



ROSS HOUSE ASSOCIATION

2020 RHA COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Christine McAuslan
(COSHG)

DEPUTY

CHAIRPERSON

Heidi Nicholl
(Emerge)

SECRETARY

Scot Muirden
(CBSF)

TREASURER

Keith Bettles
(USA City of Melbourne)

Valerie Elliot
(Handknit & Crochet Guild)

De Grebner
(Ex TreeProject, Appointed Member)

Cynthia Pilli
(STAR Victoria Inc)

Alba Chliakhtine
(ABRISA)

Mohamed Nabe
(Southern Rivers)

Ntannis Davi
(DBV)

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)

IN THE HOUSE

DECEMBER 2020

Ross House Association AGM 2020

The Ross House Association 2020 AGM was held on the 18th November at 11am via Zoom. Eighteen Nominated Representatives and fourteen others attended on the day. Despite the use of the new digital technology, everything managed to run smoothly. A video of member & tenant projects over the shutdown period was shown at the end. Thank you to everyone who attended on the day!

The Annual Report this year was put together over 3-months, containing 15 Member stories as well as the Chairperson, General Manager, Treasurers reports and the 2019-2020 financial reports. Due to COVID-19, this year's report was entirely digital, however we will likely have a small run of hard copies in the new year.

A digital copy of the RHA 2020 annual report can be accessed on the Ross House website here: <https://rosshouse.org.au/publications/annual-report/2020-annual-report/>



Melbourne Metro Rail Update

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

- ⚙ Reopening of the Flinders Street northern footpath (between Degraves and Swanston streets) has been delayed until first quarter of 2021 because of difficulty in getting materials from Europe due to COVID-19.
- ⚙ Tunnel boring machine (TBM) Joan is on its one-kilometre journey from the Parkville Station site to the new State Library Station site.
- ⚙ Tunnelling from Federation Square has made a breakthrough to Flinders Quarter site.
- ⚙ Flinders Link excavation has begun, breakthrough to Campbell Arcade and completion is expected by end of year.
- ⚙ Flinders Quarter ground floor slab concrete pours have been completed.
- ⚙ 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.

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

- ⚙ RHA has installed a Wavein (QR code) system around the building. The signage for checking in is located at both entrances and on every floor. Please use the Ross House 'Wavin' contact tracing system to sign in. Tenants should also have in place their own attendance recording system under their COVIDsafe plan, as there may be barriers to accessing the digital smartphone system.
- ⚙ Ross House Association has created a FAQ document (see page 7) that you may find useful. These are questions that regularly come up from Members & Tenants. RHA has also created a survey to assist us in better preparing Ross House for returning tenants, please complete it here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QVDPWXR>.

SIGN IN OPTIONS

Option 1

If you have the latest smart phone ensure NFC is activated. Please wave your phone over the green wavin symbol and follow the prompts.

Option 2

Use your phone camera on QR code in the bottom right corner of this sign, and follow the prompts.

Option 3

If you don't have a phone, visit wa.vin/qxlm on your computer, when you arrive in your office and register your attendance.

