

ROSS HOUSE ASSOCIATION

2019 RHA COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Christine McAuslan
(COSHG)

DEPUTY CHAIR

David Martin
(Asbestoswise)

SECRETARY

Alba Chliankhtine
(ABRISA)

TREASURER

Keith Bettles
(USA City of Melbourne)

Colin Hiscoe
(Reinforce)

De Grebner
(TreeProject)

Scot Muirden
(CBSF)

Valerie Elliot
(Handknitters Guild)

Richard Caven
(Appointed Member)

Nazzareno Marchionda
(Appointed Member RHA
staff)

Michael Griffiths
(Ex-officio, RHA General
Manager)

IN THE HOUSE

F E R U A R Y 2 0 1 9

Ross House Strategic Plan update

The following actions are underway, ongoing or complete on the RHA Strategic Plan 2018-2023.

Future Sustainability

Promoting RHA

- ⚙️ work has started on developing a brochure with historical data and case studies to demonstrate the effectiveness of Ross House.
- ⚙️ the Ross House promotional video has been completed and is available via our website.
- ⚙️ we have applied for a grant to upgrade the Mezzanine lift; the Ground Level toilets are complete and further building work is planned to make the building more inviting to the public.

Efficient use of resources

- ⚙️ We have a group of consultants working for us, pro-bono, who are offering legal, heritage and building advice to us, regarding how we can best use the space above our building.
- ⚙️ We have been in discussions with real estate consultants, who are giving us ideas on how to develop a value aligned commercial space at Ross House.

Plans for securing the future

- ⚙️ operational and work plans have been developed and work on updating our 10-year capital works budget has commenced.
- ⚙️ Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status has been followed up - the issue remains that without major changes in membership and tenancy, RHA is not eligible as a Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) and therefore DGR. We are unable to split into another Trust as we are not an education or arts organisation.

Governance

Increase Membership input into the decision-making process

- ⚙️ the induction process has been overhauled and new inductions have started this year with a focus on new tenants and new staff within current tenant groups.
- ⚙️ a new Green Focus Working Party has had two meetings, with the third planned for March 2019.

Ensure diversity on the Committee of Management

- ⚙️ staff and Committee have completed Voice at the Table (VATT) training and a new Committee member has joined.

Engagement

Building strong partnerships

- ⚙️ RHA Members, Non-Profit Training, are helping us build an effective Partnership Engagement strategy.



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.

Current and completed works

- ⚙ The Ground Floor toilets are nearly complete with the showers due to be finalised by the end of the week. Thank you for your patience and understanding. They look fabulous - we hope as a community that we can keep them clean, together!
- ⚙ New sensor sanitary bins have been replaced across the building.

