



ROSS HOUSE ASSOCIATION

2019 RHA COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Christine McAuslan
(COSHG)

DEPUTY CHAIR

Valerie Elliot
(Handknitters Guild)

SECRETARY

Alba Chliakhtine
(ABRISA)

TREASURER

Keith Bettles
(USA City of Melbourne)

De Grebner
(Ex TreeProject, Appointed
Member)

Scot Muirden
(CBSF)

Heidi Nicholl (Emerge,
Appointed Member)

Maggie Maguire
(Appointed Member)

Richard Caven
(Appointed Member)

Nazzareno Marchionda
(Appointed Member RHA
staff)

Michael Griffiths
(Ex-officio, RHA General
Manager)

IN THE HOUSE

AUGUST 2019

Upcoming leasing campaign for a value aligned commercial space at Ross House

As part of our commitment to the Ross House Association 5-year Strategic Plan, which was developed through a comprehensive community consultation process in 2017 & 2018, the Association recently carried out a leasing campaign for the ground floor of Ross House. After six weeks, we have now concluded the campaign and have received a number of offers.

The RHA Committee is looking closely to see if any of the offers are suitable for Ross House, if the Committee decides that an offer is suitable, we will then ask for the community to submit feedback via written or recorded media, prior to entering into any lease agreement. This process will likely happen mid to late September.

If anyone has any questions regarding this process, please don't hesitate to contact michael.griffiths@rosshouse.org.au.



Melbourne Metro Rail Update

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

- ⚙ The piling works at the Flinders Quarter site has started and will continue through to December 2019, two piling rigs are in place.
- ⚙ The steel deck over the Flinders Quarter site is likely pushed back until after the piling is complete.
- ⚙ Excavation and tunnelling under the Flinders Quarter site will begin once the deck is in place.
- ⚙ The City Square site acoustic shed is under construction and will be completed in November 2019.
- ⚙ City Square excavations and tunnelling have commenced.

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

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

- ⚙️ There is ongoing painting of the toilets on each level.
- ⚙️ RHA is still on the hunt for fire wardens - please contact Nazz if you are interested on n.marchionda@rosshouse.org.au.

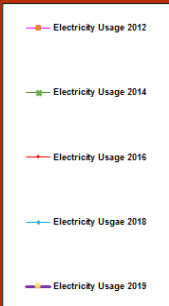
Upcoming works / happenings

- ⚙️ Ross House will be CLOSED between Monday 16th December 2019 and Sunday 16th February 2020 (inclusive) due to the upgrade of the main passenger lift. As a result of the building being closed, we are unable to accept meeting room bookings during this time. The building will re-open on Monday 17th February 2020. FYI: Information for tenants - please refer to the letter that was sent out Thursday 29th August 2019.

