

Ross House Association

annual report 2016-2017



R. E. ROSS HOUSE

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Chairperson's Report

It is always worthwhile to stop and consider our purpose in life - personal and public. We might do this at the beginning of the year, at a special anniversary or some other significant time in the year. Reviewing the past should look at success and kindness, not at what ought to have been done; mistakes need to be marked as a guide for future actions. Better ways of achieving goals are a positive approach to any plans for the year. Just because there has always been a way of doing things does not mean we could not have found a better way, if we had taken the trouble to look for it. We may not always agree about the best plan but the wider we search for ideas, our chances improve of it being something everyone can support. Listening to others involves being sure that we listen to all ideas rather than just the ones with which we agree. Listening also involves really listening, not just waiting to repeat our point of view. It is very exciting that the Ross House Committee is in the process of seeking everyone's opinion, so that we can work together as we move forward.

Our building is the base of our Association and it has been exciting to use the Wi-Fi connections in meeting rooms with other audio visual aids; users have commented that it enhances our facilities greatly. Sometimes improvements pass us by but it's important for us to remember that members and tenants are not the only people using our building. As the community finds the convenience of our facilities, our Association becomes better known and able to promote our values to a widening audience. Ross House needs each member to consider every other member; their strengths, their needs and what each can contribute. Contributions to others can be made that are not in the form of cash or goods...it is just a matter of thinking what can be done.

Members may not be aware of all the hard work carried out by the Committee; their consistent and continuing hard work is greatly appreciated. Members have differing skills which are all appreciated, although comment needs to be made about the continuous hard work of Keith Bettles, our

Treasurer. Treasurers are not always popular people in an organisation because they may say something "cannot be afforded", or "that is in next year's budget", or "if that is what you want, what are you prepared to forego this year?"

The Association is well served by its excellent staff, some of whom are well known, while others work tirelessly in the background. Each works extremely well and it is great to see how they share the work when necessary.

Valerie Elliott





2017 marks a significant milestone for our Community; the 30th Anniversary since the opening of Ross House.

Ross House started with a vision to bring together small community organisations, from across Melbourne, all under one roof. To share resources, knowledge and a passion for improving the lives of everyday people. This vision was realised in October 1987, 30 years ago.

The Ross House project involved many different organisations and it would not have been possible without the generous support of the original donors. The R. E. Ross Trust, established in Victoria in 1970 by the will of Roy Everard Ross, donated over two million dollars and was instrumental in the development of Ross House.

In April 1985, the Flinders Lane building, Royston House, was purchased for \$680,000 by the Victorian Community Foundation (VCF) from the SEC, with funds provided by the R.E. Ross Trust. The building was then renamed R.E. Ross House, and formally opened in October 1987, by the then Premier, John Cain.

This is a significant milestone and everyone that has been involved with Ross House over the last 30 years should be proud of what has been achieved.

Lots has been happening at Ross House this year, both within our building and around the local precinct. The Melbourne Metro Rail Project is an exciting and much needed infrastructure project for our city, but Ross House sits adjacent to the CBD South construction site, where Port Phillip Arcade is currently located. Ross House Association has been working closely with the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority (MMRA) to ensure the interests of our Members and Tenants are foremost in their minds when planning for works close to our building.

On October 4th, 2016, Ross House Association presented to the Melbourne Metro Rail Project Inquiry and Advisory Committee, regarding the concerns that we have with the project and possible impacts on the Association and its Members and Tenants. Our concerns were incorporated into the Environmental Effects Statement (EES), which is now informing approval decisions for the project.

In February 2017, Ross House Association hosted the MMRA for a Member & Tenant information forum. This forum was well attended and provided a broad overview of the project and planned works at CBD South. RHA maintains strong relationships with the MMRA and a follow-up forum is planned for the 2017-2018 Financial Year.

Whilst there are significant projects going on around our precinct, we have also been very busy within the walls of Ross House. The Hayden Raysmith and Jenny Florence Rooms both had sound proofing and AV equipment installed and level 1 has a new compliant disability toilet and a newly renovated kitchen. We have also undertaken carpet replacement on levels 1 and 2 and replaced the vinyl in the ground floor foyer. The eastern façade has received close attention, with significant repairs being carried out along the south-east section.

The front stairwell lights have been replaced with energy efficient LED sensor lights and we have installed a building automation system (BAS) to monitor and control the air conditioning with greater efficiency. All this has led to our lowest energy usage year on record, helping offset some of the impacts from recent electricity price increases.

