



ROSS HOUSE
ASSOCIATION

2021 RHA COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Christine McAuslan
(COSHG)

SECRETARY

Scot Muirhead
(CBSF)

TREASURER

Keith Bettles
(U3A City of Melbourne)

Valerie Elliot
(Handknit & Crochet Guild)

De Grebner
(Ex TreeProject, Appointed Member)

Alba Chliakhtine
(ABRISA)

Mohamed Nabe
(Southern Rivers)

Ntannis Davi
(DBV)

Maggie Maguire
(Appointed Member)

Richard Caven
(Appointed Member)

Nazzareno Marchionda
(Appointed Member RHA staff)

Michael Griffiths
(Ex-officio, RHA General Manager)

IN THE HOUSE

APRIL 2021

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) – COVIDSafe Settings

The State Government relaxed the COVIDSafe settings required in the workplace on Friday 9th April 2021. Please see the below changes to the Ross House COVID policies:

- ⚙ Masks are no longer required when in Ross House. However, they are recommended where you can't socially distance or are working with vulnerable communities.
- ⚙ Manual record keeping of attendance is now no longer allowed. All organisations using Ross House must use electronic record keeping through the Services Vic app or a government API-linked digital system. The easiest way to do this is through the Victorian Government QR Code Service - <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/victorian-government-qr-code-service>. Staff must scan the QR code when entering the office and meeting room attendees must scan the QR code when entering a meeting room.
- ⚙ All spaces now fall under a one person per 2m squared capacity rule. The Ross House meeting room capacities have been updated as a result.
- ⚙ Any organisation using Ross House require a COVIDSafe Plan, please see the following link for details - <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/covidsafe-plan>.
- ⚙ RHA has created a meeting room information document to answer questions on the updated room capacities, QR code requirements, COVIDSafe plans, access, plus much more. Please see - <https://rosshouse.org.au/app/uploads/2015/08/Ross-House-meeting-room-document.pdf>.
- ⚙ Air-Conditioning works have been completed that increase the flow of fresh air into the building by between 50%-100%. Modulated dampers are used to adjust the flow of air throughout the day.

Information about getting into the building (for tenants)

- ⚙ please make sure that you have your swipe key with you
- ⚙ if you do not have a swipe key you cannot get in to the building

Information about getting into the building (for facility users)

- ⚙ please check your booking email confirmation to obtain your four-digit access code
- ⚙ this unique access code will give you access to the building

If you have any questions, or would like a copy of Ross House's CovidSafe plan, please don't hesitate to contact the Front Desk on rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au / (03) 9650 1599.



Building & Maintenance

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

Current and completed works

- ⚙️ Cleaning schedule - with more groups returning to the office, RHA has increased the cleaning schedule from three days to five days.
- ⚙️ The Jenny Florence meeting room (3.1) has new AV facilities for zoom conferencing, screen sharing, plus much more. If you would like to book in some training, please notify the RHA staff (with as much notice as possible).

Upcoming works / happenings

- ⚙️ Nazz will organise a fire drill in the upcoming weeks and we are in need of fire wardens! If you are interested in becoming a fire warden, please contact Nazz on n.marchionda@rosshouse.org.au.
- ⚙️ A hard waste will also be scheduled in the upcoming months - more information to be provided shortly.
- ⚙️ We are seeing Expression Of Interest (EOI) for people interested in First Aid training. Please contact Nazz on n.marchiona@rosshouse.org.au.

