

# ROSS HOUSE ASSOCIATION

annual report  
2013-2014

# ROSS HOUSE



## contents

- 2 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
- 3 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT
- 5 HISTORY
- 7 MORE THAN A BUILDING
- 9 ROSS HOUSE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE AND STAFF 2013-2014
- 11 MEMBER'S STORIES
- 19 MEMBERS AND TENANTS 2013-2014
- 23 FINANCIAL REPORTS
- 26 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



ABN 98 304 224 784  
247 Flinders Lane Melbourne VIC 3000  
T (03) 9650 1599 F (03) 9650 3689  
E [rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au)  
[www.rosshouse.org.au](http://www.rosshouse.org.au)

Graphic design: [jahr.com.au](http://jahr.com.au)  
Printed on 100% recycled post-consumer paper  
with vegetable based inks.

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

**This is a great opportunity to remind ourselves of what a unique organisation we are. While the Association's first role is to own and manage a building, we are also working towards creating a more just and environmentally sustainable society by supporting small community organisations.**

As with life, there are small and large gains as well as some setbacks and happily the Association's gains more than outweigh its setbacks. This progression is reflected in the fortunes of our members, however sometimes setbacks outweigh the gains: funding sources dry up or policies change direction so that members' goals don't match the required criteria; or their membership might not be able to support its successful functioning; either way, sometimes we are then forced to farewell them as tenants.

The Committee continues to review its operations and appreciates members' input to the review. Unfortunately we have not been able to carry out all its proposals, particularly out-of-hours support - our resources simply do not stretch that far. This year, our excellent General Manager also drew our attention to the need to upgrade the building's fit-out in the not too distant future. Faced with this inevitable costly exercise, the Association is now undertaking appropriate steps to ensure that we have the long term funding to meet this need. Not only does our manager fortuitously suit our building's needs, he is building up a vibrant staff team whose sterling work serves both the Committee and Association members admirably.

We appreciate tenants' fortitude while alterations and improvements have been underway this past year. After the lighting upgrade was completed, a much-needed upgrade to the air-conditioning system began. The aim was to cause as little disruption as possible but as is the nature of major capital works projects, people and supplies didn't always fit in the same working time frame. There were unfortunately periods when there

was no air-conditioning coinciding with hot weather and we thank our tenants for showing great resilience and understanding during this time. Before work began on the air-conditioning, asbestos was removed from the entire roof space. Whilst it was not essential for the entire roof space to be asbestos free for the air conditioning upgrade to take place, it was decided that for the long term benefit of the building and its tenants, completely removing the asbestos in one operation, was the best option.

Whilst we have been successful in gaining some funding for environmental improvements to the building, funding sources are limited due to the Association's lack of DGR status. Pursuing DGR status is an on-going and time consuming exercise, however each new member that is able to gain DGR status, gives us hope that one day we may be able to do the same.

The work of our staff cannot be praised too highly. The team is dedicated to the Association and each member brings particular skills to their role; it reflects the community spirit to which we all aspire. The work of the Committee is not always noticed but rest assured, we are a committed team working to our utmost to serve our Association. Each member brings with them special skills and for this I thank them for their commitment.

May we all continue to contribute to and strive towards the ideals of our Association.

Valerie Elliott



## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

This year has been a year of re-building – of the building itself, but also within the Association. April 2014 brought the completion of the largest building improvement project ever undertaken by the Association, the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) upgrade. Not to be overshadowed by the HVAC upgrade, RHA is now also in the final stages of finishing the second largest project, the restoration of our heritage facade. During the 2013-2014 financial year, we welcomed the arrival of new staff members, all of who are dedicated to building a solid foundation for the future of the Association.

The HVAC upgrade was identified, in an Environmental Upgrade Report provided by ARUP in early 2012, as the most urgent action required to the building. At the time of reporting, the HVAC system was outdated, frequently failed and presented some significant health and non-compliance issues. In June 2012, RHA were successful in obtaining \$395,500 in grant funding from the Australian Government to assist with the cost of upgrading the system. At the beginning of 2013, Cardno ITC commenced the design and in July 2013 RHA entered into a contract with JL Williams for the installation of the new HVAC system. Works were conducted between August 2013 and May 2014.

This project has been the most significant building upgrade in RHA history and would not have been possible without our valued supporters; the Australian Government, City of Melbourne, ARUP, AIRAH, City Switch and Dukes Coffee Roasters. We would also like to thank our tenants and facility users, for their patience and understanding whilst the HVAC system was being installed.

