

Ross House Association Annual Report



staying connected 2019-2020



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Chairperson's Report

At the Annual General Meeting in November 2019, when we welcomed five new members to the Committee, none of us could have foreseen that in a few months we would enter a period of upheaval and the need to close Ross House to the public.

As the financial year 2019-2020 unfolded, there was substantial committee work occurring. For example, the investigation, and consultation around the leasing of the ground floor to ensure the sustainability and viability of Ross House in the future. Also the advent of the need to replace the lift and acquire additional off-site accessible meeting space while the lift was being replaced. The replacement was installed within the stated timeframe and our Facilities Manager, Nazzareno Marchionda and General Manager, Michael Griffiths are to be congratulated, along with the rest of the team, for their efforts in ensuring the new lift was up and running to meet the deadline.

There were many more achievements over 2019-2020. These are detailed in the General Manager's Report, which gives an in depth insight into all that has occurred operationally in Ross House over this last year.

When we all returned from the holiday season to begin our work in Ross House for 2020, we very shortly found ourselves having to address the impacts of a quickly spreading viral pandemic. Ross House was shut to the public on March 17th in line with government advice. Our staff and that of most of our tenants began to work from home.

It is important to acknowledge that despite some advantages, such as not having to travel, there are also many downsides for some in working from home. Not everyone has the space to set up a quiet area. This coupled with home schooling or the care of young children, has meant that the home front has often been invaded by work requirements. I thank all Ross House staff for their work over the year, particularly in making this transition to working from home.

The Ross House team have shown a willingness to be creative and explore options for improving processes. This has been borne out by their approach and efforts in adapting and continuing to suggest and implement new ideas and methods to keep Ross House maintained and its community informed, while still responding to all the normal aspects of their roles remotely.

Policies were created as to the shutdown of Ross House and strategies for re-opening whenever that time comes. Importantly, the staff and committee have kept a very close eye on the financial impacts. Government funding has been applied for where applicable. Expenditures have been reduced substantially wherever possible. At this stage, financially, Ross House is holding steady. The Finance and Risk Management Sub-Committee meet weekly to monitor the situation, while continuing to report and make recommendations to monthly committee meetings held over Zoom.

With so much that is unknown in the months ahead, and the impacts of reopening the House, the Committee will continue to focus on the financial status, viability and sustainability of the Association in order to secure the vibrant, vital place that is Ross House, for when we are all able to return and for the years ahead.

I thank the committee members and sub-committee members for their unfailing time and efforts to keep Ross House a place where tenants and members can continue the wonderful work they do. On behalf of the Ross House Committee, I also extend our thanks to all those who have supported Ross House over the year. A special thank you goes to Justice Connect,



Non-Profit Training, Jo Evans, City of Melbourne and Sustainability Victoria.

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

Christine McAuslan

General Manager's Report



2020 is a difficult year to write about. It has been a very challenging time for the organisation, as well as for the entire Ross House Community. There are, however, still some major achievements that we can celebrate, which have been accomplished throughout the year.

One significant milestone was the complete replacement of the old main passenger lift in Ross House with a larger, faster and substantially more reliable unit. The works, which cost around \$170,000, were carried out from January 13th to February 16th and the new lift was up and running by February 17th, 2020. A big thank you to our Facilities Manager, Nazzareno Marchionda, for ensuring the lift project ran on time, despite some difficulties with shipping and customs. This project was part funded by the City of Melbourne 2019 Community Grants (\$20,000) and the City of Melbourne 2020 Connected Communities Grants (\$20,000). We extend a big thank you to the City of Melbourne for their continued support of Ross House.

Ross House has continued to improve its NABERS rating from a starting point of 2.5 stars back in 2012. NABERS is a 6 star energy rating tool that is used to assess a building's energy performance. Since the installation of Variable Speed Drives (VSDs) on our air-conditioning fans last year, as well as over 20 different energy saving initiatives that have been undertaken over the last 8 years, we have finally achieved an indicative rating of 5 stars. We are looking forward to making this official once Ross House is up and running in its normal capacity.

This year we said goodbye to our long-standing staff member Amber Moore. Amber started with RHA back in January 2012 as the Development Officer. She then became the organisation's Development Program

Manager, assisting in strategy, communications and managing our grants program. Some of her most notable achievements were securing a \$250,000 heritage grant to restore the north facade, and a \$400,000 federal grant to upgrade the air-conditioning system, as well as numerous other grants that assisted RHA in providing accessible bathrooms, energy efficient lighting and the recent lift upgrade. Amber accepted a position with the Helen MacPherson Smith Trust where she will be responsible for awarding grants rather than applying for them. We wish her the best in this endeavour and thank her for many years of service to Ross House.

In March 2020 we saw the most significant event occur for the Association this year, with the global COVID-19 pandemic crisis hitting Melbourne. On Tuesday 17th March at 5pm, Ross House closed its doors to the public in order to protect the Ross House Community and RHA staff. On the 28th March, the Victorian State Government introduced a Stage 3 lockdown in Melbourne, mandating that businesses that can, must work from home. Since that time, we have seen most Ross House tenants move to a work from home environment with all the challenges that brings.

Due to the pandemic, many organisations have been hit with significant reductions to their funding. Four tenant organisations have received rent relief to assist them financially, with some of these organisations unfortunately having to move out due to a critical reduction in funding. RHA has also seen its income reduce significantly due to the effects of drastically reduced meeting room bookings, the closure of and ensuing restrictions placed on Dukes Coffee Roasters, the provision of rent relief and tenant departures. However, through careful financial management, a reduction in non-critical operational costs, the cancellation of capital expenditure work and support from the Federal Government through JobKeeper and Cash Boost, RHA has been able to avoid losses during this period. It is important to note that the full impact of the COVID crisis on the Ross House finances is not fully seen within the presented annual



financial report. The reporting period spans from July 2019 to June 2020, which only highlights the effects of the Stage 3 lockdown for the three months of April, May and June of 2020. A greater impact to the Ross House finances will likely be seen in the 2020-2021 reporting period.

I would like to thank all the staff for showing great resilience and ability to adapt to working from home in this challenging environment, as well as the Members & Tenants of Ross House and the RHA Committee for

their support during this difficult time. Let us all stay connected until we can once again return to Ross House to continue the fight for social and environmental justice for all, something that is now more critical than ever.