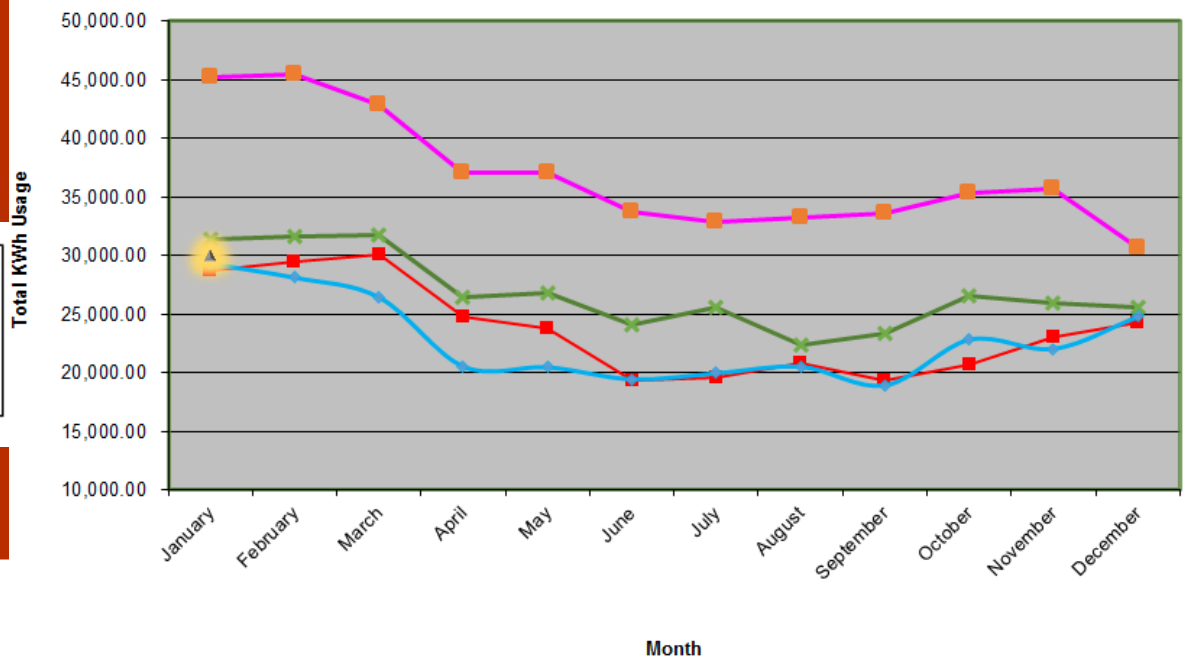


Upcoming works / happenings

- ⚙ First Aid Training is currently being organised - an email with some dates and times will hit your inbox shortly. This year, there will be two types of training on offer. Those that have completed HLTAID003 (valid for 3 years) will be required to complete the CPR training (2 hours). More information will be given in the notification.
- ⚙ Network cabling audit underway. Those of you that are not hooked to the RHA Fibre 1000 internet will be migrated shortly once the audit has been completed.

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 - 2019
 Ross House
 247-251 Flinders Lane Melbourne VIC 3000



Reflections by the RHA Chairperson - Christine McAuslan

I hope you all had a great break over the holiday.

I spent some time over an extended break reflecting on Ross House, its wonderful community and the contribution it makes and what it means in today's world. This reflection was caused by the plight of many in this world that we hear or read about every day. The despair of refugees across the globe (including our own incarceration of so many on Manus and Nauru), those living under harsh dictatorships, those who wield their power with deceit and lies, climate change deniers, the impacts of family violence. This list goes on and on.

These issues help to identify why Ross House is so important, it is why many of us contribute our time and efforts. For me, it is not only about what each tenant and supporter is doing in their own fields, it is about the whole of the contribution as 'Ross Housers' we make. It is about the social justice light we shine as an alternative way. Let's keep that light burning very brightly throughout 2019 and each seek ways to promote Ross House as we go about our own work.

As the committee works towards the sustainability of Ross House, we are fortunate in having a committee member with the necessary contacts and networks to investigate some of the ways forward. This has been invaluable in enabling our General Manager to meet with those with the knowledge and experience to provide us with firsthand information. Having these doors opened has also meant time has been saved in accessing those who are the leaders in their fields.

An operational plan has been developed by the staff, which has determined activities required to achieve the goals of the strategic plan. The staff use this plan to guide and inform their own work plans. The General Manager keeps the Committees' working party informed. Updates also occur and are minuted at monthly Committee meetings.

We will be reviewing our sub-committees and working parties shortly and will be looking for people to give their time for 1-2 hours approximately every month or so depending on the sub-committee or working party. We will advise the community when we have done the review but this is a timely opportunity to remind all tenants that part of the tenancy agreement for Ross House is based on participation in the running of Ross House.



Christine McAuslan
RHA Chairperson



Melbourne Metro Rail Update

The following works are either underway or planned for the Melbourne Metro Rail Project:

- ⚙ the demolition of the old Port Phillip Arcade basement slab will be completed by the end of March 2019 – these will be noisy works for Ross House.
- ⚙ the piling works at the Flinders Quarter site will take place from March to December 2019.
- ⚙ 15-30 trucks a day are expected to remove spoil from piling works, access will be via Swanston and Flinders Streets.
- ⚙ the City Square site acoustic shed will go up in March & April 2019.
- ⚙ the steel deck over the Flinders Quarter site is likely pushed back until after the piling is complete
- ⚙ excavation and tunnelling will begin once the deck is in place.

