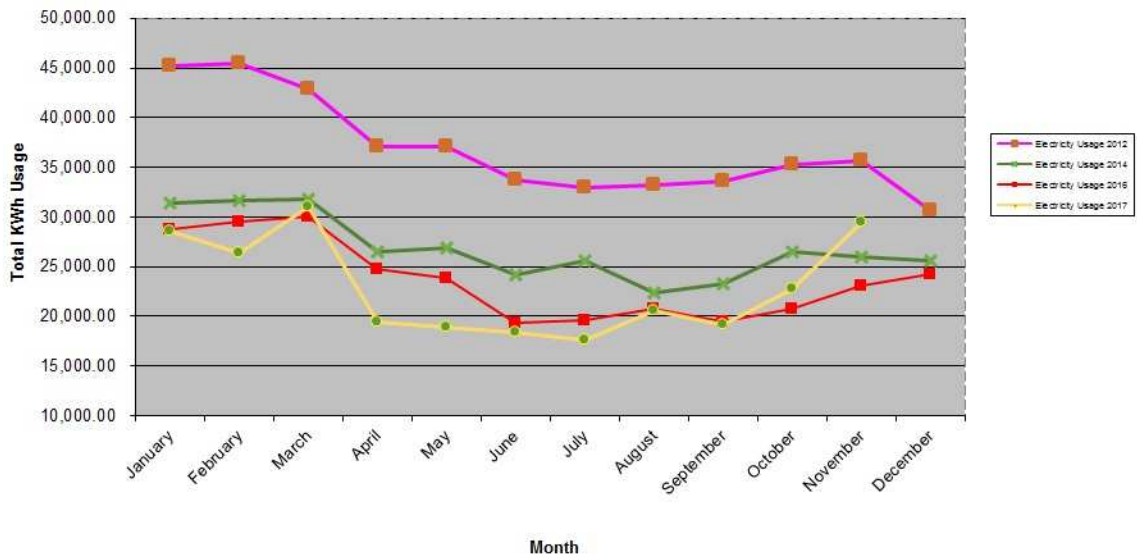
- ⚙ 1.1 has been sound proofed with acoustic panelling - this will hopefully benefit both the tenants on level one and the meeting room users in regards to noise issues.

Upcoming works

- ⚙ There will be a hard waste collection on Wednesday 17th January 2018. Please inform Nazz if you have any items for disposal.
- ⚙ The NBN is coming to Ross House - an NBN fibre node has been installed in the basement and now we are just waiting on CitiPower to connect - more details to come.
- ⚙ Steam cleaning will also take place on the weekend of 13th January 2018. A reminder will go out about this in early January. If your office will be unattended during the early part of January, please make sure you remove as many items as possible, off the floor (e.g. bins etc).

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. The spike in usage you see in November, was due to the unusually high temperatures experienced in November this year.

Electricity Comparison 2012 - 2017
 Ross House
 247-251 Flinders Lane Melbourne VIC 3000



Ross House Association Committee - Reflections by Christine McAuslan

At the Ross House Association AGM (on the 15th November 2017), five new committee members were elected including David Martin as Deputy Chair. Valerie Elliott stepped down from the role of Chairperson and I was appointed to the position. I would like to personally thank Val for her work as Chair over the last 4 years. Fortunately Val's experience is not lost to us as she remains as an ordinary committee member.



Thursday 30th November 2017 saw the first meeting of the new RHA Committee, as we welcomed an appropriate mix of new and existing committee members. It would seem with no particular gender equality based efforts, we have managed to secure a 50:50 ratio of women and men within our numbers. That says a lot about the Ross House community and is yet another reason to support the unique and alternative model, that is Ross House. So many organisations, political parties and committees struggle to achieve such equality of inclusion.

Reflecting on my own experience, it can take a while to settle into the Committee and adjust to existing dynamics or be part of creating new ones. As the new Chairperson I look forward to contributing to a vibrant, and focused committee by supporting all members to have an equal voice in the decisions we make on behalf of our building and community.

With the experience of an interesting and at times quite challenging five years on the committee (four as Deputy Chair), I know just how much time and commitment is required. Our decision making is a great responsibility- not only the actual decisions we make, but the way we make them. Being well informed, listening to all, questioning all we do not readily understand or are unfamiliar with and above all respecting the right of others to voice an opinion. Also importantly, seeking to overcome any negativity and working as a team with a positive approach to find workable solutions.

Along with the current community engagement underway, its outcomes for an informed strategic plan, the new train station works on our doorstep and meeting financial challenges there will be much for the committee to address in 2018. All this will guide our direction for the immediate future and beyond in keeping Ross House a home for groups.