Michael Griffiths

Ross House Association Committee and Staff 2019-2020

COMMITTEE

Chairperson

Christine McAuslan
Collective of Self Help Groups

Deputy Chairperson

Dr. Heidi Nicholl
Emerge Australia (from March 2020)

Treasurer

Keith Bettles
U3A Melbourne City

Secretary

Scot Muirden
Charles Bonnett Syndrome Foundation

Members

Richard Caven
Appointed

Valerie Elliott
Handknitters Guild

Dabessa Gemelal
Advocacy for Oromia (until June 2020)

De Grebner
Appointed

Michael Griffiths
Ex-officio

Maggie Maguire
Appointed

Nazzareno Marchionda
Appointed Staff Representative

Mohamed Nabe
Southern Rivers Community Services

Dr. Heidi Nicholl
Emerge Australia (until March 2020)

Vanessa Petrie
Beyond Zero Emissions
(until March 2020)
Appointed (from March 2020)

Cynthia Pilli
STAR Victoria Inc

STAFF

Michael Griffiths
General Manager

Rebecca May
Membership & Tenancy Officer

Nazzareno Marchionda
Facilities Manager

Amber Moore
(until February 2020)
Development Program Manager

Katie Stadtfeld Cunnane
Information & Administration Officer

Junxia Xu
Finance Officer

Casual staff

Patti Gerkens
Ruby James-Strawhan
Julia Pecorano
Ella Marchionda

Ross House: Committed to a Socially Just
and Environmentally Sustainable Society



Members' stories

Climate and Health Alliance

Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) is a coalition of health groups whose mission is to build a powerful health sector movement for climate action and sustainable healthcare. We have a small team of eight staff, most of whom work part-time, and we deliver several ambitious programs and campaigns: advocating for policy to address the climate-health emergency, communicating the health impacts of climate change, and greening the healthcare sector.

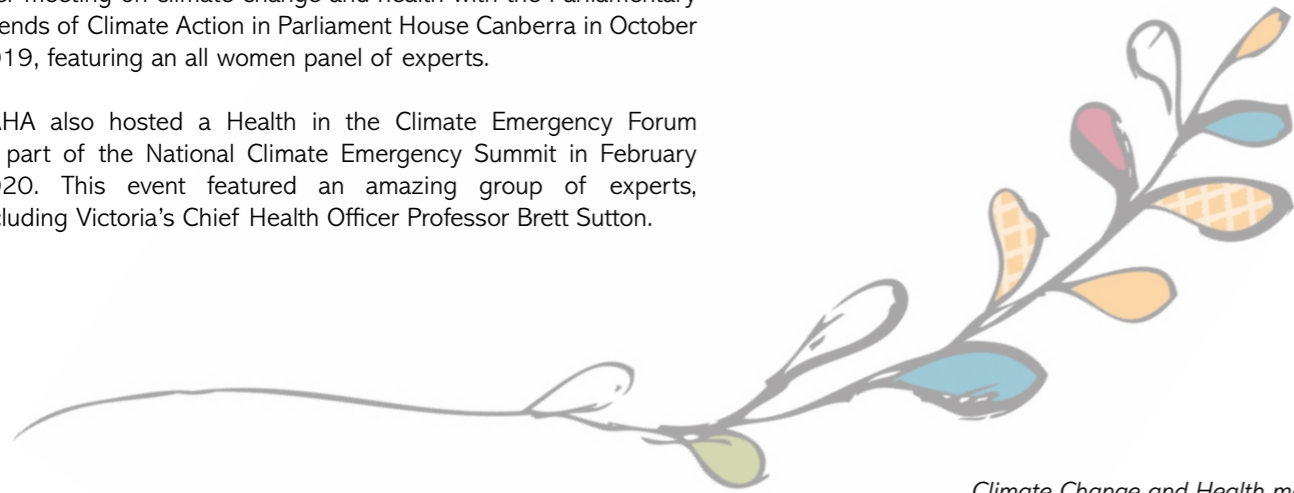
Some highlights for CAHA in 2019-20 were co-hosting the first ever meeting on climate change and health with the Parliamentary Friends of Climate Action in Parliament House Canberra in October 2019, featuring an all women panel of experts.

CAHA also hosted a Health in the Climate Emergency Forum as part of the National Climate Emergency Summit in February 2020. This event featured an amazing group of experts, including Victoria's Chief Health Officer Professor Brett Sutton.

We had over 100 people from across Australia attending our annual Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum at Western Health in Sunshine.

We delivered our Climate Health Champions training program in locations as far afield as Hobart, The Philippines and the Northern Territory - providing skill building and leadership training for health professionals in advocacy and communicating for climate action.

www.caha.org.au



*Climate Change and Health meeting at Parliament House in Canberra in October 2019.
Photo © CAHA*



Sustainable Living Foundation

In response to the escalating climate emergency, this year's Festival aimed to amplify the social and political momentum towards urgent action - highlighted by close to 1500 formal declarations of climate emergency by governments around the world.

The National Climate Emergency Summit filled the Melbourne Town Hall, and brought expert practitioners, local governments, climate scientists, community organisations, industry innovators, youth leaders, climate action groups, and advocates together on a public stage. This unprecedented event invited Australia's changemakers, to initiate the critical conversation of how to progress climate action "beyond the declarations" and begin to explore what an emergency response could look like at local, national, and global levels. The Summit convened delegates from many of the over 70 Australian governments that have declared a climate emergency in their jurisdictions, along with hundreds of representatives from across the private, civil, and NGO sectors, and over 1000 members of the public. The Summit's program of panel discussions, keynote presentations, breakout sessions and workshops, tackled pressing issues spanning the political, economic, technical, and social change dimensions of a rapid, full-scale transition to a safe climate economy and invited everyone involved to be part of shaping that transition.