At the 2016 AGM, the Association adopted a revised constitution; bringing RHA in line with the revised rules for incorporated associations and the model rules.

This year we welcome new staff to the team; Patricia Gerkens, Xuejing Liu and Greta McMahon. We also welcomed back Natalie Durkovic, who has been helping with preparations for the 30th Anniversary Celebrations. It has been very busy year for all the staff at Ross House and I would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication. The Committee have also provided many hours of support and advice during this period and I would like to thank them for their assistance.

As we look to the future, to the next 30 years of Ross House, we should always keep in mind our original vision; to bring together small community organisations from across Melbourne, under one roof, to share resources, knowledge and a passion for improving the lives of everyday people. It is this that drives us to succeed each and every day.

Michael Griffiths



Photo © Hans J. Jahr



Amber, Samantha, Katie, Rebecca and Junxia from the Ross House staff team, celebrate International Women's Day 2017.

Ross House Association Committee
and Staff 2016-2017

COMMITTEE

Chairperson
Valerie Elliott
Handknitters Guild

Vice Chairperson
Christine McAuslan
COSHG

Treasurer
Keith Bettles
USA Melbourne City

Members
Charles Brass
Futures Foundation

De Grebner
Tree Project

Michael Griffiths
Ex-officio

Sue Healy
Appointed member
(until November 2016)

Amber Moore
Appointed Staff Representative

Martin Mureithi
Kenya Community Victoria
(until June 2017)

Maree Norris
Housing for the Aged Action Group

STAFF

Michael Griffiths
General Manager

Nazzareno Marchionda
Facility Manager

Amber Moore
Development Program Manager

Katie Stoll
Information & Administration Officer

Samantha Thornton
Membership & Tenancy Officer

Junxia Xu
Finance Officer

Casual staff

Natalie Durkovic
Stephanie East
Patti Gerkens
Rebecca Jahr
Xueling Liu
Greta McMahon
Lucie McMahon
Sue McDonough

Members' Stories

The Collective of Self Help Groups (COSHG)

The first 40 years

In reflecting upon what the components are, that have aided the Collective of Self Help Groups longevity, we have identified some stand out aspects, namely; commitment, dedication and flexibility.

It is the commitment of all those in the mid-seventies who recognised the growing self-help group movement and chose to act upon what they were observing. The Victorian Council of Social Services (VCOSS) instigated a gathering of groups from which the Council of Self Help Groups emerged; in time renamed the Collective of Self Help Groups.

The COSHG of today thanks all of those people who have contributed their time and efforts to growing and shaping the COSHG community over the past forty years. Their dedication through good and bad times has been exceptional.

We survived a decade of defunding through the ninety's which was undoubtedly a tough time for many community groups, many of whom folded as a result of losing those resources. However, COSHG persevered and managed to continue on, albeit on the smell of an oily rag, and because of a dedicated unpaid worker and the COSHG Management Collective at the time.

We have seen some of the original groups from the 70's grow into big umbrella organisations, serving and resourcing a number of support groups. Others, as is the nature of self-help groups, have disappeared for a variety of reasons. Yet new groups continue to emerge including those who meet online. These online groups create opportunities for those who are unable to meet in person (due to location and/or rare conditions), to still connect and support each other.

Over the years we have assisted many groups to form and maintain their activities. We have been witness to enormous changes such as the innovation of computer technology, accountability and compliance requirements, and tax status, such as GST and DGR, have all been part of negotiating time and change.

Maintaining a flexible approach in an ever changing world and being supported by many self-help groups has been very important in our 40 year history. Together we embrace the future with all the changes known and unknown yet to come!

Thank you to all those who have contributed along the way. You know who you are!



Woor-Dungin

On 9 May 2017, Woor-Dungin presented a session on respectful relationships at the International Funders for Indigenous Peoples Pacific Regional Hui ('gathering') in Otaki, New Zealand, titled 'How can philanthropy walk with us? A key to successful philanthropy with Aboriginal communities'.

'How can philanthropy walk with us?' further developed the themes explored in our session at Philanthropy Australia's 2016 National Conference, 'Right Way, Wrong Way, Which Way', and its subsequent iteration as a webinar, and posed the question: What are the keys to building successful, enduring, respectful relationships between philanthropy and Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and the communities they represent?