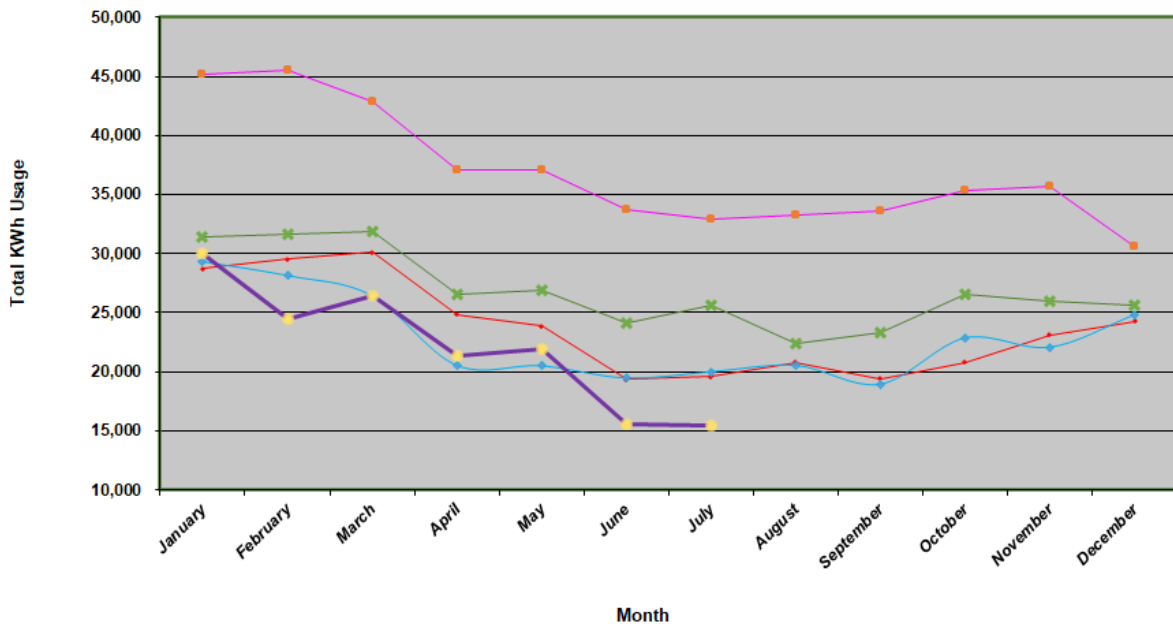


Ross House Association continues to make incredible energy savings as a result of sustainability works to the building, behaviour change and continued commitment from the entire Ross House community.

This month, there is a noticeable difference in our electricity usage (see purple line on graph). The reason for this is the variable speed drives that were installed, as part of our air-conditioning system, earlier this year. This means that the speed of the fans for the air-conditioner can be changed according to the requirements of the room temperature.



Electricity Comparison 2012 - 2019
 Ross House
 247-251 Flinders Lane Melbourne VIC 3000



Reflections by the RHA Chairperson - Christine McAuslan



There is a lot happening around Ross House, in what has been a busy year for the committee and staff.

Work continues on planned aspects of keeping the House sustainable into the future as underpinned by the Strategic Plan.

We have received some expressions of interest in leasing the ground floor. These were examined with great care regarding their suitability at the August Ross House Association Committee meeting. The process for coming to any decision will be adhered to. The timeline for the various aspects of decision making is on track with Community Consultations taking place between 30th September and 24th October.

With a new lift about to be installed in Ross House over December (through to mid-February), the Committee realises there will obviously be some disruption for all of us who use Ross House. However this disruption will result in a new, slightly larger and somewhat faster lift, which will enable reliable access to all floors.

A special thanks to Amber Moore, Development Program Manager and Michael Griffiths our General Manager, for obtaining some alternative accessible space at the nearby City Library for the period when our new lift is being installed. This space will be booked via Ross House so please talk to staff if you feel you may need to utilise this space.

The revived Community Development Sub-committee will meet soon. We are in the process of organising a date and time of mutual availability for those who have put their hand up to participate.

Other works that various committee members are involved in are a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement with staff and the annual report back of staff reviews.

As we head towards our Annual General Meeting in November we will be looking for participation on the Committee. Our General Manager and I will organise an information session for anyone who wants more information on what is involved.

RHA Chairperson
Christine McAuslan



Phone information for tenants

Please note that you need to start making plans for switching your telephone service.

If you have a traditional copper service e.g. a PSTN (traditional home phone) or ISDN (multiple lines) service, you need to plan to change to a VoIP system that runs off a fibre network.

Some of you have already made the transition, but we understand that there are still some tenants using a traditional phone service.

The Government via its NBN rollout will be switching off the copper network in Flinders Lane on the 8th May 2020.

Any new phone system that you decide to proceed with will run over the Ross House Fibre 1000 internet service.

Should you have any queries please contact Nazz on n.marchionda@rosshouse.org.au or 9650 1599, to discuss options available to you.



