

ROSS HOUSE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2012 - 2013



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The Ross House Mission Statement is:
*"to empower a community of small environment
 and social justice organisations to work together
 for social change"*

The Ross House Association Committee, of which I have been proud to be the Chairperson, has this mission statement uppermost in its thoughts whilst carrying out our voluntary duties in working towards a just and environmentally sustainable society through: managing and owning a building, providing support and resources, developing strategies to overcome the causes of discrimination, and encouraging participation and shared decision making within our community.

During the previous twelve months the Committee has been focussed on maintaining and upgrading the facilities of Ross House, working with the City of Melbourne on a Waste Partnership, endeavouring to gain funds from individuals, government and philanthropic organisations to restore and preserve the external façade of Ross House, and to review, evaluate and improve the governance structure of the Ross House Association in keeping with our role as owners of this wonderful heritage building. Individual Committee members have also volunteered their time to assist with the work in the Ross House office during times of acute staff shortage.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our donors for their very generous donations and in particular the City of Melbourne, the Department of Industry and the Rowe Family Foundation and The Diana Browne Trust, both managed by Perpetual, for their support in the form of grants. As a result of this support we have completed the upgrade to the lighting throughout the entire building and undertaken all of the preliminary planning and background strategies so that work will shortly commence on the upgrade of our outdated and

inefficient Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning system. Plans are also underway to proceed work on repairing a damaged section of the heritage facade.

During the previous twelve months Ross House has had a number of staff changes through the resignations of individuals who were keen to travel, find employment in the environmental sector, or for health reasons. I would like to acknowledge the work of Sarah Day, Nathalie Michel, Nikki Fay Baxter and Danya Jacobs for their contributions to Ross House over varying periods of time. In particular I would like to recognise the significant contribution of Sarah Day, the former General Manager who commenced working at Ross House on the front desk and proceeded to capably take on many roles during her seven years as an employee and who left to pursue her dreams and passion for the environment.

The Committee continues to be well-supported by our staff team led by Michael Griffiths, our newly appointed General Manager. I would like to thank Michael, Amber Moore, Amy Johnston, Katie Stoll and Natalie Durkovic, together with the previous mentioned staff members, who left at varying times during the previous year, all most sincerely for their selfless contributions to Ross House. Each and every member of staff continues to give freely of their time, over and above their designated roles and responsibilities, to ensure the smooth running of the building and to maintain the special community that exists within it. I would like to highlight and acknowledge this personal involvement for the uniqueness that it is and to thank them all again for their input.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the current Committee members who have continued to serve the Ross House community tirelessly. Their support and involvement is much appreciated and valued greatly, particularly when it is recognized

that each and every one of them is a volunteer. These individuals are either appointed members or nominated representatives who give equal or more contribution to the organisations for which they are associated, and many of them are employed in full time positions as well.

The Committee could not deal with the amount of work necessary in administering such a diverse community that is Ross House, without the assistance of all of the volunteers who actively participate in the work of the sub-committees in the areas of Finance, Building, Environment & Amenities (incl. OH&S), Membership & Tenancy, Human Resources, Fundraising and Development and Community Development. To all of these valuable people, thank you for your contributions, your participation is much appreciated.

In conclusion I would like to say that when I first agreed to be nominated for this role, I envisaged that I would only serve for one two-year term. Through encouragement I nominated a second time but only on the understanding that at the end of this term of office I would not seek re-election. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Chairperson of the Ross House Association; however with the workload and travel involved in my new position as Executive Officer of Blind Citizens Australia, together with my two honorary secretarial roles for Retina Australia and Retina Australia (Vic), I am definitely not in any position to continue in the role of chairperson or committee member. I am proud that during the previous four years Ross House has officially become the only self-managed and community owned non profit building in Australia and justifiably maintained its reputation for being a major and important part of the social justice and environment community in Melbourne.

I believe that with the help of all of the people mentioned in this report, we have further built on these foundations during the previous twelve months, shoring them up for the decades to come. I urge you all to continue to contribute to the Ross House Association for the benefit of this unique community and each other.

Thank you all for your support.

Rosemary Boyd
Chairperson



A Year of Success and Change

This year has seen a number of significant and successful changes around Ross House. We have managed to secure numerous grants, significant building works have been undertaken and a few long standing members of staff have moved on in pursuit of their careers.

Amber Moore, our Development Program Manager, was successful in securing the following grants: The City of Melbourne Community Services Grant (\$10,000) to help with removing asbestos around the rooftop plant areas; the Rowe Family Foundation (\$39,914) and The Diana Browne Trust (\$148,000), both managed by Perpetual, for heritage restoration works to the northern façade of Ross House; and the Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation (\$15,000), in partnership with Live and Learn, to assist with upgrading office lighting throughout the building.

This year saw the completion of the Ross House Lighting Project, where office lighting was upgraded throughout the building by installing energy efficient T5 lights. The project ran from July 2012 to February 2013. Initially a trial of the lighting upgrade was carried out on level 4, and following this success, the project was then rolled out on the remaining floors. Tenant feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and Ross House Association would like to thank all tenants for their patience and understanding during this time.