Woor-Dungin's team – Peter Aldenhoven and Wenzel Carter from Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association, Sherree Chaudhry and Jacy Pevitt from Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation, Robyne Latham from The Indigenous Program at the Bouverie Centre, Simone Spencer from Mallee District Aboriginal Services, and Brooke Wandin and Jem Stone from Woor-Dungin – began to build an answer.

Robyne Latham, who is also a member of Woor-Dungin's committee of management, stated that vital to building and sustaining respectful relationships is *dadirri*, or 'deep listening'. "A reciprocity of deep listening, listening with all your senses, is integral to establishing respectful relationships," she said.

Peter Aldenhoven, president of Willum Warrain, noted the importance of personal contact and *dadirri*. He related the following story to illustrate the point:

*"The five philanthropics who have invested in our hopes and dreams for our community have all visited the Gathering Place, met community, heard our stories [...] There's a bit of a continuum in terms of *dadirri* and respectful listening and engagement with us, and some philanthropics are more engaged and flexible in their approaches."*

Simone Spencer also drew attention to the roles played by personal contact and *dadirri*, and in addition referred to transparency and flexibility:

"A group of philanthropists came to our community, they introduced themselves, they got to know our staff, our agency and also members of our community. They actually sat down and listened to what our community's needs were. They encouraged funding solutions and helped write those solutions. [The result was a] program called Step Up. It was funded but it didn't take the direction that the Trust originally set out for us [...] and it was difficult but through phone calls and emails and transparency between us and the Trust they were able to be flexible [and] it ended up being extended up to two years."

Other members of the team shared personal reflections and insights, speaking passionately from a place of strength.

When Woor-Dungin's powerful presentation was over, the audience rose in a standing ovation. Some audience members were in tears, and many came forward to congratulate the presenters as they left the stage.



Melbourne Osteoporosis Support Group Inc.

We have had another busy year. At our bi-monthly meetings, held in the Hayden Raysmith Room, we have had interesting speakers; in August we had a representative from Statewide Home Health demonstrating Aids for Daily Living; in October, the President of Coeliac Victoria came and spoke to us about the strong link between Coeliac & Gluten Intolerance and Osteoporosis and in December one of our members, Jane Keenan, spoke about her work at St Vincent's Hospital in the Fracture Liaison Department.

This year we had an Open Forum in February, where members exchanged information about their ways of coping with osteoporosis and in April we had a big celebratory luncheon

to mark the 20th Anniversary of the Support Group. In June we were visited by Dr Howard Zeimer, an endocrinologist, who emphasized the importance of Calcium and Vitamins D & C in our diet to keep our bones strong.

In September, we enjoyed our Annual Luncheon at the "Angliss" Restaurant in Little Lonsdale Street. We had an information table at the Opening of Seniors Week and the Gluten Free Expo in Jeff's Shed last October and in February this year, we had an information table at the Ashburton Festival.

We continue to enjoy the benefits of meeting in Ross House and note with appreciation the constant maintenance and upgrading of facilities there.



Photo © MOSG

STAR

Congratulations to STAR Board Member, Jane Rosengrave, recipient of the Tony Fitzgerald Memorial Award, at the Australian Human Rights Awards for 2016. The 'Tony Fitzgerald Memorial Community Award – Individual' is awarded to a person with a track record in promoting and advancing human rights in the Australian community on a not-for-profit basis.

Jane is a proud Yorta Yorta woman with an intellectual disability. She is a passionate advocate for people with disability. Jane grew up in institutions and has experienced segregation as well as sexual and other violence, including domestic violence. She contributes to several other organisations here at Ross House, including Reinforce, AMIDA and SARU, and shares her personal experiences publicly to raise awareness of the abuse and discrimination facing people with disability. Congratulations on this incredible and well deserved achievement, Jane!



Photo © AMIDA



Welcome to Australia

Welcome to Australia exists to engage everyday Australians in the task of cultivating a culture of welcome in our nation. The Australia we love is known for its diversity, compassion, generosity and commitment to giving all people a fair go.

With this in mind, and in partnership with the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation, we ran a Welcoming Carnival at the Witten Oval during a VFL game in May. The

aim of the day was to invite new and emerging community members to take part in a very Australian event – AFL – and learn about the game, and have these people welcomed by those AFL fans that regularly attend.

While the focus was primarily on the footy, we also had lots of free, fun things going on – a sausage sizzle, jumping castle, fairy floss, popcorn, balloon tying, face painting, henna, an interactive reptile display and more!

