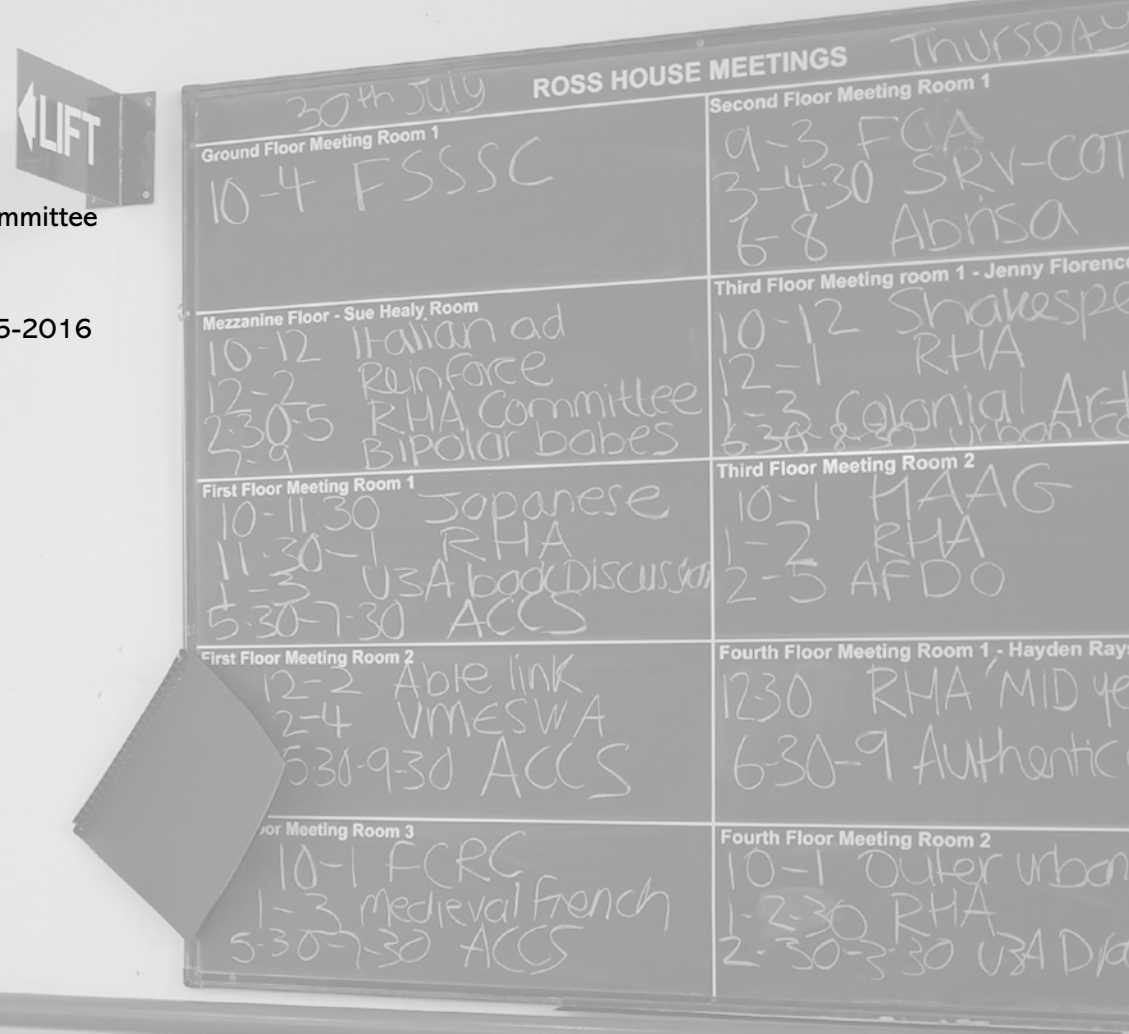


Ross House: Where Community Groups Grow



Ross House Association
annual report 2015-2016

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Graphic design:  jah.com.au
Printed on 100% recycled post-consumer paper with vegetable based inks.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Ross House Association is its members and the building in which it operates. We encapsulate the values of a just and sustainable society in which we make our own special contribution. This is simple to say but complex to achieve. The building is where we operate and gain our security in which we work, from which we move forward. This is our uniqueness and with it comes responsibility.