Contactless Visitor Check in

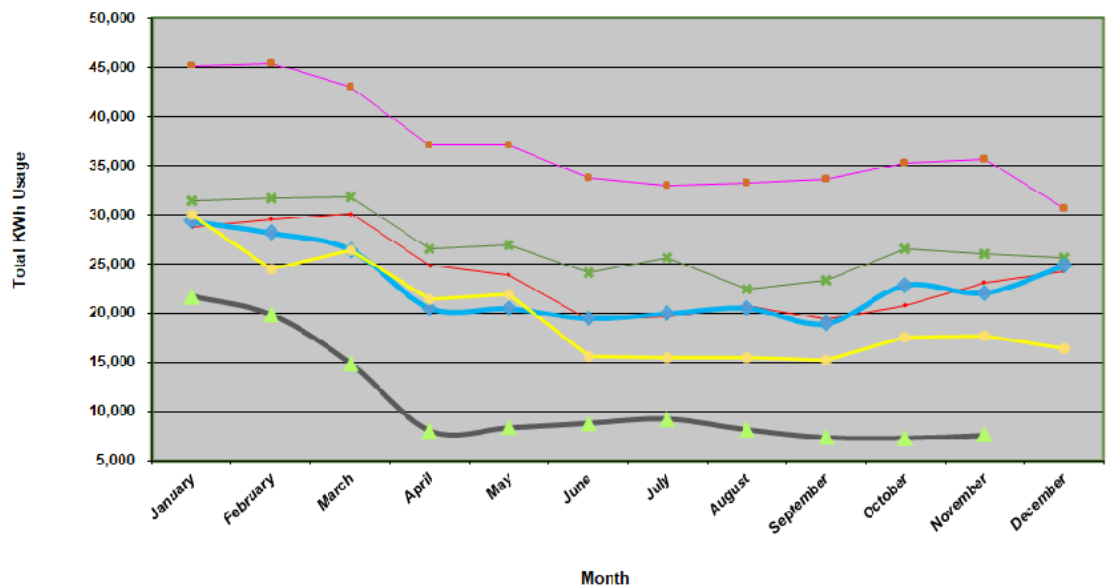


Register your contact details once to check in at any Wavin™ location without entering them again! Can't wavin? Scan the QR code or visit wa.vin/qxlm on your phone



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



Reflections by the RHA Chairperson

- Christine McAuslan

Thank you to all of the Ross House community who attended our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the 18th November. It was so great to see many familiar faces meeting online. Overall the AGM went well as we were able to also utilise a Zoom option for voting. This made the voting process so much simpler than it may have been. A special thanks to Michael Griffiths, our General Manager, along with the staff team, for pulling the AGM together in very different circumstances. We will have to wait and see what 2021 brings. Hopefully we will be able to once again have those gatherings for Ross House events, as we have been able to do in the past.



For those who could not attend, there were two additional nominated representatives who were voted onto the Committee. Alba Chliakhtine from ABRISA Brazilian Association (Alba has had prior experience on the committee) and new member, Ntannis Davi from Deafblind Victoria. We thank them both for putting their hands up to join the committee team. All Office Bearer positions were filled with no changes.

This year is now drawing to a close. 2020 has been both remarkable and memorable for the need to adapt due to the pandemic and the way it has impacted on all aspects of life. Many new buzzwords have entered our discussions as the year progressed, resilience, unprecedented, corona brain, in fact enough for an author to publish a book of them!

As we enter 2021, hopefully many of us will be able to transition back to working in our offices. Our big old heritage building has stood through many eras of change. It has witnessed changes to its name, changes to its usage, even divided into two from the original building that stretched from Flinders Lane through to Flinders Street. Its life span of 120 years thus far has encompassed two world wars, the Great Depression and flu, Polio and HIV/AIDS epidemics and now the global coronavirus pandemic we are experiencing.

I hope that as we begin the New Year we will be back to the hustle and bustle of normal Ross House activities and seeing familiar faces in person rather than on Zoom linkups.

Staff have been preparing to make the building as safe as possible. As members and supporters of Ross House we will all need to do our bit in following the restrictions placed on us to keep Ross House a welcoming and safe place.

Adaption has been a key aspect of this year. I would like to thank committee members for their consistent input and respectful approach to meetings. To the staff team, thank you all for adapting with innovation to all the changes over 2020 and extending yourselves to meet the many challenges, while still maintaining your individual roles. This year, RHA General Manager, Michael Griffiths, completed 10-years at Ross House Association. This is a remarkable milestone and on behalf of the committee, I would like to thank Michael for his many years of service and dedication.

On behalf of the Ross House Committee I wish all of the community a happy, healthy, safe and peaceful holiday during the season's break.

RHA Chairperson
Christine McAuslan



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.

This year, they have been running their sessions online and will continue to do so until further notice. However, if you missed their training, fear not, they have already published their upcoming sessions for 2021 online.

Ross House members will be able to access a 10% discount using the discount code "ROSS" when registering via Eventbrite.

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



VATT chat podcast

Ross House tenant, Self Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU) launched their VATT Chat Podcast on Thursday 3rd December 2020, in celebration of International Day of Disability.

It was a huge success - congratulations to the many Self Advocates who feature on the show!

You can have a listen on The VATT website here > www.voiceatthetable.com.au.



STAR Victoria survey

Can you help STAR with their survey?

Ross House tenant, STAR Victoria is trying to understand what makes it easier for people to attend online workshops.

The aim of this survey is to gain an understanding of the issues faced learning online, so they can tailor their workshops to better promote inclusive education for children with intellectual disabilities.

If you can spare ten minutes to answer five questions over the phone (or in this survey), you will be entered into a draw to win a \$50 voucher for your choice of Coles or Biome (an eco-friendly shop/website).