The day was a huge success with over 300 community members from more than 15 different ethnic backgrounds coming along and enjoying the day. It was a great opportunity to showcase the welcoming work that we do here at Welcome to Australia, and engage the receiving community with new arrivals to their area. Everyone in attendance had a wonderful time and we look forward to being able to run the event again next year.

Funding for the Welcoming Carnival came from the Victorian State Governments' Community Harmony Fund – a grant

that is given to organisations advancing social cohesion and interaction within our communities. We've used this funding to run other great events this year and have more planned for the coming year!

We can't run these kinds of events without the generous support of volunteers. To find out more or to volunteer for other events, please visit www.welcometoaustralia.com.au

AMIDA

2016/17 has been our 30th year of supporting people with a disability and providing them with the opportunity to be involved in the Raising Our Voices self-advocacy group which produces its own radio show on 3CR - 855am. This self-advocacy group gives people the opportunity to air their views, their own stories and also tackles systemic issues. The show goes to air on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6pm and is supported by a dedicated team of broadcasters.

Topics this year have included:

- The Victorian Self Advocacy Network Speak Out
- Discussions regarding the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report
- First People's Disability Network
- Melbourne Metro Tunnel and accessibility in the CBD
- Sci-Fi clubs and how they are a space for everyone to be involved
- AFL matches and an evaluation of their inclusiveness and improvements that can be made
- Advocacy and women with disabilities rights

Thank you to everyone who participated, supported and produced shows on issues important to people with a disability.



The Self Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU)

Saru has had another full and rewarding year, with the continued support of Ross House tenant, AMIDA. Here are a couple of their many achievements from the past year.

The Dangerous Deeds exhibition, proudly partnered by SARU, toured Victoria during 2016-2017, visiting Frankston, Footscray, Whittlesea, Alexandra, Moe and Warrnambool.

The exhibition includes 8 TVs at wheelchair height, with easy to use large buttons and Braille that provide you with a choice of captions, audio description or text read.

The exhibition was created by disability activists working with artists from stART Community Arts Inc, to create 18 videos, ceramics, books and large images that showcase stories from the Victorian disability movement. In addition to the exhibition there were free activities and presentations at each location

and through SARU's support and network, self advocates, self advocacy groups and people with disabilities were employed and involved as volunteers in organising, planning, installing, promoting activities and all the main presenters were people with disabilities.

In 2016, the Victorian government awarded SARU \$350,000 to help self advocacy groups 'get ready' for the NDIS. SARU worked with groups to find out what they needed to be stronger and to get ready for the NDIS.

Self advocacy support workers were employed for some groups to help them organise and run capacity building and networking activities. Some of the things the groups did was linking with the Dangerous Deeds exhibition across the state, holding Rights, NDIS Q&A forums, other awareness-raising and networking activities and developing partnerships with key stakeholders in local and wider communities.



Community Music Victoria

“Music is a universal language, it tells stories, it helps communicate love for land, deepen knowledge of country and strengthen community”. Terry White, Singing from Country Project Originator.

The Singing from Country Project, run by Community Music Victoria (CMVic), was a pilot study funded by the Australian Government’s Regional Arts Fund through Regional Arts Victoria. The project ran between May 2016 and June 2017 in the regional areas of Mount Alexander and Greater Bendigo – part of the southeast corner of Dja Dja Wurrung Country.

After years in development, the Singing from Country Project went live in May 2016, with a call for songwriter applications yielding a fine group of Singing from Country Songwriters - ARIA award winners Kavisha Mazzella and Neil Murray along with Carl Pannuzzo and Eva Popov.

The project gathered songwriters, Aboriginal knowledge-holders, naturalists and ecologists, through workshops sharing knowledge of Country; this creative and collaborative process ended with two celebratory festival concerts. The project also produced songs that help reconnect people to place.

Project Partners included VACL (The Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages) and Story Telling Australia, Victoria. A September workshop in Fryerstown, wove together the project’s three essential threads of knowledge - ecological experts, the holders of indigenous wisdom and songwriters.

Full of ideas and inspiration, the songwriters followed these threads to connect to place. Their process and songs were unveiled in one jam-packed Saturday night concert to a large audience at the Maldon Folk Festival, in October 2016.

Finally, in March 2017 at the Castlemaine State Festival, another large-scale concert saw local choir-leaders arrange and perform the Singing from Country songs to a delighted audience which included the songwriters. These songs are now available on the CMVic website for choirs to sing, and a documentary film has been made about the project to help share the Singing from Country concept to other regions.