All aspects of our aims are being fulfilled. Our day-to-day activities are successful and there is planning for the long-term, but funding of this remains a problem. We are not giving up, but it does weigh heavily in the Committee's mind.

Having security within the Ross House Association does not mean there will never be change. The thought of change may cause discomfort but we have a responsibility to each other to see that Ross House continues to function successfully. We all have a have a part to play in this process.

I commend the General Manager's Report and the Finance Report to you.

Valerie Elliott



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

In 2015-2016 we have seen the Ross House community come together in a year of involvement, engagement and collaboration. All Ross House events were vibrant and well attended and we saw great participation and interest in the first ever RHA Information & Strategy Forum and resulting Future Development Working Party.

We have also carried out a number of much needed refurbishments to various meeting room spaces and to the common areas on Level 1, where new carpet and a fresh coat of paint have brightened and rejuvenated the floor.

Our constant focus on energy performance and building sustainability lead to another City Switch Award Nomination during the 2015 year. The monthly energy results are tracked and displayed in the Ross House Newsletter, so like us, you can keep an eye on the building performance throughout the year.

The RHA Information & Strategy Forum 2015, was the first event of its kind and aimed to provide the Ross House community a detailed look at where the Association is heading over the next 10-years. This event started an important discussion, which was continued with the Future Development Working Party in early 2016. Both these events were well attended by our membership and suggestions will be incorporated into the Association's future plans and strategic direction. Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate or comment, as these are important, vital issues for the Ross House community to address.

I would also like to thank the staff and casual staff team, including our newest member Rebecca Jahr, who joined us this year, and who have all worked tirelessly towards the Association's goals. The staff have been a stable, dedicated and effective team throughout the year. The Committee have also provided many hours of support and advice during this period and I would like to thank them for their time and dedication.

Although there have been many achievements this year, it should be remembered that the real purpose behind the efforts of the Association, is to support the tenants and members who strive to make this world a more socially just and sustainable place for us all.

In October 2017, the Association will celebrate its 30th Year anniversary. This is a remarkable achievement for the only self-funded and community owned not-for-profit building in Australia. It is by working together, through community involvement, engagement and collaboration that this has been possible. So it is in this spirit, that together, we can look forward to the anniversary celebrations in the year to come.

Michael Griffiths





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 40 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.



ROSS HOUSE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE AND STAFF 2015-2016

COMMITTEE

Chairperson

Valerie Elliott
Handknitters Guild

Vice Chairperson

Christine McAuslan
COSHG

Treasurer

Keith Bettles
U3A Melbourne City

Members

Charles Brass
Futures Foundation

De Grebner

Tree Project

Michael Griffiths

Ex-officio

Sue Healy

Appointed Member

Amber Moore

Staff Representative

Maree Norris

Housing for the
Aged Action Group

STAFF

Michael Griffiths

General Manager

Amber Moore

Development Program
Manager

Nazzareno Marchionda

Facility Manager

Katie Stadtfeld Cunnane

Information &
Administration Officer

Samantha Thornton

Membership & Tenancy
Officer

Junxia Xu

Finance Officer

Casual Front Desk Staff

Stephanie East

Lucie McMahon

Sue McDonough

Gabrielle Parton

Rebecca Jahr



THE BIG ISSUE

The Big Issue celebrated 20 years of providing life-changing opportunities for homeless and disadvantaged Australians in 2016. A small group of vendors sold the first copies of The Big Issue magazine on the steps of Melbourne's Flinders Street Station on June 16, 1996. Two decades later, more than 6500 men and women have collectively earned \$24 million through selling the magazine.

The social enterprise has spread nationally, with more than 500 vendors now working around the country. Vendors buy copies of the magazine for \$3.50 and sell them for \$7, earning the \$3.50 difference from each sale.

The Big Issue has also expanded to include five additional programs and enterprises alongside the much-loved street magazine, which allows the organisation to tackle different aspects of homelessness and disadvantage.

To mark its big milestone, a bumper edition of The Big Issue magazine hit the streets on Friday 3 June. The edition featured 28 extra pages than regular editions, with special stories highlighting some of the best content and key achievements of the past 20 years.