AMIDA - Opening Doors

'Renting for All' is a website resource for people with a disability, lead by people with a disability that will guide you through the process of renting, and connect you to information about the world of Real Estate. You will hear personal stories in our easy to access videos, which will inspire and inform you as you embark on looking for your new home, whether is it in the city, the suburbs or the country. In the coming months AMIDA will be rolling out this project in a number of ways. The first stage is the special presentation at the AMIDA Annual General meeting.

Where? Hayden Raysmith Room, Level 4, Ross House

When? Tuesday 1st October 2019 (10:30am -1:30pm)

RSVP? amida@amida.org.au (lunch is provided)

OPENING DOORS



RENTING FOR ALL

The second stage is a photographic exhibition "Opening Doors at No Vacancy"

Where? Queen Victoria (QV) Building: 34-40 Jane Bell Lane, Melbourne

When? 4th - 10th November 2019

The 3rd stage is a catered website launch at Foys Arcade

Where? Level 6/ 246 Bourke street, Melbourne

When? International Day of People with a Disability (Tuesday 3rd December 2019 @ 11am)

To find out more information, please contact AMIDA at amida@amida.org.au.

HAAG Project - My Aged Care

Have you thought about getting aged care support but don't know how to go about it? Do you find it difficult to access aged care information and services?

Ross House tenant, Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG), has recently started a new project to assist older people in understanding and accessing aged care.

Aged Care Navigators support is a free, confidential service that gives you independent information about aged care services and how to access them.

The Aged Care Navigators at HAAG can:

- Answer any questions you may have about the aged care system
- Explain what services are available
- Help you to call My Aged Care and get registered for an assessment

Find out more at www.older tenants.org.au.



RHA is seeking Community Development Sub-Committee members

Ross House Association is on the hunt for new members to join the Ross House Community Development Sub-Committee.

To find out more information, please contact the Front Desk on (03) 9650 1599 or email rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au.

CMVic Community Choir

Head down to Ross House and sing for an hour at lunchtime in a supportive, all abilities choir.

Where? Mezzanine Room, Ground Floor, Ross House

When? Every Thursday (1-2pm) just turn up

Cost? Free

For more information, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/2655371901142309/>

No previous singing experience is required - everyone is welcome to attend.

Community Music Victoria Inc. (CMVic) is a not-for-profit, membership-based association, which supports, promotes and facilitates music-making among Victoria.

Woor-Dungin Aboriginal Ex-Offenders Employment Workshop

Ross House tenant, Woor-Dungin, invites you to this half-day workshop where you will gain support and advice on finding work, when you have a criminal record.

On the day, you will hear from guest speakers Naomi Murphy and Mark Hammersle, who will give advice and guidance on the topic. This workshop will also be an opportunity to discuss any issues and challenges you are facing. Lunch will be provided.

Where? Koorie Heritage Trust, Aunty Joyce Johnson Room

When? Wednesday 11th September 2019 (10am - 3pm)

Cost? This is a free event

www.woor-dungin.com.au



WOOR-DUNGIN

A New Partnership between Aboriginal Organisations and Philanthropy

TEWFA Gala Event

You are invited to attend a Gala Dinner with Ross House tenant, The East West Foundation of Australia Inc, on Saturday 12th October 2019 at 7pm.

All proceeds will be applied directly to helping the Foundation through their healthcare, education, community development and environmental sustainability programs.

Where? Manningham Civic Centre, Doncaster

When? Saturday 12th October @ 7pm

Cost? \$150 per person (Concession \$95 per person)

RSVP? Please RSVP by 27th September 2019. For more information, please visit www.tewfa.org.au.



Justice Connect Legal Days

On the 7th August, Justice Connect held another Free Legal Session day here at Ross House for members and tenants.

The day was a great success with nearly all appointment times booked out.