The CMVic vision is that the Singing from Country process will inspire another generation of great songs, which help connect people to place and our hope is that the success of this pilot project will foster more submissions for similar projects in other areas or a larger grant for Singing from Country to become a state-wide initiative.





CALXA Australia

CALXA Australia has been with Ross House for five years now, holding regular meetings and training sessions for their customers. The CALXA Clubs usually attract 20-30 finance officers from not-for-profits and consulting firms. The sessions have one common goal: Learn, Share, Grow. The workshops usually start with some teachings on finance and end with a Q&A and networking session. Topics range from grant acquittals and preparing next year's budgets to taking the accounts online. Participants get involved in discussions, debates and generously share their experiences.

CALXA CEO, Mick Devine, loves facilitating these meets, "Having the right venue is important to us." Not only is Ross House centrally located with easy access for our customers, it's the atmosphere everyone relishes.

This last year, CALXA's donation program, through Connecting Up, has been powering along reaching just shy of \$1.5million by June. It empowered many grassroots organisations with the productivity tools that their larger counter-parts have access to every day. Many Ross House members would be eligible and are encouraged to apply if they want to make grant acquittals and board reports easier.



Photo (c) Janina Green

National Council of Women of Victoria

Congratulations to Sheila Byard OAM, our immediate past president on her inclusion in Victoria's Honour Roll of Women. Sheila Byard has spent many years completing policy research and making submissions to parliamentary inquiries. The right for women to vote and stand for public office is something she believes is of utmost importance.

Sheila's interest in Australia's international humanitarian work began during primary school when she joined Junior Red Cross. Sheila has a strong commitment to the principles of equality and social justice and a keen interest in citizenship and civics education. Sheila is a long-term, active member of the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) – Victorian Division. As Convenor of the UNAA Status of Women Network, she has been a mentor and supervisor for many tertiary students on placement with UNAA. She was elected President of the National Council of Women in Victoria in 2013.

Brain Injury Matters

Brain Injury Matters (BIM) has had a very successful year. We were successful in receiving a \$41,000 grant from the Department of Health and Human Services from their Disability Advocacy Innovation Fund.

This grant will fund the re-development of the BIM website and the development of other social media. A project manager and Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) worker have been employed to run the project.

Our new website and social media tools will enable our organisation and its members to talk, listen and collaborate with each other, with the wider ABI community and with key stakeholders in the ABI/disability sector, including government and non-government agencies.

BIM has continued with its commitment to community education about issues of concern for people with an ABI. BIM is part of the Australian National Self Advocacy project which aims to develop self advocacy resource units such as SARU (Self Advocacy Resource Unit) in all other states.

BIM is represented on a working group which meets regularly to put forward issues of self advocacy within the context of NDIS. This group aims, through consultation, to increase awareness of issues around self advocacy and the importance of funding for self advocacy groups in giving greater choice and control over the supports received.

BIM congratulates the Ross House Association on their commitment to supporting a socially just and environmentally sustainable society, and conveys our best wishes to Ross House on its 30th birthday.



Live and Learn WASH in Schools Program.
Photo © Live & Learn Environmental Education

The Climate Council

The Climate Council has just finished its last year at Ross House, and has delivered some large-scale projects in that time.

One of those is the Cities Power Partnership (CPP), which was initiated in October 2016 before being officially launched in July 2017. The CPP aims to elevate and accelerate Australia's switch to cleaner energy and build greener, efficient and more resilient communities.

It does this by engaging with towns and cities, via local councils across Australia, and is made up of mayors, councilors and communities who are committed to a sustainable, non-polluting energy future.

Tim Flannery, the chief councilor at the Climate Council, said that "this landmark national program has already seen 35 councils take the pledge, representing 1 in 10 Aussies or more than 12 per cent of the population"

A further 35 council members are set to join in November, 2017. The program's goal is to reach 210 council members by July 2019.

Local councils who join the partnership, pledge to take five key actions across renewable energy, energy efficiency, transport and working together.

Some of the actions that councils have taken include putting solar on a local library, switching to electric buses, opening old landfills and turning them into new solar farms, and installing a network of public electric car charging stations.

Go to the Cities Power Partnership website at <http://citiespowerpartnership.org.au/> and check out if your local council is involved!

Another large-scale project that the Climate Council have completed this year is the community energy conference.

