



ROSS HOUSE
ASSOCIATION

2020 RHA COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Christine McAuslan
(COSHG)

SECRETARY

Scot Muirden
(CBSF)

TREASURER

Keith Bettles
(U3A City of Melbourne)

Valerie Elliot
(Handknit & Crochet Guild)

De Grebner
(Ex TreeProject, Appointed
Member)

Cynthia Pilli
(STAR Victoria Inc)

Mohamed Nabe
(Southern Rivers
Community Services)

Vanessa Petrie
(Appointed Member)

Heidi Nicholl
(Emerge)

Dabessa Gemelal
(Advocacy for Oromia)

Maggie Maguire
(Appointed Member)

Richard Caven
(Appointed Member)

Nazzareno Marchionda
(Appointed Member RHA
staff)

Michael Griffiths
(Ex-officio, RHA General
Manager)

IN THE HOUSE

APRIL 2020

Ground Level Commercial Lease Update

At the March meeting, the RHA Committee decided that due to the impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, the leasing of the Ground Floor of Ross House will be put on hold. The Committee will review this decision in 6-months, when the economic impacts of coronavirus become clearer. Both Ross House Association and the potential Lessee of the space may be affected by the economic conditions caused by business closures.

We would like to thank those that attended the Community Meeting and understand the feelings that some have towards a fully commercial operation leasing the Ground Floor. We will explore additional options for a not-for-profit or social enterprise tenant in the lead-up to the 6-month review.

If anyone has any suggestions or contacts in relation to a suitable tenant for Ross House, please contact the General Manager at michael.griffiths@rosshouse.org.au.

Thank you.

Melbourne Metro Rail Update

Please see the latest updates from the Melbourne Metro Rail Project:

- ⚙ All piles and plunge columns have been completed at the Flinders Quarter site, 182 piles and 57 plunge columns in total.
- ⚙ Piling will now start along the Flinders Street side.
- ⚙ The old Port Phillip Arcade slab has been broken up.
- ⚙ An acoustic enclosure has been built over Shaft A, this will enable less noisy excavation of the ground below.
- ⚙ A shroud (cover) will be installed over the motor of the Flinders Quarter crane due to noise complaints from residents.
- ⚙ The building on the corner of Degraives and Flinders Street is having work done to the façade, Degraives Street will be closed for a period, this work is not related to the Melbourne Metro Rail Project.
- ⚙ Works are on track despite the COVID-19 crisis, some work has been easier due to reduced traffic and pedestrian flows.
- ⚙ Construction of the Oversight Development (OSD) will commence once a concrete slab has been installed at the Flinders Quarter site. Expected in 2022.

For more information, 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

- ⚙️ The new lift doors have recently been painted and the voiceover has also been changed. You may have noticed too, before the closure, that the lift buttons have now been replaced: -1 is now Lower Ground (which is the old Street Level) and -2 is B (Basement).
- ⚙️ Casual spots 1 and 2 have been merged into one bay. We have left a pedestrian pathway that allows easier access for pedestrians and bike users needing to access the bike racks. This is now the preferred accessible parking bay as it allows plenty of room on each side. The area has been painted and a logo has been placed on the bay floor. Bay 4 will remain a casual parking bay.
- ⚙️ The handrails on the front stairwell have also been painted.