Justice Connect is able to help you out with questions regarding:

- Getting started
- Running the organisation
- Managing the people involved
- Seeking funds and holding events
- Communications and advertising
- Important agreements
- Reporting to government
- Insurance and risk
- Tax
- Disputes and conflict
- Working with other organisations
- Changing or ending your organisation

We have another Free Legal day scheduled in for **October 10th 2019**, times to be confirmed.

Please remember that this service is brought to you by a partnership between Ross House Association and Justice Connect, and is exclusively for RHA Members and Tenants. The nature of your enquiry with Justice Connect must be related to the work of your member/tenant organisation.



Grant News

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

The **Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation's Seed Innovation Grants** support projects or initiatives aligned with one of more outcomes of the Foundation's revised [Impact Areas](#). Seed Innovation Grants are for up to \$50,000 for one year and support the researching, testing and piloting of a new idea or approach. This can include:

- ⚙️ Project funding to test, demonstrate, trial or pilot a new concept or idea that will lead to a service improvement or an advance in a major community issue
- ⚙️ Research funding to build understanding of an area or issue.
- ⚙️ Inform program design or practice, inform policy development and philanthropic investment or identify best practice.
- ⚙️ Funding to support the initial development phase of a social enterprise that addresses at least one Impact Area Outcome.

Impact Areas are:

- ⚙️ **Education & Employment and Environmental Sustainability**
- ⚙️ **Healthy & Resilient Communities and Homelessness & Affordable Housing**

Grants are due at 5pm on 16th September 2019.

For more information and eligibility criteria, [please click here](#).

The **Awesome Foundation** run an ongoing grants program to support awesome projects, including initiatives in a wide range of areas including arts, technology, community development, and more. The Awesome Foundation is a global community advancing the interest of awesome in the universe, \$1000 at a time.

Each fully autonomous chapter supports awesome projects through micro-grants, usually given out monthly. Every chapter interprets "awesome" for itself. As such, awesome projects include initiatives in a wide range of areas including arts, technology, community development, and more.

Applications close the day before monthly meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday of each month.

Anyone is eligible for a grant.

For more information visit https://www.awesomefoundation.org/en/about_us



Ross House-Keeping

Ross House Foyer

- ⚙ Thank you to everyone who continues to keep the Foyer a clean and tidy space. Just a friendly reminder, please ensure to take your rubbish to the bins near the kitchen when required and do not use the blue paper bins to dispose of your rubbish. This is a meeting space upon arrival to the building - please be reminded however that this is still an active working floor, so noise levels need to be kept at a minimal level - thank you!



Meeting Room bookings

- ⚙ Please feel free to contact the Front Desk if you would like to book some training for your staff members who are new to the online system - we are here to assist.

Meeting Room 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 at rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au.

Finance

- ⚙ If you have booked a room in previous months but have not received an invoice in the first week of current month, please let us know and we will re-issue one for you.

Melbourne Osteoporosis Support group

Ross House member, Melbourne Osteoporosis Support Group, meet bi-monthly and their purpose is to support each other and to share information regarding osteoporosis.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 15th October in the Hayden Raysmith Room at 1:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Guest speaker, Mark Pacitti, will be discussing issues around mental health - 'Dancing with the Black Dog'.

For more information, please visit www.melbosg.org.au.

Everyone would be very welcome. Contact Leonie Cartledge 0414547952.

www.melbosg.org.au



**MELBOURNE
OSTEOPOROSIS
SUPPORT GROUP**
Incorporated Reg No. A0038140R
Est. 1996

Volunteer Planting Day recap with TreeProject

Ross House tenant, TreeProject, spent a glorious day in the beautiful Yarra Valley on 17th August 2019 with a fantastic group of volunteers.

It was a great planting day all round and thank you to the wonderful 45 volunteers that headed down on the day to help plant trees.

What's coming up next?

There will be more opportunities to get on board in the upcoming months. To find out more information, please call the TreeProject office on (03) 9650 9477, or email admin@treeproject.org.au.



