

ROSS HOUSE
ASSOCIATION

**2018 RHA
COMMITTEE**

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Christine McAuslan
(COSHG)

DEPUTY CHAIR

David Martin
(Asbestoswise)

SECRETARY

Alba Chliankhtine
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Charles Brass
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Jeff Fielder
(HAAG)

Scot Muirden
(CBSF)

Sue Smith
(AMIDA-SARU)

Valerie Elliot
(Handknitters Guild)

Michael Griffiths
(Ex-officio, RHA General
Manager)

IN THE HOUSE

APRIL 2018

In loving memory of the wonderful Andrew Dally (16/1/1955 - 19/4/2018)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our friend, Andrew Dally. His death was a shock to everyone at Ross House; he was a good friend to many and such a valued and loved member of the Ross House community.

Andrew was a warm and caring soul who brightened up the entire building. With his eclectic music collection, great conversation (and daily offerings of salt and vinegar chips), his presence will be greatly missed.

Andrew was a member of Reinforce since the early 1990's and had contributed to many projects such as 'No Strangers Here',

'Melbourne Through the Eyes of a Friend' and his very own photo exhibition in the Ross House Foyer. He was also a long-standing member of the Reinforce Committee of Management and contributed to ideas and projects, with the help of his partner in crime, Elmo.

We will miss Andrew, his kind heart and his much loved (and funny) quotes "Does your hair blow in the wind?", "Say Ross House" and "Mount Gambier" - a much anticipated holiday destination, he was finally able to visit the other year.

Ross House and Reinforce is hosting a memorial event for Andrew (in the Foyer) on Thursday 17th May at 11am. More details to follow. If you have any photos of Andrew that you are happy to share too, please email them to Katie at rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au.

Rest in peace Andrew. "Say Yabbies".





Building & Maintenance

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

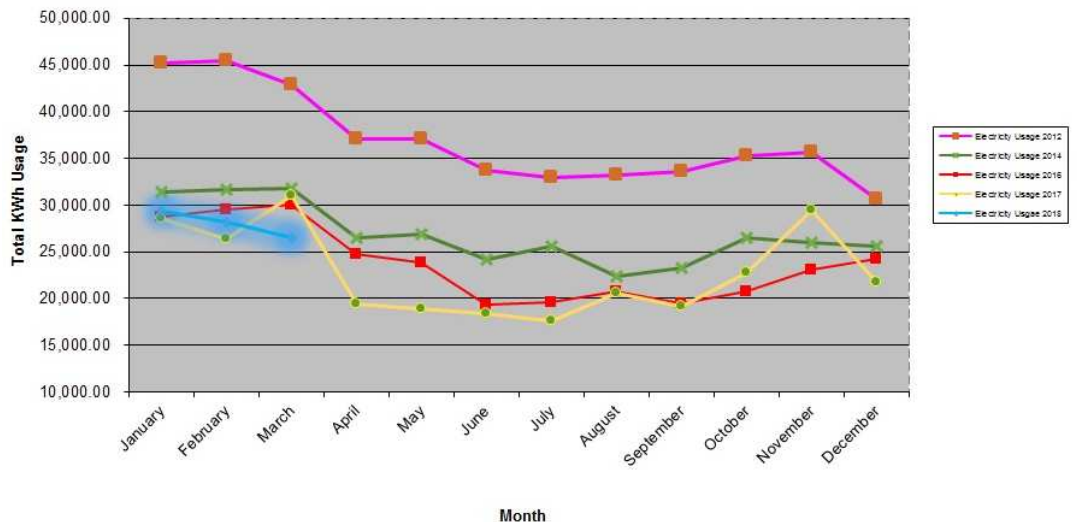
- ⚙ The windows on the Eastern Façade have been sealed in order to reduce the dust caused from the demolition of Port Phillip Arcade, as part of the Melbourne Metro Rail Project.