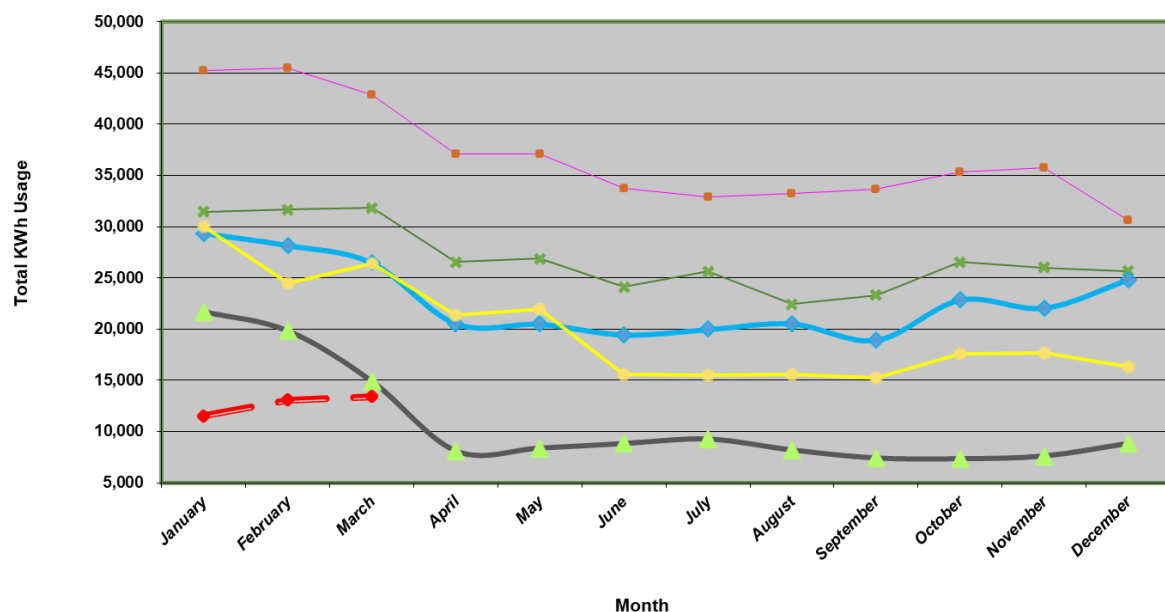


**CPR
FIRST AID**



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 - 2021
Ross House
247-251 Flinders Lane Melbourne VIC 3000



Reflections by the RHA Chairperson- Christine McAuslan



A few changes have occurred on the RHA Committee in recent times.

Our Deputy Chair Dr. Heidi Nicholl has taken on a new CEO position in an organisation which is not based in Ross House. This means Heidi's availability as a tenant nominated representative no longer applies. We will be looking at filling this position from amongst the nominated representatives on the committee at our next meeting. For clarification purposes, appointed committee members cannot fill office bearer positions. Meanwhile, we wish Heidi all the best in her new role and thank her for her contribution over the last few years. Her presence in Ross House will be missed.

To update you all, regarding the Ground Floor, there has been no decision made by the committee. As you might appreciate, last year everything was placed on hold. More recently a few further options have arisen, but at this time of writing, there is nothing to report other than those options are being

followed up to see how viable they may be in aligning with Ross House values.

At the end of last year, a circular (360 degree) staff review was conducted by an external provider. After a difficult 2020, which forced workforces to adapt to so many restrictions and changes, the committee wanted to see if there were any gaps or learnings that may arise as the pandemic continues, or similar events occur in the future. The results were very satisfactory and insightful and will enable staff and committee in the work we do going forward.

As a committee, we are bound by the rules of the Ross House Constitution, the Deed of Trust and Strategic Plan. Unfortunately, we recently had to advise a member that due to the number of consecutive absences from meetings, their committee membership was no longer viable. If you at any stage consider coming onto the committee, then this is something to keep in mind.

Currently, the committee is heading into a review of its work around the strategic plan. Having this review is part of the Strategic Plan itself and again will be conducted by an external organisation.

I was recently interviewed by a group of students from 180 Degree Consulting as part of a project to raise the profile of RHA with its stakeholders and the broader community.

As Chairperson I am also conducting a brief, open survey amongst the committee members as to any gaps or suggested changes in the way our meetings are run. This will be covered in my Chairperson's report at the end of April meeting. Don't forget the minutes of meetings are available (once they are approved as a true representation at the following meeting) for your information and interest, to be added to the distribution list please contact Michael.griffiths@rosshouse.org.au.

As you can see from the above, there is much going on to ensure, operationally and strategically, the committee remains on track.

RHA Chairperson
Christine McAuslan



Melbourne Metro Rail Update

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

- ⚙ Please find below the planned and current works happening on the Melbourne Metro Rail Project:
- ⚙ The individual train stations now starting to take shape.
- ⚙ Two of the four tunnel boring machine's (TBMs) have reached their final destination.
- ⚙ Flinders Street footpath has now reopened, however there will be occasional temporary closures.
- ⚙ Flinders Quarter Augmented Art Walk will run from 18 May - 2 July, this will be an interactive exhibition with art pieces hidden in the streets around the Ross House area.
- ⚙ Flinders Street will be back open to east bound cars from January 2022.
- ⚙ Works are on track despite COVID-19, some work has been easier due to reduced traffic and pedestrian flows.
- ⚙ Construction of the Oversight Development (OSD) will commence once a concrete slab has been installed at the Flinders Quarter site. Expected in 2022.