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



Free community organisation training

The City of Melbourne provides free training to help community organisations build their capacity to better manage and run their organisations. The training program offers a range of topics which include:

- ⚙️ finance essentials for non-profits
- ⚙️ managing conflict (with board, staff and volunteers)
- ⚙️ grant writing
- ⚙️ governance essentials for non-profits
- ⚙️ event project planning and promotion
- ⚙️ attracting, recruiting and retaining volunteers
- ⚙️ marketing for community groups
- ⚙️ building community with social media



All of these sessions are taking place at Ross House between March and June 2019 and are run by Ross House member, [Non Profit Training](#).

For more information (and to register), please visit <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/strong-communities/community-organisation-training/Pages/community-organisation-training.aspx>.

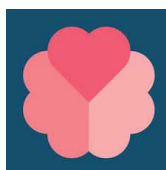


The Esther Harris Room

Ross House Association has renamed the meeting room on Level 2 to the Esther Harris Room in memory of long standing employee of STAR and a well respected community advocate of Ross House.

Brain Injury Matters ABI Wise App

Join Ross House tenant, Brain Injury Matters, at the launch of Brain Injury Matters ABI Wise App - made by people with Acquired Brain Injury for people with Acquired Brain Injury.



The first of its kind, the App will provide information on how to live well with a brain injury or after a stroke.

Where? Community Hub, 912 Collins Street, Melbourne

When? Friday 15th March (12-2pm)

For more information, please visit www.braininjurymatters.org

Self-Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU) new website

Ross House tenant, SARU (Self Advocacy Resource Unit), has launched a new and exciting website for self advocacy groups, the government and the wider community to connect, work together and share information and knowledge.

Find out more at www.voicestogether.com.au.





INVITATION FROM
LOTUS GROUP PROJECTS TO AN
INFORMATION SESSION ABOUT LOTUS GROUP 2019
CREATIVE SELF-HELP INNER PEACE WORKSHOPS

ALL WELCOME-FREE CUPPAS & CAKE+FREE
 BRAINLINK SERVICES INFO/GOODIE BAGS
THURSDAY MARCH 28 2019 11AM UNTIL 1.30PM
LEVEL 3 JENNY FLORENCE ROOM IN ROSS HOUSE
247 FLINDERS LANE MELBOURNE
 NO LOTUS GROUP MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED/MEMBERS OF OTHER
 GROUPS WELCOME/PEOPLE OF ALL ABILITIES CATERED FOR

CONTACT: LYN 0413239236 OR
 EMAIL: LOTUSGROUPPARI@GMAIL.COM
 FURTHER INFORMATION ON FACEBOOK @LOTUSGROUPPROJECTS

BrahLhk
 Better Caring
 Better Outcomes. THANKS TO BRAINLINK SERVICES FOR SUPPORTING
 THESE LOTUS GROUP SELF-HELP INNER PEACE WORKSHOPS.

LOTUS GROUP IS A MEMBER OF COLLECTIVE OF SELF-HELP GROUPS

Ross House in the media....

A little while ago, Ross House was featured online at ABC News.



The wonderful article features seven of our incredible member and tenant groups including Assisi Aids Projects, Shine For Kids, Reinforce, Community Music Victoria, Advocacy for Oromia, Emerge and Melbourne Osteoporosis Support Group.

Thank you once again to everyone that was involved in the interviews on the day.

To read the article, please visit:

[www.abc.net.au/news/2019-01-19/ross-house-melbourne-a-heritage-listed-non-profit-building/10610824?](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-01-19/ross-house-melbourne-a-heritage-listed-non-profit-building/10610824?fbclid=IwAR2jHTrWjl_fsZ3nPjFXttgrm6hvaQGf2cUOhITHcv6s2jy165wZJ4sheLU)

[fbclid=IwAR2jHTrWjl_fsZ3nPjFXttgrm6hvaQGf2cUOhITHcv6s2jy165wZJ4sheLU](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-01-19/ross-house-melbourne-a-heritage-listed-non-profit-building/10610824?fbclid=IwAR2jHTrWjl_fsZ3nPjFXttgrm6hvaQGf2cUOhITHcv6s2jy165wZJ4sheLU)

End of Year Celebration 2018

The **End of Year Celebration** in the Ross House foyer was a great way to end 2018. A lovely selection of canapés from Charcoal Lane were served, as well as some fantastic entertainment from Ultrafox, a Melbourne continental style gypsy swing band! It was a fantastic day to let our hair down and wrap up for the holiday season.