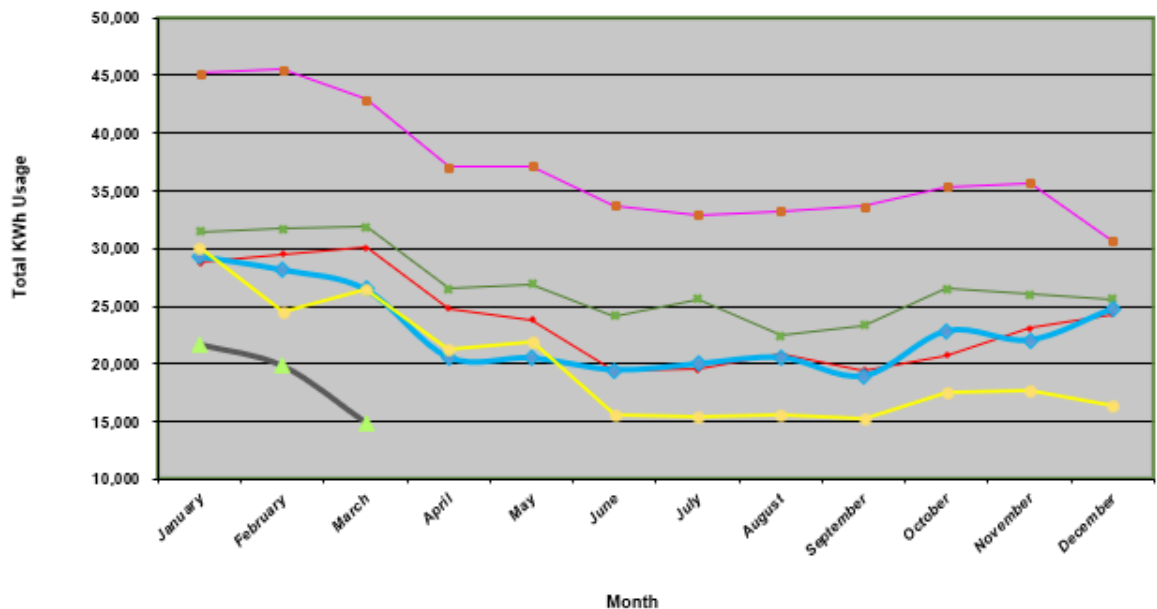
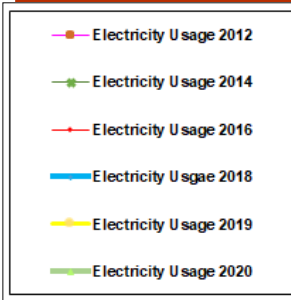
Upcoming/ on hold

- ⚙️ Wardens / fire drill has been deferred to later in the year. More information will be provided when we are back up and running.



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 - 2020
 Ross House
 247-251 Flinders Lane Melbourne VIC 3000



Reflections by the RHA Chairperson - Christine McAuslan

As we cannot but be fully aware, we are living through a very difficult time as the COVID-19 pandemic takes a toll on the way we live our lives and impacts society in general across the world.

Most of the Ross House community is working from home, which brings about its own challenges. Some of you will be dealing with issues such as home schooling, working in a confined space or having internet problems, as you endeavour to fulfill work obligations.

Importantly, Ross House is also a place where people come together to be with others who understand their situation and are able to find comfort and support in the company of their peers and those who are like-minded.

I hope for all those groups that you have found an alternative means of keeping in touch and continuing to support each other. Please get in touch with Ross House staff if you are struggling with anything that they may have knowledge of, or ideas as to how to assist you.

I also encourage you all to contribute to the additional e-news "Stay Connected" that Katie is putting together on a weekly basis. This gives us all an opportunity to hear how the various groups are doing and any innovations they may have come up with to assist with their normal activities.

Some of you may have found yourself 'stopping to smell the roses' with more time at home. Hopefully, you all have something that brings you a measure of joy wherever you are in isolation.

The Ross House committee will be meeting online today and will be further discussing the impacts of the coronavirus on Ross House and the consequent financial implications. There will be communication following that meeting as to where we are situated.

Meanwhile, (particularly if you are isolating alone) please look after yourselves; reach out to friends and colleagues or the relevant health organisations if struggling with mental or other health issues.

Stay connected, safe and well as best you can and we will all look forward to the time when we are back in the 'House'.



RHA Chairperson
Christine McAuslan





Stay Connected @ Ross House

Weekly emails

- ⚙ You may have noticed that the RHA team have been sending out a weekly email to the membership to stay connected, share information and provide support during this time. If you have anything you would like to share, please send it through to rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au.

Promotion addition

- ⚙ As well as the current promotional opportunities we have at Ross House including this newsletter, a weekly e-bulletin and Facebook, we are also in the process of setting up Instagram - watch this space...   Instagram

Zoom

- ⚙ Many groups are using Zoom to stay connected. Zoom is a great platform for video and audio conferencing, chat and webinars. RHA have also set up Zoom conferencing for both staff meetings and committee meetings. If you need assistance setting up Zoom for your organisation, please contact Ross House at rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au.

AMIDA shares Anydesk information

AMIDA would like to share the following information with you about Anydesk.

“AMIDA are using software called Anydesk to help us stay connected.



