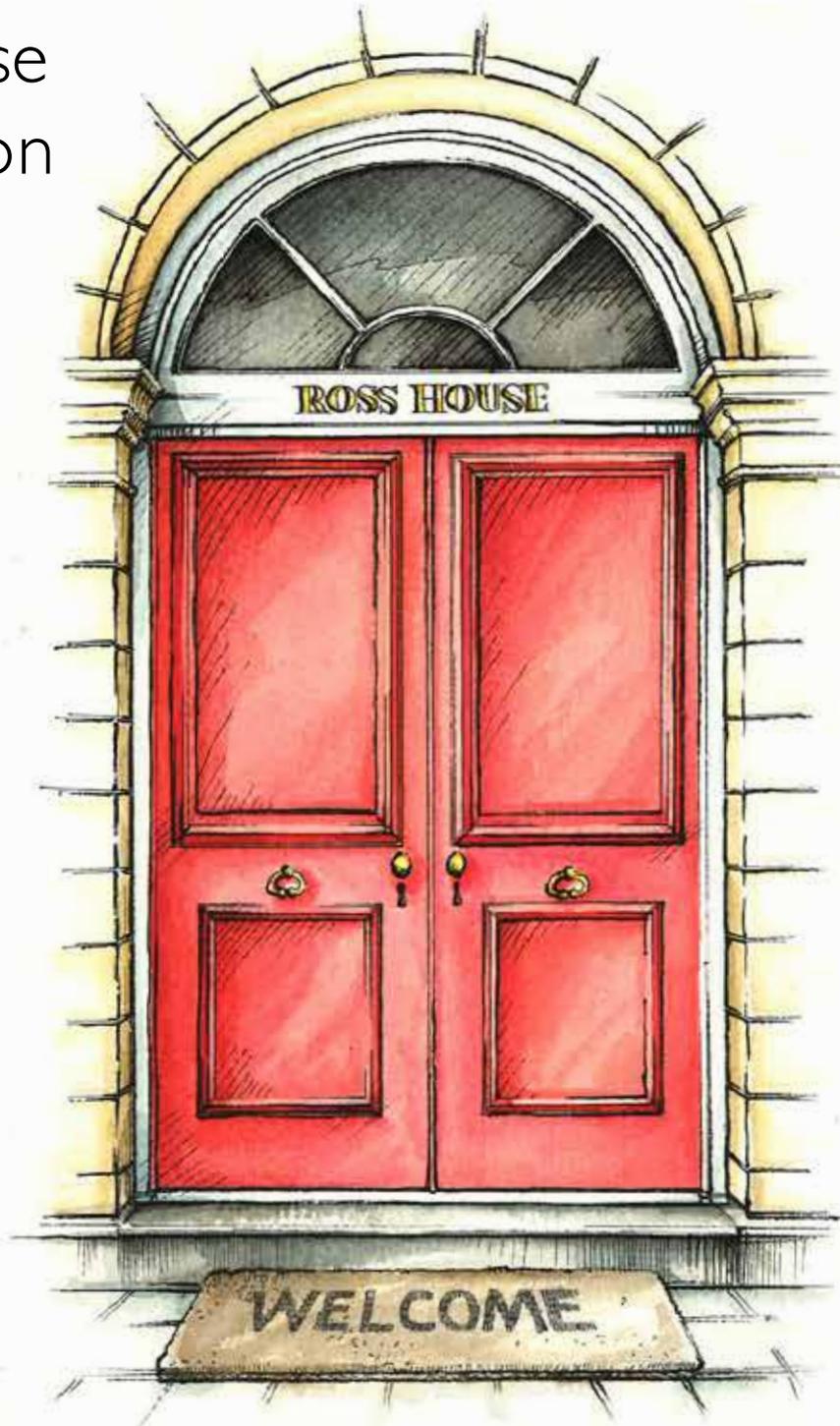


# Ross House Association

annual report  
2017-2018



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## Chairperson's Report

October 2017 marked the 30th Anniversary of Ross House. This anniversary acknowledged that Ross House remains a very special and valid place of opportunity for its tenants, supporters and across the social justice sector. A place and community to be respected for its history, longevity and the work our community does; to advocate on diverse areas of disadvantage and inequality.

We farewelled the past three decades of Ross House with a day of celebrations. This day brought together current members and tenants, supporters, those who were part of the establishment of Ross House (our elders) and the philanthropic trusts that contributed to our beginnings.

The Ross House model emanated from the post 60's and 70's era in which there was such a strong willingness to explore and create change to existing institutional structures. The basis of the work that went into establishing the alternative and unique Ross House model has held strong and fast, as has its aims and objectives.

Maintaining Ross House and what it stands for is so incredibly important in order for it to continue being such a unique part of the social justice movement, and to continue providing a place where so much work is achieved in addressing disadvantage, inequality and social justice issues.