This year also saw the start of a \$260,000 upgrade to the northern heritage façade. Funding received last year from the Rowe Family Foundation (\$39,914) and The Diana Browne Trust (\$148,000), both managed by Perpetual, and this year from the Victorian Heritage Restoration Fund (\$20,000) have greatly assisted in restoring the Ross House façade to it's near former

glory. Minor repairs to sections of the east and west facades have also been carried out. I'm sure you will agree, that the façade has never looked so good!

The City of Melbourne, Degraeves Street Recycling Facility trial, has been extended until 30th June 2015. The 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. This is a great initiative and Ross House is proud to be supporters of this unique venture.

We welcomed to the Ross House Association, two new staff members - Samantha Thornton and Junxia Xu. Sam and Jun bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to their roles and we are lucky to have them on-board.

During the 2013-2014 financial year Peter Main was employed in the Facility Manager position- and we thank Peter for his efforts during that time.

This past year also saw us bid farewell to a much loved and long serving staff member, Ani Loriente. Ani started with Ross House Association in 1999 in the Information and Administration Worker position and after working her way up to the Finance Officer role, Ani ended her 13 years with the Association this year. We would like to sincerely thank Ani for her outstanding achievements during her time at RHA and are very happy that she is not too far away as she still works with HAAG on level 1.

Natalie Durkovic resigned from her position with the Association this year. Nat had a long involvement with Ross House, initially turning to the community in order to seek help for her son, who has Autism. Natalie ended up working for the Association, first as the Information and Administration Worker in 2010 and then as the Community Development Project Worker from 2011 to 2014. Thank you Nat, for your commitment to Ross House and always being willing to lend a hand.

Katie Stoll also finished up with Ross House this year, having started with the Association at the beginning of 2013. It was always a delight to see Katie on the front desk and she will be remembered for her enthusiasm for Ross House and it's people. [At the time of printing, Katie has actually rejoined the Ross House team!]

I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work this year - working during times of change is not always easy. However, through dedication and looking out for each other, significant advances have been achieved over the last 12 months.

This year has been one of the most productive years ever for the Association. It must be recognised that the real purpose behind these efforts is to ensure that tenants and members can continue to work tirelessly, towards a more socially just and sustainable world, for us all.

Michael Griffiths



Students are tutored at a Literacy and Heritage Camp, held for Indigenous children in Ballarat.  
Photo: Aboriginal Literacy Foundation

## HISTORY

**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.

The Community Engagement Team at Diaspora Action Australia supports communities that promote peace building, development and human rights. This is achieved through mentoring, tailored workshops and cultivating networks.  
*Photo: Diaspora Action Australia*



## 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.



Pauline Williamson, Chairperson of HAAG, with the Minister of Housing, Wendy Lovell, at HAAG's 'Surviving or Thriving – Older People at Risk of Homelessness' forum in June 2014.  
Photo: Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG)

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.

## ROSS HOUSE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE AND STAFF 2013-2014

### COMMITTEE

#### Chairperson

**Rosemary Boyd**  
Retina Australia (Vic)  
(until November)

#### Valerie Elliott

Handknitters Guild  
(from November)

#### Vice Chairperson

#### Esther Harris

Star (until November)

#### Christine McAuslan

COSG (from November)

#### Treasurer

#### Richard Foster

Disabled WinterSport Australia  
(until July)

#### Keith Bettles

U3A Melbourne City (Acting from  
August-November, elected from  
November)

#### Members

#### De Grebner

TreeProject  
(from March)

#### Michael Griffiths

Ex-officio

#### Sue Healy

Appointed Member

#### Lyn Macdonald

Lotus Group/Singers

#### Amber Moore

Staff Representative

#### Cameron Neil

Appointed Member (until April)

#### Jenny Stewart

Union of Australian Women (until  
November)

### STAFF

#### Natalie Durkovic

Community Development Project  
Officer (until January)

#### Michael Griffiths

Facility Manager (until September)  
General Manager (from September)

#### Amy Johnston

Information Resources and  
Administration Officer (from April)

#### Ani Loriente

Finance Officer (until July)

#### Peter Main

Facility Manager  
(from January to July 2014)

#### Amber Moore

Development Program Manager

#### Katie Stoll

Information Resources and  
Administration Officer (until June)

#### Samantha Thornton

Membership & Tenancy Officer  
(from November)

#### Junxia Xu

Finance Officer (from November)

#### Casual Front Desk Staff

#### Glen Moore

#### Eva Csik

#### Lucie McMahon

#### Sue McDonough



The PTUA campaign against the East West Link was launched at Flinders St on 29th November 2013.  
Photo: Public Transport Users Association

## MEMBERS' STORIES

### The Victorian Drama League

The Victorian Drama League (VDL) was established in 1952 to support the amateur theatre world in Victoria. The League has over 400 members from Victoria, interstate and even overseas, comprising: theatre companies, play reading groups, schools, One-Act Play Festivals, as well as many individual members.