In February 2017, hundreds of people gathered at the Melbourne Town Hall for the second-ever national Community Energy Congress. The Congress brought over 600 Australians together, along with some special overseas guests, to discuss our growing community energy sector and how we can speed up the transition to a clean energy future.

The Climate Media Centre helped promote and publicise the event with media exposure and also developed the media skills of congress attendees in a workshop. The event attracted 150 media hits, included four television pieces and 16 unique radio interviews.

The Congress helped connect people so they could set new, more ambitious goals for their community, learn from others as well as teach, and be inspired!

Lead organiser of the Congress, Nicky Ison, said that Australia has great potential to continue its renewable energy development through community energy projects.

"The more than two million people with solar panels on their roofs shows Australians love renewable energy," Ms Ison said.

"Now we're ready to take it to the next level with community investment in energy projects that are clean, increase energy security and lower the cost of energy."

To find out more about community energy, join a project, or start your own visit: <http://cpagency.org.au/>



Tenant Members

AbleLink

Provides computer access and internet training for people with deaf blindness.

ABRISA Brazilian Association

Promotes Brazilian culture and provides information about Australia for immigrants.

AMIDA

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

AsbestosWise

Provides information and support services to asbestos victims and the wider community.

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.

Australian Federation of Disability Organisations

Champions the rights of people with a disability in Australia.

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 Australia Network

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

Care With Me

Supporting children and/or families who are dealing with foster care and whom come from a Culturally And Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background.

Casal Catala de Victoria

Promotes the customs and language of Catalonia.

Charles Bonnet Syndrome Foundation

Assists people affected by Charles Bonnet Syndrome (including significant others) and raises awareness about the condition.

Christina Noble Children's Foundation

Assisting children in need with education, medical care, social opportunities and job placement in Vietnam and Mongolia.

Climate Council of Australia

Provides independent, authoritative climate change information to the Australian public.

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.

Diaspora Action Australia

Supports community action on war and conflict and works with community groups that carry out campaigns and other initiatives on these issues.

Disability Discrimination Legal Service

Works to eliminate discrimination against people with disabilities and assists to empower them.

Disability Resources Centre

Provides individual advocacy for adults with a disability, free of charge, throughout greater metropolitan Melbourne.

Disabled WinterSport Australia

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

Exit Victoria

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

Federation of Spanish Speaking Seniors

Offers friendship and support to members who represent twenty-one Spanish speaking countries.

Handknitters Guild

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

Housing for the Aged Action Group

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

Indo China Ethnic Chinese Association

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

Liberians for Empowerment & Development

Empowers Liberians through education, training and development within Australia and Liberia.

Live and Learn Environmental Education

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

Lotus Group Projects

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

Public Transport Users' Association

Represents 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 (Vic) Inc.

Assistance for 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.

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

Provides 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

Supports 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.

Stroke Association of Victoria

Provides services, encouragement and support for people to self-manage their lives after stroke and promotes community awareness of stroke and its effects.

Thai Information and Welfare Association

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

The East West Overseas Aid Foundation

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

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.

The Victorian Drama League

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

Timorese Association of Victoria

Preserves Timorese cultural identity and promotes and develops social and cultural activities in Australia.

TreeProject

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

Union of Australian Women

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

University of the Third Age (U3A) City of Melbourne

Brings together a community of older people who create and participate in learning activities utilising the principles of self-determination and self help.

Welcome to Australia

Committed to creating a more welcoming Australia, by supporting people and local governments to foster a culture of welcoming and inclusiveness in cities around Australia.

Woor-Dungin Inc

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

Counsellors' & Psychotherapists Association Vic

Strengthens mental wellbeing of the Victorian public by providing affordable high quality accredited counselling and psychotherapy services.

Economic Indicator Service

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

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.

The Big Issue

The Big Issue magazine is a fortnightly, independent magazine that is sold on the streets by homeless, marginalised and disadvantaged people.

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.

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.

Animal Law Institute

Provides legal advice and acts in relation to animal protection matters and aims to remove the legal status of animals as property.

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.

Basic Needs Australia

Assists African migrants and refugees by addressing the growing needs of access and equity at the local and national level.

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

Forgetmenot Foundation

Support, information, referral and advocacy for loved ones who are victims of homicide.

Futures Foundation

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

Indigenous Women in Business

Providing a platform for Indigenous women to connect, learn, share and lead.