Christine McAuslan
Ross House Chairperson
RHA



Welcome to the Game

Ross House tenant, Welcome to Australia, has launched a new program 'Welcome to the Game'.

This initiative uses sports engagement (and other recreational programs) to work with children and young people living with a disability who are from refugee, asylum seeking and other migrant backgrounds.

The program aims to increase the participants' resilience as well as their physical, social and mental wellbeing. For more information, please contact Nathan on nathan@welcometoaustralia.org.au or 0466 573 383.

www.welcometoaustralia.org.au



Melbourne Metro Rail Project Update

The demolition of Port Phillip Arcade is about to get underway.

Here are the key pieces of information you should know:



- ⚙ Demolition of buildings between Young & Jackson and the Nicholas Building are ongoing.
- ⚙ Removal of asbestos from Port Phillip Arcade is underway with licenced contractors.
- ⚙ City Power are decommissioning the substation within Port Phillip Arcade.
- ⚙ Demolition works to Port Phillip Arcade will commence in January and run through until late March 2018
- ⚙ There will not be an acoustic shed on the CBD South site due to two factors;
 - * only day works will be undertaken at this site, where as the sites with an acoustic shed will operate 24/7
 - * A 9 storey, 40m tower will be built over the CBD South station at the same time the station is being built.
- ⚙ CBD South will be called Town Hall Station
- ⚙ A gantry will be built over Royston Lane to ensure access to the Ross House car park.
- ⚙ A scaffold will be built up the side of Port Phillip Arcade in Royston Lane, above the gantry. This will be boarded up and covered in carpet to reduce noise. Sprinklers will be in place to mitigate dust from the site.

For more information, please visit www.metrotunnel.vic.gov.au

National Council of Women of Victoria (NCWV)

Congratulations go to Sheila Byard, the NCWV's immediate past president on her inclusion in Victoria's Honour Roll of Women.

Sheila Byard has spent many years completing policy research and making submissions to parliamentary inquiries. The right for women to vote and stand for public office is something she believes is of utmost importance. Sheila's interest in Australia's international humanitarian work began during primary school

when she joined Junior Red Cross. Sheila has a strong commitment to the principles of equality and social justice and a keen interest in citizenship and civics education. Sheila is also a long-term, active member of the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) – Victorian Division. As Convenor of the UNAA Status of Women Network, she has been a mentor and supervisor for many tertiary students on placement with UNAA. She was elected President of the National Council of Women in Victoria in 2013.



Congratulations also to NCWV Executive Member May Hu OAM in the 2017 Queen's Birthday Australian Honours 'For service to the broadcast media, to women, and to the multicultural community of Victoria'.



May is an Executive member of National Council of Women Victoria, and Mass Media Adviser for NCW Australia. May was a member of the Victorian Delegation to the NCWA Mid Term Conference in Canberra. As Coordinator of Standing Committees for NCW Victoria she has a key role in linking our volunteer advisers and working groups, whose work enables NCWV's effective participation in evidence based social policy within NCWV and beyond.

www.ncwa.org.au



Reinforce 'Melbourne Through the Eyes of a Friend' Recap

Ross House tenant, Reinforce, has been a long running pioneer of change and most recently produced a successful album of original self advocacy songs (with their members and friends) called 'No Strangers Here'.

'Melbourne through the Eyes of a Friend' was born out of making change happen through the concept of 'creative advocacy'.

Reinforce members and friends raise awareness via creative mediums of issues faced by people with an Intellectual Disability, including the canvassing of their self advocacy profile & what makes Melbourne special to them.

"Melbourne Through the Eyes of a Friend" was a photographic & short film exhibition (in collaboration with local businesses, photographers, filmmakers and musicians) to promote diversity and inclusion.

The event launch took place Wednesday 29th November and was a huge success - congratulations Reinforce! www.reinforce.org.au



Members & Tenants

come together with the Ross House Community at the

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

Let's celebrate **2017**, our momentous 30th year, and the coming together of the community to create a new Strategic Plan for Ross House!

*we're all
IN THIS
together*

**3-5PM
THURSDAY
14 DECEMBER**

ANNOUNCED @ THE EVENT
the members of the
Collaborative Team

DRINKS, SNACKS & MUSIC: play your favourite tunes on an old style jukebox!