Upcoming works / happenings

- ⚙ The NBN node has been installed and CitiPower has connected to the meter - more information to come from Nazz once we know an update.
- ⚙ In the upcoming weeks, there will be two new TV screens installed at each of the Ross House entrance, to display daily bookings of the meeting rooms. These screens will be large and will have easily readable text, and will replace the current chalkboards.
- ⚙ First Aid training will take place on Wednesday 2nd May 2018. If you have missed out this time, not to worry, there will be another opportunity towards the end of the year to jump on board.

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

Electricity Comparison 2012 - 2018
 Ross House
 247-251 Flinders Lane Melbourne VIC 3000



Reflections by the RHA Chairperson - Christine McAuslan

Like any 30 year old, the Ross House community is highly likely to face its share of challenges into the future.

One such challenge is keeping this old heritage building afloat. There is always something that demands attention. Undoubtedly tenants and visitors have noticed the dust and noise from the demolition next door. Dust entering the building required urgent action for those lovely old windows on the east side of the building to be sealed. A task our General Manager promptly organised and the sealing work beginning just as quickly by our heritage building expert. Just one small example of the financial demands on keeping Ross House a safe place for its users.



As we work towards maintaining Ross House into the future there will be many knowns and unknowns to address. Committees, staff and members will come and go as they have over the last 30 years. Much of the previous knowledge and memories will disappear as time moves on and new skills, experience and knowledge inform Ross House according to its needs. Having a strategic plan is one of the must have tools that assists us to build the path towards the sustainability of the Ross House Community. To this end, the Collaborative Team members have been busy formulating ideas towards a new plan.

The team recently made its final presentation to the committee. We are now at the stage where the committee will form a draft strategic plan for the next 5 years. There will need to be some priorities made, as to what is affordable and can be implemented sooner rather than later, and those items that will need research and specific finances sought or allocated. This highlights the fact that this is a 5 year plan and implementation will take time.

With budgeting well underway for the 2018-2019 financial year there will be much careful consideration of the Strategic Plan Draft and its contents in the next weeks. We look forward to presenting that work to the community.

On another note it was with great sadness we heard last week of the death of Andrew Dally. Farewell Andrew, from all your friends at Ross House.

Christine McAuslan

Chairperson, Ross House Association



Community Consultation: Strategic Planning Update

As you are aware, we are developing a new Strategic Plan for Ross House Association.

PHASE 1 - CONSULTATION

Phase 1 is complete, where we engaged with the broader Ross House community via a survey and interviews with many different stakeholders. The results of this consultation process have been compiled into two reports, available in hard copy from Collaboration HQ in the Foyer at Ross House.

PHASE 2 – THE COLLABORATIVE TEAM

Phase 2 is now complete; the Collaborative Team process. This involved 14 individuals representing the diverse Ross House community coming together in a series of meetings during February and March to discuss ideas and provide recommendations on the strategic directions and actions RHA should take in the next 5 years.

On Wednesday 28th March, the Collaborative Team presented their recommended priorities and strategies to the RHA Committee of Management at a meeting that was open to the entire membership.

PHASE 3 – WRITING THE STRATEGIC PLAN (we are here!)

This phase is currently underway; taking the recommendations made by the Collaborative Team, the RHA Committee of Management & Staff, along with reps from the Collaborative Team, have completed a draft Ross House Association Strategic Plan for 2019-2023. This draft will be provided to the Ross House community for comment, before being voted into effect by the RHA Committee of Management later in the year.

The Committee of Management are thrilled to be undertaking this engagement process and we are very much looking forward to a positive and collaborative outcome. If you have any questions about the strategic planning process, please feel free to contact the RHA staff members at any time.

“Access is my disability, NOT my wheelchair.”

Disability Resource Centre (DRC) is currently working on a Transport Accessibility Project and they have been travelling around Victoria, meeting people with disabilities and their advocates, to discuss priorities for making public transport, taxis and Uber more accessible.

DRC will be compiling all this information into a final report which will be submitted to the Victorian Government later this year.