Early 2012 saw an important partnership form between Ross House Association and the City of Melbourne. The Degraeves Street Recycling Facility sees the City of Melbourne working with businesses in Degraeves Street and Centre Place to implement

a shared recycling program, which aims to divert plastics, paper, cardboard, aluminium, glass and organic waste from commercial bins. Waste is processed on site at Ross House, which hosts a food waste dehydrator, a cardboard baler and co-mingled recycling bins. The project has so far achieved the diversion of 70 tonne of recyclable material from landfill, reduced 6 tonne of organic waste in volume by 70% and reduced environmental and amenity impacts of waste collection and disposal. The City of Melbourne and Ross House have worked closely together to implement this precinct based recycling facility that is believed to be the first of its kind in Australia.

There have been a number of staff changes over this last year. These friends and co-workers have tirelessly contributed to the Ross House community throughout many years and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours. Please join me in thanking: Danya Jacobs, Sarah Day, Nikki Fay Baxter and Nathalie Michel.

This year has been another successful year for the association, however the building would not prosper without the real heart of Ross House - the tenants and members, who day in and day out strive towards a more socially just and sustainable world for us all.

Michael Griffiths
General Manager

A collective of self-help groups: how it all began and where we are now

Throughout the years, independent community and advocacy groups have often found it hard to survive and thrive on their own without access to vital resources such as affordable rental space and reliable office equipment.

In 1977 the Victorian Council of Social Services (VCOSS) held a seminar to bring together groups that formed the evolving self-help group movement in Victoria. As a result a Committee of Self Help Groups was formed which went on to become the Collective of Self Help Groups (COSHG).

In July 1980 COSHG held a seminar, "Self Help in the '80's – Grass Roots in the Garden State", which drew attention to the need for shared physical resources and secure, reasonably priced accommodation for small groups. It was around this time that the R.E. Ross Trust approached the Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS) with a major donation for a project to assist small community organisations; the Victorian Community Foundation (VCF) was set up as a vehicle for these funds.

These two ideas were brought together to form the Ross House project; to purchase a building to provide the resources needed by these groups.

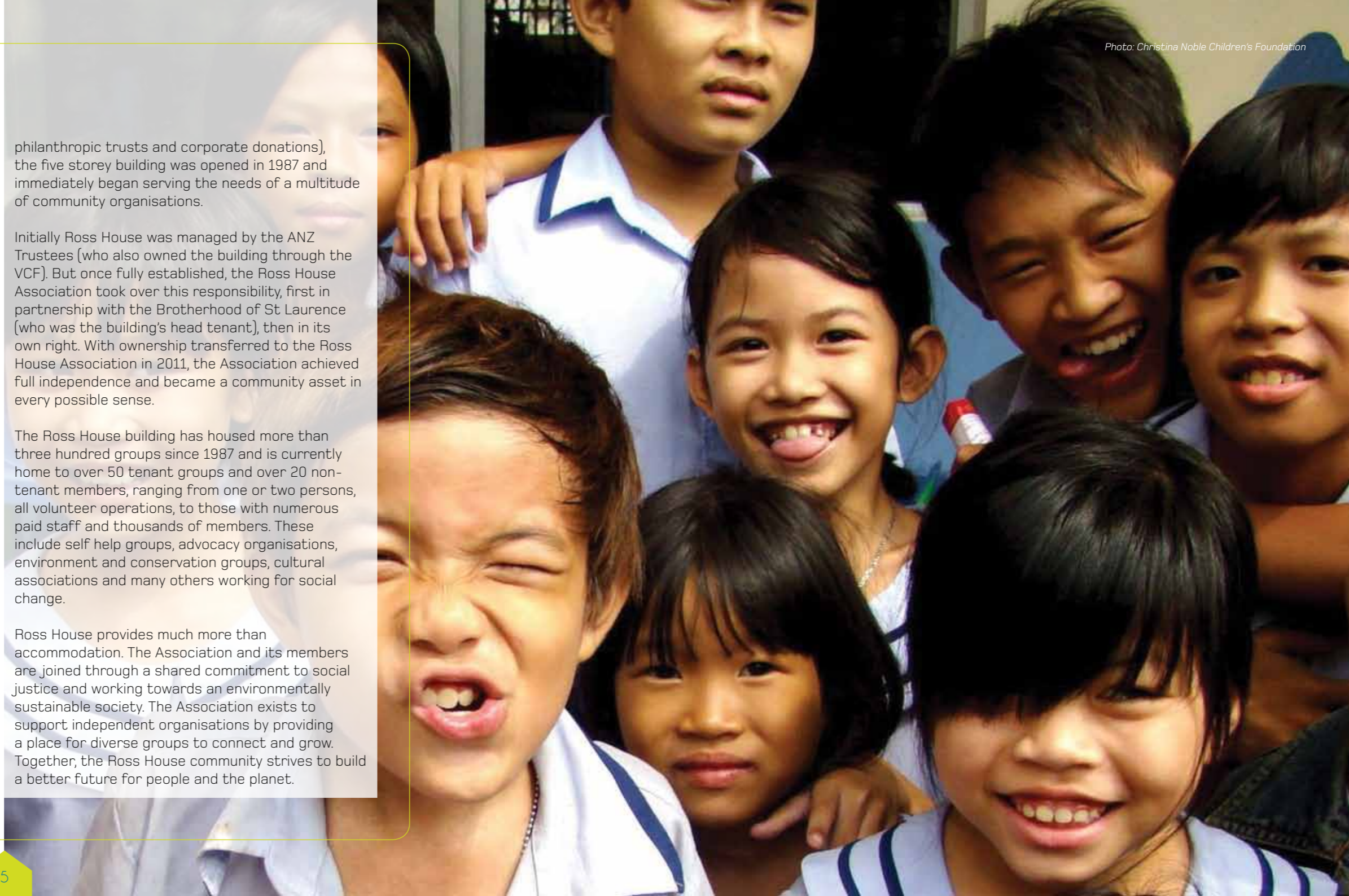
What followed was a lengthy process to find a suitable building and determine how it would operate. This led to a great deal of consultation, anger, angst and joy for the various parties and individuals involved, and in April 1985, the historic Royston House in Flinders Lane was purchased and renamed Ross House. After extensive renovations (funded by the State Government, grants from

philanthropic trusts and corporate donations), the five storey building was opened in 1987 and immediately began serving the needs of a multitude of community organisations.