ROSS HOUSE
ASSOCIATION

PLEASE SEND THROUGH YOUR RSVP TO...
Samantha Thornton, Membership & Tenancy Officer
(03) 9650 1599 or samantha.thornton@rosshouse.org.au

Promotion and funding support

Promotion

RHA would like to remind you of the different communication channels that are available to you here at Ross House - they include the weekly e-bulletin, Facebook and the RHA bi-monthly newsletter. For more information on any of these please contact Katie on rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au

Funding

RHA offer support to tenants in grant applications via support letters and auspice opportunities - please contact Amber with any queries on amber.moore@rosshouse.org.au



Grants News

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 organisation's mission statement.
5. Acknowledge your key risks and how you will mitigate them.
6. Advise how success will be measured.

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

The **ANZ Staff Foundation Grants** is currently open and offering grants up to \$5,000. Submissions are due by 15 January 2018.

The ANZ Staff Foundation is funded by regular contributions made by ANZ staff and ANZ. The Foundation aims to support projects run by charitable organisations, which offer a direct and tangible benefit to local communities. In addition to providing funding for community projects, ANZ staff are also actively encouraged to support the work of the ANZ Staff Foundation by volunteering their time and skills to support the projects.

The ANZ Staff Foundation provides grants of up to \$5,000 to community projects that relate to one or more of the following areas:

- ⚙ Education and employment – examples of suitable projects may include purchasing educational resources for communities or programs that help people prepare for employment.
- ⚙ Financial capability – examples of suitable projects may focus on improving financial literacy or money saving capability.
- ⚙ Urban sustainability – examples of a suitable project may focus on improving environmental education programs or revegetation programs.

To be eligible for funding, organisations must be charitable and have DGR Item 1 status.

For more information, please visit <http://www.egt.com.au/charities-and-not-for-profits/grants-community-grants>

The **Ian Potter Foundation's** Conference Grants Program is currently open and offering grants of up to \$20,000. Submissions are due 30th January 2018.

The Ian Potter Foundation's Conference Program area supports the exchange and dissemination of ideas and knowledge across a global stage by assisting organisations to bring international keynote speakers to Australia.

Conference grants are awarded a maximum amount of \$20,000 and the request can only be for funding towards the travel and accommodation costs associated with hosting international keynote speakers (speaker's appearance fees are not covered).

The Ian Potter Foundation can only make grants to organisations with both DGR Item 1 and TCC status.

For more information, please visit <http://www.ianpotter.org.au/what-we-support/conference/>



Strategic Plan Development: Community Engagement Update

Thank you to all of our members and tenants who completed the survey during the month of November. Your feedback is important to us.

Consultants Desley Renton and Martin de los Rios were impressed with the response rate and with the quality of information received. We received 86 responses from an impressive group: tenants, occasional tenants, funding bodies, meeting room users and friends.



In addition to the surveys, 18 one on one interviews were undertaken with a range of individuals and groups from diverse perspectives and back grounds. The interviews provided an opportunity for individuals and groups to express their hopes and aspirations for a sustainable future for the Association.

The feedback received from both the surveys and the interviews will be collated and will help to inform the next stage of the engagement process. This information will also be shared with the broader Ross House Association (RHA) community.

The next stage of the engagement process is already underway; the development of a Collaborative Team. The Collaborative Team will be made up of 17 individuals. This group will include both randomly selected and invited members, tenants and friends.

The Collaborative Team volunteers will meet for a total of 21 hours between February and May 2018, (split into four separate meetings). The task of the Collaborative Team will be to consider the community engagement feedback and a range of other information sources including research and technical expert opinion. The group will be independently facilitated and robust dialogue will be encouraged.

The recommendations put forward by the Collaborative Team will directly influence the future strategic direction of RHA.

We would like to thank everyone who has invested their time and energy towards the development of the Strategic Plan so far. The commitment to this process is testimony to a collective desire to see Ross House Association flourish and grow into the future.

If you have any questions about the engagement process please do not hesitate to contact Desley Renton on 0403 551 656 or desley@rentonandco.com



The Great Local Lunch - Sustainable Living Festival 2018

The Great Local Lunch (which is a feature event of the Sustainable Living Festival) will run for the entire month of February 2018 with events staged in and around Melbourne, as well as throughout Victoria.

The Great Local Lunch is a feature event of the Festival's Big Weekend on Sunday 11th February 2018 (12.30pm-2.30pm) and held on the banks of the Yarra River. The Lunch menu comes together through 'crowd farming' - participants providing ingredients for the final meal - where a multi-course meal is prepared for the crowd of 200 growers and foodies. This year The Great Local Lunch is venturing to a new level and exploring the topical issue of food waste. People can participate either by growing their own produce or 'gleaning' - legally obtaining edible produce that would otherwise be wasted - ingredients that can contribute to the Lunch. To obtain a ticket to the Lunch, register your home grown harvest or gleaned produce that would otherwise be wasted. The Lunch's MC, Costa Georgiadis, will rummage through the crowd to reveal the knowledge and skills we need to revolutionise the food system.