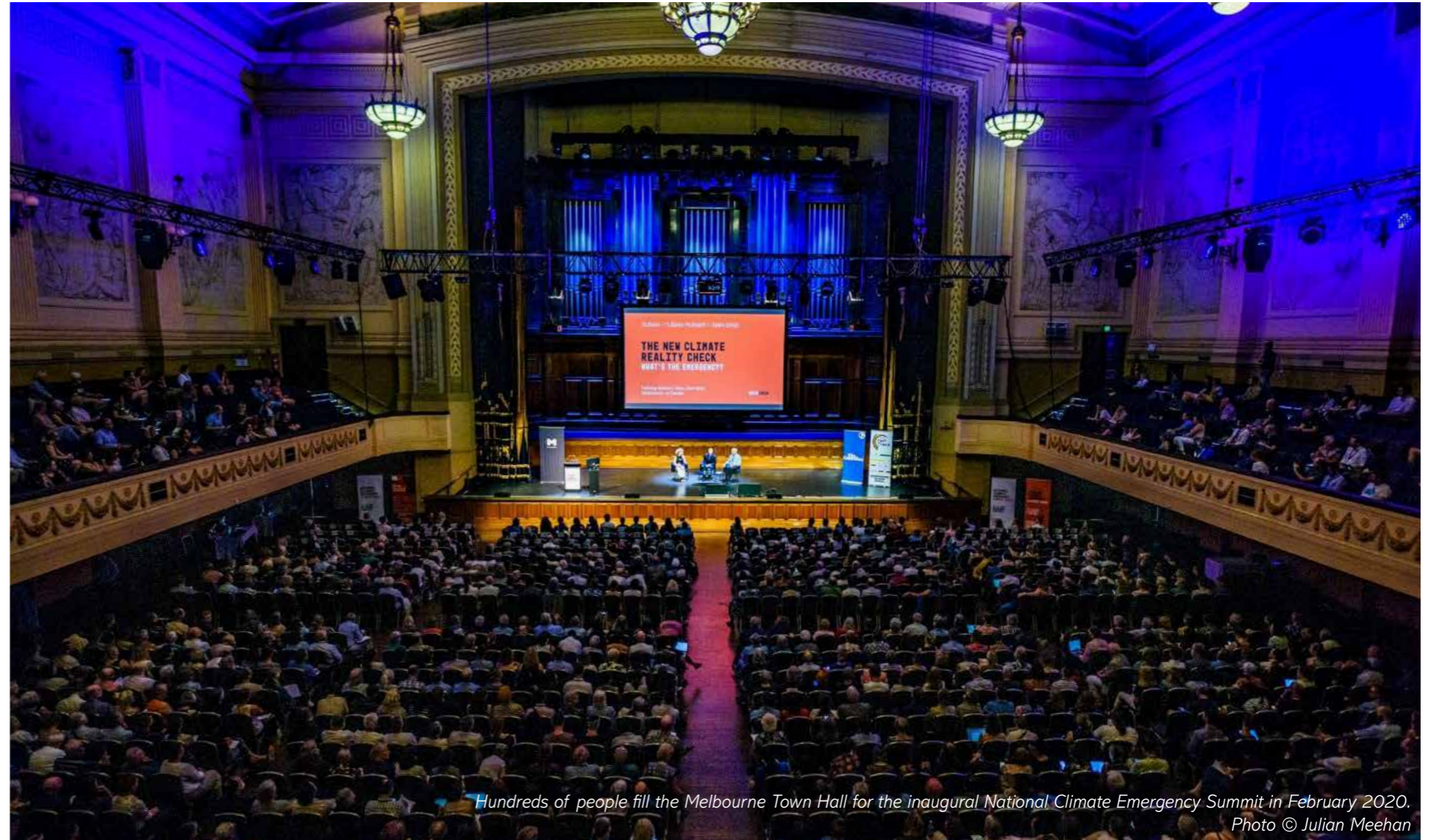
From politicians to practitioners, and youth activists to high-profile advocates, the Summit presented 100 speakers who are driving forces for climate research and urgent action in their industries and communities. Some of the highly anticipated names to take the stage were Peter Garrett, Zali Steggall,

Adam Bandt, Kerry O'Brien, Clover Moore, Rebecca Huntley, John Hewson, Ali Moore, Carmen Lawrence, Greg Mullins, Nyadol Nyuon, Tim Costello, youth activist Jean Hinchliffe and international speakers Michael Mann and Margaret Klein Salamon.

The Summit Program delved into the different facets of what would be required for a country to achieve a safe and just climate emergency transition. According to audiences, some of the most impactful sessions included: Stand Up Leadership, How to Reverse Global Warming - Parts 1 & 2, Mobilising Across the Divide, and This is Not A Drill.

Students from across Victoria collaborated to create roadmaps for getting their schools to declare a climate emergency and accelerate climate action in their communities. Over 150 delegates from 77 local and state governments, which represent 30% of Australia's population, made new commitments to cut across political lines and create a network that can rapidly collaborate and collectively advocate in response to the climate emergency. The Summit also ended with a new declaration, initiated by a group of Summit speakers, calling for an updated approach to climate action that can match the scale and speed of the climate change threat. This declaration continues to gain signatories from across the country.

www.slf.org.au



Hundreds of people fill the Melbourne Town Hall for the inaugural National Climate Emergency Summit in February 2020.
Photo © Julian Meehan

Emerge Australia

Every year in May, people living with myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) and their families, carers and allies, organise and attend events around the world in recognition of International Awareness Day on May 12. In particular, the global community rallies around the #MillionsMissing banner.

In a normal year, EmERGE Australia helps to host rallies in Melbourne and Sydney and this year our plans were set: the locations were booked, our team and the community were ready. But of course, COVID-19 had other ideas! In response to restrictions, the ME/CFS community, like many others, had to pivot to an online event.

Overseas, patient and advocacy organisations shared their stories, photos and art, participated in online choirs and lit up buildings in blue. Here in Australia, we produced an ambitious national social media campaign focused on promoting engagement, inclusion, visibility and recognition of ME/CFS in the broader community.

The #MECFChallenge was the centrepiece of the campaign. Using humour to engage people, the challenge asked patients and supporters to record themselves on video saying 'myalgic encephalomyelitis' in a single take, with the punchy catchline: 'Hard to say, harder to live with'. We engaged politicians, research scientists, patients and community supporters such as ME/CFS patient Laura Dundovic and ex-Greens senator Scott Ludlam. In the end 182 #MECFChallenge videos were submitted to our online event!

The biggest surprise of the campaign was that it went global, with over 12 countries joining in.

We also produced more than 100 personalised #MMSelfies, which patients shared online, to replicate the powerful impact of hundreds of empty shoes and story tags that usually feature in #MillionsMissing rallies, to represent the millions of people missing from their lives.

The campaign engaged over 100,000 people across Facebook and Twitter before drawing to a close with a song shared by Sarah Hunter, a young musician who is housebound with ME/CFS. Called ME/CFS Song, this funny, warm and powerful anthem took more than four years to write and was a fitting end to the campaign, providing much-needed visibility and validation for the many people for whom life with ME/CFS is a life spent in hard lockdown.



#MillionsMissing Image © EmERGE Australia

While COVID-19 significantly impacted our original plans, the shift to an online campaign served to amplify the voices of ME/CFS patients further than any in-person event has ever achieved, as well as fostering solidarity for the global ME/CFS community.

www.emerge.org.au

Community Music Victoria

Grantville Online (CMVic Music Camp 2020) was an event born of resilience and determination that the show must go on, and took place during the first lockdown in May. We realised that innovation was necessary in order to continue to deliver the spirit of connection and well-being at the heart of all community music-making events. Also that the values underpinning our work 'in real life' were transferable to screen and much needed at a time when members of the Victorian music making community were grieving over lost opportunities, incomes and connection. In running the event, Community Music Victoria was able to model and deliver a positive online music-making experience using Zoom, complete with blips, hiccups and humour.

Through a series of back-to-back singing and instrumental workshops spanning one evening and one day, we effectively demonstrated by using experimentation and compassion, there are ways to navigate the constraints and parameters of a pandemic and continue sharing resources and support with each other.

It felt a very strange time with everyone second guessing how long the situation would last and feeling vulnerable due to physical distancing and isolation. In light of this, we decided to offer Grantville Online as a free event and quickly realised the huge potential of using online delivery to increase and grow our audience, as participants registered from different countries and time zones. This was an unexpected outcome of an experimental event which was rich and rewarding in multiple ways, for those both behind and in front of the screens.