Initially Ross House was managed by the ANZ Trustees (who also owned the building through the VCF). But once fully established, the Ross House Association took over this responsibility, first in partnership with the Brotherhood of St Laurence (who was the building's head tenant), then in its own right. With ownership transferred to the Ross House Association in 2011, the Association achieved full independence and became a community asset in every possible sense.

The Ross House building has housed more than three hundred groups since 1987 and is currently home to over 50 tenant groups and over 20 non-tenant members, ranging from one or two persons, all volunteer operations, to those with numerous paid staff and thousands of members. These include self help groups, advocacy organisations, environment and conservation groups, cultural associations and many others working for social change.

Ross House provides much more than accommodation. The Association and its members are joined through a shared commitment to social justice and working towards an environmentally sustainable society. The Association exists to support independent organisations by providing a place for diverse groups to connect and grow. Together, the Ross House community strives to build a better future for people and the planet.



MORE THAN A BUILDING

Ross House was borne from a specific need: shared physical resources and low cost office space. And what a mammoth achievement it is to have fulfilled this need on such a grand scale: the acquirement of a heritage building in one of the most accessible parts of Melbourne right in the heart of the city; the conversion of the building from storehouse to a hive of community activity; and not in the least, the successful self management of this resource with participation open to all.

When we tell people that Ross House is the only self managed and owned not for profit building in Australia, it often causes surprise, quickly followed by an enquiry into what self managed actually means. Well, while there are many other fantastic community spaces around the country, Ross House is unique as the only one that is completely managed by its own tenants and members. In practical terms, this means that it is the people who use the building who make the decisions about the building— from policies guiding how we work together within its walls, to the most appropriate governance structure to ensure strategic management.

When you consider that the tenants and members of Ross House (that is, the ones running the show) are all small, independent community groups working towards environmental sustainability and social justice, the significance of Ross House becomes apparent. Here is an example of groups who represent some of the community's most marginalised people, in control of an incredible resource that continues to flourish and grow 26 years after its inception.

As each member of Ross House is a small group with incredibly large ambition, it is no wonder we spend most of our time heads down in the daily work of advocating for change. To ensure that each group is as effective as possible, the daily work of the Ross House Association is making sure that we provide the most appropriate resources in the least costly and most efficient way we can. Working within a social justice model, this includes ensuring everyone's ideas are heard, favouring consensus decision making and employing a sliding scale of pricing that puts our values into practice.



Photo: Humanitarian Crisis Hub

But the impact of Ross House reaches far beyond the walls of the building and its day to day operations. Each year, members of the Ross House staff meet with individuals from newly formed community and volunteer centres, government departments and not for profit buildings, individuals from Victoria and interstate, to provide support and information about managing community resources. Not only is Ross House a model of community, it is a rare long term success story of the management of a not for profit building that aims to fulfil the different needs of a very diverse collection of people and organisational purposes.

With so much conflict in the world based on superficial difference, it's affirming to see the strong sense of community that holds Ross House together

and translates into acts of welcoming and kindness that gives the building an atmosphere people comment on every day.

In addition to the practical difference the members of Ross House make to individual lives (from providing emotional support to a roof over your head), they are also working towards far off and sometimes seemingly improbable goals, such as equality and understanding for people with vastly different ways of being in the world; fair treatment for refugees; an end to conflict and poverty; and the long term health of our environment. When the obstacles in the way of carrying out this work feel insurmountable, it is heartening to be surrounded by so many people working towards a better world. The rest of the time ... it is simply inspiring.



Photo: Aboriginal Literacy Foundation

ROSS HOUSE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE AND STAFF 2012 - 2013

RHA Committee 2012-2013

Chairperson
Rosemary Boyd
 Retina Australia (Vic)

Vice Chairperson
Esther Harris
 Star

Treasurer
Richard Foster
 Disabled WinterSport Australia

Kirsty Allen
 Appointed Member

Keith Bettles
 U3A Melbourne City
(from November)

Peta Cox
 Brain Injury Matters
(from November, until April)

Sarah Day
 Ex-officio
(until February)

Valerie Elliott
 Handknitters Guild

De Grebner
 TreeProject
(until August)

Sue Healy
 Appointed Member

Lyn Macdonald
 Lotus Group/Singers

Christine McAuslan
 Appointed Member
(from November)

Amber Moore
 Staff Representative

Cameron Neil
 Appointed Member

Heidi Peart
 AMIDA
(from November, until April)

Jenny Stewart
 Union of Australian Women

Staff

Nikki Fay Baxter
 Information Resources and
 Administration Officer
(until April)

Sarah Day
 General Manager
(until February)

Natasha De Almeida
 Information Resources and
 Administration Officer
(until August)

Natalie Durkovic
 Community Development Project
 Officer

Michael Griffiths
 Facility Manager and Acting
 General Manager
(from February)