Welcome Back Brunch 2019

2019 kicked off nicely with the **Welcome Back Brunch**, where we welcomed members to extend the invitation to anyone interested in Ross House. Michael (RHA GM) opened the event with the Ross House promotional video, a three-minute documentary on what Ross House is and showcasing some of the amazing work we all do. You can watch the full video here via our website www.rosshouse.org.au.

Our sincere thanks and gratitude to Hayden Raysmith AM, Colleen Tarrant (Deafblind Victoria), Vanessa Petrie (Beyond Zero Emissions), Colin Hiscoe (Reinforce) and Deb Carveth (Community Music Victoria) for their valuable contributions to this project. Thanks also to Fair Projects for their thoughtful work in producing this wonderful video.



The second part of the event was an unveiling of the Esther Harris meeting room plaque for level 2. Our thanks to her daughter Stacey and Deafblind Victoria board member, James, who kindly attended the event and spoke about the great work that Esther did within the community.

The food on the day was very yummy - a selection of Vietnamese treats from *Heartbaker Bun Mee*, an authentic Vietnamese café down Scott Alley. They served fresh street food including their signature dish - the traditional banh mi, a popular Vietnamese baguette that combines the best of Asian and French ingredients!

www.heartbakerbunmee.com.au.



Grant News

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

The Ian Potter Foundation's Community Wellbeing Funding program will be accepting expressions of interest for funding between 25th March 2019 and 17th April 2019. Grants of \$100,000 + are available.

The Community Wellbeing fund supports worthwhile projects for the alleviation of disadvantage and need in the community. It is the Foundation's busiest program area, and they are looking to identify projects that are likely to have the greatest impact on some of society's most complex issues.

Proposals for collaborative, multi-year projects are encouraged, as well as those that share knowledge gained with the broader sector. They encourage all organisations to apply regardless of the size; in case of small projects, the award can be of small amounts over multiple years, for example, \$35,000 a year for three years.

Applicants must speak to the Program Manager prior to submitting their Expression of Interest (EOI), and the Foundation strongly recommends that you discuss your project with the Program Manager before you start your application.

To be eligible for this grant your organisation must have:

- ⚙ Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) item 1 status
- ⚙ Tax Concession Charity (TCC) status.

For more information, please visit <https://www.ianpotter.org.au/what-we-support/community-wellbeing/>

The **Gandel Charitable Trust's** Community and Major Grants program is an ongoing grants program offering funding up to \$250,000.

Gandel Philanthropy seeks to prioritise support for the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in our society, and aims to help build stronger, more resilient, more vibrant and more inclusive communities.

Gandel Philanthropy invites applications for two levels of grant giving that are aimed at providing support for both Jewish and Australian organisations.

Community Grants (\$40,000) Generally one-off grants aimed at providing support for a defined program or part of a program.

Major grants (\$40,000 - \$250,000) Can be a single one-off contribution or part of multi-year support.

To be eligible for this grant, your organisation must:

- ⚙ be charitable at law
- ⚙ have deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) item 1 status
- ⚙ be endorsed as Tax Concession Charity (TCC)

For more information, please visit <https://www.gandelphilanthropy.org.au/grant-information/overview/>



Ross House-Keeping

After-hours

- ⚙️ A friendly reminder to please avoid letting people into the building who don't have their own swipe. The new code system is working well so they should have their own access information from their group organiser.



Meeting Rooms AV

- ⚙️ Please feel free to contact the Front Desk if you would like to book some training with the AV in any of the meeting rooms - we are here to assist!

Online account

- ⚙️ Please keep your staff and colleagues up to date on how the Ross House online system works, including booking rooms, updating the key register and account information. Please contact the Front Desk if you also need some additional training.