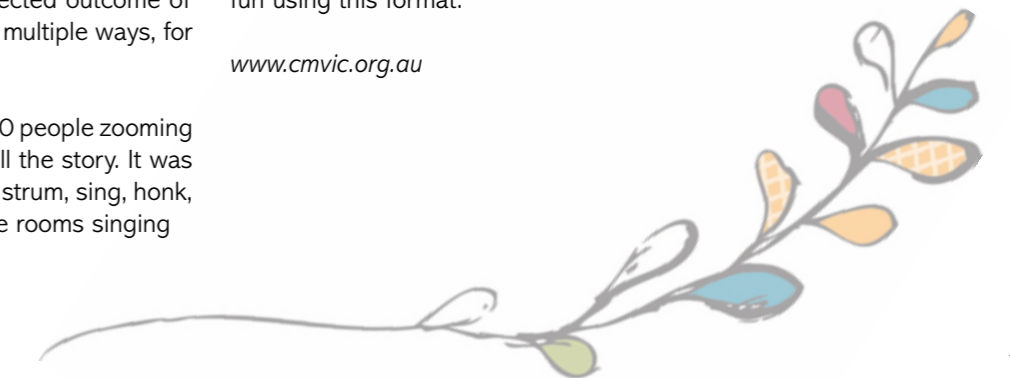
Grantville Online was a resounding success with over 300 people zooming in and all of the lovely faces in the screenshots help tell the story. It was heaps of fun and felt so good to have an opportunity to strum, sing, honk, squeeze, bang, improvise and dance around our lounge rooms singing



CMVic host Grantville online. Photo © CMVic

and playing loudly because nobody could hear us, while dressed in our finest wigs, spangles, feathers and garlands. There was even a virtual street band parade! While nothing compensates for the joy and energy of making music and singing together in a single shared space, if online is the way things have to be for a while, we proved to ourselves and our audience, the scope and possibilities of staying connected and having fun using this format.

www.cmvic.org.au





Activities being conducted by the Drawa Project.
Photo © Live & Learn Environmental Education Fiji

Live & Learn Environmental Education

Since March 2020, Live & Learn Environmental Education has been active across the Asia Pacific Region, distributing soap, erecting handwashing stations and bringing awareness to communities to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Live & Learn has a strong history of implementing water sanitation and hygiene programmes in the Pacific and has been working to direct this knowledge into an effective COVID-19 response.

A number of COVID-19 awareness resources have been produced including posters, banners, stickers, social media posts, brochures and billboards, all of which were translated into local languages. These resources include key messages endorsed by the World Health Organisation and relevant cultural representation. This meant employing an illustrator to depict various groups of people, including people with disabilities, the elderly, different ethnicities, carers, children and diverse family groups. The resources produced by Live & Learn were shared in rural and urban communities in Vanuatu, Tonga, the Solomon Islands, Cambodia, Fiji, Tuvalu and Papua New Guinea.

Live & Learn hopes to build resilience through sustainable means and drive more community engagement with nature-based solutions to crisis in the Pacific. Responding to COVID-19 will be an ongoing process, and going forward, Live & Learn will continue its work with vulnerable communities.

Working in partnership with Live & Learn Fiji, the Drawa Block Forest Communities Cooperative aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by changing forest management from timber extraction to forest protection. For its efforts in sustainability and conservation, the Drawa project has

received an Energy Globe Award for Fiji. With more than 180 participating countries, the Energy Globe Award is a prestigious sustainability award given annually to projects that are saving our environment. This is the second prize that the Nakau Programme has received in just under a year, after winning the Equator Prize, alongside Live & Learn Vanuatu, in 2019.

The six communities within the Drawa block (a forest region in Fiji) rely on natural resources as a source of livelihood. However, the need for income generation in rural areas has driven the gradual loss of forest through logging and cash cropping. Typical approaches to forest protection often fail if they do not address the need for income generation that can replace the 'opportunity cost' of rejecting unsustainable developments.

As part of the Nakau Programme, the Drawa project demonstrates the potential to finance forest protection and all of its associated co-benefits through production and sale of carbon credits. Through the sale of certified carbon credits, the project provides alternative income opportunities for landowners in the region, which supports both community development and conservation. In order to safeguard forests, the project works closely with communities to mitigate the risks of climate change and provide a solution to the long-term maintenance of protected areas. This is the first forest carbon project registered in Fiji and only the second in the Pacific Islands.

www.livelearn.org



Localized COVID-19 awareness poster, Papua New Guinea
Poster © LLEE

Beyond Zero Emissions

While COVID-19 has had the Beyond Zero Emissions Melbourne HQ team working from home for more than six months now, we are happy to report that we're busier than ever bringing our world-leading research to the forefront of Australian policy making.

This month, The Million Jobs Plan has come to life through meetings and collaborations with a diverse range of businesses, industries and individuals across Australia.

It's fantastic to see the momentum and support growing for this once-in-a-generation opportunity to secure well-paying, reliable and long-term jobs for people who need them most. If you haven't already, be sure to sign the Million Jobs pledge – a growing network of individuals and communities dedicated to seeing this plan come to fruition.

In other exciting news, our Zero Carbon Communities initiative featured as a leading resource on ABC's Fight for Planet A: Our Climate Change series, helping our network grow to close to 100 Zero Carbon Communities.

While we look forward to a time we can all reconvene over a cup of coffee in the Ross House office, we are really grateful for our community, staff and volunteers who have made all this possible while working from home. We send best wishes to the Ross House community.

www.bze.org.au



Photo © BZE

Advocacy for Oromia

Throughout the year, we held Irreecha Birraa-Oromo (thanksgiving) celebrations on 29 September 2019, where more than 500 community members attended and enjoyed the day at Wilson Botanic Park, Berwick. We ran six mental health education sessions and five home-based Oromo postnatal cares, called Shanan, at the homes of five Oromo. We also ran a series of 10 Peace Education Project workshops from July-August 2019 at Ross House.

The course, which was hosted by the Prem Rawat Foundation, held in collaboration with Advocacy for Oromia, is called the Oromo Peace Education Project. "The workshops help us not only to recognise, but also to build our inner strength and hope," said Dabessa Gemelal, the Peace Education coordinator at Advocacy for Oromia.

The Peace Education Program is a series of 10 sessions that guide an individual toward discovering inner resources integral in developing healthy life skills. Each session focuses on one of ten topics: Peace, Appreciation, Inner Strength, Self-Awareness, Clarity, Understanding, Dignity, Choice, Hope, and Contentment.

A graduation ceremony for our first Oromo Peace Ambassadors was held at Ross House on August 3, 2019; 8 Oromo Peace Ambassadors graduated. "The impact of this program is very positive, it has helped us to cultivate inner strength," Dabessa said. "I myself have grown from it, and I have seen the positive effect it has had on the participants." The Oromo Peace Ambassadors were handed their graduation certificates by Gerry O'Connor and Beatrice & Jeremy Collier from the Peace Education Team, Melbourne, who facilitated the workshops.

The Oromo Peace Education Program helped participants feel empowered to face past events, gain a willingness to change, better manage their day to day life and spread a culture of peace and love.

By attending the peace education, the participants gained a deeper understanding of different cultures and an enhanced capability in analysing and solving conflicts by peaceful means. They also learned the importance of mutual respect and co-operation and were taught about human rights, causes of conflict and peaceful solutions.