Kenya Community Victoria

Kenya Community Victoria promotes active participation of the Kenyan Diaspora in Victorian society.

Lawyers for Animals

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

Melbourne Esperanto Association

Promotes and teaches the international language Esperanto.

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.

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)

3000acres
Action Research Issues Association
Australia-Japan Society of Victoria
Beyond Zero Emissions
CALXA Australia (*Associate Member*)
Climate and Health Alliance
Climate for Change
Counsellors Victoria Inc. (*Associate Member*)
Cultural Club Novi Sad
Deafblind Victorians
Depression & Anxiety Timeout – Melbourne
Disability Advocacy Victoria
Emerge Australia

Financial and Consumer Rights Council
Homeless Persons Union of Victoria
Interchange
Macular Vision Loss Support Society of Australia
Melbourne Campaigners' Network (*Associate Member*)
Melbourne Osteoporosis Support Group
Narcolepsy and Overwhelming Daytime Sleep Society NODSS
National Council of Women of Victoria
National Seniors Australia - Melbourne City Branch (*Associate Member*)
Non Profit Training (*Associate Member*)
Oromia Support Group Australia
Outer Urban Projects
Slavery Links Australia
Stabilise (*Associate Member*)
Sustainable Living Foundation
Thai Language School of Victoria Inc
Understanding Literature Group (*Associate Member*)

Moves in

Aussie Hands Foundation
Welcome to Australia

Moves out

The Big Issue
Counsellors' & Psychotherapists Association Vic
Diaspora Action Australia
Liberians for Empowerment And Development
Indo-China Ethnic Chinese Association

Financial Reports

Whilst revenue to the Association (RHA) increased by 7.5% over the prior year, the revenue surplus was significantly lower at \$29,843 compared to the previous year (\$76,468). This was largely due to the increased costs of maintaining the external fabric of our ageing heritage listed building, \$156,791 (\$62,566) and the need to use more casual staff hours to cover for permanent members who were on leave and/or working on the data issues arising from the implementation of the new enterprise management software.

Further pressure is expected to a projected surplus as a result of the continuing need for building maintenance and a threefold increase in electricity charges in the coming year.

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

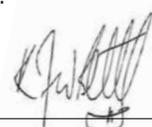
The committee members submit the financial reports of RHA Inc and the Ross House Trust for the financial year ended 30 June 2017. The principal activity of the Association during the financial year was to manage RHA for small community organisations who are working towards a just and environmentally 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:

Valerie Elliott
Christine McAuslan
Keith Bettles
Sue Healy
Maree Norris
De Grebner
Amber Moore
Charles Brass

Signed in accordance with a resolution
of the Committee:



Valerie Elliott
Chairperson



Keith Bettles
Treasurer

Ross House Association Incorporated

Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank & On Hand	750,906	812,748
Trade Debtors	18,814	10,314
Less Provision for Doubtful Debts	5,000	5,000
	13,814	5,314
Sundry Debtors	-	-
Prepayments	52,322	52,322
Account Receivable	-	40
	817,042	870,424
Non-current Assets		
Land	5,550,000	5,550,000
Buildings	2,950,000	2,950,000
Less accumulated amortisation	(295,000)	(221,250)
Furniture & Equipment	200,001	155,881
Less accumulated depreciation	(146,505)	(141,301)
Capital Work	234,074	175,537
Less accumulated depreciation	(119,478)	(91,342)
Electronic Equipment	73,990	16,580
Less accumulated depreciation	(21,266)	(12,028)
HVAC	801,516	801,516
Less accumulated depreciation	(142,222)	(102,146)
	9,085,110	9,081,447
TOTAL ASSETS	9,902,152	9,951,871

Balance Sheet cont.

As at 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	-	-
Sundry Creditors & Accruals	38,052	38,988
Income in Advance	8,547	8,264
Staff Leave Provisions	50,043	44,218
Superannuation Provision	6,542	5,237
	103,184	96,707
Non- Current Liabilities		
Right of Indemnity-Ross House Trust	8,205,000	8,278,750
Staff Leave Provisions - L.S.L.	18,822	31,111
	8,223,822	8,309,861
TOTAL LIABILITIES	8,327,006	8,406,568
NET ASSETS	1,575,146	1,545,303
Equity		
Emergency Reserve	400,000	400,000
Retained Earnings	1,175,146	1,145,303
	1,575,146	1,545,303