During the planning of the anniversary there was also much reflection by the Committee as to the ongoing sustainability of Ross House and how we might begin to progress that need.

With this in mind, in September 2017 the Association commenced a lengthy community consultation process, to gain as much insight as possible from the Ross House community and to understand where they believed Ross House was heading, into the future. The result of this consultation was a community developed 5-year strategic plan, for 2018-2023. We now have a plan that will guide the way we work now and into the future, ensuring Ross House remains as vital and accessible as it is now, into the next 30 years.

There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes at Ross House as our staff quietly work away on a range of projects and upgrades to the building. A lot of work is also spent anticipating and addressing potential impacts from external influences. One example is the major long-term works of the adjacent Town Hall Station and underground rail system. This has required substantial time and work by our General Manager and staff. Much of this work has been pro-active in nature such as networking with other establishments in the locality, maintaining contact with those implementing the construction and consulting with lawyers.

Change is inevitable, when we talk about achieving financial and philosophical sustainability. As a community we will need to work and negotiate together and it will take the same spirit of exploration, courage and change that brought about the creation of Ross House and its wonderfully diverse and influential community.

The cover of this year's Annual Report, is an illustration that was created for a Ross House prospectus in 1986. Whilst many people have come and gone through these doors in the past 30 years, the welcoming nature of Ross House still exists today, and I invite you to flip through the pages of this Annual Report and read about our community's achievements, in this, our 30th year.

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

Christine McAuslan



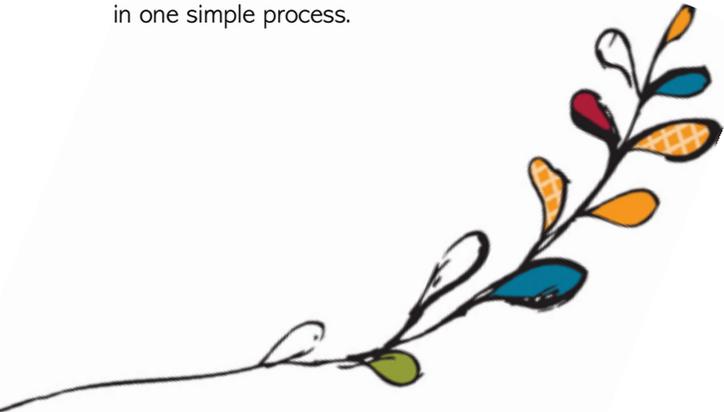
## General Manager's Report



On the 11th October 2017, Ross House Association celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the opening of Ross House. This was a momentous occasion where we heard from founding members, current tenants and the Lord Mayor. The event was attended by many of our peers and supporters throughout Melbourne and was an outstanding success.

In September 2017, RHA commenced an 11-month community consultation process with the aim of producing a community led and supported strategic plan. Initially a broad reaching stakeholder interview was conducted, then more personal hour-long one-on-one interviews, and finally 14 tenants, non tenant members, facility users and founding members formed the Collaborative Team to closely examine the affairs of Ross House Association, over a number of weeks. The result of this very thorough consultation process is a community developed 5-year strategic plan for 2018-2023. A huge thank you to all those involved; the staff and committee are eager to make a start on bringing your ideas to fruition.

Early 2018 also saw the launch of the new Ross House website, which provides an online meeting room booking system. This allows RHA Members and the public alike, to see room availability in real time and make and pay for bookings all in one simple process.



Over this last year there have been a number of building improvements within Ross House. We have soundproofed meeting room 1.1 on level 1, installed new booking monitors on the ground and street levels and put a new TV in the Rainbow Room on ground level. This year the level 3 corridor carpet was also replaced, meaning we have now completed recarpeting of all the corridors throughout Ross House. Finally, to add a splash of colour to the Ross House entry, we painted the steps in a rainbow pattern; this captures the spirit of inclusivity that Ross House represents.

We were lucky enough to receive a City of Melbourne – Community Services Grants this year too. This funding is going toward the ground level bathroom renovation for new assessable bathroom amenities. This work will be completed by December 2018.

There have also been some big changes in our neighbourhood with the Melbourne Metro Rail Project. Port Phillip Arcade was demolished during March and April 2018; a big thank you to everyone for their patience during that trying time. We are working closely with both government agencies and contractors to ensure the needs of Ross House are considered at each stage of the project.

This year will also saw one of our long serving staff members say goodbye to Ross House. Samantha Thornton started at Ross House as a casual on the front desk but became the Membership & Tenancy Officer on a permanent basis in November 2013. Sam had a true passion for Ross House and developed close bonds with many of our Members and Tenants. Sam's contribution to Ross House will be remembered and we thank her for her many years of service.