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

Member and tenant opportunity: Non Profit Training Program

The City of Melbourne is providing free training to help local community organisations build their capacity to better manage and run their organisations.

The training program offers a range of topics such as grant writing, project management, marketing and governance. These sessions are hosted by Ross House member, Non Profit Training.

All sessions will be held online – places are limited so get in quick!

To find out more information, please visit <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/strong-communities/community-organisation-training>.



SARU Tuesday Tech Talks

Don't forget to tune in to SARU's Tuesday Tech Talks which are an inclusive online meeting space where you can ask questions about getting online.

Their next session is on Tuesday 4th May 2021 (1pm - 2pm) and the topic is *How to find information on the internet*.

Find out more information by visiting their Facebook page > <https://www.facebook.com/groups/102307067022>

For further information, please visit www.saru.net.au.



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) understands that the aged care system is complex and difficult to navigate which is why staff and bilingual volunteers are here to help.

HAAG Aged Care Navigators can support you to:

- ⚙ Register with My Aged Care – the starting point for accessing aged care services.
- ⚙ Prepare you for what to expect when you get referred for an Aged Care Assessment.
- ⚙ Explain what other services are available that can assist you to live independently and comfortably in your home.

HAAG also aims to provide information to people who face barriers through seminars, face to face support, peer support and outreach.

You don't have to need assistance right now to talk to one of our 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 (or your family) would like more information, please contact the HAAG Aged Care Navigator team on (03) 9654 7389.

www.older tenants.org.au





SHAKTI

Soul Sisters Support Group for Women of Colour

Art Therapy, Music Therapy
and Meditation

Art therapy activities (Feel Circle &
Snowflakes making)

Music therapy activities
Meditation exercises

Self-care practices and emotional
regulation

Thursdays 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
15th, 22nd, 29th April and 6th May 2021
Ross House - 247 - 251 Flinders Lane,
Melbourne

Please register for free at 0468742589
or email counselling@shakti.org.au

FREE

FREE

**TIME OUT TO RELAX,
CREATE & HEAL**

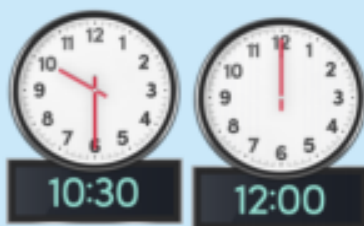
Self-Advocacy Skills Workshop



Come along and join us to learn about confidence skills for self-advocacy.



DATE: Wednesday 12th May



TIME: 10:30am – 12:00pm



Morning tea provided

Please reply to let us know you are coming



Reinforce has a COVID safe plan for events



reinforce
self advocacy
OWNERSHIP OF OUR OWN LIVES



Contact us



Phone: 96507855
Email: info@reinforce.org.au

FAQs for members and tenants

With the everchanging times, we have updated the list of FAQs for members and tenants.

Q. Is Ross House open?

A. During the COVID-19 period, there are 4 reasons to be in Ross House:

- ⚙ You are working for an organisation that is a tenant
- ⚙ You have a booked meeting at Ross House
- ⚙ You are accessing the services of a tenant
- ⚙ You are accessing your pigeonhole for mail

Ross House is open to tenants, members and meeting room users. It is not open to the public – the front doors will continue to be locked until further notice.

Q. Can I access my office?

A. Yes you can. Please make sure you have your swipe and office key. If you are returning to work, please make sure you have a COVIDSafe plan. For more information, please visit www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/covidsafe-plan.

Q. What is the cleaning situation at the moment?

A. RHA has increased the cleaning schedule from three days to five days per week.

Q. Do I need to sign in to Ross House?

A. Yes, please use the Ross House 'Wavin' contact tracing system to sign in. Tenants should also have in place their own QR system under their COVIDSafe plan. You can no longer sign in with pen and paper at the Front Desk due to government restrictions, you must sign-in electronically. If you need help, please contact the RHA team.

Q. What is happening to my mail?

A. RHA staff will distribute mail daily at Ross House. In the event of an extended lockdown, mail to the membership will be scanned and forwarded on to the main admin contact. Deliveries can be accepted by RHA staff (at Ross House) during off-peak business hours (Monday – Friday, 10am – 3pm). If there is anything important you are waiting on, please inform Katie on rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au / (03) 9650 1599.