Income Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
Income		
Lease Income	678,042	640,236
Car Park	48,058	51,181
Facilities Hire	253,094	219,465
Equipment Hire	20,301	16,534
Sales-Equipment Keys & Stationery	2,186	2,393
Interest Received	8,779	10,551
Insurance & Other Reimbursements	2,515	1,309
Membership Subscription	5,402	3,414
Other Income	2,850	4,193
Rounding	-	1
Donations in Kind	-	183
TOTAL INCOME	1,021,227	949,460

Less expenditure

Operating Expenses		
Salaries & Wages	401,559	372,214
Superannuation	39,469	36,377
Workcover Premiums	2,023	1,808
Provision for Staff Leave	(6,465)	5,639
Staff Training	2,430	549
	439,016	416,587

Property and Equipment Costs

Building Expenses	261,481	186,675
Utilities & Services	66,446	66,979
Cleaning	62,260	65,869
Other property & Equipment	109,500	94,473
	499,624	413,996

Income Statement cont.

For the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
Operating Costs		
Amenities	787	362
Advertising and Promotion	48	264
Audit fees	1,951	1,880
Bad Debts Expenses	1,117	2,929
Bank Charges	399	417
Bookkeeping & Accounting fees	560	350
Computer & Courier	9,159	4,503
Consultants fees	6,346	3,456
Annual report & AGM	4,640	4,035
Events	2,937	2,616
Legal fees	4,958	-
Telephone	7,314	6,136
Printing & Design	1,194	1,710
RHA Admin Support & COM Exp	6	1,566
Stationery & Office Supplies	3,586	5,660
Sub. Membership & Library	1,962	963
Sundry Expenses	1,041	5,066
30 Years at Ross House	4,601	-
Website	138	498
	52,744	42,410
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	991,384	872,993
PROFIT (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	29,843	76,468

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
Balance as at 1 July 2016	1,145,303	921,335
Depreciation Written		
Back from Prior Years	-	147,500
Profit (Loss) attributable to members	29,843	76,468
Wind Up Costs Reserve	-	-
Transfer from RHA Trust	-	-
Transfer to Emergency Reserve	-	-
Balance as at 30 June 2017	1,175,146	1,145,303



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 2017 and of its performance for the year ended on that date

Ross House Trust

Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
Trust Funds		
Accumulated Profits (Losses)		
Brought Forward	(221,250)	(147,500)
Loss This Year	(73,750)	(73,750)
Asset Revaluation Reserve	8,500,000	8,500,000
Total Trust Funds	8,205,000	8,278,750

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2017

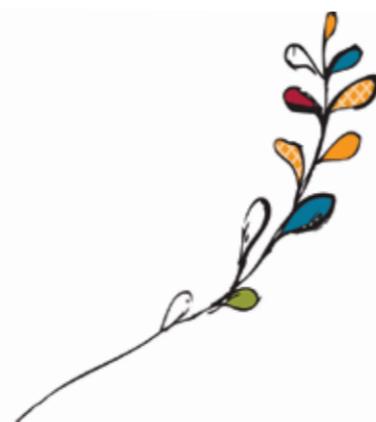
	2017	2016
Opening Balance	8,278,750	8,500,000
Undistributed Income		
Profit Attributable to Unitholders	(73,750)	(73,750)
Closing balance	8,205,000	8,426,250

Profit and Loss Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
Expenditure		
Depreciation - Buildings	73,750	73,750
Loss before Income Tax	(73,750)	(73,750)

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.



Acknowledgements

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 Michele Leembruggen from the 1200 Buildings Program, Rebecca Hughes from Engineering Services and the whole Degraes Street Recycling Facility team
- Hayden Raysmith AM
- Maddocks
- National Trust of Australia (Victoria)
- Sue Healy
- City Switch, especially Paul Whelan and Jeff Elliott
- NFP Law
- Hunt & Hunt Lawyers
- To all those members and tenants who contributed ideas and time 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 Danks Trust
- The E B Myer Charitable Fund
- The Helen Macpherson Smith Trust
- The Ian Potter Foundation
- The Lance Reichstein Foundation
- Sidney Myer Fund
- The Oliver-Affleck Fund
- The Percy Baxter Charitable Trust
- The Scobie and Claire MacKinnon Trust
- The Stegley Foundation
- The W.C.F. Thomas Charitable Trust
- The William Buckland Foundation
- The William Paxton Charitable Trust
- The Victorian State Government





ROSS HOUSE
ASSOCIATION