

IN THE HOUSE

AUGUST 2020

2019-2020 Ross House Association Annual Report

We have started production of the 2019-2020 Ross House Association Annual Report and once again, we would love to promote your organisation and the wonderful work you do.

It has obviously been a very strange year, but we are still hoping there are some terrific stories and photos to share!

What do we need?

- An article relating to a story, event or project that occurred during the 2019-2020 financial year.
- Approximately 250-400 words.
- High resolution photo/s ideally photos should be a minimum of 1MB but it is better if they are between 2-3MB.

Please remember, to be eligible to submit a story:

- You must have been a member or tenant between July 2019 and June 2020.
- The activities you are writing about need to have taken place between July 2019 and June 2020.

All submissions are due Wednesday 16th September 2020. We look forward to receiving your stories and photos in the coming weeks!

For questions and submissions, please contact Michael Griffiths at michael.griffiths@rosshouse.org.au.

2020 RHA COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Christine McAuslan (COSHG)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

Heidi Nicholl (Emerge)

SECRETARY

Scot Muirden (CBSF)

TREASURER

Keith Bettles
(U3A City of Melbourne)

Valerie Elliot (Handknit & Crochet Guild)

De Grebner (Ex TreeProject, Appointed Member)

Cynthia Pilli (STAR Victoria Inc.)

Mohamed Nabe (Southern Rivers Community Services)

Vanessa Petrie (Appointed Member)

Maggie Maguire (Appointed Member)

Richard Caven (Appointed Member)

Nazzareno Marchionda (Appointed Member RHA staff)

Michael Griffiths (Ex-officio, RHA General Manager)

Melbourne Metro Rail Update

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

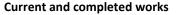
- Tunnelling from Federation Square has made a breakthrough to the Flinders Quarter site.
- The Flinders Link excavation has begun, breakthrough to Campbell Arcade expected by mid-October and completion by end of year.
- Flinders Quarter concrete pours in August and September, completed around October.
- Works are on track despite COVID-19, some work has been easier due to reduced traffic and pedestrian flows.
- Construction of the Oversite Development (OSD) will commence once a concreate slab has been installed at the Flinders Quarter site. Expected in 2022.

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

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Building & Maintenance

There's always a lot going on in this big old building of ours, so please make sure you keep an eye out for the building maintenance emails that circulate regularly.



- The Front Desk has been upgraded to ensure a safe return for RHA staff, members and tenants. The structure was built in June/July 2020 and has been designed to allow greater access and protection for users.
- Level 2 has had a spruce up! The lovely new red colour has certainly brightened up the place.
- Hand sanitizers have been installed on every level throughout the building and on both entrances to Ross House.

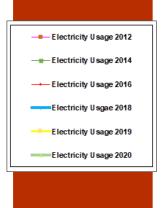
Upcoming/ on hold

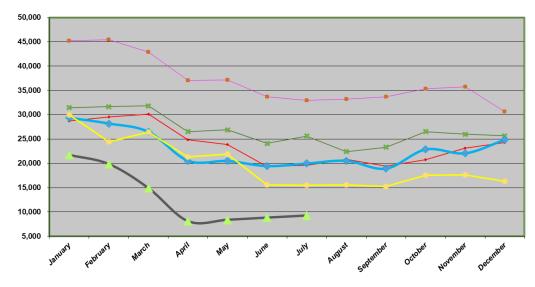
- Signage for the remaining sanitizer stations (and the bathrooms) are yet to be completed. Kitchen clean outs will commence when RHA staff can safely return to site.
- A hard waste will also be scheduled in the upcoming months.



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

Electricity Comparison 2012 - 2020 Ross House 247-251 Flinders Lane Melbourne VIC 3000





Total KWh Usage

Reflections by the RHA Chairperson - Christine McAuslan

During these tough times in Stage 4 lockdown, Ross House staff continue to work from home. Our Facilities Manager, Nazzareno, is permitted to access Ross House and make sure everything is working and maintained until we can all safely return.

The Ross House Committee continues to hold monthly meetings via Zoom and will do so for the foreseeable future as we consider all aspects of Ross House, it's community, finances and future proofing in a time when much is unknown.

As many in the Ross House community may have found, despite some advantages, working from home can have its drawbacks depending on personal circumstances. A while back there was an article in the Guardian titled 'From boardroom to spare room: the working from home revolution'.



However not everyone has a spare room and has to make the best of whatever space they can juggle. This has had a significant impact on family members and use of communal space. Thanks to all the Ross House staff for doing such a great job while juggling personal circumstances as they continue to work from home. This has ensured all that will aid Ross House in maintaining and re-opening will be intact.