A big thank you to our casual staff that left this year too, Xueling Liu and Natalie Durkovic, who both provided much needed support to the Ross House staff team at critical times this year. However, joining the Ross House team is casual staff member Ella Marchionda, who we are delighted to have helping out in the office from time to time.



Photo © TreeProject

It has been a big year at Ross House for the staff, with a number of crucial projects going on and I would like to thank each staff member for their dedication and outstanding work. The Committee have also provided their time and support during crucial times this year and I would like to thank them

also. However, all the work that the Association does is designed to enable and empower our Members and Tenants, as it is their work which is making our world more socially and environmentally just.

Michael Griffiths

## Ross House Association Committee and Staff 2017-2018

### COMMITTEE

#### Chairperson

**Valerie Elliott**  
Handknitters Guild  
(until November 2017)

#### Christine McAuslan

Collective of Self Help Groups  
(from November 2017)

#### Vice Chairperson

#### Christine McAuslan

Collective of Self Help Groups  
(until November 2017)

#### David Martin

Asbestoswise  
(from November 2017)

#### Treasurer

#### Keith Bettles

U3A Melbourne City

#### Secretary

#### Alba Chliakhtine

ABRISA  
(from November 2017)

### STAFF

#### Michael Griffiths

General Manager

#### Rebecca May

Membership & Tenancy Officer  
(from May 2018)

#### Nazzareno Marchionda

Facility Manager

#### Amber Moore

Development Program Manager

#### Members

#### Charles Brass

Futures Foundation

#### Richard Caven

Appointed  
(from May 2018)

#### Agata Chmielewski

Appointed  
(until October 2017)

#### Jeff Fiedler

Housing for the Aged Action Group  
(November 2017-May 2018)

#### De Grebner

TreeProject

#### Michael Griffiths

Ex-officio

#### Nazzareno Marchionda

Appointed Staff Representative  
(from May 2018)

#### Katie Stadtfeld Cunnane

Information & Administration Officer

#### Samantha Thornton

Membership & Tenancy Officer  
(until May 2018)

#### Junxia Xu

Finance Officer

#### Amber Moore

Appointed Staff Representative  
(until August 2017)

#### Scot Muirden

Charles Bonnet Syndrome  
Foundation  
(from November 2017)

#### Maree Norris

Housing for the Aged Action Group  
(until October 2017)

#### Sue Smith

AMIDA  
(November 2017-May 2018)

#### Samantha Thornton

Appointed Staff Representative  
(from August 2017-  
May 2018)

#### Casual staff

#### Natalie Durkovic

#### Stephanie East

#### Patti Gerkens

#### Xueling Liu

#### Ella Marchionda

#### Greta McMahon

#### Lucie McMahon





Photo © Michael Griffiths

## Members' Stories

### Australia for UNHCR

Australia for UNHCR is a not-for-profit organisation that supports the global humanitarian work of the UN Refugee Agency. The funds we raise help UNHCR respond to refugee emergencies when they occur, as well as providing displaced communities with ongoing assistance and protection.

Contributions from Australians lead to direct impact on the ground during humanitarian crises, helping UNHCR deliver emergency support such as shelter, protection, clean water, emergency nutrition and medicines.

The Rohingya emergency was the world's fastest growing refugee crisis in 2017. In September, an estimated 720,000 Rohingya refugees fled violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State and sought safety in Bangladesh. Australia for UNHCR launched a full scale emergency appeal and raised \$7.4 million in three months to help deliver life-saving aid to families.

By the end of the year, UNHCR had delivered over 2,100 metric tonnes of core relief items including tarpaulins, bedding, solar lanterns and kitchen sets. UNHCR also supported the construction of 250 latrines and 90 tube wells, as well as emergency nutrition and vaccination campaigns.

As well as supporting UNHCR's emergency response, Australia for UNHCR empowers Australians to directly fund projects that support longer-term care such as building schools, running livelihood programs and providing healthcare.

An Australia for UNHCR appeal, launched in August 2017, raised funds to build a Vocational Training Centre (VTC) in Kyaka II refugee settlement in Uganda, to help refugees make a safe and sustainable living. Without vocational skills, employment opportunities remain out of reach and they face long-term dependency on humanitarian aid.

The centre will open early next year and will offer accredited training in mechanics, hairdressing, carpentry and more. It will provide a pathway into meaningful work for young people between the ages of 14 and 30, as well as other keen refugees and locals who have not had the opportunity before to study.

[www.unrefugees.org.au](http://www.unrefugees.org.au)



Photo © Australia for UNHCR





## Beyond Zero Emissions

Beyond Zero Emissions is a climate solutions think tank based in Ross House. We produce independent and innovative research solutions demonstrating that a zero carbon economy is achievable and affordable now.