Melbourne vendors, staff and supporters gathered for an anniversary breakfast at Federation Square, metres from where the magazine first launched at Flinders Street Station. Around the country, vendors gathered for breakfast events to mark the occasion and launch the special birthday edition. Lord Mayors in Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane and Darwin, along with ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr, joined the celebration by taking to the streets throughout the day to sell the edition alongside vendors.

www.bigissue.org.au



Photo © The Big Issue

MELBOURNE OSTEOPOROSIS SUPPORT GROUP INC.

2015-16 has been another busy year for the Melbourne Osteoporosis Support Group. We continue to hold our regular bi-monthly meetings in the Hayden Raysmith Room at Ross House, where we have interesting speakers, a library for the benefit of our members and of course, afternoon tea.

Along with our regular meetings we always have a full year of activities! In September, we held our Annual Luncheon in the Angliss Restaurant at the William Angliss Hospital School - always a good social event over a delicious meal.

In October we had a presence at the Seniors Festival; on the first Sunday we helped on the Arthritis & Osteoporosis Victoria (now known as MOVE muscle bone and joint health) stand down by the river and on the second Sunday we had our own stand at the Gluten Free Expo in Jeff's Shed. At the *Ashburton til Twilight Festival* in November we manned an information table and in May we visited the Walter & Eliza Hall Research Institute - this was so well received that we plan to revisit it again next year.

In October, thanks to Ross House, we were given a window on Flinders Lane in which to promote our group - this coincided with World Osteoporosis Day. Our 100 members continue to receive bi-monthly newsletters containing the latest research and useful information gathered from around the world, in regard to osteoporosis.

www.melbosg.org.au



Photo © Melbourne Osteoporosis Support Group Inc.



THE SUNFLOWER FOUNDATION (AUSTRALIA) INC

Occupying a small fourth floor office in Ross House since February 2016, The Sunflower Foundation (Australia) Inc is a not-for-profit charity dedicated to seeding hope through the education of girls. It was established in late 2008 by Kim and Paul Power as a Trust to provide scholarships for girls in a town in Ecuador, but took a new direction in 2010 that has since resulted in the award of more than \$80,000 in grants to girls' education and empowerment programs in Ecuador, Sri Lanka, Australia, India, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya.

Partnering with local non-government organisations and charities (the people who know what is needed and have the local infrastructure, know the culture and language), the Foundation grants funding for projects that meet its criteria of providing value for money, meet the Foundation's priorities, and are sought by reputable and authenticated organisations that have the capacity and proven capability to bring the project to fruition.

This year, the Patricia Monaghan Grant (named after Kim's mother, in whose honour and memory the Foundation was established) was awarded to the Riley Orton Foundation

and the Akili School for Girls in Kenya. This school provides boarding and educational programs for girls from the Obunga slum, thereby improving their prospects and protecting them from abuse, violence, prostitution, rape, and a likely life of poverty.

The Sunflower Foundation grant funded the construction of a shower block - saving the girls from the degradation of being ogled by predatory males when they had to wash in the open. It provides grey water for the school's eco-toilets, a biogas digester (producing gas for the school kitchen), the garden and its fruit orchard. The shower block has used an innovative combination of building materials, recycled bottles and broken tiles to create a serviceable building for the girls.

Part of the grant was used to fund a teacher of computer literacy for teachers and the boarding school matrons, which will enable them to teach computer skills to the young girls and open the door to join international networks through the worldwide web.

www.sunflowerfoundation.ngo



Jess Harvey guiding Brianna O'Bryan (left) and Nik Sugden guiding Oskar Wilson (right). Photo © Disabled WinterSport Australia.

DISABLED WINTERSPORT AUSTRALIA

In September 2015, Disabled Wintersport Australia and the Spina Bifida Foundation brought eight people up to enjoy the lovely spring conditions at Falls Creek. The sun was out in force on Sunday; all the crew were sweating it out on the slopes, especially the guides! These hard working folk have all black uniforms, which you can imagine get pretty hot.

Spring is always a great time of the year for the DWA camps at Falls Creek: the sun shines, the snow is great for beginners and we tend to be able to ski for longer because of the nice weather. The Spina Bifida Foundation camp brought along five families; whilst the kids were off snowboarding and skiing with the DWA guides, their parents were able to switch off for a moment and enjoy the surrounds.