Prior to the closure of Ross House we were able to install it on our work computers. At home we installed the software on our home computer and can now access our office desktop if we need things. It has also been invaluable in supporting our staff and committee to get connected. I talk them through how to install the software and then I connect to their computer. Once connected I can teach them how to do things or change system settings to get them up and running again. AMIDA works with Windows PC however this software is available for Apple products as well. We have created a document for getting it installed in a windows environment”.

If anyone would like a copy, please contact Brenda Penaluna on brenda@amida.org.au.

Ross House window display 2020

With everything that has happened over the past few weeks, we have unfortunately been unable to manage the window display with our members and tenants.

Rest assured though, we will make sure if you have missed out during this period, you will get priority next year.

Please contact Katie on rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au / (03) 9650 1599 with any queries.



Melbourne Osteoporosis Support Group recap

The purpose of the Melbourne Osteoporosis Support Group (MOSG) is to support each other and share information regarding Osteoporosis. As a Ross House member, they normally hold bi-monthly meetings in the Hayden Raysmith Room - everyone is welcome to attend.

Their last meeting talked about ‘Maintaining Good Vision to Avoid Falls’ with Dr Jane Scheetz and her assistant from the ‘Centre of Eye Research Australia’ who spoke about Vision loss, Glaucoma and Age-Related Macular Degeneration.

What are they working on?

They are currently canvassing signatures for a petition for ‘Fracture Liaison Services in Hospitals’ with Osteoporosis Australia. This has been sent to many medical practitioners. Their members have been provided with sheets for their own medical support. Once completed, they will be handed to Hon. David Davis MLC who will present them to the Health Minister Hon. Jenny Mikakis MLC.

The aim of this research is to obtain some funds to support this project in hospitals and relieve Osteoporosis sufferers.

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



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

Est. 1996

National Climate Emergency Summit (The Sustainable Living Foundation)



The Sustainable Living Foundation convened the National Climate Emergency Summit over two days in the iconic Melbourne Town Hall in February 2020.

The event resulted from the recognition that climate change now, constitutes a global emergency with a movement for change spreading rapidly around the world. The Summit addressed the need to consolidate existing coordinated and cooperative approaches to form climate emergency responses. Expert practitioners, local governments,

climate scientists, economists, industry innovators, youth activists, climate action groups, community organisations and leading advocates worked to unpack what a climate emergency response could look like at local, national, and global levels.

'This Is Not A Drill' was a feature event of the Summit that convened an expert panel to take the hot seat for a not-so-hypothetical plunge into predicting how Australia would respond to the climate emergency across the political, economic and social spectrums.

The panel featured Ali Moore (MC), Cheryl Durrant, Carmen Lawrence, Ian Dunlop, Paul Gilding, Oliver Yates, Lidia Thorpe, Greg Mullins and Dr Kerry Phelp who were presented with climate change scenarios and asked how government, industry and community should respond on behalf of all Australians.

Find out more by visiting the link below:

<https://www.climateemergencysummit.org/>.



RHA online account management

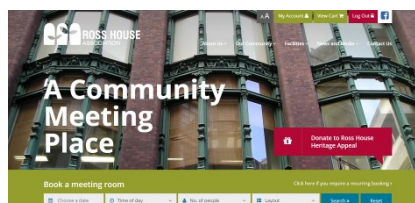
Thank you to everyone who is managing their online accounts for bookings and cancellations.

If you (or a staff member) within your organisation would like to do some training over the phone (or email) during this period, please get in touch.

Areas include:

- ⚙ Logging in / forgot password
- ⚙ Making a room booking
- ⚙ Cancelling a room booking
- ⚙ Updating your key register
- ⚙ Updating your contact details

For more information, please contact Katie on rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au / (03) 9650 1599.



ID	Booked	Order	Start Date	End Date	Status
30911	Book Committee meeting (RSC) - 0.2 Mezzanine - Sun	30911	December 17, 2020, 2:00 pm	December 17, 2020, 5:00 pm	Cancelled
30961	RHA Finance Sub-Com (RSC) - 3.2 - Meeting Room	30962	December 16, 2020, 11:00 am	December 16, 2020, 12:30 pm	Cancelled
30910	Book Committee meeting (RSC) - 0.2 Mezzanine - Sun	30910	December 16, 2020, 2:00 pm	December 16, 2020, 5:00 pm	Booked
31746	End of year celebration (RSC) - Foyer	31750	December 16, 2020, 7:00 am	December 16, 2020, 7:00 pm	Booked
31748	End of year celebration (RSC) - Carpark - Bay 1	31750	December 16, 2020, 7:00 am	December 16, 2020, 7:00 pm	Booked
31749	End of year celebration (RSC) - PA System	31750	December 16, 2020, 7:00 am	December 16, 2020, 7:00 pm	Booked