Last year, we researched the world's first plan for decarbonising cement manufacture and use. Cement is the key ingredient of concrete, the material we make more than any other. Making cement causes 8% of global emissions - that's more than all the global car fleet. Before our report, when cement emissions were mentioned at all, it was typically to note that little can be done about them.

We worked with 27 volunteers to research and write Rethinking Cement, a plan for how Australia can have a zero carbon cement industry in ten years and lead the world in alternative cements. Nineteen academics and industry experts helped us prepare and peer review the plan - all on a pro bono basis. (We really are a think tank with a difference!)

We've been blown away by industry's positive response to our plan - highlighting how climate leadership comes from all parts of our community.

Since we launched the plan in August 2017, we've engaged with over 1,000 construction professionals, worked with the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia to develop a new innovation challenge for low carbon cement, and started working with Transurban and Boral to develop a roadmap to reduce emissions due to cement in roadways.

We were also thrilled to be awarded Best International Energy Think Tank in the 2018 Prospect Think Tank Awards.

BZE always punches above our weight, and that's because of our wonderful community of volunteers, supporters and funders who share our vision for a zero carbon Australia, and are willing to roll up their sleeves to show it is entirely possible.

[www.bze.org.au](http://www.bze.org.au)

## Self Advocacy Resource Unit

This year, the Self Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU) rolled out the Voice at the Table (VATT) project. VATT aims to increase the number of people, with intellectual disabilities and acquired brain injury, sitting on boards, committees and advisory groups at a local, state and national level within government, service providers and community and mainstream organisations.

In 2018, VATT built on the success of a pilot project run in 2016, in partnership with Brain Injury Matters and Reinforce Self Advocacy Group. A range of resources on civic participation and consumer advocacy has been developed and these are housed on the VATT website [www.voiceatthetable.com.au](http://www.voiceatthetable.com.au). The resources include a Top Ten Tips resource for organisations, which will help to embed inclusive practices within organisations to ensure that people with cognitive disabilities have a real and equal voice in decision-making processes. The Top Ten Tips form the basis of a professional development workshop run for staff within community and

government sector organisations. The training has been co-designed and facilitated by consumer advocates who have completed Voice at the Table training.

Francesca Lee, who has facilitated training for TAC staff says, "I think it's excellent if Government do it because they get to see exactly how it is for people with a disability and they can hopefully learn to be a bit more inclusive." Peta Ferguson adds, "Our opinion is so important. The lived experience is necessary."

In 2018, participating organisations have included Safer Care Victoria, the TAC, Cancer Council Victoria, the Disability Services Commissioner, Melbourne Social Equity Institute, the Tipping Foundation, Melbourne City Council, Victorian Council of Social Services, National Disability Services and Ross House Association.

[www.saru.net.au](http://www.saru.net.au)



Photo © SARU



Photo © CMVic

## Community Music Victoria

The ever popular StreetSounds bands got the jams pumping and the crowds jumping when they returned to play as part of Geelong After Dark in May, 2018.

Invy Horn Jam, Boomulele, SCOTSO, The Fabulous Meltones, FAME, and The Sunshine, Dunolly and Kyneton Street Bands were joined by Havana Palava and the Zamponistas in a series of sets which got feet stomping!

Hailing from far and wide across Victoria, the bands took to Geelong, a rambunctious, riotous cacophony of eclectic and delectable rhythms and grooves from Africa to the Andes, from Brazil to the Balkans and everywhere in between.

Passers-by revelled in the rich brassy fatness of horns, percussion and strings; swayed to the meditative music of Inca

inspired panpipes, and immersed themselves in the infectious sounds and inimitable styles of these amazing community street bands once again.

StreetSounds was a transformative project from Community Music Victoria led by Lyndal Chambers between 2015-2017. The project created new opportunities for Victorians, of all abilities and ages, to play music with others and kick-started 10 self-sustaining new street bands across the state: Invy Horn Jam, Boomulele, SCOTSO, Sunshine Street Band, The Fabulous Meltones, Dunolly Street Band, Kyneton Street Band, Prahran Accordion Band, FAME, and Our Community Sounds.

<https://cmvic.org.au/>



## Sustainable Living Foundation

The National Sustainable Living Festival is the largest celebration of sustainability in Australia. The Big Weekend is the three-day feature event, held in Melbourne CBD, which curates bold and cutting edge content addressing current sustainability and climate change issues.

The program features international, national and local thought leaders who attract visitors from far and wide. The event supports emerging sustainability enterprises and helps to promote their products, programs and services.

The Big Weekend has been at the forefront of showcasing leading innovation and championing the latest sustainability trends in such diverse fields as renewable energy, electric vehicles, building design and ethical fashion - topics that are all now gaining acceptance in mainstream, as solutions to contemporary environmental challenges.