It was good to see so many first timers on the camp. As more of our members are becoming independent, they tend to move away from the camps programs and start utilising our Resort Services Program more; this is where the members can request the guides and equipment that they need when they're visiting the snow with family or friends. This is a great development for the DWA community as it opens up more opportunities for first timers on the camps program, which is a great environment for a person's first time to the snow.

It was another great season for DWA all around the country. The mountain communities are very welcoming and supportive of our organisation. This helps us bring to reality the vision of a world of snowsports where people with disabilities have equal access to the amazing mountains, at no extra cost to them.

www.disabledwintersport.com.au

THE CLIMATE COUNCIL

The Climate Council has had a productive year in raising awareness of climate action. Towns, communities and businesses all over Australia are stepping up to deliver decisive climate action, and leading the way towards a sustainable future.

One of the most impressive towns is Broken Hill in NSW. The Climate Council went to get the lowdown from the locals about how Australia's most famous mining town has gone solar. The home of Mad Max and Priscilla Queen of the Desert is at the heart of Australia's renewables revolution as it now hosts a huge solar farm.

There are many other major solar projects that are slated to open or start construction around the rest of the country and, with a more cohesive and certain policy environment, there's no reason the sunniest country in the world can't become the home of large-scale solar.

www.climatecouncil.org.au



Photo © Climate Council

STROKE ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

The Importance of Partnerships

Jim had a stroke about a year ago. He was referred to the Geelong Coordinator by the speech pathologist he is still seeing because he has Aphasia (difficulty speaking). His wife had enquired as to whether there was a group Jim could join. She, like many of the wives, is still working and though the person who has had the stroke may no longer be able to work, often the wife still can. Often the stroke survivor may need a little help to find some occupation that they can enjoy and get out of the house to do.

The Blokes With Strokes group that meets fortnightly was recommended to Jim. The men meet and talk about a topic they are interested in and discuss coping strategies for life after a stroke. Jim really enjoys this group and drives himself to it.

As Jim is quite mobile and able to do physical activity, his coordinator wondered about some volunteer work for him. A number of stroke survivors had mentioned to her that they had approached volunteer agencies and enquired about volunteer work, but never heard back from them, leaving them feeling discouraged and useless. It was then, when Jim's coordinator, met with Uniting Care Geelong Coordinator of Volunteers, Elizabeth Hopkin.

Uniting Care Geelong has embraced the possibility of finding volunteer work for stroke survivors who may experience difficulty with their speech, memory or mobility, but are still keen to contribute to their community. The partnership between the Stroke Association and Uniting Care Geelong shows how organisations can enhance the work we all do and support one another, and it is through this partnership, that Jim has now found suitable volunteer work, twice a week.

www.strokeassociation.com.au



The Sunshine Street Band is a community street band which was set up with support from Community Music Victoria's StreetSounds project.

Photo © Cathy Buchanan



Katie from Ross House with Colleen Denhe at a DeafBlind World Workshop. Photo © DBV

DEAFBLIND VICTORIANS

Ross House provides an important space for people who are deafblind.

DeafBlind Victorians (DBV) is very unique as it is run for and by people with deafblindness. The group's aim is to raise awareness of deafblindness and to lobby for changes to improve the lives of people with deafblindness; DBV meet with government representatives to promote the rights of people with deafblindness. They lobby for people with deafblindness to have the same opportunities as everyone else, to be able to access the community, to be independent, and to be able to seek employment and have access to education. DBV receive no ongoing funding.

One of the biggest barriers for people with deafblindness is the chronic shortage of interpreters. Interpreters are the 'eyes and ears' of people with deafblindness and are critical for people to be able to communicate with the broader community and with each other. The deafblind community has so many different forms of communication; for example, some people read braille, some people use Auslan, some people have some vision and no hearing, some people have some hearing and no vision, some people are oral and some are not; this means that

they do not all share the same mode of communication. The deafblind community also faces many barriers when navigating the city. DBV have worked closely with Melbourne City Council to identify barriers to access within the CBD. Melbourne City Council wants to make the CBD accessible to all Victorians.

The last 12 months has been very successful for the DBV Self Advocacy group. DBV has developed a very popular workshop called DeafBlind World, which is aimed at educating staff in organisations about how to improve services and how to communicate with people who are deafblind. DBV have run workshops for the transport sector including PTV, Yarra Trams, Metro Trams, Victoria Police, Protective Service Officers (PSOs) and Travellers Aid. They have also run workshops for staff from Melbourne City Council. The workshops provide an introduction to different types of deafblindness, different ways to communicate and how to guide a person who is deafblind. These workshops are in such high demand that DBV has a waiting list into 2017!