We conduct a comprehensive review and awards program each year, train and encourage playwrights and performers of all ages and publish a monthly magazine, Theatrecraft, for reviews and articles on the theatre world. Our office, on the third floor of Ross House, houses an extensive library of plays and reference books along with CDs of sound effects and dialects.

2014 has been a sad year for the VDL, with the death of long serving Office Manager, David Crothers, in February. David will be remembered as a friendly, reliable person, always on hand to offer advice on play selection, particularly to the play reading groups. His loss has been deeply felt in the amateur theatre world and particularly among the band of volunteers who assist in the office.

On a brighter note, we were delighted to announce that well known playwright, Hannie Rayson, agreed to become our new patron. Hannie was welcomed to the office in September by a number of committee members and volunteers. She was interested to hear about the range of VDL activities and was most enthusiastic about her involvement in our organisation.

As 2014 ticks along, the VDL is gearing up for its annual Awards night in December; always an occasion of much excitement and intense speculation as we wait to see who has won the glittering prizes! More importantly however, it reinforces that sense of being part of a community with common interests and a common purpose.

And it is that sense of community that the VDL shares with all the other organisations that call Ross House home.

[www.theatercraft.org.au](http://www.theatercraft.org.au)



L-R: Graeme McCoubrie (VDL President),  
Hannie Rayson (VDL Patron),  
Alison Campbell Rate (VDL Secretary)  
Photo: Victorian Drama League

### Spina Bifida Foundation of Victoria

Imagine staying in a resort for two nights with a group of sixty or so friends. There are lots of other children for your children to play and hang out with, outdoor activities are organised and all meals are provided for you. There are volunteers present to help supervise your children and the entire resort is wheelchair and disability friendly.

For twelve families, the above was a reality on the weekend of 7-9th February, when Spina Bifida Foundation Victoria held its annual Family Camp at Phillip Island.

The weekend kicked off with a welcome barbeque; a relaxed and happy affair with an abundance of good food, whilst the gangs of children ran around and played until it was well and truly dark.

Saturday morning brought many activities to choose from: canoeing, archery, flying fox and a giant swing. The flying fox was particularly popular, with parents and children alike stepping into harnesses and enjoying many runs each.

Saturday afternoon saw the children and volunteers head off to Amaze'n'Things, whilst the parents stayed behind for afternoon tea at Ramada Resort and enjoyed the company of special guest, Paralympic champion, Richard Colman.

The evening offered a wholesome roast dinner and entertainment from Captain Eric, who used magic and humour to remind us that we are all special and unique. His performance appeals to the child in us all and the parents and children all loved it, it was a very special experience.

Photo: Spina Bifida Foundation Victoria



The night continued with a disco for the kids and a traditional beer tasting/grading event for the adults. Sunday came and saw more activities including a special talk by hypnotherapist, Adam Palmer, giving advice on how to look after yourself.

The camp could not run without the support of the volunteers who come back year after year, they make the camp a true success, along with the tremendous grant writing skills of Elizabeth - through grants received, the cost to families to attend this annual event is minimal.

[www.sbfv.org.au](http://www.sbfv.org.au)

By Sue Maslin



## Christina Noble Children's Foundation

The Christina Noble Children's Foundation (CNCF) Australia is a charity and child sponsorship organisation dedicated to ensuring children have access to their basic human rights and are provided with opportunities to flourish in safe and healthy environments in order to develop to their full potential.

CNCF Australia supports a number of significant projects in Vietnam and Mongolia, however in the past twelve months we committed to partnering with CNCF Vietnam and the people of Vinh Long Province in the Mekong Delta to provide funding for kindergartens in this region.

These kindergartens are established with the aim of increasing school enrolments, educating the children and families on clean water practices and providing them with nutrition and health practices.