David Holmgren is acknowledged as the co-originator of the permaculture concept, and the Festival was proud to be invited to launch David's latest work 'RetroSuburbia: the down shifter's guide to a resilient future', which is rich with

real world examples and behavioural strategies to show Australians how they can downshift and retrofit their homes, gardens, communities and, above all, themselves to be more self-organised, sustainable and resilient into an uncertain future. The launch event attracted a record audience to the garden event space and ensured that the rest of the Big Weekend experienced increased crowd numbers across the three day event.

SLF is committed to improving accessibility to all Festival related events and activations so that all sections of the

community can enjoy sustainability activities. This year, SLF established a new partnership with Travellers Aid - who provide support, advice and assistance to the travelling public including people with special requirements - this was an appreciated additional service that SLF could offer to those visitors who were in need of Travellers Aid's specialised services. We look forward to continuing this important partnership.

[www.slfonline.org.au](http://www.slfonline.org.au)

## Melbourne Osteoporosis Support Group Inc.

We have had another interesting year. At our bi-monthly meetings held in the Hayden Raysmith Room we had a variety of speakers. In August, dietician Monique Vero, spoke on “Healthy Diet, Healthy Bones” and in October, Tanja Baro, spoke on the subject of palliative care. In February, our Patron, Dr Sally Cockburn (Dr Feelgood), visited us and spoke on “Looking After Your Health, Especially Your Bones”. In April, Rob Anderson (CEO of Musculoskeletal Australia), spoke about the name change from MOVE muscle bone and joint health to Musculoskeletal Australia and the plans he has for the future of the organisation; he also presided over our Annual General Meeting. In June, Associate Professor Natalie Sims from St Vincent’s Research Institute Bone Laboratory was our guest speaker who explained to us what constitutes bone, how it develops and changes throughout our life, what we need to do to preserve it and keep it strong and the research her team is currently doing.

Our annual luncheon in September at the “Angliss” Restaurant in Little Lonsdale Street was enjoyed by all. We had an information table at the Opening of Seniors Week last October and in February this year we had an information table at the Ashburton ‘Noon til Twilight’ Festival.

We wish to thank Ross House staff for always being helpful and friendly. We continue to enjoy the benefits of meeting in Ross House and note, with appreciation, the constant maintenance and upgrading of the facilities.



## Climate and Health Alliance

The Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) has developed a Framework for a National Strategy for Climate, Health and Well-Being in consultation with the health sector. Through the *Our Climate, Our Health* campaign, CAHA and its allies aim to secure community and political support for the implementation of this framework by federal and state governments. This will provide a comprehensive roadmap for

policymakers to tackle the interconnected issues of climate change and health in Australia. In order to protect the health of the Australian community, we are calling on all individuals and organisations to join us to take action.

[www.caha.org.au](http://www.caha.org.au)



## Assisi Aid Projects

Single and widowed women living in India face significant discrimination and daily hardship in their communities. The social stigma associated with being single or widowed significantly impacts on their psychological state, dignity, self-esteem and physical health. Deprived of equal rights and opportunities to participate in daily life, they face isolation and poverty.

Assisi Aid Projects, in partnership with Integrated Development Trust, work to improve the economic, social and civic participation of 1355 marginalised single women across four districts of Tamil Nadu. 43 Women's Support Groups provide safe spaces for women to participate in educational programs, access psycho-social support and leadership training, as well as finance and mentoring. Through these groups, single women are collectively breaking down barriers and reducing stigma, as well as becoming increasingly aware of their rights and demonstrating financial independence.

Ms. Sarpun is a widow from Kanchipuram district. She is a regular member of her village women's support group. She has a business selling watermelons on the side of the road near a hospital and a bus stop. Through the project, Ms. Sarpun was able to apply for a loan of AUD200 to scale up her watermelon business. With this loan she was able to purchase 3 truckloads of watermelons, a stand and equipment. Previously, she was making AUD13 per day, now she is earning over AUD20 per day, which is a 54% increase in her income.

With this increased income, Ms Sarpun is able to support herself, her daughter (who is also widowed) and her two grandchildren. She has also begun saving and reinvesting in her business. In the future she hopes to open a small restaurant in the same location.

"I am very happy. I am not dependent on others and I have savings to support my family's needs, Thankyou"

Assisi Aid Projects is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



Photo © Assisi Aid Projects

## Aussie Hands Foundation

The launch of the Australian Hand Difference Register (AHDR) with the Murdoch Children's Research Institute on 31 May represented a dream come true for Aussie Hands members.

For many years a key question for members has been 'How many people are born with a hand difference?' 'What is the cause?' 'Could it be prevented?' The AHDR aims to find out answers to these questions. It is estimated that about 1 in every 1500 babies are born with a hand difference. Sometimes these conditions are diagnosed by ultrasound before birth, but more often than not, it is not detected until the birth of the baby. Not a lot is known about the causes, some are genetic, a few due to issues with pregnancy, but for the majority no cause is currently known.