Advocacy for Oromia work with Australian-Oromos to change lives for the better and we couldn't run these significant events without the support of Ross House. We are proud of our achievements so far, however there is so much more exploring and discovering left for us to do in the future.

Our thanks to the many, many people who have contributed to this peace education project along the way. We appreciate the constant support of Ross House and we proudly call the space, the Oromo House, where we feel at home – for this we wish to thank Ross House and its staff for always being so helpful and friendly.

www.advocacy4oromia.org



Our first Oromo Peace ambassadors at Ross House. Photo © A4O



The East West Foundation

The East West Foundation focuses its work in an impoverished rural area on the coast of India, south of Chennai. We are committed to holistic community empowerment through Healthcare, Child Welfare, Education, the Environment and Community Development.

The Covid-19 pandemic has created new challenges for us in those areas. Our Health Care Clinic has continued to operate its usual medical services with our doctor, nurses and pharmacy staff, as well as now offering testing for the virus. We were able to access appropriate PPE early on and have taken the initiative in educating community leaders and the public in the practice of covid safety. Our doctor and social workers have conducted information sessions at the clinic and also in the field. We

have produced thousands of brochures for the largely illiterate population of the surrounding villages.

During this time our primary school has been in lockdown so we created a sewing centre in some of the unused rooms to make washable face masks. Older children from our Children's Home have joined with many of our staff in learning to make patterns, cut cloth, sew and package the items. To date they have made over ten thousand masks which have been distributed free of charge. There is a great sense of satisfaction for the boys, girls and adults who now have new life skills and feel they have made a positive impact on the wellbeing of their broader community.

As with other charities worldwide, we have found fundraising to be difficult but we are constantly working on new ways to retain our valued supporters and reach out to new funding sources. As the major employer in our remote area we made the decision to keep all our staff employed in some capacity, as they would otherwise have no income. So by adapting our resources we hope to continue our success stories.

www.tewfa.org.au

Sivakasi lives at the East West Foundation Children's Home and has been volunteering his time as part of their Covid mask making initiative. Photo © Siranjevi Jagannathan



River Basin Management Society (RBMS)

Established in 1989, the RBMS is a diverse community of practice in Australia dedicated to connecting people and sharing knowledge in integrated catchment management. Members of the RBMS have the opportunity to attend various events throughout the year, including seminars, fieldtrips, and more recently, online webinars. In alternating years, the RBMS also holds either an Awards Night or the Australian Stream Management Conference. The RBMS currently supports chapters in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, and is keen to continue expanding our reach across Australia.

On 22nd February 2020, the RBMS members from the Victorian chapter visited Reedy Swamp, a deep open water tall marsh wetland on the outskirts of Shepparton, for a Breakfast with the Birds. The event was hosted by RBMS with Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA), to discuss the significance of wetlands as a refuge from drought, and the heightened importance of water for the environment during dry times.

GBCMA wetlands and environmental water project officer Jo Deretic, spoke about how the CMA undertake planning to supply water for the environment under different climatic scenarios. This careful planning ensures that a wide range of species in the Goulburn Broken catchment are supported through the supply of the right amount of environmental water to the right place, and at the right time. A delivery of environmental water resulted in Reedy Swamp becoming a significant drought refuge for Central Victoria, providing refuge to thousands of species. Some were interstate species never before observed at the site, like the Crimson Chat.

Breakfast at Reedy Swamp, Shepparton, with guest speaker, Jo Deretic from GBCMA. Photo © RBMS



The Breakfast with the Birds event was a fantastic opportunity for River Basin Management Society members and friends to get together and learn from one another about waterways and wetland management. The popularity of the event demonstrated the value our members find from being part of the knowledge sharing community that is the RBMS.

www.rbms.org.au

Aboriginal Literacy Foundation

The Aboriginal Literacy Foundation first came to Ross House in 2003. We had a small office on the second floor and we were extremely grateful as it enabled us to make a start in our work to improve aboriginal literacy throughout Australia. ALF is still seeing the benefits from our time as a tenant at Ross House and the support received in those early years.

Later, after leaving our office at Ross House, we developed our Books to the North program and became the largest supplier of school textbooks and ordinary reading material to remote schools in the Northern Territory and North Queensland. This was an important program at a time when the Education Departments were moving to computerisation and neglecting books and libraries. As a result of our hard work, most schools continue to have good libraries with books that are interesting to aboriginal children.

Another important area that Ross House has played a role in, has been our lobbying of Federal and State Parliament to increase spending on aboriginal literacy and aboriginal languages. The first computer-based resource for aboriginal languages was started at Ross House in 2014 and now has examples of nearly 200 aboriginal languages, many of which are on the verge of extinction. An exciting feature of the Aboriginal Literacy Digital Hub (ALDH) is that for the two largest languages that are spoken in central and northern Australia (Arunta and Pitjantjatjara), we have developed a computer translating facility as an extension of the ALDH.

We have been fortunate over the years to have the support of the Ross House Association and we are grateful to have been able to develop our work in such an outstanding environment.



Books to the North
Photo © ALF

www.aboriginalliteracyfoundation.org

Melbourne Osteoporosis Support Group

This has been a very different year for our Group just as it has for many others. The year for the benefit of this report started in August 2019, when we met in Ross House and had a guest speaker on prescriptive exercise for osteoporosis. Her name is Nicole Shu and she came from Kieser Australia. Our next meeting was in October when Mark Pacitti spoke on "Dancing with the Black Dog". In February, Dr Jane Scheets from the Centre for Eye Research spoke on the importance of good eye health, emphasizing its relevance to falls and fractures. From that time on we have not been able to meet in Ross House due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our membership remains fairly static at 102 and we have continued with sending out our bi-monthly newsletters to keep the members informed about bone health.

Early in the year we started collecting signatures for a petition we plan to lodge with the Victorian government to establish Fracture Liaison Services in our hospitals. This service is available in hospitals in well over 46 countries around the world but is sadly lacking in Australia. We only have one in Victoria, at Western Health. This service has proved that

if osteoporosis is diagnosed early, through appropriate investigation and treatment of a first fracture, a second fracture can be prevented. This is beneficial to both the patient and the health care system. We welcome signatures on our petition which can be found on our website.

We currently have our meetings via Zoom, but look forward to being back in Ross House and meeting again in person.

www.melbosg.org.au



ABRISA

ABRISA was created on 9 December 2002. It emerged from a study on "The Culture of Care to Women's Health Brazilian Immigrants in Australia", developed in Melbourne. Through interviews and discussions with local groups of Brazilian women, the creation of a Brazilian association emerged as a possible solution for issues raised in the study. Key issues identified in this study were a lack of interaction between members of the Brazilian community and integration into Australian society. Also a lack of social support to deal with health problems, and socio-cultural, economic and political access to Australian health services.

ABRISA is an association that aims to support members of the Brazilian community and the Portuguese language; new arrivals in Australia as well as those already in the country. We provide information to members to help minimize the shock of transition. We encourage and support the socio-cultural integration of members of the Brazilian community and Portuguese language in Australian society.