It is hard to imagine the busy thoroughfare of Flinders Lane (empty of traffic and pedestrians) with most of the surrounding cafes closed. With so many changes afoot in our lives, we are saying goodbye to a few of our tenants. It is quite usual for changes in tenancies to be happening at the best of times and not all current departures are related to impacts of the epidemic.

We said goodbye to Union of Australian Women (UAW) in July when they closed their office. They were very early tenants of Ross House dating back to the 1980's. This is a group with a very proud history of activism since their formation in 1950. They have contributed so much to Ross House over the decades, participating in events and representation on the Ross House Committee. We wish them all the best and are sad to see them go.

RHA Chairperson
Christine McAuslan

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Stay Connected @ Ross House

Weekly emails (Stay Connected)

Thank you for all your fantastic contributions over the past few weeks - it has been great to see and hear what you have all been up to. If you have anything you would like to share, please send it through to rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au.

Promotion addition

Please make use of our member and tenant promotional opportunities such as Facebook, Instagram and our e-bulletin, which goes out to over 600 subscribers weekly. Find out more by visiting our website > www.rosshouse.org.au or contact Katie on rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au.

Zoom

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

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Lotus Group Projects

Brain Injury Awareness Week (BIAW) was

held during 17th - 23rd August 2020, and to celebrate, Ross House member, Lotus Group Projects joined BrainLink's CEO Sharon Strugnell,



Parliamentary Secretary for Carers & Volunteers Anthony Carbines MP, BrainLink Ambassador and stage show star Michael Cormick (plus other special guests) for a discussion on brain injury.

During the event, the Lotus Group digital booklet, 'Wisdom Sharing' was also launched. Congratulations Lotus Group Projects!

BrainLink

To view this booklet, please visit http://www.brainlink.org.au/.

Beyond Zero Emissions Discussion Group webinar



Join Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE) on 7th September, for a special discussion group feature on *Fight for Planet A: Our Climate Challenge*. For more information, please visit www.bze.org.au.



Non Profit Training

Ross House member, Non Profit Training provides training for organisations all around Australia.

Their sessions include topics on grant writing, finance, governance, board training, volunteer management, marketing and event promotion.

They currently deliver their training programs online via Zoom. They would also like to extend a 10% discount to Ross House Members.

To find out more information please visit www.nonprofittraining.com.au.



BCA Happy Hours

Blind Citizens Australia (BCA) have been running their 'BCA Happy Hours' over the past few months and they have been a huge success! Not only that, they have been doing staff trivia and topical discussions with guest speakers. Find out more by visiting www.bca.org.au.



DRC - Transport for All Campaign

Despite decades of promises from the State Government, Victoria's Public Transport Systems remains largely inaccessible for people with disabilities.

To support the campaign, please visit https://drc.org.au/join-transport-for-all/.

TRANSPORT FOR ALL

HELP US END #LIFELONGLOCKDOWN FOR VICTORIANS WITH DISABILITIES

SIGN UP NOW,

Reinforce update

"At Reinforce, we have been working from home since 19th of March 2020.

We are still doing our committee meetings by Zoom. We also had some Reinforce special events like



Coffee Mornings and our celebration for the end of ILC Self Advocacy Training Unit (SATU) Project 1.

We have recently started on another Project. This is the second project for the Self Advocacy Training Unit which goes for three years. We are still making connections with other Self Advocacy groups even though we are working from home. These Self Advocacy groups are All Abilities in Warrnambool and Have A Say in Bendigo. By making these connections, we have more Self Advocates come to our events and weekly catch-ups. We do these catch-ups so we make sure everybody is feeling alright.

The Peer Workers, Sue and Heather have met with our volunteer Ellie, to make a calendar of events for the rest of the year. We will let you all know what the dates of our events are so you can join us".

From Susan Arthur and Heather Smith (Reinforce Peer Workers).

Photo: Reinforce Self Advocacy Training Unit (SATU) Zoom.



There is an exciting opportunity to join the Reinforce Self Advocacy Training Unit

For details & position description email: georgina@reinforce.org.au



Mindful Cookery Sessions with Shakti

Shakti Migrant and Refugee Women's Support Group Melbourne Inc. held an online monthly event 'Mindful Cookery Session' on 15th of July 2020. This monthly event seeks to create awareness (and appreciation) of varieties of healthy cuisines among culturally diverse societies. The cuisines not only nourish the body, but also the soul, and enhance the appreciation of life.

Find out more information about their next session via their Facebook page here > https://www.facebook.com/ShaktiAustralia/.