If you would like to share your experiences with them, there is still time to get involved. There is an online survey, which can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DRctransport>

They also have two more forums coming up:

Dandenong:

Date: Tuesday 1 May 2018

Time: 9:30am – 11:30am

Location: Formal Meeting Room
Greater Dandenong City Council Office
225 Lonsdale Street
Dandenong, VIC 3175

Melbourne

Date: Tuesday 8 May 2018

Time: 1:30pm – 4:30pm

Location: Hayden Raysmith Room
Level 4, Ross House
247 Flinders Lane
Melbourne, VIC 3000

The forums are all free events, however please RSVP by emailing transport@drc.org.au or calling DRC on (03) 9671 3000. Please let them know if you require Auslan interpreters or any other accessibility support.

Project details can also be found at: <http://drc.org.au/transport-accessibility-project/>

Workshops for people who are blind or vision impaired

The introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and My Aged Care has led to big changes to the way in which people who are blind or vision impaired access services.

Throughout April, May and June, Blind Citizens Australia (BCA) will be hosting several workshops across Victoria to provide more information about the NDIS and My Aged Care.

Workshops will be held on the following dates, and at the following locations:

- ⚙ Ringwood (Saturday 21st of April 2018)
- ⚙ Horsham (Saturday 28th of April 2018)
- ⚙ Bendigo (Saturday 12th of May 2018)
- ⚙ Ballarat (Saturday 19th of May 2018)
- ⚙ Melbourne (Saturday 26th of May 2018)
- ⚙ Dandenong (Saturday 2nd of June 2018)



Blind Citizens Australia

To confirm exact times and locations and to register to attend a workshop, please email bca@bca.org.au with the subject of Vic Workshops, or phone 1800 033 660.

www.bca.org.au

Farewell Samantha Thornton

It is with sadness that we announce the resignation of Samantha Thornton, Ross House Membership & Tenancy Officer.

Sam started as a casual front desk worker in early 2013, soon stepping into the Membership and Tenancy role on a casual basis and finally being offered a full-time position in November later that year.

Sam has worked tirelessly in her role for the last 5 years and her enthusiasm and love for Ross House was clear to everyone that she helped. Sam's final day was on Friday 27th April 2018 and she will be missed by many.



Beyond Zero Emissions - International Recognition for Australian Climate Solutions

Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE) is a climate solutions think tank located on the 4th floor of Ross House. Their mission is to show that a zero emissions Australia is achievable and affordable.



BZE's research shows how Australia's energy sector, land use and agriculture, transport and housing, industry and export sectors can transition to zero emissions in ten years. Their research has produced a complete blueprint for Australia to become a thriving zero emissions economy.

BZE's collaboration with a large national network of scientists, engineers, economists and expert advisors has won them international recognition. For three years in a row, BZE has ranked as one of the top international think tanks by the Lauder Institute of the University of Pennsylvania. The Institute ranks international think tanks each year and releases its findings in its "Global Go To Think Tank Index Reports". This ranking assists academics, journalists, donors and the public to connect to the leading centres of public policy research around the world.

In 2017, BZE was ranked 50th, out of over 6,500 international think tanks. BZE is one of only six Australian think tanks in this ranking, alongside high-profile Australian think tanks, such as the Grattan Institute. www.bze.org.au

Melbourne Metro Rail Project Update

Planned and Current Works:

- ⚙ Demolition of buildings between Young & Jackson and the Nicholas Building is complete.
- ⚙ Demolition works to Port Phillip Arcade are complete.
- ⚙ The oversite development (OSD) will be a 40m retail/commercial tower. The City of Melbourne are trying to lease two floors for a new City Library.
- ⚙ Royston Lane will be used as a service lane for loading docks and waste. They are currently modelling traffic flow. Concept plans will be available by the end of April.
- ⚙ Degraes Recycling Facility may be expanded to help with waste from the station and OSD.
- ⚙ Piling works for the OSD will commence in Q3 of 2018, actual above ground construction will take place from 2022-2026.
- ⚙ Campbell Arcade works will commence from August 2019, tenant leases there expire July 2019. Access to Degraes St under Flinders St will remain for the duration of the works.