Aussie Hands Founder, Elizabeth Serpell says "In Australia, limited data is available, leaving many questions unanswered about the causes as well as what the best treatments are and how having a hand difference affects quality of life." "Having data is critical for Aussie Hands too - it will help us advocate for members, secure funding and design targeted services for members."

The support of the Australasian Foundation for Plastic Surgery and the Royal Children's Hospital Foundation have also made the launch of the ADHR possible.

[www.aussiehands.org](http://www.aussiehands.org)



## Housing for the Aged Action Group

Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG) has been part of the Ross House community for over 25 years, and this year we continued to go from strength to strength. Two of our key achievements this year have been achieving accreditation and the establishment of our Cultural Diversity Advisory Group.

Accreditation under the Human Services Standards is one of the essential requirements for services like ours that receive government funding. This was a mammoth effort over months, with many hours of work put in by managers, staff, clients, volunteers and Committee of Management. It also involved Ross House, as we needed to show that we provide a safe and accessible workplace, so our thanks to Nazz and Katie for their assistance. The report praised our unique service that is sensitive to the needs of older people and achieves great outcomes.

This year, HAAG established a new Cultural Diversity Group, consisting of members and bilingual educators who have been helping us reach out to communities and talk to them about our service and the problems that may lead to homelessness for older migrants. Since 2015, we have been working with ethno-specific groups and talking to seniors groups.

Now our Cultural Diversity Reference Group not only continues to raise awareness out in the community, it also helps us, as an organisation, become more responsive to the needs of older migrants. We are working on increasing the number of culturally and linguistically diverse people within our membership and on our Committee; this new group, led by Gemma White, is helping us do that by allowing us to build stronger links in the communities whose older people may be at risk of homelessness.

[www.oldertenants.org.au](http://www.oldertenants.org.au)

## Advocacy for Oromia

Advocacy for Oromia exists to improve the settlement process and advance the wellbeing of Australian-Oromos. Oromo Indigeneity is rooted in a connection to land and nature, and all that the Earth gives to us, and so, we thank the Earth for providing us sustenance and shelter, for giving us rain when we face drought and the sun when the rain threatens our crops and cattle. With this in mind, we ran the Oromo Thanksgiving event on 6 May 2018 at Mount Dandenong.

While the primary focus of the event was to give thanks to Waaqa or God for the seasonal transitions, on the top of the mountain, we also had community performances aimed to create public awareness about respectful relationship, gender equality, good mental health and living in harmony within a diverse. Thus, the event plays a significant role in promoting a better understanding of Oromo issues, values, culture, history, humanity, social wellbeing and lifestyle.

This Celebration, called Irreechaa Arfaasaa, marks the end of the dry season and welcomes the onset of the new rainy season. This national Spirit Day, held yearly on the top of the mountain, asks for Araaraa (Reconciliation), Nagaa (Peace), Walooma (Harmony) and Finnaa (Holistic Development) for the past, the present and the future.

The event was an enormous success with over 300 community members coming along and enjoying the day. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the welcoming Oromo culture, the blessing of Oromo elders, the performance of Oromo children and the melody "Mareeyoo! Maareeyoo...!" recited by participant Oromo women. Everyone in attendance had a wonderful time and we look forward to being able to run the event again next year.

Oromo volunteers play an important role at Advocacy for Oromia - they run this annual event, mental health information sessions, community consultations and various community engagements throughout the year, with more planned for the coming year! We simply can't run these kinds of events without the generous support of our Oromo volunteers.

Advocacy for Oromia was established as a self-help group in 2014 with the purpose of enabling and empowering Oromo people, by providing accurate and timely information that help them make better choices in order to create the kind of future they wish to live. It has 65 members with 15 joining in 2017-18. The Association is committed to standing for people who are disadvantaged. Through community education, direct support, capacity building and advocacy, Advocacy for Oromia work towards the realisation of their vision; a world where all people are empowered to manage problems and to create opportunities for themselves and others.

[www.advocacy4oromia.org](http://www.advocacy4oromia.org)



### Tenant Members

#### **Ablelink**

Provides computer access and internet training for people with deafblindness.

#### **ABRISA Brazilian Association**

Promotes Brazilian culture and provides information about Australia for immigrants.

#### **Advocacy for Oromia**

Enables and empowers Oromo people.

#### **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.

#### **Australia for UNHCR**

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

#### **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.

#### **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**

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

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

#### **Climate and Health Alliance**

Advocates 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 greater metropolitan 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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **Live and Learn Environmental Education**

Develops and implements projects and programs for teachers, schools and communities in the field of environmental and developmental education.

#### **Lotus Group Projects**

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

#### **Open Food Network**

Advising and advocating for community food enterprises.

#### **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 (Vic) Inc.**

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.