ABRISA works together with Australian institutions, to connect newly arrived immigrants to the services provided by Local, State and Federal government, such as English courses, health care and more. We also aim to promote the values of Brazilian culture and encourage the integration of the community through social events. We currently have several projects focusing on priority areas such as information, health and education for our community.

A key achievement of ABRISA pre-covid has been the commencement of the Ausconnection program and during covid times we have run a small forum for Brazilian students.

The ability to be located at Ross house has been fundamental to ABRISA's success, as it has given us the the ability to have a presence in the City, infrastructure to operate and a strong and supporting staff. We are proud to be part of the Ross House Community.

www.abrisa.org.au



National Council of Women of Victoria

The NCWV 59th Australia Day Pioneer Women's Ceremony was held on January 20th 2020 at the beautiful Women's Peace Garden in Kensington.

This event was a great success with 45 members and quite a few guests. Girl Guides Victoria provided the Colour Party and all sang the National Anthem. The focus this year was on Pioneer Women in the Environment and Conservation. We were privileged to have Pam Robinson OAM as speaker, a founding member of Landcare.

Landcare has no age barrier and Pam encouraged all to investigate becoming involved with a local group. "We can go from sitting on the sidelines saying 'THEY ORTA' be doing this and that – we can decide that - We will take up the leadership position for the future of our environment and conservation by saying in a renewed bipartisan and collective voice 'We Orta' WE WILL and WE ARE'." You can read the full speech on our website.

www.ncwvic.org.au

The Aussie Hands Foundation

Toni and Hedge have two beautiful daughters, Rebecca and Jessica (Jess). Like many families they have spent months in isolation in Melbourne and have experienced both challenges and joy in spending so much time at home together.



The family joined Aussie Hands almost 10 years ago, just after daughter Jess, was born with a hand difference.

“Being a member of Aussie Hands has really helped us and Jess. The social support has been fabulous, and we enjoy meeting other parents and discussing challenges and how to better support our children,” added Toni.

Adapting to isolation has impacted everyone in some way and it is interesting to see how others coped and managed. Toni continued “We enjoyed doing puzzles, playing board games together and watching movies. The girls have learnt to sew beds for their dolls and scrunchies. They also enjoyed doing yoga together as well as completing two virtual karate lessons a week. What helps us the most is to find things that everyone is passionate about and enjoy doing those things together, to find some “individual” or alone time to find your own happiness, get out of the house when you can to get fresh air and move around and keep in contact virtually so you do not feel like you are alone.”

We will all continue to adapt and adjust to these changing times. “For Aussie Hands kids it is important to continue to meet and interact with others like themselves – so they learn that although they are different, there are others like them and there is community support. I feel we are very lucky.

“The best advice we have received is that Jess will find her own way. And she has, as Jess is a resilient, determined child. She works through any challenges she has and usually finds an alternate way to do things,” concluded Toni.

Aussie Hands is an organisation that supports people living with a hand and/or upper limb difference, their families and communities.

www.aussiehands.org

U3A Melbourne City

U3A Melbourne City is an organisation with a goal to promote life-long learning and opportunities for social interaction for people over 50 years of age who are retired or work part-time. Our aim is to offer a broad range of activities to keep people connected, socially engaged and promote healthy ageing.

Ross House is a wonderful venue that provides our members with the affordable rooms they need for a wide variety of classes which include Mahjong, Chess, Wine Appreciation, Languages, Philosophy and more.

The past 12 months has seen many challenges, but our organisation has shown its resilience by adapting to the new social restrictions brought about by the global pandemic. Our U3A quickly pivoted to adapt many of our classes online, in response to the changed circumstances. We continued to offer over 60 classes online and approximately 60% of our members moved to online learning.

In other exciting news, we won the Yarra Trams Community Partnership Program Competition in 2019. We are thrilled to see 53 trams rolling across the Yarra Trams Network advertising our organisation. The campaign slogan states “Connect, Learn and Socialise” and is showcased on trams across the metropolitan area. This has provided us with an incredible opportunity to raise awareness of our U3A organisation and encourage people to join.

Although being proud of our ability as an organisation to make strategic changes to benefit members, we are looking forward to the time, when our face-to-face classes can resume and we will be back enjoying the warm and nurturing environment of Ross House.

www.u3amelbcity.org.au



*‘Hop on board for Learning and Fun!’
Connect- Learn- Socialise at U3A Melbourne City. Photo © U3A*

Members and tenants 2019-20

TENANT MEMBERS

ABRISA Brazilian Association

Promotes Brazilian culture and provides information about Australia for immigrants.

Advocacy for Oromia

Enables and empowers Oromo people.

Assisi Aid Projects

Supports sustainable development work in southern India.

Aussie Hands Foundation

Supports children and adults who have been born with a hand difference or who have an acquired hand injury.

Australia China Friendship Society

Fosters friendship between Australian and Chinese people.

Beyond Zero Emissions

An internationally recognised climate solutions think tank.

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 Australasia Network

A support, advocacy, research and training group for people who grew up in Australia's orphanages, Children's Homes and in foster care.

Casal Catala de Victoria

Promotes the customs and language of Catalonia.

Charles Bonnet Syndrome Foundation

Assist people affected by Charles Bonnet Syndrome (including significant others) and raise awareness about this condition.

Climate and Health Alliance

Advocate for public policy that will promote and protect human health in order to prevent further global warming.

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.

Deafblind Victorians

Increasing community awareness and understanding of the experience of Deafblindness and advocating to improve quality of life, of those who are deafblind.

Disability Discrimination Legal Service

Working to eliminate discrimination against people with disabilities and empower them.

Disability Resources Centre

Providing individual advocacy for adults with a disability, free of charge, throughout Melbourne.

Disabled WinterSport Australia

Providing opportunities for people with disabilities to enjoy winter sports and to enjoy the magnificent environment that is Australia's Snowy Mountains with fellow skiers.

Emerge Australia

Advocates for, educates about, and provides information on, Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) more commonly known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS).

Exit Victoria

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

Federation of Spanish Speaking Seniors

Offering friendship and support to members representing twenty-one Spanish speaking countries.

Friends for Good

Raising awareness of loneliness as a significant issue in the community and addressing gaps in services to foster a greater sense of connection and wellbeing for individuals and communities.

Hand Knit & Crochet Guild

Utilising the art and craft of hand knitting to promote community involvement, advocacy and self help.

Human Rights Arts & Film Festival

Explores diverse and inspiring human stories through the mediums of film, art, music and forums.

Public Transport Users' Association

Representing 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

Assisting 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.

SARU (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

Providing culturally-competent domestic violence intervention and support services to women and children victims of domestic violence of Asian, African and Middle Eastern origins.

Slavic Welfare Association

Supporting refugees, migrants and other Slavic associations in their settlement process in Australia.

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.

Thai Information and Welfare Association

Providing culturally appropriate information, welfare and referral services to the Thai community in Victoria.

The East West Foundation Australia

Aims to provide health, education and social justice for people of the Kaddapakkam and surrounding regions in Tamil Nadu, India.