Welcome Back Brunch celebrating World Wildlife Day

On 3rd March 2020, we celebrated “World Wildlife Day”, which was an opportunity to highlight the many beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora. The day reminded us of the urgent need to step up the fight against wildlife crime and human-induced reduction of species, which have wide-ranging economic, environmental and social impacts.

Guest speakers on the day were Dr Nadine Richings from the Animal Justice Party and Craig Whiteford from the Threatened Species department at Zoos Victoria.

Dr Nadine Richings conducted a well-informed presentation discussing the variety of life on earth (biodiversity), the interconnections between species, how human activity is impacting nature (climate damage, including increased temperatures, droughts, floods and bushfires) and biodiversity loss (species decline and extinction).

Craig also gave a fantastic presentation discussing issues of water management, biodiversity, catchment management, nature conservation and collaboration. He also talked about how Zoos Victoria were instrumental in leading the response to the recent Victorian bushfires. Both speakers were very insightful and we thank them for volunteering their time on the day.

The event concluded with a celebration from RHA Manager, Michael Griffiths, regarding the new lift upgrade. This was followed by tasty vegan treats from ‘Lentil As Anything’. Thank you to everyone who attended on the day and we will look forward to having everyone back at Ross House to celebrate at our next member and tenant event.



1. Biodiversity

What is it? Biodiversity = Biological Diversity
→ Variation in life

What is life? Flora & Fauna → Plants & Animals

PAFME

Covid-19 'Door to Door' emergency relief drive for ex-detainees, asylum seekers and refugees

RISE has launched a COVID-19 'Door to Door' Emergency Relief Drive for ex-detainees, asylum Seekers and refugees.

They are delivering care packages across Melbourne including food supplies & toiletries. With over 3000 members, your donation will help them to increase supplies and other essentials (directly to their members) in times of need.



Donate now or find out more by [clicking here](#).

SARU post daily on Facebook

If you have a Facebook account, be sure to check out Ross House tenant, SARU - Self Advocacy Resource



Unit. They are posting daily videos on all things self-advocacy.

One of their first posts is a video created last year with their project group Rainbow Rights, which may bring some joy to your day. [Click here](#) to see the video!



Blind Citizens Australia (BCA) Happy Hours

Happy Hours are a chance to share your thoughts around the current situation, with updates from BCA on what they are currently doing.

It is a forum to discuss any issues relevant to blindness and vision impairment and is an opportunity to have some social connection. These will evolve, with your feedback, to provide an opportunity to build further social groups and keep us all connected.

The BCA Happy Hours have been created to keep Australians who are blind or vision impaired connected during this period of self-isolation. You do not need to be a BCA Member to attend, so please share with your friends who are blind or vision impaired who may like the opportunity to connect (virtually). Happy Hours will run Monday – Friday (excluding public holidays).

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

BCA HAPPY HOURS

Monday, Wednesday,
Friday 11:00am – 12:00pm

Tuesday and Thursday
7:30pm – 8:30pm

Retina Australia

#donatemycommute

campaign via Everyday Hero

Retina Australia have recently set up a campaign to raise vital funds for research into treatments and cures for blindness caused by inherited retinal disease.

From Retina Australia:

“As many of us work from home & continue to practice social distancing, we want to make sure that you still have options to support the community and make a difference.

If you are in a position to, join the **#donatemycommute** movement and give the cost of your normal spend on public transport, petrol, tolls or coffee and support our medical research programs.

Your support is always appreciated and leads us closer to developing treatments & cures for blindness caused by inherited retinal disease.

Support us via this direct link: <https://bit.ly/2UQcuxW>

Alternatively, we have just launched the research grant application forms for the calendar year 2021 with application closing 30th June 2020. To find out more information, please click here <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6658165911889031168>.”

www.retinaaustralia.com.au



RETINA
australia

Grants and other support during the COVID-19 crisis

Please find information below on grants and other support that is available during the COVID-19 crisis.