#### **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.

#### **Stroke Association of Victoria**

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

### **Thai Information and Welfare Association**

Providing 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**

Networking 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, they support 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**

#### **Economic Indicator Services**

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.

### **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.

### **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 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.

### **Indo-China Ethnic Chinese Association**

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

### **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)**

Action Research Issues Association  
Aussie Services Africa  
CALXA Australia (*Associate Member*)  
Climate for Change  
Counsellors Victoria Inc (*Associate Member*)  
Cultural Club Novi Sad  
Diaspora Action Australia  
Disability Advocacy Victoria  
Financial and Consumer Rights Council  
Interchange  
KNOTbound  
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*)  
Network of International Law Students  
Non Profit Training (*Associate Member*)  
Oromia Support Group Australia  
Outer Urban Projects  
Slavery Links Australia  
Southern Rivers Community Services  
Stabilise (*Associate Member*)  
Sustainable Living Foundation  
Understanding Literature Group

### **Moves in**

Advocacy for Oromia  
Beyond Zero Emissions  
Climate and Health Alliance  
Deafblind Victorians  
Friends for Good  
Open Food Network

### **Moves out**

Climate Council of Australia  
Lotus Group Projects  
Open Food Network  
Stroke Association of Victoria  
U3A Melbourne City  
Welcome to Australia



Superficially, the financial result for 2017-2018 was better than expected with revenue increasing by 4.5% to \$1,067,927. Despite a slight 0.76% increase to expenditure, due namely to the unbudgeted expenses of the Community Consultation project, together with legal and professional costs associated with the MMRA project, costs were contained but only by deferring scheduled maintenance work on the eastern façade of the building.

It is clear that our current reliance on members, tenants and casual room hire cannot sustain the operation and maintenance of our Heritage building and business model. Clearly some form of external funding is required, as has been identified in the RHA Strategic Plan 2018-2023.

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

I take this opportunity of thanking the staff and my fellow members of the Finance Subcommittee for their untiring efforts in achieving this 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 2018. 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  
David Martin  
Alba Chliakhtine  
Keith Bettles  
De Grebner  
Charles Brass  
Scot Muirden  
Valerie Elliott  
Nazzareno Marchionda  
Richard Caven

Signed in accordance with a resolution  
of the Committee:



Christine McAuslan  
Chairperson



Keith Bettles  
Treasurer

### Ross House Association Incorporated

#### Balance Sheet

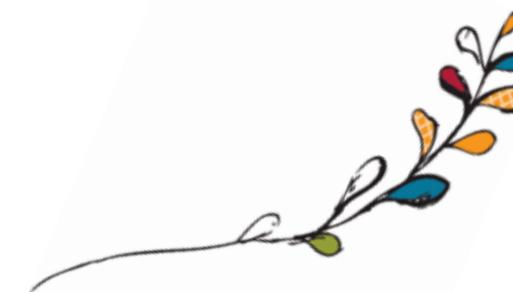
As at 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at Bank & On Hand	786,187	750,906
Trade Debtors	13,475	18,814
Less Provision for Doubtful Debts	5,000	5,000
	<b>8,475</b>	<b>13,814</b>
Sundry Debtors	-	-
Prepayments	5,375	52,322
Account Receivable	-	-
	<b>800,037</b>	<b>817,042</b>
<b>Non-current Assets</b>		
Land	5,550,000	5,550,000
Buildings	2,950,000	2,950,000
Less accumulated amortisation	(368,750)	(295,000)
Furniture & Equipment	227,471	200,001
Less accumulated depreciation	(157,958)	(146,505)
Capital Work	262,785	234,074
Less accumulated depreciation	(154,625)	(119,478)
Electronic Equipment	114,595	73,990
Less accumulated depreciation	(41,189)	(21,266)
HVAC	801,516	801,516
Less accumulated depreciation	(182,297)	(142,222)
Website	71,479	-
	<b>9,069,096</b>	<b>9,085,110</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>9,869,133</b>	<b>9,902,152</b>

#### Balance Sheet cont.

As at 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade Creditors & Accruals	66,409	38,052
Income in Advance	14,457	8,547
Grant in Advance	20,000	-
Rent in Advance	430	-
Staff Leave Provisions	59,379	50,043
Superannuation Provision	7,325	6,542
	<b>168,000</b>	<b>103,184</b>
<b>Non- Current Liabilities</b>		
Right of Indemnity-Ross House Trust	8,131,250	8,205,000
Staff Leave Provisions - L.S.L.	17,727	18,822
	<b>8,148,977</b>	<b>8,223,822</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>8,316,977</b>	<b>8,327,006</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,552,156</b>	<b>1,575,146</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Emergency Reserve	400,000	400,000
Retained Earnings	1,152,156	1,175,146
	<b>1,552,156</b>	<b>1,575,146</b>