Community Music Victoria (CMVic) Growing Community Music Appeal

"Earlier this year we completed stage 1 of the Growing Community Music (GCM) project funded by the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust. Project managers Jane Coker and Lyndal Chambers visited nine regions within Victoria and engaged local people in creative reflection, planning and discussion. At all these locations they found people who are passionate about the strength and power of community music making. Many different and exciting ideas for engaging in music making and integrated arts were offered through the consultations. Jane and Lyndal sought out and listened to people from a diverse range of



backgrounds and abilities and investigated Leadership development Skills in other parts of the world. They interviewed widely, from academics to self-taught leaders, from children to the elderly.

The GCM Outcomes Summary Report can be found online here > https://drive.google.com/file/
d/12K6dB_fxuJ9Qa859OaMjDOVRKjq9Ngn3/view, together with recommendations for going forward. There are a great range of proposals to get more Victorians singing and playing music together.

We are working on applications to a range of funding bodies to support these exciting developments. This is where you can help. Jane and Lyndal have been speaking further with people in East Gippsland, particularly in Mallacoota where the impact of bushfires followed by COVID-19 has been immense. People there are saying that what would be great is a street parade in Mallacoota supported by community instrumental and singing workshops, community art/banner/flag/costume making workshops for adults and children. We propose to kick off the second stage of GCM by making this happen in conjunction with the Mallacoota community and inviting and encouraging street bands from across Victoria to participate. With the local people we want to develop a long-term music group establishment and leadership workshop plan and create partnerships with local organisations and local government to support ongoing development.

We will need to raise \$12,000 in total - you can contribute to the recovery of the Mallacoota community by donating online or direct to Community Music Donations Account, BSB 063-011 A/C 10297123 (donations over \$2 is tax deductible)".

For more information, please visit > https://cmvic.org.au/projects-programs/growing-community-music.

The East West Foundation Australia



The East West Foundation Australia (TEWFA) has been empowering communities to thrive since it was founded in 1993 by Dr Natteri Chandran. The five areas of TEWFA work are Healthcare, Education, Community Development, Child Welfare and the Environment for a community of 24 villages in rural South India.

Since the last RHA newsletter they have continued to provide primary health care at their clinic, where they also run COVID-19 awareness programs. TEWFA have distributed information brochures and free masks to over 5,000 people. To boost the number of masks they are able to supply, staff and children have enthusiastically taken to the task learning pattern making, cutting, sewing, ironing and packaging. There is a real feeling of accomplishment and positive contribution to the community in this difficult time.

Donate now!

You can help them to continue their amazing work by donating via their website > https://www.tewfa.org.au/donate.





Tuesday Tech Talks

Starting on August 11 at

1pm

Join in and learn new ways to connect online









Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) turns 10!

Congratulations to Ross House tenant, Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) who turned 10 on Tuesday 4th August 2020!

Over the coming months, they will be celebrating their highlights and work from the past decade that their members and supporters have contributed to. They are also reaching out and asking their community of supporters to consider becoming monthly donors.

By signing up as a monthly donor, you can help provide a regular stream of income to help them continue to do amazing work - taking action on climate change through building a powerful health sector movement, nationally and internationally.

For more information please visit www.caha.org.au/ten-years.



Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG) -

Phone service to help older people to access Aged Care support

Do you, or somebody you know, need help to understand and access aged care support?

Ross House tenant, Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG)'s aged care navigators is a free, confidential service that gives you independent information about aged care services and how to access them.

HAAGs volunteers can:

- ♡ Answer any questions you may have about the aged care system
- ₩ Explain what services are available
- ♡ Prepare you for what to expect when you contact My Aged Care
- \Box Refer you to services who can provide additional support
- ♡ Help you to call My Aged Care and get registered for an assessment

You don't have to need assistance right now to talk to one of their volunteers, you can have a chat to help plan for the future. Then when the time comes that you do need support you know what to expect and how to access services.

If you would like a HAAG volunteer to help you (or someone you know) with Aged Care, please call (03) 9654 7389 and ask for Rebecca or Gemma from the Aged Care Navigator Program.



Charles Bonnet Syndrome Foundation (CBSF): Swinburne University and ABC radio

The Charles Bonnet Syndrome Foundation (CBSF) recently joined forces with Swinburne University as part of their Student Partnerships program. Under this program, students worked on a three-month project designed to find better ways for the Foundation to make its mark. This included improving the website and making better use of current social media platforms to spread awareness of the syndrome.

For more information please visit https://studentpartnerships.com.au/student-projects/.