Congratulations 'Voice At The Table' (VATT)

'Voice At The Table' has won the 2019 Victorian Disability Awards in the category of 'Excellence In Creating Inclusive Communities'.

The annual Victorian Disability Awards honour the contributions of Victorians who support, lead, educate and advocate for people with disability.



What they do:

'Voice at The Table' aims to increase the number of people with cognitive disabilities sitting on boards, committees and advisory groups within community organisations, local government, and service providers.

- ⚙ Consumer representative training for people with cognitive disabilities
- ⚙ Consumer representation and participation resources for use by service providers, government, community and mainstream organisations
- ⚙ Inclusive Practice training for organisations
- ⚙ Opportunities and support for consumer representatives

For more information, please visit www.voiceatthetable.com.au.



Office moves

There has been a lot of movement in Ross House since our last newsletter.

- ⚙ Beyond Zero Emissions have moved to the third floor, Room 3.11.
- ⚙ Disability Resource Centre have moved to the fourth floor, Room 4.7
- ⚙ Aussie Hands have moved to the third floor, Room 3.8

This month we said goodbye to our long term tenants Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO). They will stay on as members of Ross House and continue to auspice and collaborate with our other members and tenants.



'We say no to deforestation'

There's a lot to say about the deforestation in Brazil. As a Brazilian community in Melbourne, Ross House tenant, ABRISA, are concerned about the potential loss of what is often referred as 'THE LUNGS OF THE PLANET' - our significant source of oxygen, the Amazon Rainforest.



ABRISA would like to invite those interested in advocating to support the Amazon forest to contact them direct on contactus@abrisa.org.au.

ABRISA encourage and support the socio-cultural integration of Brazilian and Portuguese speaking people into Australian society.

To find out more information, please visit www.abrisa.org.au.

Floor meetings

Thank you to all the Tenants who attended the recent floor meetings. We appreciate the time you took from your day to be an active member of the Ross House community. Each meeting attracted 2-5 people per floor. Everyone who came gave us things to consider and we will take on your feedback. Minutes will be sent out in the next week. Any items to be actioned will be considered in the coming weeks.

We will schedule more floor meetings for early next year, make sure you come along to represent your organisation and contribute to your workplace, to your floor and to the Ross House community.

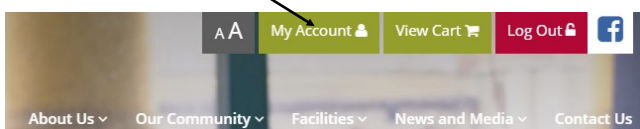
Ross House admin update

Key Register

A friendly reminder to always update your key register on your Ross House account. This will avoid any confusion at the Front Desk.

Admin details

Please also update your admin contact details - if you need any training on this, please contact the Front Desk on rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au or phone (03) 9650 1599.



Volunteer positions @ Shine for Kids



SHINE for Kids supports children, young people and families with relatives in the criminal justice system. They have been operating for over 30 years and have programs in VIC, NSW, QLD and the ACT.

SHINE stands for the five elements of what they do: **Support** children, facilitate **hope**, **inspire** kids to reach their potential, **nurture** their growth and **empower** them to succeed.

In Victoria, they are growing their programs to meet an ever-increasing need. Currently they support children, when visiting their parents in prison, provide a supported transport option for children who are unable to visit otherwise and provide educational support for kids with an incarcerated parent.

SHINE has volunteer opportunities including prison-invisits, mentoring, children's transport, education support and child family days. This would suit anyone looking to fill a few hours in the week, use or improve your digital skills and make a real difference in children's futures.

Please note that SHINE undertakes several screening processes to ensure the appropriate protections of children in its care. This includes reference checks, identity checks, qualification checks and professional registration checks.

For direct enquiries, please email Chris at cturner@shineforkids.org.au or visit www.shineforkids.org.au.

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2019





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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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