## Income Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
<b>Income</b>		
Lease Income	702,727	678,042
Car Park	48,420	48,058
Facilities Hire	279,933	253,094
Equipment Hire	21,835	20,301
Sales-Equipment Keys & Stationery	2,439	2,186
Interest Received	8,846	8,779
Insurance & Other Reimbursements	539	2,515
Membership Subscription	7,673	5,402
Other Income	1,623	2,850
Refund	(6,108)	-
Donations & Donations in Kind	-	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,067,927</b>	<b>1,021,227</b>
<b>Less expenditure</b>		
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Salaries & Wages	413,826	401,559
Superannuation	46,993	39,469
Workcover Premiums	2,118	2,023
Provision for Staff Leave	8,240	(6,465)
Staff Training	6,063	2,430
	<b>477,240</b>	<b>439,016</b>
<b>Property and Equipment Costs</b>		
Building Expenses	191,693	261,481
Utilities & Services	79,464	66,446
Cleaning	64,739	62,260
Other property & Equipment	141,266	109,500
	<b>477,162</b>	<b>499,624</b>

## Income Statement cont.

For the year ended 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
<b>Operating Costs</b>		
Amenities	1,123	787
Advertising and Promotion	1,794	48
Audit fees	2,796	1,951
Bad Debts Expenses	4,821	1,117
Bank Charges	349	399
Bookkeeping & Accounting fees	490	560
Community Consultation Project	53,044	-
Computer & Courier	8,479	9,159
Consultants fees	20,627	6,346
Annual report & AGM	4,945	4,640
Events	2,928	2,937
Legal fees	1,532	4,958
Telephone	10,409	7,314
Printing & Design	777	1,194
RHA Admin Support & COM Exp	13	6
Stationery & Office Supplies	4,151	3,586
Sub. Membership & Library	1,991	1,962
Sundry Expenses	4,466	1,041
30 Years at Ross House	11,522	4,601
Website	258	138
	<b>136,515</b>	<b>52,744</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,090,917</b>	<b>991,384</b>
<b>PROFIT (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>(22,990)</b>	<b>29,843</b>

## Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
Balance as at 1 July 2017	1,175,146	1,145,303
Depreciation Written Back from Prior Years	-	-
Profit (Loss) attributable to members	(22,990)	29,843
Wind Up Costs Reserve	-	-
Transfer from RHA Trust	-	-
Transfer to Emergency Reserve	-	-
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2018</b>	<b>1,152,156</b>	<b>1,175,146</b>



## Ross House Trust

### Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
<b>Trust Funds</b>		
Accumulated Profits (Losses)		
Brought Forward	(295,000)	(221,250)
Loss This Year	(73,750)	(73,750)
Asset Revaluation Reserve	8,500,000	8,500,000
<b>Total Trust Funds</b>	<b>8,131,250</b>	<b>8,205,000</b>

### Profit and Loss Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Depreciation - Buildings	73,750	73,750
<b>Loss before Income Tax</b>	<b>(73,750)</b>	<b>(73,750)</b>

### Statement of Appropriations

For the year ended 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
Accumulated Profits (Losses)		
Brought Forward	(295,000)	(221,250)
Surplus/(Loss) for Year	(73,750)	(73,750)
Accumulated Loss	(368,750)	(295,000)
<b>Accumulated Loss</b>	<b>(368,750)</b>	<b>(295,000)</b>

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 2018 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](http://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:

- All contributors to the RHA Community Consultation, particularly those who joined the Collaborative Team: Hayden Raysmith AM, Gaetano Romano, Nusrat Sarmin, Deb Carveth, Vlad Selakovic, Samantha Marsh, Claire Tellefson, Zen Tebeje, India Prior, Mohamed Elmasri, Su Sullivan, Kathryn Aedy, Peter Whelan and Lisa Brumtis
- City of Melbourne – especially staff from the 1200 Buildings Program, Engineering Services and Social Investment branches
- Degraeves Street Recycling Facility team
- Hayden Raysmith AM
- Maddocks
- National Trust of Australia (Victoria)
- Peter Whelan
- Linda Weatherson
- David Morison
- Chris Wootton, Philanthropy Australia
- Gilbert Rochecouste, Village Well
- Herbert Smith Freehills, especially Alice Macdougall and Amantha Loff
- Peter Allen, Ethical Property Australia
- City Switch, especially Paul Whelan
- Justice Connect – NFP Law
- Sustainability Victoria
- 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



As part of a four-year Water, Sanitation and Hygiene school program in the Solomon Islands, several schools have built separate, safe and private bathrooms for girls allowing them to manage their period with dignity. This has resulted in fewer absences, by girls, from school. This project was funded by the Australian government through the Civil Society WASH Fund. Photo © Michelle Abel (Live & Learn)



[rosshouse.org.au](http://rosshouse.org.au)