Dust Issues

There have been a number of issues regarding dust from the Melbourne Metro site. We have requested an increase to water sprays to minimise the dust getting out of the site and sealed all casement windows on the east elevation to prevent dust ingress. There is also a dust monitor in place now, which provides data to the construction company in real time. Hopefully these changes will significantly reduce the level of dust getting into Ross House. If anyone has any further issues, please contact the RHA front desk.

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

Top Grant Writing Tips

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

Grants News

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

The **Bank of Melbourne's** Neighbourhood Fund opens on 7th May and is offering grants of up to \$50,000. Submissions are due 15th June 2018.

The Bank of Melbourne's Neighbourhood Fund supports charities who receive little or no government funding and aren't big enough to generate significant fundraising income of their own.

The Bank of Melbourne supports local charities and programs that deliver sustainable benefits to Victorian communities by investing in projects that will improve the lives of Victorian communities who are physically, socially or economically disadvantaged.

To be eligible for funding you must be:

- ⚙ endorsed as a DGR Item 1
- ⚙ located in Victoria
- ⚙ focussed on helping neighbourhoods and local communities
- ⚙ have an annual gross revenue of less than \$3 million

For a full list of eligibility criteria and further guidelines, please visit <http://info.bankofmelbourne.com.au/communityhub/your-project.html>

The **Community Sector Banking and Community Enterprise Foundation's** Social Investment Grants Program opens on 1st May and is offering grants of up to \$50,000. Submissions are due 31st May 2018.

The Social Investment Grants Program funds not-for-profit projects or programs working to improve social outcomes for marginalised and disadvantaged people. The 2018 funding round will aim to build resilience and capability in people experiencing homelessness or domestic abuse.

Applications can be made for grants of either \$25,000 or \$50,000.

To be eligible for funding, applicants must:

- ⚙ be a not-for-profit organisation
- ⚙ have the activities of the funded program completed by the end of 2019

Programs and projects that focus on prevention and intervention are also eligible. To view previously funded projects and programs and a full list of eligibility criteria, please visit <https://www.communitysectorbanking.com.au/grants>





Ross House-keeping

After-hours

- ⚙️ A friendly reminder to please avoid letting people into the building who don't have their own swipe. Please advise someone trying to gain access to the building, that the correct process is for them to contact the organiser of their meeting. There are signs on each level of the building.
- ⚙️ Please do not prop any of the fire doors open with a chair or sticky tape - this is a serious hazard.

Meeting Rooms

- ⚙️ Please do not remove chairs from meeting rooms. Please contact the Front Desk if you believe your meeting room should have more chairs in it.

Promotion

- ⚙️ Please bring down any brochures to the ground floor bookshelf – it's such a great way to promote your organisation!
- ⚙️ A reminder that the e-bulletin goes out every week to nearly 800 subscribers – send any info you would like included to rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au.
- ⚙️ Facebook! Join our Facebook page and keep up to date with our community news. Also, don't forget to please send your news and event items to Katie so we can help promote your organisation's events and upcoming opportunities.

Finance

- ⚙️ A friendly reminder from Junxia, that Ross House invoice payment terms are 14 days.



Happy 30th Anniversary ARIA!



The Action Research Issues Association (ARIA), a founding member of Ross House, celebrated its 30th anniversary on Saturday 28th April 2018. Members gathered in the same city venue (Café Yamato) in which ARIA's inaugural incorporation meeting was held on the same date in 1988.

ARIA's Action Research Issues Centre had its home on the 4th floor of Ross House for 17 years (until 2003) and among its many projects and consultancies, it published Australia's best-selling introductory evaluation book, *Everyday Evaluation on the Run*. ARIA continues to be a non-tenant member since 2003 to the present day.



If you were part of ARIA's history and would like to send the Association a memory or message, please email them at aria.inc@gmail.com

Congratulations to The Sunflower Foundation

The Sunflower Foundation's biggest news is that they have made it through to the second round of the *Telstra Small Business Awards*! Congratulations!

Currently, their two long-term projects are innovative, multi-disciplinary programs for girls living in appalling conditions in the slums of Kenya.