Danya Jacobs
 Information Resources and
 Administration Officer
(until December)

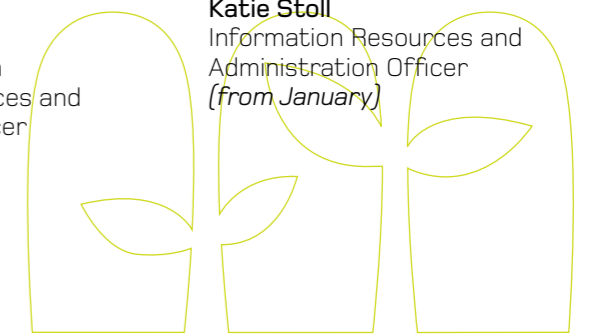
Amy Johnston
 Information Resources and
 Administration Officer
(from April)

Ani Loriente
 Finance Officer

Nathalie Michel
 Membership and Tenancy Officer
(until May)

Amber Moore
 Development Program Manager

Katie Stoll
 Information Resources and
 Administration Officer
(from January)



The Aussie Hands Foundation inc.

When asked if the inspirational story of their son Michael could represent Aussie Hands in the Ross House Annual Report, his parents Louis and Graham Bradtke did not hesitate. Graham said: "We are happy for you to feature Michael's story, and Michael is happy as well. I think he is actually pretty chuffed!"

In 2002, Michael was born with Symbrachydactyly on his left hand. This is a medical condition where babies are born with short fingers, which can be webbed or fingers may be missing. The approximated incidence rate is estimated to be between 1 in 100,000 live births.



Michael Bradtke with his Most Improved Player trophy. Michael and his family have received enormous support by being members of The Aussie Hands Foundation.

Photo: Graham and Louise Bradtke

Most children with a hand difference adapt well and keep up with their peers in doing all the things that children enjoy. This has certainly been the case with Michael who has always done things that he loves.

This year Michael played his first football season in the under 11's at the Mitcham Junior Football Club. He established himself as one of the strongest runners in the team which gave him the opportunity to play in the midfield. Because of Michael's skills he was awarded a trophy for 'The Most Improved Player' at the team's presentation night. "He was thrilled at his achievement", his parents said.

Michael's parents feel that they have benefited greatly from having contact with members of Aussie Hands. "Aussie Hands facilitated an introduction to another family whose daughter, Elouise, 7 years old at that time, who has a similar hand and had undergone surgery at the Children's Hospital. Michael was a baby at this time. The visit greatly benefited us to see Elouise as a confident active young girl and also to understand the benefits and considerations of the surgery she had undergone". Later, Michael underwent surgery to transplant a toe onto his left hand. The procedure provided him with an effective pincer grip and improved his overall hand function.

"As Michael became older", his mother Louise says, "it was great for him to meet other children and adults just like him through the annual Aussie Hands Christmas function and Easter Hunt family gatherings". After attending these events, Louise observed that "Michael felt a greater sense of belonging and normality, as he wasn't the only one".

www.aussiehands.org

By Maria Reyes

Spina Bifida Foundation Victoria

To fulfil its aim of helping people with spina bifida to lead full, active and independent lives, the Spina Bifida Foundation Victoria (SBFV) organised its first adult camp this year. According to everyone who attended, it was a huge success.

The camp, which was held in the country and drew participants from around the state, included sporting activities designed to challenge participants' beliefs in their capabilities (thus increasing their confidence) as well as time to share their life stories. It also gave everyone a chance to experience a weekend away from their usual support systems and to learn new skills.

One of the attendees wrote: "For those of us going to the camp the fun started as soon as we took off on the bus. Everyone was excited and happy to chat and get to know one another better."

"The weekend was filled with a variety of activities including a giant swing which tested the nerves of all who braved it. We also enjoyed trying to hit the balloons on the archery boards and later sitting around the camp fire toasting marshmallows while talking about the day's events."

In Australia one in 800 pregnancies is identified with a problem of the spinal cord such as spina bifida. The effects of this condition are life-long and extremely variable and can affect individuals both physically and intellectually.

Due to medical advances, adults with spina bifida are living longer, and so there is an increasing demand for support. The SBFV provides assistance by distributing valuable information and by offering services and programs, such as the adult camp, with the objectives of assisting members to overcome social isolation, increasing independence and resilience.

As well as the adult camp, the SBFV has produced independent living skills manuals to educate members, arranged social activities and held events such as the annual Night of Celebration, where we recognise members who have achieved personal milestones during the year.

SBFV also provide opportunities to communicate via member-only social media sites, regular newsletters, support services, and journals to empower members to manage their own health.

www.sbfv.org.au



Housing for the Aged Action Group

Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG) is a member based organisation supported by over 400 older people. HAAG began in 1983 as a group advocating for more public housing for older people along with policies which considered the needs of older people. HAAG has been a tenant of Ross House for more than 20 years.

HAAG's consistent lobbying for a housing options service for older people has now received funding from the Department of Human Services to offer an information, support and referral service called Home at Last (HAL) as one of the Homelessness Innovations Action Projects. Since the Home at Last pilot project was funded in 2012, it has been successful in assisting thousands of older people who are struggling to find secure, affordable housing. With a recent announcement that DHS will fund the Home at Last service until June 2015, HAAG are now able to further develop partnerships with many organisations that assist vulnerable older people and provide direct support to thousands of older people that do not have secure and affordable housing in retirement.