We were thrilled and extremely proud to fund the completion of the Kim Dong kindergarten in May 2014. Binh Ninh, where this project was undertaken, previously had a three-classroom kindergarten servicing 150 children aged 3 to 5. To cater for these children they were divided into 5 classes. Even so, this did little to meet the ever increasing demand for preschool facilities.

Extra classes were expanded into often rundown, unsafe buildings within the commune. For those children fortunate enough to have a place in kindergarten they lack normal facilities such as playground equipment and quality classroom materials and teaching aids.

The new Kim Dong Kindergarten comprises three classrooms with toilet areas, corridors, electricity and plumbing. It is expected to solve the shortage of classrooms for 100% of children aged 5, 80% of children aged 3 to 4, and 10-15% of nursery-aged children from the four hamlets.

CNCF Australia is currently raising funds for the completion of our next project in the same region, the Huu Thanh kindergarten.



## Community Music Victoria (CMVic)

**TreeTops – 2014 CMVic Music Camp, was a new style of CMVic event, bringing together singers and instrumentalists, with mixed musical ability and genre. The result? “Fun, inclusive, joyful, friendly and musical!”**

Back in the wintery depths of May, the hardened folk of Community Music Victoria (CMVic) determined to defy the cold, headed to the regional township of Riddell's Creek for a sell out weekend of music making. Over one hundred people settled themselves into bunks and cosy cabins, some opting for a spot of al fresco camping. Ukuleles, fiddles, marimbas, saxophones and even a harp began to appear in corners of the communal dining room, as people arrived through the darkening drizzle into the warmth of this inaugural CMVic event.

Over the next two days, a series of workshops and singing circles gave people the opportunity to practice their well polished ability, crank up the dial on existing hidden talents, or just dabble and have a go at singing and playing pretty much anything. We jumped on Jon Madin's ding boxes, played Pachelbel's Canon on

echocelloes like maestros born to wield a bow (despite many of us never having played one ever before). We summoned up visions of the Wild West, playing film scores by Ennio Morricone on ukuleles and marimbas, under the leadership of Joseph Bromley amongst heaps of many other magnificent workshops. There were opportunities to try harmony singing, fiddly folk tunes, pan-pipes, as well as structured discussions about the challenges faced by sustaining instrumental and singing groups for leaders.

Feedback from participants endorsed our sense that this event had been particularly successful. We asked them to describe the event in three words and the most common used words were fun, inclusive, joyful, friendly and musical. For some of these participants, it was their first experience of community music making, something that CMVic loves to facilitate and a core reason for our very existence in working to support and promote music making as a way to bring people together and build communities. After a de-brief and a period of reflection, we reckon we'll be up for Treetops II, next year!

[www.cmv.org.au](http://www.cmv.org.au)



Photo: CMVic

## Brain Injury Matters

**In June 2014, Brain Injury Matters (BIM), received a Highly Commended Award for Excellence in Advocacy and Rights Promotion at the Victorian Disability Sector Awards. The awards were presented by Andrea Coote, the Parliamentary Secretary for Families and Community Services.**

Brain Injury Matters is unique as a self advocacy group for people with an Acquired Brain Injury (ABI). The organisation's aims include empowering people with an ABI, raising community awareness about ABI, and providing support to alleviate the isolation felt by people living with an ABI.

[www.bim.org.au](http://www.bim.org.au)



Photo: Brain Injury Matters

## Stroke Association of Victoria

**We are delighted to announce that Stroke Association of Victoria member, Dennisse Luna, has been appointed to the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission Disability Reference Group.**

"As a SAV member I would like to announce my recent successful appointment to the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission *Disability Reference Group*, says Dennisse.

"To all my fellow stroke survivors and associates, please allow me to be your voice in any way I can in this new position that I have the opportunity to be in. Anyone is welcome to contact me with their thoughts or comments on any matter. I look forward to the many people I may meet from here and any positive contribution I may hope to make."

Dennisse was interviewed earlier this year by Liz Wright, on the 3CR Community Radio program, "Are You Looking at me?"

She has already inspired many people with her courage, positive attitude and commitment to making a difference to the lives of others also affected by stroke.

Dennisse's role with the Disability Reference Group, will provide her with another opportunity to advocate for the needs of many stroke survivors and their families.

[www.strokeassociation.com.au](http://www.strokeassociation.com.au)

## Outer Urban Projects

Outer Urban Project's Melbourne Festival 2013 work, *Urban Chamber - Beyond* ran at the Melbourne Recital Centre on the 25th and 26th of October 2013.