The Victorian Drama League

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

TreeProject

Growing, planting and caring for trees in the city, bush-land and on farms.

Union of Australian Women

Networking with women's groups, community and union organisations on issues concerning women.

Woor-Dungin

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

Able Australia/Ablelink

Provides computer access and internet training for people with deafblindness.

AMIDA

Action for more independence and dignity in housing for people with disabilities.

Australian Federation of Disability Organisations

Champions the rights of people with a disability in Australia.

Australia for UNHCR

Raises funds to support the work of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

Economic Indicator Services

Advocates and campaigns for a shift in taxation away from the disadvantaged to those who can most afford it.

Housing for the Aged Action Group

Working towards the alleviation of housing related poverty for older Australians.

Live and Learn Environmental Education

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

Mac Advice

Provides consultancy advice, information and training on computer systems and programs.

SHINE for Kids

Assists children and young people with a relative in the criminal justice system.

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.

City of Melbourne – Degraes Street Recycling Facility

The purpose of this program is to change the waste and amenity culture in the café precinct around Degraes St, and provide food waste, cardboard and commingled recycling.

OCCASIONAL TENANTS

Aboriginal Literacy Foundation

The Aboriginal Literacy Foundation seeks to transform the lives of Indigenous children by focusing on literacy and numeracy education.

Animal Active Australia

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

AUSOM (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.

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 India) assisting disadvantaged communities in developing countries bring about positive change in their lives.

Futures Foundation

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

Indo-China Ethnic Chinese Association

Assists members with advice and referral for a range of issues associated with settlement in Australia.

Lawyers for Animals

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

Lotus Group Projects

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

Melbourne Esperanto Association

Promotes and teaches the international language Esperanto.

Open Food Network

Advising and advocating for community food enterprises.

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.

River Basin Management Society

The River Basin Management Society (RBMS) is a representative body for professionals working with land, water and natural resource management in Australia.

Society of Women Writers Victoria Inc

Support and community for women writers in Victoria.

Southern Rivers Community Services

Assists people of refugee background, mainly from West Africa, settle in Australia by helping them find employment opportunities for their social and economic independence.

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.

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)

CALXA Australia (Associate Member)
Climate for Change
Counsellors Victoria Inc (Associate Member)
Deaf Victoria
Interchange
Melbourne Campaigners' Network (Associate Member)
Melbourne Osteoporosis Support Group
Narcolepsy and Overwhelming Daytime Sleep
Society NODSS
National Council of Women of Victoria
Non Profit Training (Associate Member)
Polio Australia
Seniors Financial and Literacy Discussion Group
Slavery Links Australia
Sustainable Living Foundation
The Big Issue Classroom (Associate Member)
Timorese Association of Victoria
U3A Melbourne City (University of the Third Age)
Understanding Literature Group

MOVES OUT

Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
Human Rights Arts and Film Festival
Shine for Kids
Spina Bifida Foundation of Victoria
Thai Information Welfare Association



Financial Reports 2019-2020

It is my duty and pleasure to present the Treasurer's report with respect to the past financial year. This is the eighth time that I have presented the Treasurer's report on behalf of the Committee of Management and I can say without fear of contradiction that the latter half of the past financial year was the most significant management and financial challenge that the Association has faced since Incorporation.

At the end of January 2020 we were in a sound position with all income sectors; leases, facilities hire and sundry income well ahead of budget and expenditure under tight control. Covid-19 severely affected this position, particularly with respect to facilities hire.

The financial result for 2019-2020 was, nevertheless, significantly higher than budgeted. Operating revenue decreased by 3.2% to \$1,100,228 but income was

supported by grants totalling \$41,250 and Federal Government assistance via JobKeeper of \$30,000 and cash-flow Boost of \$37,348. Expenditure decreased. Costs have been contained by the concerted efforts of the Ross House staff and also by limiting capital expenditure to OH&S and Covid prevention items only. We still expect significant legal and professional costs associated with the MMRA project and increased operational costs when we are able to re-open Ross House on a permanent basis.

We have, however, sufficient cash reserves to enable us to continue operations, despite reduced income levels and the impost of additional costs upon re-opening, through to the end of the current financial year.

I again wish to emphasise that the Ross House Association does not own the land and buildings

wherein we reside. The Association acts as trustee for the Ross House Trust and transfers an amount equal to the depreciation on the buildings every year to a separate Trust Account from which, repairs to the external fabric of the building, as required, are paid. Please note that under the terms of the R H Ross Trust the land and buildings are not able to be sold.

Attention should be drawn to the auditor's notes in the full financial statements, specifically Note 1 (f).

I take this opportunity to thank the staff and my fellow members of the Finance and Risk Management Subcommittee for their continuing efforts in making improvements to the facilities and ambience of the building for the members, tenants and users and for achieving this year's result.

Keith Bettles
RHA Treasurer

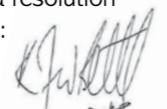
The committee members submit the financial reports of RHA Inc and the Ross House Trust for the financial year ended 30 June 2020. The principal activity of the Association during the financial year was to manage RHA for small community organisations who are working towards a just and environmentally 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:

Christine McAuslan	Valerie Elliott	Mohamed Nabe
Dr. Heidi Nicholl	Dabessa Gemelal	Vanessa Petrie
Keith Bettles	De Grebner	Cynthia Pilli
Scot Muirden	Maggie Maguire	
Richard Caven	Nazzareno Marchionda	

Signed in accordance with a resolution
of the Committee:



Christine McAuslan
Chairperson



Keith Bettles
Treasurer

Ross House Association Incorporated

Balance Sheet

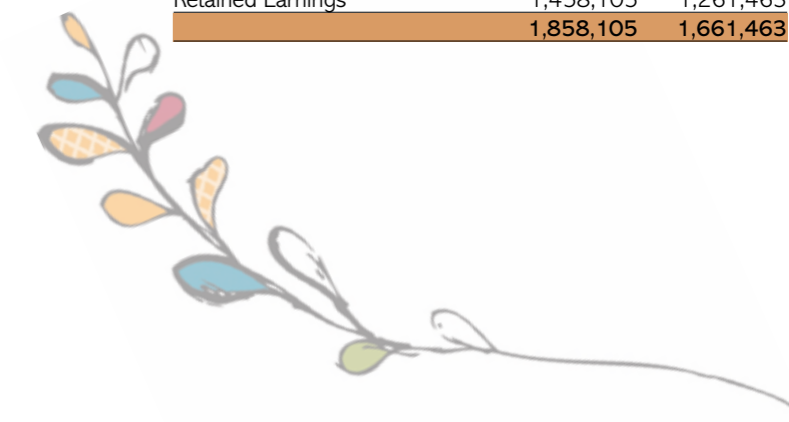
As at 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank & On Hand	910,798	814,297
Trade Debtors	(704)	25,230
Less Provision for Doubtful Debts	5,000	5,000
	(5,704)	20,230
Sundry Debtors	176	176
Prepayments	-	-
Adjustment	31	31
	905,301	834,734
Non-current Assets		
Land	15,840,000	15,840,000
Buildings	2,950,000	2,950,000
Less accumulated amortisation	(516,250)	(442,500)
Furniture & Equipment	267,725	238,159
Less accumulated depreciation	(187,054)	(171,619)
Capital Work	291,905	282,953
Less accumulated depreciation	(218,972)	(193,150)
Electronic Equipment	162,073	137,751
Less accumulated depreciation	(100,143)	(68,106)
Main lift	169,611	-
Less accumulated depreciation	(1,413)	-
Ground Floor Toilet	121,725	121,725
Less accumulated depreciation	(18,844)	(1,450)
HVAC VSD	56,700	54,200
Less accumulated depreciation	(3,954)	(1,129)
HVAC	801,516	801,516
Less accumulated depreciation	(262,449)	(222,373)
Website	71,954	71,954
Less accumulated depreciation	(51,408)	(27,663)
	19,372,722	19,370,268
TOTAL ASSETS	20,278,023	20,205,002