Meeting Rooms whiteboards

- ⚙️ Please keep the whiteboards clean once used. If you need anything from the Front Desk including wipes, cleaning products and cloths, please pay us a visit.

Promotion

- ⚙️ Please make use of the promotional opportunities we have at Ross House including this newsletter, a weekly e-bulletin, Facebook and internal notice boards. If you would like more information, please contact Katie on rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au

Finance

- ⚙️ A friendly reminder from our Finance team (Junxia), that Ross House invoice payment terms are 14 days.



IN THE HOUSE

Ross House is recruiting!



We are on the hunt for a Front Desk superstar to cover days, when required. The role is a casual position who needs to have some skills and experience in administration and reception and ideally someone who has an interest in working for social justice.

For more information and to apply, please email your CV to rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au.

Bike access in the basement

The bike racks in the basement are often quite difficult to access, especially if we have trades working around the building and parking in the car park.



We are looking into ways to make this easier for the community to access, but in the meantime, please use the Ross House lift (with your office key) to take your bike directly down to the basement.

If you need assistance, please visit the Front Desk - watch this space for further updates.

'Understanding the NDIS' workshops with AFDO

These three-hour workshops will cover lots of different parts of the NDIS, including knowing who is eligible for the NDIS, working out what support you can get in your NDIS plan and how live a better life in the community.

Where? Swan Hill Resort, 405-415 Campbell Street, Swan Hill

When?

There are three dates to choose from:

- ☼ Thursday 21st March 2019 (5pm - 8pm)
- ☼ Friday 22nd March 2019 (10am - 1pm)
- ☼ Saturday 23rd March 2019 (1pm - 4pm)



Cost? Free

The workshops are designed and delivered by staff with a disability from Ross House tenant, Australian Federation of Disability Organisations.

Bookings are essential for catering and accessibility purposes - please register by 13th March 2019 - <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/disability-loopaustralian-federation-of-disability-organisations-afdo-10744263032>

For more information please call (03) 9662 3324 or visit www.afdo.org.au.

Community Music Victoria - Flinders Lane community choir

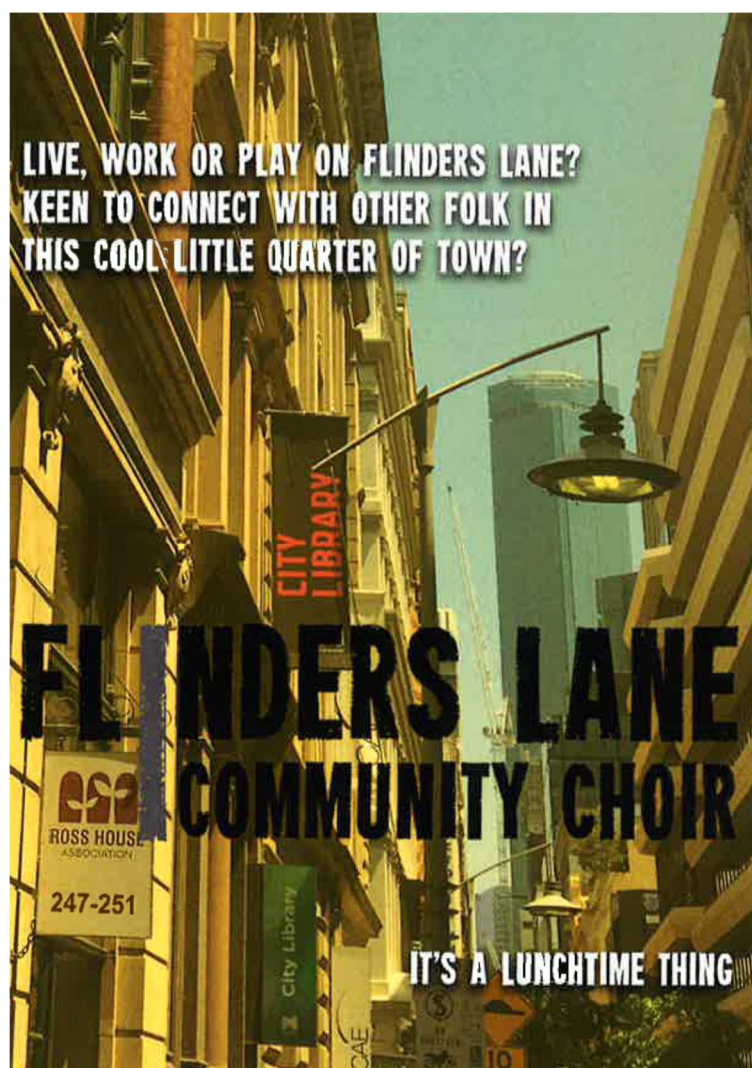
Community Music Victoria (CMVic) is launching a new and exciting local singing group for anyone living or working around Flinders Lane.