In a multicultural ode to Melbourne, audiences were introduced to the new sound of our city – a sound where hip-hop collides with chamber music and urban dance. Outer Urban Projects and MASSIVE Hip Hop Choir from Melbourne's northern and western suburbs and beyond teamed up with Komninos, an iconic Australian performance poet, and Mary Quinsacara (one of Australia's first female emcees) for a hip-hop/classical throw down.

The coming together of these talented youth ensembles, created an infectiously intimate show; fusing the primal force of rap, the power of dance and the timeless beauty of classical music, creating a powerful performance that was both instantly recognisable and utterly unique.

Telling tales of wealth and poverty, privilege and neglect, apathy and ambition, *Urban Chamber – Beyond* channelled the hopes, anxieties and ambitions of Melbourne's suburban youth whose origins span five continents.

This is the essential voice of Australia's present and future - diverse, vibrant and original.

*"Joyous and astonishing. This is indeed how the world sounds: hybrid, modernist and ancient, popular and classical."* Christos Tsiolkas 'Artery'

[www.outerurbanprojects.org](http://www.outerurbanprojects.org)



## MEMBERS AND TENANTS 2013-2014

### 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.

#### 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 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

Assisting people affected by Charles Bonnet Syndrome (including significant others) and raises awareness about the 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), assists in the resettlement of refugees and builds solidarity between Australian people and the people of Darfur.

#### Diaspora Action Australia

(formally 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.

#### Disability Discrimination Legal Service

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

#### Disability Resources Centre

Provides individual advocacy for adults with a disability, free of charge, throughout greater metropolitan Melbourne.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### Outer Urban Projects

A bold not for profit performing arts organisation that collaborates with young people and their communities in Melbourne's culturally diverse, artistically starved, 'hardcore' outer northern suburbs.

#### 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.

#### Shakti Migrant & Refugee Women's Support Group Melbourne

Provides culturally-competent domestic violence intervention and support services to women and children victims of domestic violence of Asian, African and Middle Eastern origins.

#### Spina Bifida Foundation of Victoria

Provides programs and support to people with spina bifida and their families.

#### **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.

#### **Community Social Development International**

Works with approved international organisations (initially India) assisting disadvantaged communities in developing countries bring about positive change in their lives.

#### **Forget Me Not Foundation**

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

#### **Futures Foundation (Associate Member)**

Promotes greater interest in, and understanding of, the future.

#### **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)**

350.org Australia

Action Research Issues Association

Art in Bark Association of Australia

Assisi Aid Projects

Association of Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres

Association of Relinquishing Mothers (VIC) Inc ARMS

Australia Japan Society of Victoria

Australians Detained Abroad

CALXA Australia (*Associate Member*)

Community Information & Support Victoria

Council of Single Mothers and their Children

Counsellors Victoria Inc (*Associate Member*)

Cultural Club Novi Sad

Footscape Inc (*Associate Member*)

Macular Vision Loss Support Society of Australia

Melbourne Campaigner's Network

Melbourne Osteoporosis Support Group

My Data Choice

Narcolepsy and Overwhelming Daytime Sleep Society

NODDS

National Council of Women of Victoria

Oromia Support Group Australia

Refuge of Hope Inc

Society of Women Writers Victoria Inc (*Associate Member*)

Somaliland Relief

Sustainable Living Foundation

Thai Language School of Victoria Inc

WIRE Women's Information

### **Moves in**

Outer Urban Projects

Disability Resources Centre

Shakti Migrant & Refugee Women's Support Group

Melbourne

### **Moves out**

Assisi Projects

Somaliland Relief

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

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 \$334,498 (2012 \$201,296).