The opportunity to expand the service and ensure that many more older people, at risk of homelessness, will be assisted into the future is very exciting. Since June 2012 HAAG have helped more than 3000 older people across Victoria with information and support to access long term safe, secure and affordable housing. This has included directly and indirectly re-housing 673 vulnerable older people, living in insecure and unaffordable private rental housing, to move into various forms of sustainable accommodation such as public housing, social housing, independent living units and a range of other housing options.

Keen to further establish and improve on the provision of housing services to older people in our community, Home at Last staff regularly speak

with community groups and service agencies about housing options for older people and the ways in which the service can provide these real housing solutions.

The HAAG office and the Home at Last service is located on the 1st floor of Ross House and welcomes people to drop in and access the information display and/or arrange an appointment time to speak with a housing options worker.

www.older tenants.org.au

OLDER PERSONS'
HOUSING INFORMATION
AND SUPPORT SERVICE

*Gemma, Community Education Worker,
works tirelessly promoting the Home At Last
service for Housing for the Aged Action Group.*



Stroke Association of Victoria

While some stroke survivors can't speak, some can still sing and the Stroke A Note Choir, formed with the support of the Stroke Association of Victoria and Geelong hospitals, is bringing them together in gentle, supportive, inspiring chorus.

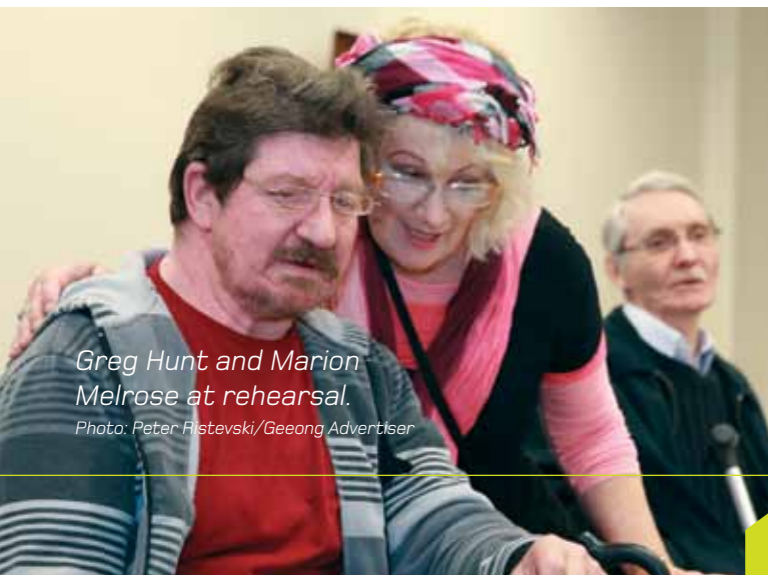
Friends around the table hushed as one-time pop singer Greg Hunt focused momentarily and then sang the words specially crafted to the tune of Happy Birthday.

*"My name is Greg Hunt.
I live in Still Court.
My wife's name is Verity.
And the town is Lara."*

Spontaneous applause followed, because that's the most personal information Mr Hunt, 61, has been able to share since a stroke on November 8, 2010 took all of his words away.

"For us it's almost like a miracle," his wife Verity said.

In the halcyon days of the early 1970's, Greg was the lead singer of the Melbourne pop band Daisy Clover and he has sung with ease, at shows of many dimensions, for much of his life.



Greg Hunt and Marion Melrose at rehearsal.

Photo: Peter Ristevski/Geelong Advertiser

He was fit and active, working as builders' labourer until two days before his collapse, which brought him to the dramatic intersection in his life. Eight months ago he couldn't verbalise one word.

The forum for his singing of those words to Happy Birthday was especially powerful, a weekly meeting of the new Geelong choir aiming to massage and make the most of one of the mysteries and miracles of the brain.

The choir operates under the nurturing hand of Marion Melrose, 62, who lit Geelong region theatre stages as a songbird and director for many years before suffering an abrupt brain bleed while on stage 15 months ago. Her own journey is one of imposing measure.

She lost all of her own speech, the right side of her body was badly immobilized and she was wheelchair-bound for many months. Now she can walk, has limited use of her right arm and hand and through determination and good fortune has regained speech and song.

She heard about Stroke A Chord choir operating successfully in Melbourne and, working with the Stroke Association of Victoria, lay foundations for a model in Geelong.

"I know how debilitating it can be when everything is taken away from you," she said, "the joy...to see it on people's faces...to see something they thought was totally finished and beyond them, it just gives back some dignity".

www.strokeassociation.com.au

Written by Danny Lannen, Geelong Advertiser

TreeProject volunteers restore a waterway by revegetating the catchment area with hundreds of indigenous seedlings.

Photo: De Grebner





Photo: Live and Learn

National Council of Women of Victoria

Ten times a year, women from across the State travel to Ross House for the National Council of Women of Victoria monthly meeting.

Some from as far away as Geelong, Ballarat, Shepparton and Sale have to make a very early start to catch trains to the city, and meetings always finish by mid-afternoon in order for them to get home in good time. Among the affiliated organisations of NCWV are some with strong Ross House involvement such as the Union of Australian Women. During the past year a strong focus of NCWV work has involved issues to do with ending violence against women. Speakers at meetings have provided background briefings on partnerships against violence, such as the Knox City 'Real Men Don't Hit Chicks' campaign, and the role of member based groups in working with government to promote awareness of the recent criminalization of forced marriage.