They are holding two taster sessions at Ross House on:

- ☼ Thursday 7th March & Tuesday 12th March (1:15pm - 2:15pm)
- ☼ Mezzanine Room, ground floor, Ross House, 247-251 Flinders Lane

This is an opportunity for learning and no previous singing experience is required - everyone is welcome to attend!

For more information, please contact CMVic on www.cmvic.org.au or (03) 9662 1162. Flinders Lane Community Choir is supported by a grant from the City of Melbourne.



Inductions recap

On the 19th of February Rebecca and Nazzareno ran the first of the Ross House induction sessions for 2019. If you are new (or even newish) to the building and want to know about all things Ross House, please head along to the next session. There will be coffee/tea and sweets provided.

When? Tuesday 19th March, 2-3pm

Where? Jenny Florence Room, Level 3, Ross House

Who? Rebecca May, Membership and Tenancy Officer and Nazzareno Marchionda, Facility Manager.

For more information, please contact Rebecca on rebecca.may@rosshouse.org.au.

Floor Representatives

Do you see yourself as a leader? As a mover and changer? Or an ideas person? Or perhaps just someone who has great people skills?

If so, you should express your interest to become a Floor Rep. Please contact Rebecca May, Membership and Tenancy Officer for more information please contact rebecca.may@rosshouse.org.au

RHA is seeking fire wardens

Ross House Association is seeking volunteers to be Fire Wardens on each of the levels.



Little time and commitment is required, just one meeting before the fire drill which will be in May or June 2019.

Not only are these roles great for personal development, they are supporting the community within Ross House (in an emergency); helping people leave efficiently and safely to the designated meeting point - the corner of Flinders Lane and Swanston Street.

Wanted - Emerge Program Manager

Emerge Australia is a member led organisation that advocates for, educates about, and provides information on Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) more commonly known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS). Established in 1980, Emerge Australia has been working with people affected by ME/CFS for over three decades

They are currently recruiting for a Program Manager to work across a few different programs that they have running at the moment. It's a 3x day per week position overseeing a number of exciting programs such as digital storytelling, working with peer support groups, developing their member journey and developing support pathways for people with the condition.

For more information, please contact ceo@emerge.org.au.

Office moves

We sadly said farewell to The Sunflower Foundation, who were a tenant of Ross House since 2015.



Melbourne Osteoporosis Support Group AGM

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the Melbourne Osteoporosis Support Group Inc will be held on Tuesday 16th April (at 1:30pm) in the Hayden Raysmith Room, Level 4, Ross House.

Their guest speaker on the day is Helen Koutsimanis who is a Health Promotion Officer at Musculoskeletal Australia.

Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, please visit www.melbosg.org.au.





247-251 Flinders Lane
Melbourne VIC 3000

Phone: 03 9650 1599

Fax: 03 9650 3689

Email: rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au

www.rosshouse.org.au

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION

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

Ross House Association Staff



General Manager

Michael Griffiths

michael.griffiths@rosshouse.org.au



Facility Manager

Nazzareno Marchionda

n.marchionda@rosshouse.org.au



Development Program Manager

Amber Moore

amber.moore@rosshouse.org.au



Finance Officer

Junxia xu

junxia.xu@rosshouse.org.au



Information & Administration Officer

Katie Stadtfeld Cunnane

rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au



Membership & Tenancy Officer

Rebecca Jahr

rebecca.may@rosshouse.org.au

Casual staff

Ella Marchionda

Stephanie East

Patti Gerkens