DBV is a member of Ross House and is supported by Ross House tenant, SARU (Self Advocacy Resource Unit).

deafblindadvocacy.wordpress.com



WOOR-DUNGIN

Woor-Dungin means 'share' in the language of the Gunnai people of south-eastern Victoria.

The organisation was founded ten years ago by five Aboriginal women - Doseena Fergie, Simone Spencer, Anne Jenkins, Aunty Frances Bond and Aunty Glenys Merry and one non-Aboriginal woman, Christa Momot, to forge closer partnerships between philanthropy and Aboriginal community controlled organisations based on respectful relationships.

Since then, Woor-Dungin has grown to be a successful organisation with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal voting members and numerous supporters and stakeholders resourced by a large staff team consisting mainly of volunteers, who together demonstrate a living model for successful partnerships between Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, philanthropic foundations, individuals and pro bono service providers. Our work supports six Aboriginal organisations across metropolitan and regional Victoria to access the resources they require to support the priority issues they have identified in their local communities, and to achieve self-determination.

We work closely with other key stakeholders to tackle structural issues on a systemic level to reduce disadvantage – with a particular emphasis on increasing employment for Aboriginal people through Woor-Dungin's Criminal Record Discrimination Project.

Woor-Dungin facilitates opportunities for philanthropic organisations and pro bono service providers to come together with Aboriginal organisations to work effectively on a shared endeavour.

As Philanthropy Australia's National Moderator for Indigenous Issues, Aboriginal members of Woor-Dungin select and disseminate information and resources to support philanthropy to develop stronger relationships with Aboriginal organisations.

Following on from the legacy of the original founders, a key focus is the 12 month Maarni leadership program for Aboriginal women which provides professional development, practical support, and one-on-one mentoring to assist women take up leadership roles in their communities.

www.woor-dungin.com.au

SELF ADVOCACY RESOURCE UNIT (SARU)

Dangerous Deeds is an accessible screen based exhibition.

It was created by disability activists working with artists. The exhibition provides a 'snapshot' of the Victorian disability movement and was a partnership between SARU, stART Community Arts and DnD, supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.

It's unique accessible design includes 8 screens and 8 specially designed consoles suitable for wheelchair access; providing a choice of captioned, audio described and text read versions.

Dangerous Deeds will be touring Victoria during 2016-2017.

www.saru.net.au



Photo © SARU



In a global economy, Australia is exposed to forced labour-servitude-slavery
Photo © International Labour Organisation: Work in Freedom series

SLAVERY LINKS AUSTRALIA

Slavery Links Australia is a member-funded charity incorporated in Victoria, whose main role concerns slavery, as defined in International and Australian Law. They undertake research, publish information, and provide community education through schools, workshops, academic seminars and briefings to business and parliamentarians.

Slavery Links is a secular group who has worked with other secular groups from the law and business, as well as Christian and Jewish faith communities.

The work of Slavery Links is important as there have been cases of slavery in Australia. In 2008 the High Court heard Tang's Case; and the Queensland Court of Appeal heard the case of Kovacs. These cases concerned persons who had come to Australia as free people and been enslaved in this country. Members of the Australian public witnessed the enslavements but did not recognise what was happening.

Other people have been enslaved in our names, but indirectly. This happens when Australians buy (or receive dividends from the sale of) products that were made using forced labour.

Also, in a global economy, Australia is exposed to the ancient slave-making systems that persist in the Indo-Asia-Pacific: systems such as child trading, debt bondage and forced marriage.

In 2015-2016, Slavery Links Australia made Submissions to Parliamentary Inquiries and presented at schools, Universities and public forums.

In October 2015 they provided an exhibition entitled 'Are you wearing a slave?' at the Kerry Packer Civic Gallery, in the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre in Adelaide. The exhibition was developed over 18 months by Slavery Links working with design students and staff at the University of South Australia. Aspects of the exhibition are currently being redeveloped and there are plans to run it in Melbourne.

© Roscoe Howell, 2016; Slavery Links, 2016

www.slaverylinks.org

TENANT MEMBERS

AbleLink

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

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.