A highlight this year has been the launch of the NCWV Respect for Women campaign (Respect leaflet) and the creation of a recipe book 'A Cultural Indulgence'. Proceeds from the sale of this book will be used to help fund a series of community events and workshops to encourage grass roots advocacy for women, old and young, to know their rights and responsibilities in relation to ending violence against women.

Both the Respect leaflet and recipe book order form can be obtained from the NCWV website.

www.ncwvic.org.au

Ablelink

The hustle and bustle of modern life leaves many of us feeling disconnected and isolated from the world around us. We hurry to and from our daily errands, often barely noticing those we pass in the street or sit next to on the tram after work. It is highly unlikely that most people who hurry around Melbourne's CBD on an average work day would notice the small number of unique individuals making their way to Ross House in Flinders Lane. The white canes and sign language of these individuals may pass unnoticed to the average eye, lost in a sea of rushing people, noise, traffic and advertising. But imagine if 90% of the world around you passed in a near black, silent void that you were forced to navigate on your own. Every hour. Every day.

This is the reality for the members of Ablelink (Level 3 Ross House) who are living with deafblindness. Ablelink provides valuable technology training (Smartphones, Tablets, Computers, Braille) to the Deafblind community allowing them unprecedented access to information, each other and the wider community by facilitating their full participation in the technology revolution. One on one tutoring and peer training allow for everything from Facebook and SMS, to video relay calls and email to be utilised by all members in ways that accommodate their particular needs.

Ross House provides a communal and easily accessible space for the Deafblind community from all over Australia and the world to gather, chat and socialise. The importance of this sense of community cannot be overstated. Many Deafblind

people live independently in the community and have limited access to communication with those around them without the use of an interpreter or support worker. The ability to communicate comfortably in your native language with those who share your culture and experience of the world is a vital part of mental and physical well being that we in the hearing/sighted world too often take for granted. It is this opportunity among many others that Ablelink provides. As long time member Daryl Harrison puts it: "Ablelink tutorials are excellent for helping Deafblind people to learn new technology. Who knows what's next!!"

Here's to a bright future filled with Communication, Access and Connectedness!

www.ableaustralia.org.au



Tenant Members

Able Link

Provides computer access and internet training for people with deaf blindness.

Aboriginal Literacy Foundation

Aims to improve Aboriginal literacy through tuition, research and lobbying governments.

ABRISA Brazilian Association

Promotes Brazilian culture and provides information about Australia for immigrants.

AMIDA

Action for more independence and dignity in housing for people with disabilities.

AsbestosWise

Provides information and support services to asbestos victims and the wider community.

Assisi Aid Projects

Supports sustainable development work in southern India.

Aussie Hands Foundation

Offers information and support to children and adults with a hand difference.

Australia China Friendship Society

Fosters friendship between Australian and Chinese people.

Australian Federation of Disability Organisations

Champions the rights of people with a disability in Australia.

Blind Citizens Australia

Achieving equity and equality through empowerment, promoting positive community attitudes and striving for high quality and accessible services which meet members' needs.

Brain Injury Matters

Self advocacy for people with acquired brain injury.

Care Leavers Australia Network (CLAN)

A support, advocacy, research and training group for people who grew up in Australia's orphanages, Children's Homes and in foster care.

Care with Me

Supporting children and/or families who are dealing with foster care and whom come from a Culturally And Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background.

Casal Catala

Promotes the customs and language of Catalonia.

Charles Bonnet Syndrome Foundation

Assist people affected by Charles Bonnet Syndrome (including significant others) and raise awareness about this condition.

Christina Noble Children's Foundation

Assisting children in need with education, medical care, social opportunities and job placement in Vietnam and Mongolia.

Collective of Self Help Groups

A network of self-help and social action groups, made up of and controlled by people who are directly affected by a particular issue.

Community Music Victoria

Develops, facilitates and services music making among Victorian communities.

Dahl Trust

A charitable trust that supports environmental projects focused on Eucalyptus.

Darfur Australia Network

Aims to raise awareness about the continuing tragedy in Darfur (Sudan), assist in the resettlement of refugees and build solidarity between Australian people and the people of Darfur.

Disability Discrimination Legal Service

Works to eliminate discrimination against people with disabilities and assists to empower them.

Disabled WinterSport Australia

Provides opportunities for people with disabilities to enjoy winter sports and to enjoy the magnificent environment that is Australia's Snowy Mountains with fellow skiers.

Federation of Spanish Speaking Seniors

Offers friendship and support to members who represent twenty-one Spanish speaking countries.

Financial and Consumer Rights Council

Ensures that all people have access to fair treatment as consumers in the marketplace.

Handknitters Guild

Utilising the art and craft of hand knitting to promote community involvement, advocacy and self help.

Housing for the Aged Action Group

Working towards the alleviation of housing related poverty for older Australians.

Humanitarian Crisis Hub

Supports community action on war and conflict and works with community groups that carry out campaigns and other initiatives on these issues.

Indo-China Ethnic Chinese Association

Assists members with advice and referral for a range of issues associated with settlement in Australia.

Live and Learn

Aims to reduce poverty and foster greater understanding and action towards a sustainable future through education, community mobilisation and supportive partnerships.

Lotus Group / Lotus Singers

A self help group for people with acquired brain injuries and their carers and supporters.

Multicultural Media Exchange

Gives a voice to those in our community who are missing—and sometimes misrepresented—in the mainstream media, making the mainstream more multicultural and the multicultural media more mainstream.

Public Transport Users' Association

Represents passengers on all forms of public transport.