Both programs are designed to not only build the girls literacy and numeracy skills, but to develop the girls as leaders within their communities. They will learn to use technology and publish their own stories to circulate in their communities where books are in very short supply.



Both programs reach out to parents and local schools to empower teachers to improve the way they teach literacy. *The Literacy Garden*, located in rural western Kenya (outside Kisumu), will also incorporate sustainable agriculture, a bore well (to save the girls trekking 5 miles or more for water) and a Literacy Week, where the girls can celebrate their writing.

Pass the Mic! A Literacy, Arts and Technology program is located in Kibera outside Nairobi in Kenya.

The Photo below (left) is Elisabeth sharing her story in the Literacy garden. www.thesunflowerfoundation.org



Waste not Want not - The Degraeves Street Recycling Facility update

This month, The Degraeves Street Recycling Facility (in the Ross House basement carpark), has been busier than ever reaching new heights in landfill diversion.

So far this year they have diverted 92,437kg of waste from landfill and this number is growing daily. This number is the combined total of waste streams including; food & organic waste, comingled recycling, cardboard, waxed cardboard, soft plastics, hard plastics, e-waste, hard waste and polystyrene.

By the end of this month, it will be well and truly over the 100,000kg milestone which puts them on track for their biggest year yet. The team are constantly evolving to meet the needs of over 100 traders in the area with three new traders coming on board during April alone. Together, we continue to create a greener community.

Education is the strategy for success. Please feel free to head down for a chat with the team about urban sustainability, any time.

<http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/business/permits-and-approvals/waste-recycling/Pages/waste-recycling.aspx>



New Members

Advocacy for Oromia

Advocacy for Oromia is a self-help group established to improve the settlement process and advance the wellbeing of Australian-Oromos. Advocacy for Oromia maximises participation in decision making, based on the policies and procedures governing the activities of the group. Through community education, direct support, capacity building and advocacy, Advocacy for Oromia work towards the realisation of their vision; a world where all people are empowered to manage problems and to create opportunity for themselves and others.



Australia for UNHCR



Australia for UNHCR is the UN Refugee Agency's national partner in Australia, raising awareness and funds to support UNHCR's global emergency response to humanitarian crisis. The contributions they receive from Australian individuals and groups, lead to direct impact on the ground during humanitarian crises, helping UNHCR deliver emergency support such as shelter, protection, clean water, food and medicines. Australia for UNHCR is an Associate Member of Ross House Association.

Tenant Moves

- ⚙️ **Open Food Network** has moved out of the building but will remain part of the RHA membership as an Occasional Tenant.



- ⚙️ **Deafblind Victorians** has relocated to a larger space on the Ground Floor.



- ⚙️ **Casal Catala** has relocated to a smaller space on Level 2.



Melbourne Osteoporosis Support Group INC.

Ross House member, Melbourne Osteoporosis Support Group, is hosting a tour (and talk) on skeletal and muscle wasting. The guest speaker is Dr Paul Gregorovic who is a researcher in this field. Bookings are essential.

Where? Baker Institute, Commerical Road

When? Tuesday 8th May @ 10:30am

Find out more at www.melosg.org.au



how to communicate with me

A resource for communicating with people who are deafblind

M CITY OF MELBOURNE

DBV DEAFBLIND VICTORIA

Not For Profit Training

GRANT WRITING TRAINING - Wednesday 9th May

Learn to write amazing grant applications with our fun, practical grant writing session. It will help to set up a framework in readiness for applying for any grant from a variety of funding sources, efficiently and effectively, by utilising ideas which will give you the best chance of writing a successful application.

FINANCE ESSENTIALS TRAINING—Friday 11th May

Non profit financial reports training that will help Board members and Managers read, understand and interpret their financial reports. This will enable them to make more informed decisions and build a sustainable future for the organisation.

Where? Ross House

When? 9:30am - 4:30pm

Cost? \$165 per person. Ross House members receive 20-30% discount.



www.nonprofittraining.com.au



247-251 Flinders Lane
Melbourne VIC 3000

Phone: 03 9650 1599

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Email: rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au

www.rosshouse.org.au

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION

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

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