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.

Australian Wildlife Protection Council

Dedicated to the protection and preservation of Australian Wildlife.

Blind Citizens Australia

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

Brain Injury Matters

Self advocacy for people with acquired brain injury.

Care Leavers Australia Network

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 de Victoria

Promotes the customs and language of Catalonia.

Charles Bonnet Syndrome Foundation

Assists 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.

Climate Council of Australia

The Climate Council provides independent, authoritative climate change information to the Australian public.

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

Developing, facilitating and servicing music making among Victorian communities.

Darfur Humanitarian Advocacy Australia

Raising awareness about the continuing tragedy in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Diaspora Action Australia

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.

Exit Victoria

Engages in advocating for law reform and supporting end of life rights through political and direct action.

Federation of Spanish Speaking Seniors

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

Financial 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.

Liberians for Empowerment & Development

Empowers Liberians through education, training and development within Australia and Liberia.

Live and Learn Environmental Education

Promotes environmental and developmental education in schools and communities through training forums on computer systems and programs.

Lotus Group Projects

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

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 (Vic) Inc.

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

RISE: Refugees, Survivors and Ex-Detainees

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

Self Advocacy Resource Unit

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

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 Sunflower Foundation

Aims to educate and empower as many girls as possible in the developing world, seeding hope and opportunity where there was none.

The Victorian Drama League

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

Timorese Association

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

TreeProject

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 (U3A) City of Melbourne

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

The Big Issue

The Big Issue magazine is a fortnightly, independent magazine that is sold on the streets by homeless, marginalised and disadvantaged people.

Counsellors' & Psychotherapists Association Vic

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

Economic Indicator Service

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 TENANTS

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 TENANTS

Animal Active

An activist and advocacy group for all animals with a strong focus on the rights of urban Australian native animals and companion animals.

Animal Law Institute

Provides legal advice and acts in relation to animal protection matters and aims to remove the legal status of animals as property.

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.

Blueprint for Free Speech

Provides a free online library of research about freedom of expression laws around the globe.

Community Social Development International

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

Forgetmenot Foundation

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

Futures Foundation

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

Indigenous Women in Business

Providing a platform for Indigenous women to connect, learn, share and lead.

Lawyers for Animals

Dedicated to improving the welfare of animals through education and law.

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.

Post Polio Victoria

Advocates for people who have had or continue to be affected by Polio.

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.

Society of Women Writers Victoria Inc

Support and community for women writers in Victoria.

United Brains

A network of self-help, self-advocacy and support groups for people with an Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) throughout Victoria.

MEMBERS (NON-TENANTS)

3000acres
Action Research Issues Association
Australia-Japan Society of Victoria
Beyond Zero Emissions
Blind Sports Australia
CALXA Australia (*Associate Member*)
Climate and Health Alliance
Counsellors Victoria Inc (*Associate Member*)
Cultural Club Novi Sad
Darfur Humanitarian Advocacy Australia
Deafblind Victorians

Depression & Anxiety Timeout – Melbourne
Disability Advocacy Victoria
Emerge Australia
Financial and Consumer Rights Council
Homeless Persons Union of Victoria
Interchange
Macular Vision Loss Support Society of Australia
Melbourne Campaigners' Network (*Associate Member*)
Melbourne Osteoporosis Support Group
Narcolepsy and Overwhelming Daytime Sleep Society
National Council of Women of Victoria
National Seniors Australia - Melbourne City Branch
Neighbourhood Houses Victoria
Oromia Support Group Australia
Outer Urban Projects
Refuge of Hope Inc
Slavery Links Australia
Stabilise (*Associate Member*)
StreetSmart Australia
Sustainable Living Foundation
Thai Language School of Victoria Inc
Understanding Literature Group (*Associate Member*)

MOVES IN

The Big Issue
Climate Council of Australia
The Sunflower Foundation

MOVES OUT

Australian Wildlife Protection Council
Darfur Humanitarian Advocacy Australia
Financial Consumer Rights Council
Outer Urban Projects

FINANCIAL REPORT

The committee members submit the financial report of RHA Inc for the financial year ended 30 June 2016. 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
Maree Norris
De Grebner
Amber Moore
Charles Brass

Signed in accordance with a resolution
of the Committee:

Valerie Elliott
Chairperson

Keith Bettles
Treasurer



Balance sheet

As at 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank & On Hand	812,748	719,457
Trade Debtors	10,314	17,913
Less Prov. for Doubtful Debts	5,000	5,000
	5,314	12,913
Sundry Debtors	-	-
Prepayments	52,322	15,924
Account Receivable	40	206
	870,424	748,500
Non-current Assets		
Land	5,550,000	5,550,000
Buildings	2,950,000	2,950,000
Less accumulated amortisation	(221,250)	(147,500)
Furniture & Equipment	155,881	145,036
Less accumulated depreciation	(141,301)	(138,145)
Capital Work	175,537	175,537
Less accumulated depreciation	(91,342)	(66,258)
Electronic Equipment	16,580	16,580
Less accumulated depreciation	(12,028)	(7,883)
HVAC	801,516	801,516
Less accumulated depreciation	(102,146)	(62,070)
	9,081,447	9,216,814
TOTAL ASSETS	9,951,871	9,965,314
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	-	-
Sundry Creditors & Accruals	38,988	63,067
Income in Advance	8,264	7,298
Staff Leave Provisions	44,218	49,044
Superannuation Provision	5,237	3,923
	96,707	123,332
Non- Current Liabilities		
Staff Leave Provisions - L.S.L.	31,111	20,647
	31,111	20,647
TOTAL LIABILITIES	127,818	143,979
NET ASSETS	9,824,053	9,821,335

Balance sheet cont.

As at 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
Equity		
Capital Reserve	8,500,000	8,500,000
Wind Up Costs Reserve	-	-
Emergency Reserve	400,000	400,000
Retained Earnings	924,053	921,335
	9,824,053	9,821,335

Income statement

For the year ended 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
Income		
Lease Income	640,236	632,424
Car Park	51,181	47,400
Facilities Hire	219,465	200,983
Equipment Hire	16,534	14,616
Sales-Equipment Keys & Stationery	2,393	3,061
Interest Received	10,551	6,437
Insurance & Other Reimbursements	1,309	1,985
Membership Subscription	3,414	4,483
Other Income	4,193	2,535
Grants	-	80,500
Rounding	1	5
Donations in Kind	183	49
TOTAL INCOME	949,460	994,479
Less expenditure		
Operating Expenses		
Salaries & Wages	372,214	349,559
Superannuation	36,377	36,875
Workcover Premiums	1,808	1,446
Provision for Staff Leave	5,639	7,599
Staff Training	549	1,657
Staff Selection/Appointments	-	435
	416,587	397,572

Income statement cont.

For the year ended 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
Property and Equipment Costs		
Building Expenses	186,675	288,366
Utilities & Services	66,979	66,900
Cleaning	65,869	67,659
Other property & Equipment	168,223	169,618
	487,746	592,544

Operating Costs

	2016	2015
Amenities	362	423
Advertising and Promotion	264	228
Audit fees	1,880	2,374
Bad Debts Expenses	2,929	3,572
Bank Charges	417	447
Bookkeeping & Accounting fees	350	770
Computer & Courier	4,503	6,828
Consultants fees	3,456	10,780
Annual report & AGM	4,035	3,444
Events	2,616	1,347
Legal fees	-	212
Telephone	6,136	4,429
Printing & Design	1,710	-
Postage	-	461
RHA Admin Support & COM Exp	1,566	2,726
Stationery & Office Supplies	5,660	5,515
Sub. Membership & Library	963	927
Sundry Equipment Purchases	-	85
Sundry Expenses	5,066	2,097
Travelling	-	14
Petty Cash Balancing Adj	-	150
Website	498	996
	42,410	47,825

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	946,742	1,037,941
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PROFIT (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	2,718	(43,463)
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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 2016 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.

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:

- City of Melbourne, especially Michele Leembruggen from the 1200 Buildings Program, Rebecca Hughes from Engineering Services and the whole Degraes Street Recycling Facility team
- Hayden Raysmith AM
- Maddocks
- National Trust of Australia (Victoria)
- Sue Healy
- City Switch, especially Paul Whelan and Jeff Elliott
- Older Womens Network
- Dukes Coffee Roasters, especially Cameron Hammond
- Alys Johnson
- The Big Screen Company
- To all those members and tenants who contributed ideas and time throughout the year

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