Reinforce

A self help group educating people about the rights and needs of people with an intellectual disability.

Retina Australia (Victoria)

Assistance for people who need to come to terms with the personal and social impact of gradually becoming blind.

RISE

Run by refugees, RISE provides mutual aid, support and training and advocates for better government policy for refugees.

SARU

The SARU drop in centre provides resources and self-advocacy support for people with a disability.

Somaliland Relief

Assists the Somaliland community in Australia by helping youth to contribute to and benefit from their local communities, and helps disadvantaged families in Somaliland.

Spina Bifida Foundation of Victoria

Aims to improve the life chances of people with Spina Bifida through practical programs and activities.

STAR – Victorian Action on Intellectual Disability

Advocates for the rights of people with an intellectual disability and their families.

Stroke Association of Victoria

Provides services, encouragement and support for people to self-manage their lives after stroke and promotes community awareness of stroke and its effects.

Thai Information and Welfare Association

Provides culturally appropriate information, welfare and referral services to the Thai community in Victoria.

The East West Overseas Aid Foundation

Aims to provide health, education and social justice for people of the Kaddapakkam and surrounding regions in Tamil Nadu, India.

The Victorian Drama League

Supports its members, comprising community theatre groups, play reading groups, theatre societies and amateur actors.

Timorese Association of Victoria

Preserves Timorese cultural identity and promotes and develops social and cultural activities in Australia.

Tree Project

Growing, planting and caring for trees in the city, bush-land and on farms.

Union of Australian Women

Networks with women's groups, community and union organisations on issues concerning women.

University of the Third Age

Brings together a community of older people who create and participate in learning activities utilising the principles of self-determination and self help.

Victorian Multi-Ethnic Slavic Welfare Association

Supports refugees, migrants and other Slavic associations in their settlement process in Australia.

Woor-Dungin Inc

Aims to enable Indigenous organisations to achieve self-determination and access the resources and support needed to address issues affecting their communities.

Tenant Associate Members

Counsellors' & Psychotherapists Association Vic (CAPAV)

Strengthens mental wellbeing of the Victorian public by providing affordable high quality accredited counseling and psychotherapy services.

Economic Indicator Services

Advocates and campaigns for a shift in taxation away from the disadvantaged to those who can most afford it.

Mac Advice

Provides consultancy advice, information and training on computer systems and programs.

Commercial Tenant

Dukes Coffee Roasters

A collaboration between like-minded individuals involved in the sourcing, roasting and brewing of high-end specialty coffee. Dukes believe in and support local producers and craftsmen.

Occasional Tenant Members

Apple Users Society of Melbourne

Provides help for Apple computer users.

Australian Federation of International Students

Aims to bridge the gap between international students and members of the Australian community.

Basic Needs Australia

Assists African migrants and refugees by addressing the growing needs of access and equity at the local and national level.

Forget Me Not Foundation

Support, information, referral and advocacy for loved ones who are victims of homicide.

Melbourne Esperanto Association

Promotes and teaches the international language Esperanto.

Older Women's Network of Victoria

A self help organisation committed to the rights, dignity and wellbeing of older women.

Public Interest Library Foundation

Supports and promotes all the principles of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, through providing accessible, free repository of information of public interest.

Members (non-tenants)

Action Research Issues Association

Art in Bark Association of Australia

Association of Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres

Association of Relinquishing Mothers (VIC) Inc ARMS

Australia Japan Society of Victoria

Blind Sports Australia

CALXA Australia (Associate Member)

Community Information & Support Victoria

Council of Single Mothers and their Children

Cultural Club Novi Sad

Macular Vision Loss Support Society of Australia

Melbourne Osteoporosis Support Group

My Data Choice

Narcolepsy and Overwhelming Daytime Sleep Society

NODDS

National Council of Women of Victoria

Oromia Support Group Australia

Outer Urban Projects Limited

Refuge of Hope Inc

Shakti Migrant & Refugee Women's Support Group

Melbourne

Society of Women Writers Victoria Inc (Associate Member)

Thai Language School of Victoria Inc

WIRE Women's Information

Moves in

Care Leavers Australia Network (CLAN)

Care With Me

Charles Bonnet Syndrome Foundation

Counsellors' & Psychotherapists Association Vic (CAPAV)

Dukes Coffee Roasters

Woor-Dungin

Moves out

Council of the Aging (Associate Member)

First Nations Foundation

Industrial Deaths Support and Advocacy

RPM Immigration Lawyers /Ross McDougall [Associate Member]

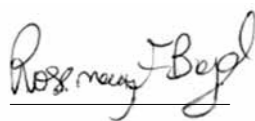
Traditional Healthcare

Ross House Association (RHA) enjoyed a strong financial performance this year, positioning the Association well for the significant expenditure required in the coming years to upgrade aging infrastructure within the building. The year ended with a healthy surplus of \$201,296 (2012 \$114,128).