The committee members submit the financial report of RHA Inc for the financial year ended 30 June 2014. 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:

Valerie Elliott  
Christine McAuslan  
Keith Bettles  
Sue Healy  
Lyn Macdonald (Resigned on September 2nd 2014)  
De Grebner (Member from February 27th 2014)  
Amber Moore

Signed in accordance with a resolution  
of the Committee:



Valerie Elliott



Keith Bettles

### Balance sheet As at 30 June 2014

	2014	2013
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at Bank & On Hand	615,912	1,154,792
Trade Debtors	23,857	13,761
Less Prov. for Doubtful Debts	5,000	10,000
	<b>18,857</b>	<b>3,761</b>
Sundry Debtors	150	150
Prepayments	-	4,389
Account Receivable	20,000	-
	<b>654,919</b>	<b>1,163,092</b>
<b>Non-current Assets</b>		
Land	5,550,000	10,500,000
Buildings	2,950,000	-
Less accumulated amortisation	(73,750)	-
Furniture & Equipment	145,036	151,234
Less accumulated depreciation	(136,095)	(120,626)
Capital Work	175,537	183,504
Less accumulated depreciation	(41,174)	(8,624)
Electronic Equipment	9,080	-
Less accumulated depreciation	(3,973)	-
HVAC	801,516	-
Less accumulated depreciation	(21,994)	-
	<b>9,354,184</b>	<b>10,705,488</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>10,009,103</b>	<b>11,868,581</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade Creditors	-	6,773
Sundry Creditors & Accruals	67,484	40,348
Income in Advance	14,730	244,725
Staff Leave Provisions	47,600	39,706
	<b>129,814</b>	<b>331,552</b>
<b>Non- Current Liabilities</b>		
Staff Leave Provisions - L.S.L.	14,491	6,729
	<b>14,491</b>	<b>6,729</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>144,305</b>	<b>338,281</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>9,864,798</b>	<b>11,530,300</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Capital Reserve	8,500,000	10,500,000
RHA Trust	-	139,369
Retained Earnings	1,364,798	890,931
	<b>9,864,798</b>	<b>11,530,300</b>

### Income statement For the year ended 30 June 2014

	2014	2013
<b>Income</b>		
Lease Income	577,072	523,012
Car Park	37,146	45,741
Facilities Hire	181,816	159,730
Equipment Hire	16,443	15,913
Sales-Equipment Keys & Stationery	4,413	3,212
Interest Received	28,464	37,678
Insurance & Other Reimbursements	801	(4,350)
Membership Subscription	3,210	3,354
Other Income	63	-
Grants	531,096	115,206
Rounding	19	4
Donations in Kind	3,200	6,621
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,383,741</b>	<b>906,121</b>
<b>Less expenditure</b>		
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Salaries & Wages	334,580	317,600
Superannuation	29,947	27,290
Workcover Premiums	1,107	873
Provision for Staff Leave	15,657	(6,486)
Staff Training	1,671	802
Staff Selection/Appointments	406	-
	<b>383,367</b>	<b>340,078</b>
<b>Property and Equipment Costs</b>		
Building Expenses	337,566	138,912
Utilities & Services	65,332	76,994
Cleaning	64,045	69,787
Other property & Equipment	156,137	20,608
	<b>623,080</b>	<b>306,300</b>

### Income statement cont. For the year ended 30 June 2014

	2014	2013
<b>Operating Costs</b>		
Amenities	706	692
Advertising and Promotion	1,872	1,191
Audit fees	1,756	1,789
Bad Debts Expenses	(5,000)	919
Bank Charges	1,273	445
Bookkeeping & Accounting fees	572	504
Computer & Courier	4,020	4,871
Consultants fees	12,450	24,470
Annual report & AGM	3,545	3,734
Events	590	654
Legal fees	6,893	5,154
Telephone	5,035	6,315
Printing & Design	245	-
Postage	240	386
RHA Admin Support & COM Exp	-	74
Stationery & Office Supplies	5,616	4,009
Sub. Membership & Library	1,265	1,499
Sundry Equipment Purchases	-	35
Sundry Expenses	1,701	725
Travelling	16	-
Petty Cash Balancing Adj	-	21
Website	-	960
	<b>42,796</b>	<b>58,447</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,049,243</b>	<b>704,825</b>
<b>PROFIT (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>334,498</b>	<b>201,296</b>

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 2014 and of its performance for the year ending 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](http://www.rosshouse.org.au).



Tank installation in Buninga, Vanuatu  
Photo: Live & Learn Environmental Education

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### Thank you for helping us grow

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

- The Australian Government
- 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
- Hayden Raysmsith AM
- Maddocks
- National Trust of Australia (Victoria)
- People & Planet
- Dukes Coffee Roasters, especially Peter Frangoulis
- Perpetual Trustees
- Rowe Family Foundation
- The Diana Browne Trust
- Victorian Heritage Restoration Fund
- Tim Norton
- Sue Healy
- City Switch, especially Paul Whelan and Jeff Elliott

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



# ROSS HOUSE