Q. Can I book a room?

A. Yes, you can book a meeting room via your online account. If you need assistance, please contact Katie on rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au. However, here is some information about getting into the building (for room bookings):

- ⚙ please check your booking email confirmation/reminder to obtain your four-digit access code - this unique access code will give you access the building/floor that you need.

Q. Can I book a car space?

A. Yes, please contact RHA on (03) 9650 1599 to book a spot.



FAQs continued....

Q. Our organisation has grown and we may need a larger office. What is the process?

A. Please contact Rebecca, the Membership and Tenancy Officer directly to discuss your options rebecca.may@rosshouse.org.au There are currently some offices available and if these are not suitable, then you will be able to go on a waitlist.

Q. Our organisation has had to downsize during the pandemic and we may need a smaller office space. What do we do?

A. Please contact Rebecca, the Membership and Tenancy Officer directly to discuss your options rebecca.may@rosshouse.org.au. There are currently some smaller offices available and if these are not suitable, then you will be able to discuss your needs and timeline and go on a waitlist.

Q. We need to re-organise our work space and have furniture we need to get rid of. Does Ross House provide hard rubbish collections?

A. Ross House organises two gratis hard waste collections per annum for odd items that tenants may need to discard. Please note that this is a service provided to all tenants and not on an individual needs basis. Notwithstanding this, should you require a specific office hard waste collection that involves multiple items, the cost is \$100 per m3. Please contact Nazzareno if you have any further questions on n.marchionda@rosshouse.org.au.

Ross House meeting room information

Ross House Association has created a meeting room document to answer all of your queries regarding room hire, from "Where are the Wi-Fi codes?" to "I am a tenant, how do I gain access to a meeting room on a different floor?"

This resource is a great tool to share within your organisation including current and new staff.

To view this document please visit the Ross House website > www.rosshouse.org.au and find > Facilities > Meeting rooms > **ROSS HOUSE MEETING ROOM DOCUMENT**

Or please see below:

<https://rosshouse.org.au/app/uploads/2015/08/ROSS-HOUSE-MEETING-ROOM-DOCUMENT-.pdf>



Amanda Millear

On Wednesday 14th April 2021, I bumped into Amanda in the Foyer of Ross House. Amanda is a long-standing member of Reinforce and was delighted to show me her white cane, which she had decorated from items in the Reinforce office. There was a sunflower and a wooden ruler attached to it which she loved! She also told me that she had a great day in the Hayden Raysmith room with her Reinforce pals doing games, puzzles and colouring in.

Amanda is one of many who is happy to be back at Ross House!

Thanks for sharing this with us Amanda!





SHAKTI

"FREE COUNSELLING"

SHAKTI MELBOURNE INC.

Offers
FREE COUNSELLING

to support women from Asian,
African & Middle-Eastern
backgrounds
Feel free to contact below for
more details
Ph: 0414442584
Mail: coordinator@shakti.org.au



I feel isolated..

I feel low,
anxious...

Any donations to Shakti will be highly appreciated:
<https://www.givenow.com.au/shakti-emergencyappeal>

RHA invoices

RHA would like to thank everyone for paying your invoices on time.

Welcome new tenants!

Ross House Association would like to welcome new tenant ABC Friends VIC!

ABC Friends Vic represents the community's interest in its independent national public broadcaster - every Australian is a shareholder. It comprises independent organisations which exist in each State and Territory.



They have worked together co-operatively over the years to tackle national issues, particularly in election years, culminating in the formation of ABC Friends National Inc. in December 2016.

ABC Friends will be moving onto Level 2 - please say hello if you see them in the corridor!

www.abcfriendsvic.org.au

Tenant Moves:

Aussie Hands has moved out of their office at Ross House. Aussie Hands has been a valued and active part of our community for over 12 years. They continue to operate remotely and their best contact email is info@aussiehands.org.



Grants and other support during the COVID-19 crisis

Here are some of the grants that are currently available, which we think look good.

Conservation Society Australia

HATCH: Taronga Accelerator Program

The Taronga Conservation Society Australia are seeking early stage ideas that will ideally develop into not-for-profit or social enterprise organisations.

HATCH is a 14-week accelerator program designed to help you develop your brilliant idea into a not-for-profit or social enterprise venture that has a positive impact on the environment. The program will involve two immersive events, weekly online workshops and a final pitch event.