In other news, ABC radio featured a thirty-minute segment on Charles Bonnet Syndrome (CBS) in early August. Promoted under the title, 'Seeing when you're blind', it was aired nationally as part of Radio National's All in the Mind program. The episode included interviews with three vision-impaired Australians who live with the syndrome.

The program is still available to listen to via podcast:

https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/allinthemind/seeing-when-youre-blind/12503398.

For further information, please visit https://www.charlesbonnetsyndrome.org/.



Stage 4 Restrictions - COVID-19

Please find below some useful links and information relating to Victoria's Stage 4 restrictions:

- Under the Stage 4 restrictions the list of permitted industries that can remain open is very limiting, please see the Victorian Government's website for details > https://www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-victoria.
- If you have any reason to be attending Ross House during the Stage 4 restrictions, you will need a worker permit, the details of which can be found here > https://www.vic.gov.au/worker-permit-scheme.
- Any organisation operating under Stage 4 restrictions should have a COVID Safe Plan, for details of how to create a plan and operate a COVID Safe workplace, please see https://www.business.vic.gov.au/disputes-disasters-and-succession-planning/covid-safe-business/creating-a-covid-safe-workplace.

If any member of your organisation attends Ross House for any reason, you will need to maintain an attendance register that records the individual's details and the times and dates that the employee is in the building. You are also required to wear a mask at all times.

If anyone has any questions on the above, please don't hesitate to contact General Manager, Michael Griffiths, at michael.griffiths@rosshouse.org.au.





National Council of Women Victoria (NCWV) August meeting

At National Council of Victoria's August ZOOM Council Meeting, the Guest Speaker was The Honourable Diana Bryant AO, QC, who retired as Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia in 2017 after 13 years in that role, and 4 years prior to that as the inaugural Chief Federal Magistrate of the Federal Magistrates Court of Australia (now the Federal Circuit Court of Australia).

Prior to her appointment to the Bench in 2000, she worked as a solicitor and barrister for 23 years in family law. She was one of two Hague Network Judges for Australia in relation to The Hague Children's Conventions and is, Australia's representative and Chair of an international Working Group for The Hague Conference on Private International Law (In relation to the Child Abduction Convention). She spoke on the review of the Family Law Court, starting by informing the meeting that the original bill to merge the Family Court with the Federal Circuit Court was withdrawn.



There were many submissions received on this Bill and amendments have now been included, incorporating many of the recommendations in these submissions. The updated Bill has gone to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee who will report to Parliament in November. This is Parliament working positively to ensure appropriate change occurs. One structure has been recommended with two Divisions – Family Law and Federal Circuit, which Diana believes is desirable, more practical, one set of rules, with one point of entry and one head for both the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFC). This also provides regulation of the number of trained judges in the Family Court. Diana would like to see this legislated. Paragraph 11(2) provides that, by reason of knowledge, skills, experience and aptitude, the person is a suitable person to deal with matters of family law, including matters involving family violence to be appointed as a Judge of the FCFC (Division 1) and exercise family law jurisdiction.

There is currently a separate Appellate Division for appeals in the Family Court with 3 judges. This is under review with the possibility of one judge hearing appeals. There needs to be consistency with trial judge. Submissions from women's organisations and the legal profession have been mainly supportive of amendments with some reservations, e.g., risk assessment, need for robust qualification process. There needs to be transparency in the appointment of judges, with proper process, with specialist judges. Most issues suggested remain and are working well. The Appeals Division needs to be maintained.

The Government is funding a risk screening and triage pilot in the Adelaide, Brisbane and Parramatta registries of the Family Court and Federal Circuit Court of Australia. The Pilot is being implemented under the Lighthouse Project to provide guidance and support to families experiencing, or at risk of, family violence and other risk behaviours, much as a lighthouse provides light and a navigation waypoint for ships.

www.ncwv.org.au.



Extreme Hardship Support Program

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is commissioning the Red Cross to deliver an Extreme Hardship Support Program to provide financial assistance, information and referrals to people living in Victoria who are experiencing significant hardship as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and are unable to access other forms of Victorian Government and Commonwealth Government income support.

The program is targeted to support the most vulnerable in our community – including temporary and provisional visa holders and undocumented migrants with little or no income, savings, or community support.

For details and support through this crisis period please see: https://www.redcross.org.au/get-help/help-for-migrants-in-transition/help-for-migrants-in-transition/vic-relief.

Grants and other support during the COVID-19 crisis

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

Sisters of Charity Foundation - Community Grants Program

The Sisters of Charity Foundation provides charity grants of up to \$15,000 to eligible applicants. They deliver practical, real world support to smaller 'grass-roots' organisations that can't find help from more traditional sources.