Find out more at www.slf-apply.org/gllregister

Melbourne Osteoporosis Support Group

Melbourne Osteoporosis Support Group would like to wish all their friends and supporters a happy and successful New Year.

2018 meeting:

Dr Sally Cockburn will be the guest speaker at their next meeting on Tuesday 20th February 2018.

She will be addressing the subject 'Consequences of Osteoporosis'. They will meet at 1.30pm in the Hayden Raysmith Room, 4th Floor, Ross House. Everyone is welcome to head along.

www.melbosg.org.au

BEGA CHEESE: Thursday 14th December 2017

National Seniors Australia Melbourne City has Barry Irvin AM, Executive Chairman of Bega Cheese Limited as their next guest speaker.

Bega Cheese is an Australian owned and operated cheese company that bought back Vegemite!

His presentation will be followed by a Q&A session and then a Christmas-themed morning tea. Visitors are welcome, no need to RSVP, just turn up!

Where? Hayden Raysmith Room, 4th Floor, Ross House.

When? Thursday 14th December at 10am.

For more information, please visit www.nationalseniors.com.au



Free furniture from Mac Advice

Mac Advice is downsizing and have some free furniture to give away - 4 office desks, 2 book shelves, 2 metal filing cabinets, 1 wooden sideboard and 3 office chairs.

You can pickup these items any time from Thursday 14th December (Ground Floor, Ross House).

They can assist with the moving it if needed.



New Members

Open Food Foundation (also known as the Open Food Network)

The Open Food Foundation is a global network of people and organisations who work together on the development of open and shared resources, knowledge and infrastructures to support the emergence and development of food hubs all over the world. They believe that in order to build a sustainable and resilient food system, we need to reconnect producers and consumers. The Foundation's aim is to empower people and communities and give them the tools and knowledge to develop the food hubs they need for their community.

New Tenants

The Open Food Network and Beyond Zero Emissions have moved into the building – they are neighbours together on Level 4. Also joining the tenants at Ross House is the Deafblind Victorians, who can be found on Level 2.



Tenant Moves

Lotus Group Projects, The Climate Council, Stroke Association of Victoria and the U3A have moved out of the building, but all remain proud members of the Ross House Association. We wish them all the best and thank them for their ongoing support!

End of Year Celebration

It's nearly the end of 2017 and you know what that means... it's time for our annual **END OF YEAR CELEBRATION!**

We've had lots to celebrate in 2017 including our momentous 30th year, and the coming together of the community to create a new Strategic Plan for Ross House!

We kick off at 3pm, with scrumptious snacks and drinks – and back by popular demand, the '*Sam Adventure Very Special – Party Edition*' punch.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT @ THE EVENT: As a part of the strategic planning process we are currently undertaking, the Ross House team are working together with community engagement specialists Renton & Co to put together the Collaborative Team. The Collaborative Team is made up of 17 people who will work together to provide recommendations on the strategic direction and actions that RHA should take in the next five years. Some people have been invited to join, but the majority have been randomly selected, so come along and hear the announcement of the team, the people who will help us to develop a plan that will strive to ensure a secure future for the Association.

Please pass this invitation along to the others in your team and kindly **RSVP by Monday 11th December**. Here's hoping to seeing you there!

WHAT? End of Year Celebration

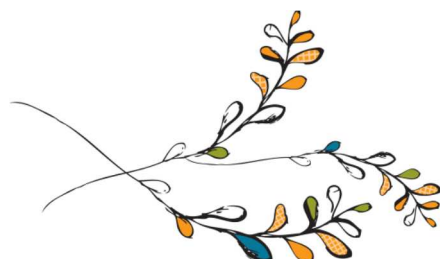
WHEN? Thursday, 14 December 2017 (3-5pm)

WHERE? Ross House Foyer

MUSIC? Tunes from an old school jukebox

PERFORMANCE? Coral Jade (A Melbourne-based hoop performer will be showing us some of her amazing skills. There will also an opportunity to have a go of a hoop yourself!)

For more information, please contact the Membership & Tenancy Officer - samantha.thornton@rosshouse.org.au





247-251 Flinders Lane
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Phone: 03 9650 1599

Fax: 03 9650 3689

Email: rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au

www.rosshouse.org.au

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 Katie, 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 rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

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