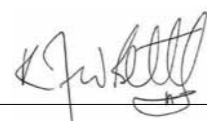
The committee members submit the financial report of RHA Inc for the financial year ended 30 June 2013. The principal activity of the Association during the financial year was to manage RHA for small community organisations who are working towards a just and environmentally sustainable society. No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year. The names of the committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Rosemary Boyd	Sue Healy
Esther Harris	Lyn Macdonald
Keith Bettles	Christine McAuslan
Kirsty Allen	Amber Moore
Peta Cox	Cameron Neil
Valerie Elliott	Heidi Peart
Richard Foster	Jenny Stewart
De Grebner	

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Committee:



Rosemary Boyd



Keith Bettles

Balance sheet

As at 30 June 2013

	2013	2012
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank & On Hand	1,154,792	953,464
Trade Debtors	13,761	4,405
Less Prov. for Doubtful Debts	10,000	10,000
	3,761	(5,595)
Sundry Debtors	150	150
Prepayments	4,389	45,787
	1,163,092	993,806
Non-current Assets		
Land & Building (at cost)	10,500,000	10,500,000
Furniture & Equipment (at cost)	151,234	138,572
Less accumulated depreciation	120,626	113,898
Capital Work (at cost)	183,504	12,296
Less accumulated depreciation	8,624	1,073
	10,705,489	10,535,898
TOTAL ASSETS	11,868,581	11,529,704
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	6,773	5,446
Sundry Creditors & Accruals	40,348	33,566
Income in Advance	244,725	96,559
Staff Leave Provisions	46,435	65,134
	338,281	200,705
TOTAL LIABILITIES	338,281	200,705
NET ASSETS	11,530,300	11,329,000
Equity		
Capital Reserve	10,500,000	10,500,000
RHA Trust	139,369	139,369
Retained Earnings	890,931	689,630
	11,530,300	11,329,000

Income statement

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

	2013	2012
Income		
Lease Income	523,012	545,526
Car Park	45,741	52,378
Facilities Hire	159,730	123,724
Equipment Hire	15,913	16,918
Sales-Equipment Keys & Stationery	3,212	2,767
Interest Received	37,678	38,270
Insurance & Other Reimbursements	(4,350)	(6,683)
Membership Subscription	3,354	2,627
Other Income	-	43
Grants	115,206	7,515
Rounding	4	(4)
Donations in Kind	6,621	7,922
GST Refund	-	2,393
TOTAL INCOME	906,121	793,396
Less expenditure		
Operating Expenses		
Salaries & Wages	317,600	303,115
Superannuation	27,290	24,613
Workcover Premiums	873	896
Provision for Staff Leave	(6,486)	18,040
Staff Training	802	2,009
Staff Selection/Appointments	-	621
	340,078	349,294
Property and Equipment Costs		
Building Expenses	138,912	122,834
Utilities & Services	76,994	76,239
Cleaning	69,787	67,321
Other Property & Equipment	20,608	13,713
	306,300	280,107

The above financial statements are an abridged version of the financial statements of Ross House Association Inc as audited by J L Collyer and Partners and deemed to a) give a true view of Ross House Association Inc's financial position as at 30 June 2013 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with appropriate accounting policies; and b) comply with appropriate Australian Accounting Standards. The complete financial statements are available on request from Ross House Association and are published on www.rosshouse.org.au.

Income statement cont.

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

	2013	2012
Operating Costs		
Amenities	692	392
Advertising and Promotion	1,191	1,653
Audit fees	1,789	1,849
Bad Debts Expenses	919	4,003
Bank Charges	445	576
Bookkeeping & Accounting fees	504	490
Computer & Courier	4,871	5,547
Consultants fees	24,470	2,270
Annual report & AGM	3,734	5,029
Events	654	4,080
Fundraising Cost	-	70
Legal fees	5,154	5,953
Telephone	6,315	7,066
Printing & Design	-	809
Postage	386	462
RHA Admin Support & COM Exp	74	557
Stationery & Office Supplies	4,009	6,210
Sub. Membership & Library	1,499	1,640
Sundry Equipment Purchases	35	-
Sundry Expenses	725	671
Petty Cash Balancing Adj	21	45
Website	960	495
	58,447	49,866
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	704,825	679,267
PROFIT(LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	201,296	114,128

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you for helping us grow

Thank you to all Committee and subcommittee members. The hours you give are deeply appreciated. A special thank you to our members, tenants, supports and partners, including:

- ANZ Trustees
- Australian Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism
- City of Melbourne, especially Voula Sarhanis from Community Strengthening, Michele Leembrugen from the 1200 Buildings Program, Rebecca Hughes and Gordon Harrison from Engineering Services and the whole Degraes Street Recycling Facility team
- City West Water, especially Damien Frankling
- Live & Learn
- Hayden Raysmith AM
- Maddocks, especially Anna Tang and Tim McHugh
- National Trust of Australia (Victoria)
- People & Planet
- Dukes Coffee Roasters, especially Peter Frangoulis
- Perpetual Trustees
- Rowe Family Foundation
- The Diana Browne Trust
- Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
- Australian Ethical Investment
- Infoxchange
- Victorian Department of Business and Innovation
- Matt Chable from Chable & Chable
- Tim Norton
- Leighton Boyd
- Helen Cunningham

Ross House would not exist today without the establishment funding provided by the following original donors:

- The R E Ross Trust
- The Danks Trust
- The E B Myer Charitable Fund
- The Helen Macpherson Smith Trust
- The Ian Potter Foundation
- The Lance Reichstein Foundation
- Sidney Myer Fund
- The Oliver-Affleck Fund
- The Percy Baxter Charitable Trust
- The Scobie and Claire MacKinnon Trust
- The Stegley Foundation
- The W.C.F. Thomas Charitable Trust
- The William Buckland Foundation
- The William Paxton Charitable Trust
- The Victorian State Government

"Community singing is not only good for health and wellbeing, but also a wonderful team building activity where the whole is certainly more than the sum of its parts", Community Music Victoria

Photo: CMVic