Eligibility criteria:

- The organisation's mission and operations (and the proposed program) are consistent with the application guidelines of the Sisters of Charity Foundation and must make a huge difference for those in need.
- The applicant can demonstrate the knowledge (and the expertise necessary) to implement the program, as well as the skills necessary for the sustainable management of the program and the responsible stewardship of resources.
- The applicant organisation has the support of its Board, or in the case of an individual, the proposer's supporting authority.
- The organisation is not-for-profit and has Income Tax Exempt Charity (ITEC) status and Deductable Gift Recipient (DGR) Item 1 status.

For more details please visit https://sistersofcharityfoundation.com.au/applying-for-grants/about-our-grants/.

Mary MacKillop Today's Community Grants Program 2021

For over twenty years, the Mary MacKillop Today's Community Grants Program has supported and empowered some of the most marginalised and vulnerable communities within Australian society by partnering with organisations to improve lives through education in all its forms.

Eligible organisations may apply for grants of up to \$10,000 AUD to deliver small, life-changing projects that promote life-long learning for Australians affected by vulnerability.

Grant applications will be accepted between 9am 10th August and 5pm 14th September 2020. Late submissions will not be considered.

Projects must target members of the Australian community who may experience marginalisation, vulnerability or exclusion.

Target groups include:

- ☼ Women and girls
- First Nations people (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people)
- People from refugee backgrounds, people seeking asylum and/or newly arrived migrants
- People with disability
- Other key vulnerable communities and groups



Grants continued.....

To be eligible for funding, applications must comply with the below criteria:

- Applicants must be a community organisation or charity with an Australian Business Number (ABN), and the project must be delivered within Australia. Individuals are not eligible.
- Preference will be given to 'Small' and 'Medium' Charities as defined by the ACNC i.e. with annual revenue below \$1,000,000. Organisations with higher revenue should demonstrate that they have limited alternative revenue streams to fund their community work.
- Applications must align with the mission and purpose of Mary MacKillop Today and the Community.

Grants Program

- Applications are for a maximum of \$10,000 AUD.
- Project activities funded by the Community Grant must be completed between 1st January and 31st December 2021.
- New applicants must supply two available referees.
- Projects must be consistent with the main purpose of a Public Benevolent Institution (PBI); however, your organisation does not need to be a PBI.

For more details please see https://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/what-we-do/our-projects/grants/.



Tenant update

Ross House Association will sadly bid farewell to four Tenants this newsletter

Friends for Good, Union of Australian Women, The East West Foundation of Australia and Ablelink.

- Friends for Good have been a member of RHA since 2017 and valuable contributors to our community. We wish them further success at their new location and in the future.
- The East West Foundation of Australia have been tenants since 2012 and we are happy to say, will stay on as Occasional Tenants. Thank you for your continued support.
- The Union of Australian Women moved into Ross House in the mid 80's. For over 30 years they have been inside the Ross House walls. Thank you so much for your time here and everything you have given to the community.
- Ablelink have also been long term Tenants of Ross House. For over 20 years, previously known as The Link, they have been a service-oriented hub for the deafblind community. Thank you so much for being a long-standing Ross House supporter. For more information on Digital Literacy for Deafblind and how to now access Ablelink services, please call 1300 225369.

RHA Survey

On the 12th of August 2020, a survey was sent out to Ross House Tenants to gather information on how they have been managing during the COVID pandemic period.

The response was overwhelming and we are very grateful to all the Tenants who took the time to answer our questions.

We hope this was an easy survey format for you. If you have any further feedback on the survey, or if our questions have sparked some questions in your mind, please don't hesitate to contact RHA Membership and Tenancy; Rebecca May > rebecca.may@rosshouse.org.au.

SARU Tuesday Tech Talks

Self Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU) have been busy creating weekly 'Stuck at



Home' newsletters which have Self Advocacy Resource Unit

been a great success. They have also recently launched a project called 'Tuesday Tech Talks' which is an opportunity for self-advocates to ask questions about getting online.

For more information, please contact Kylie Thulborn at kyliet@saru.net.au.

RHA monthly invoices

A huge thank you to everyone for paying your invoices on time!



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Email: rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au Website: www.rosshouse.org.au



@rosshouseassociation



rosshouseassociation

in the house is a Ross House Association internal publication, produced six times a year.

If you would like to contribute an article, promote an event or share some exciting news about your organisation, keep your eye out for an email from Katie, advising of submission deadlines.

Please send all submissions to: rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au

SUBSCRIPTION

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a member of Ross House Association. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send an email to rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

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