HATCH: Taronga Accelerator Program will provide \$2,000 to each participating team. The main grant of up to \$50,000 will be awarded to one chosen finalist at the end of the program to implement their brilliant initiative.

Eligibility Criteria

- ⚙ Open to Australian citizens and residents only
- ⚙ All applicants must be 18 years and over
- ⚙ Teams can be a maximum of 5 people per team; individual applicants are also welcome
- ⚙ Initiatives must align to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to Taronga's 360 degree approach to conservation
- ⚙ Initiatives must be delivered in Australia to benefit/support the Australian environment
- ⚙ Not-for-profit and social enterprise initiatives are welcomed; for profit initiatives are not eligible for this program
- ⚙ If applying as an organisation, the organisation will likely have an annual revenue of less than \$150,000
- ⚙ All participants must comply with the Terms and Conditions associated with the HATCH Program
- ⚙ All participants must comply with Taronga's Code of Conduct

Round: Opened 31st March 2021 and closes on 11th May 2021 at 5pm.

For more information and to apply please see: <https://taronga.org.au/conservation-and-science/act-for-the-wild/hatch>.

Collier Charitable Fund

Collier Charitable Fund Grants

The Collier Charitable Fund Grants aim to make a positive contribution to society by supporting organisations that work to find solutions for those in need or improve the quality of community life. Initiatives supported include (but are not limited to):

- ⚙ Initiatives designed to alleviate the cycle of social disadvantage and social problems
- ⚙ Emergency relief and material aid initiatives
- ⚙ Initiatives that assist recently arrived migrants, refugees and asylum seekers
- ⚙ Initiatives that assist people living in regional, rural and remote areas of Victoria

The average grant funding amount available is \$30,000.

Eligibility Criteria

Organisations supported under this Fund will normally be registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC) as a Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) and be incorporated in, or have their headquarters in, Victoria.

Round: Opened 2th April 2021 and closes on 30th June 2020

For more information and to apply please see: <https://www.colliercharitable.org/>.

Ross House Front Desk throughout the years...

1998



2019



2021



Stay Connected @ Ross House

Weekly emails (Stay Connected)

- ☼ Thank you for all your fantastic contributions - 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.

BCA office reduction

Blind Citizens Australia on the 3rd Floor will be moving to a smaller space and is giving away a lot of office items. These include desks, cabinets, bookshelves, stationery.

If you would like to take a look or ask for details please contact Samantha on (03) 9654 1400 or email Samantha.marsh@bca.org.au.

The office is not attended every day so arrangements will need to be made to inspect items.



Blind Citizens Australia

CMVic Make Music Day

Join Ross House tenant, Community Music Victoria (CMVic) on *Make Music Day* which takes place globally on Friday 21st June 2021!

Last year was a huge success as it was the first ever virtual event.

This year however, the CMVic team are very excited to be out and about, celebrating every kind of musician, from all walks of life at various events across Victoria!

To find out more information, or how you can get involved, please visit www.cmvic.org.au.





Online



Friday Friendship

Parents with intellectual disability are invited to come and meet other parents with intellectual disability.

We will get to know each other, share information and have fun

When: Friday 14th May

Where: Facebook - Parents Rights Network Facebook page

Time: 10.30am – 11.30am



Positive Powerful Parents is a Self Advocacy Group run by parents with intellectual disability for parents with intellectual disability

Join the Parents Rights Network Facebook page and click the room link on the day. 😊



247-251 Flinders Lane
Melbourne VIC 3000

Phone: 03 9650 1599

Email: rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au

Website: www.rosshouse.org.au



[@rosshouseassociation](https://www.instagram.com/rosshouseassociation)



[rosshouseassociation](https://www.facebook.com/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.

Ross House Association Staff



General Manager

Michael Griffiths

michael.griffiths@rosshouse.org.au



Facility Manager

Nazzareno Marchionda

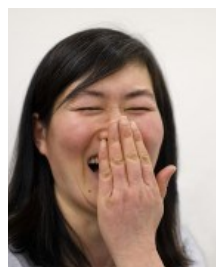
n.marchionda@rosshouse.org.au



Membership & Tenancy Officer

Rebecca May

rebecca.may@rosshouse.org.au



Finance Officer

Junxia xu

junxia.xu@rosshouse.org.au



Information & Administration Officer

Katie Stadtfeld Cunnane

rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au

Casual staff

Ella Marchionda

Nina Marchionda

Patti Gerkens

Julia Pecoraro

Ruby James-Strawhan