Balance Sheet cont.

As at 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors & Accruals	25,429	58,462
Income in Advance	14,859	14,001
Grant in Advance	-	20,000
Rent in Advance	-	261
Staff Leave Provisions	74,563	73,047
Superannuation Provision	9,185	8,963
	124,036	174,734
Non- Current Liabilities		
Right of Indemnity-Ross House Trust	18,273,750	18,347,500
Staff Leave Provisions - L.S.L.	22,132	21,305
	18,295,882	18,368,805
TOTAL LIABILITIES	18,419,918	18,543,539
NET ASSETS	1,858,105	1,661,463
Equity		
Emergency Reserve	400,000	400,000
Retained Earnings	1,458,105	1,261,463
	1,858,105	1,661,463



Income Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
Income		
Lease Income	781,013	769,129
Car Park	40,661	52,048
Facilities Hire	263,310	277,868
Equipment Hire	26,643	27,396
Sales-Equipment Keys & Stationery	2,365	1,795
Interest Received	6,336	10,893
Insurance & Other Reimbursements	401	408
Membership Subscription	6,970	7,650
Other Income	573	785
Refund - Meeting Room Bookings	(28,044)	(12,156)
Donations & Donations in Kind	-	1,000
Grants Received		
- Ground Floor Toilet Upgrade	-	30,000
- HVAC VSD	1,250	25,000
- Equal Access Communities Grant	40,000	-
Reimbursements	-	1,616
Cash Flow Boost	37,348	-
Job Keeper Wage Subsidy	30,000	-
TOTAL INCOME	1,208,826	1,193,432
Less expenditure		
Operating Expenses		
Salaries & Wages	398,165	390,255
Superannuation	36,855	38,186
Workcover Premiums	2,663	2,320
Provision for Staff Leave	2,344	17,247
Staff Selection	130	226
Staff Training	-	2,380
	440,157	450,614

Income Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
Property and Equipment Costs		
Building Expenses	171,818	200,134
Utilities & Services	56,672	88,556
Cleaning	66,816	74,716
Other property & Equipment	197,818	175,843
	493,124	539,249
Operating Costs		
Annual report & AGM	4,929	4,390
Amenities	154	371
Advertising and Promotion	-	2,755
Audit fees	2,570	1,950
Bad Debts Expenses	-	-
Bank Charges	98	217
Bookkeeping & Accounting fees	735	680
Computer & Software Support	29,596	20,584
Consultants fees	548	22,400
Contingencies	2,027	-
Discounts	33	-
Events	3,367	4,859
Legal fees	5,014	6,922
Telephone & internet	11,704	12,758
Printing & Design	1,197	846
RHA Admin Support & COM Exp	1,176	1,319
Stationery & Office Supplies	2,905	5,799
Strategic Plan Implementation	1,500	-
Sub. Membership & Library	1,386	1,547
Sundry Expenses	3,217	4,491
Website	6,747	2,090
	78,903	93,978
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,012,184	1,083,841
PROFIT (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	196,642	109,591

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
Balance as at 1 July 2019	1,261,463	1,152,156
Depreciation Written		
Back from Prior Years	-	-
Profit (Loss) attributable to members	196,642	109,591
Prior Year Adjustment	-	(284)
Balance as at 30 June 2020	1,458,105	1,261,463

Ross House Trust

Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
Trust Funds		
Accumulated Profits (Losses)		
Brought Forward	(442,500)	(368,750)
Loss This Year	(73,750)	(73,750)
Asset Revaluation Reserve	18,790,000	18,790,000
Total Trust Funds	18,273,750	18,347,500

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
Opening Balance	18,347,500	8,131,250
Surplus/(Loss) for Year	(73,750)	(73,750)
Increase in Asset Revaluation Reserve	-	10,290,000
Closing Balance	18,273,750	18,347,500

Profit and Loss Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
Expenditure		
Depreciation - Buildings	73,750	73,750
Surplus/(Loss) for Year	(73,750)	(73,750)

Statement of Appropriations

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
Accumulated Profits (Losses)		
Brought Forward	(442,500)	(368,750)
Surplus/(Loss) for Year	(73,750)	(73,750)
Accumulated Loss	(516,250)	(442,500)

The above financial statements are an abridged version of the financial statements of Ross House Association Inc and the Ross House Trust as audited by J L Collyer and Partners and deemed to a) give a true view of the financial position of Ross House Association Inc and the Ross House Trust as at 30 June 2020 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 staff from the Engineering Services and Social Investment branches
City of Melbourne, Libraries and Recreation – especially Burke Standen and Kathryn Donkin
Degraeves Street Recycling Facility team
Maddocks
National Trust of Australia (Victoria)
City Switch
Justice Connect – NFP Law
Sustainability Victoria
The Right Honorable Lord Mayor Sally Capp
Non Profit Training
Hunt & Hunt Lawyers
Jo Evans
Councillor Beverley Pinder (Chair of City of Melbourne's People City Portfolio)
Peter Whelan (former MetroAccess Project Officer at the City of Melbourne)
John Ross Baressi, Innovation & Project Coordinator/ Senior O&M Specialist (Guide Dogs Victoria)
Craig Whiteford, General Manager - Threatened Species (Zoos Victoria)
Dr Nadine Richings, Biologist (Animal Justice Party)

To all those members and tenants who contributed ideas, time and who spoke at events 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 Lance Reichstein Foundation	The Stegley Foundation
The Danks Trust	Sidney Myer Fund	The W.C.F. Thomas Charitable Trust
The E B Myer Charitable Fund	The Oliver-Affleck Fund	The William Buckland Foundation
The Helen Macpherson Smith Trust	The Percy Baxter Charitable Trust	The William Paxton Charitable Trust
The Ian Potter Foundation	The Scobie and Claire MacKinnon Trust	The Victorian State Government



CAHA team at the Climate Strike in September 2019. From L-R Freddy, Carol, Danielle, Fiona, Adam, Emma, Eliza, Milly.
Photo © CAHA



rosshouse.org.au