- ⚙️ Andrews Foundation Grants - Andrews Foundation: The trust distributes its income to applicants for grants for various purposes all of which must be charitable. Up to \$5000 is available to community organisation that have DGR status. Please see: <https://andrewsfoundation.org.au/features-page/>
- ⚙️ The COVID-19 Rapid Advocacy Fund - Building a pool of funding to support strategic advocacy responses to the pandemic in Australia. For applications and information see: <https://www.rapidadvocacyfund.org/>
- ⚙️ The Victorian Government has announced a \$500 million Business Support Fund. The fund will support the hospitality, tourism, accommodation, arts and entertainment and retail sectors. Applications close 1st June 2020. Please see details at <https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-fund>
- ⚙️ The Federal Government has a number of support programs provided via the ATO. This includes the *JobKeeper Payment* and *Boosting Cash Flow for Employers*. Please see information and how to apply at <https://www.ato.gov.au/General/COVID-19/Support-for-businesses-and-employers/>



Community Music Victoria (CMVic)

Some of CMVic's coordinators decided to have a go at putting together parts of a song whilst in iso.

It turned out to be a great way for them to continue making and sharing music together in lockdown!

The song is 'How Can We Change Our World' and was written by Sarah Mandie. Sarah, together with John Howard, is using a format of pre-recording song parts to share live, onscreen in CMVic's weekly singing group, [Flinders Lane Community Voices Online](#).

Not only have they found it's a great way to keep the harmonies happening (and lessen the feeling that they are singing by themselves), they have also been incorporating this sort of tech into the delivery of the 2020 CMVic Music Camp at Grantville which takes place online from 29th - 30th May 2020. Stay tuned...



To watch their 'Change our World' video, please [click here](#) or visit the [CMVic Facebook page](#).

Online Finance Essentials Training - Non Profit Training

Non Profit's Finance Essential training will help you read and understand financial reports and assist you in making better informed decisions about the finances within your organisation.

Learning outcomes:

- ⚙ Interpret financial reports including the balance sheet and profit and loss against budget
- ⚙ Understand variance reporting and forecasting
- ⚙ Develop budgets for the financial year and new programs
- ⚙ Calculate the organisation's financial health
- ⚙ Link the strategic plan to the financial reports
- ⚙ Understand the financial controls required to protect the organisation

Where? Online via Zoom (10am - 3:30pm)

When? Thursday 28th May 2020

Cost? \$260 (incl GST) per person

Non Profit Training is a member of Ross House.

To find out more information on their upcoming online events, please visit www.nonprofittraining.com.au.



Transport Tuesdays with DRC



#TransportTuesdays have arrived!

Disability Resources Centre (DRC) are hosting a series of weekly online community gatherings aimed at building skills and shining a light on the need for Victorian public transport to be accessible to everyone.

To view the schedule or to register your interest, please click the link here > <http://drc.org.au/get-involved/transport-tuesdays/>.

www.drc.org.au

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

	We Can Do This: Making Social Change Tuesday 28 April, 11:00- 12:30	An introduction to campaigning and using storytelling to affect change.
	Why Complaining Works Tuesday 5 May, 11:00- 12:30	How, when and where to complain for the best results.
	Discovering Digital Campaigning Tuesday 12 May, 11:00- 12:30	The value of digital campaigning and how to make it work for us.
	Transport for All: Let's Take Action Tuesday 19 May	The launch of a digital action for accessible transport for every Victorian.

Please keep us informed of any changes of your office attendance

Please can all Tenants of Ross House keep Rebecca and Naz informed of any increase or decrease in office attendance during COVID-19 restrictions. Your attendance information will provide us with valuable information on how to better manage the building whilst most people are working from home.

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact the Membership and Tenancy Officer, Rebecca May on rebecca.may@rosshouse.org.au.



Tenant moves

This month we sadly say goodbye to Spina Bifida Foundation Victoria (SBFV) as Tenants at Ross House. However, SBFV will stay on as Occasional Tenants, and still remain a part of the Ross House Community.



RHA monthly invoices

A friendly reminder that RHA monthly invoices have been sent out for April 2020 - payment terms are still the same, 14-days post invoice delivery. Any questions, please get in touch, thank you.



247-251 Flinders Lane
Melbourne VIC 3000

Phone: 03 9650 1599

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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