You can complete the survey here > <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe3mnXis4yy6Aa-sk-utN7AgAKSxfVy5K82GNKuWdtRchBS-g/viewform>.

If you have any questions, please contact Denise on eo@starvictoria.org.au or (03) 9650 2730.

Thanks
Denise and the team at STAR



Emerge Australia announces Ambassador



In October 2020, Emerge Australia announced that two-time MotoGP World Champion and motorcycle racing legend Casey Stoner had joined the team as their first ambassador.

As someone in the public eye who is living with myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome, Casey will help Emerge promote awareness for ME/CFS and is the face of our Help Cure ME campaign to raise funds to support a newly established Australian centre for ME/CFS research.

Casey publicly announced his diagnosis with ME/CFS in December 2019 and truly understands the impact of this condition. It has affected his ability to enjoy his passions and makes life incredibly challenging for him and his young family.

"It's extremely difficult for people on the outside that haven't had it to understand how debilitating it is," Casey said. "You feel like you've got brick shoes that you're dragging around – your legs, your muscles, nothing works."

We all want to find a better diagnosis, treatment regime, and eventually a cure. Seeing world-class research being conducted here in Australia as part of a global research effort is very encouraging for the whole ME/CFS community."

Casey appeared on the Today Show on 21st October to announce the fundraising initiative and has been working hard (with Emerge) behind the scenes to amplify the campaign far and wide.

For more information please visit www.emerge.org.au.



Photo caption: Casey and Adriana Stoner

Housing for the Aged Action Group's Worker Advice Line

Ross House tenant, Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG)'s Worker Advice Line aims to support community sector workers to advocate for their clients living in retirement housing.



Do you have concerns about COVID-19 safety, rent arrears, evictions, conflict with managers or neighbours?

If you have older clients with issues in retirement villages, caravan parks, Independent Living Units, or other kinds of retirement housing, please call HAAG on (03) 9654 7389 for information and advice about options for you and your clients.

www.olderrentants.org.au

Rainbow Rights ABC interview

A huge congratulations to Cameron Bloomfield (a member of Rainbow Rights) who recently had an interview with the ABC on what Rainbow Rights is all about.

Cameron "Rainbow Rights is a unique group as it's the only self advocacy group for people with an Intellectual disability in the LGBTIQ community within Australia".



You can watch Cameron's full interview here > <https://www.facebook.com/rainbowrightsandadvocacy/videos/483539809300861>.

Rainbow Rights is a project of Ross House tenant, Self Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU).

Blind Citizens Australia (BCA) update

BCA Inform

BCA Inform (Empowering and important monthly conversations related to the blindness sector) is a monthly roundtable event that shares work that BCA or its stakeholders are involved in that relates to people who are blind or vision impaired.

Each event centres on a different topic and is held online 7:30pm – 9pm on the first Tuesday of the month (February – December).

Aboriginal Blind People's Forum

The Aboriginal Blind People's Forum is a joint project of Blind Citizens Australia and the First People's Disability Network that seeks to create a space for Indigenous people who are blind or vision impaired to get together, share their experiences and explore the issues that place unnecessary burdens on their daily lives.

The next Aboriginal Blind People's Forum will be held on Saturday 13th March 2021 (1:30pm – 2pm) with an optional pre-event cultural and artistic program for the preceding half-hour.

Anyone with an interest in the work of BCA or issues related to people who are blind or vision impaired is invited to attend BCA Inform events, while participation in the Aboriginal Blind People's Forum is prioritised for indigenous people who are blind or vision impaired.

To register your interest in attending any BCA events, please contact BCA on 1800 033 660 or events@bca.org.au. You will be able to join the online event via computer, tablet, smartphone, or landline.

www.bca.org.au.



Shakti Emergency Appeal

Shakti Emergency Appeal - The COVID-19 pandemic is presenting challenges for everyone, including Shakti Migrant and Refugee Women's Support Group. As a specialist provider of culturally competent support services for women, children and families of Asian, African and Middle Eastern origin, Shakti are seeking financial support to help with:

- Supplying emergency relief food packages
- Providing safe accommodation
- Maintaining essential services
- Providing case management and safety planning
- Making referrals for emergency support
- Delivering mental health workshops online

For more information (and to donate) please visit

[https://www.givenow.com.au/shakti-emergencyappeal?](https://www.givenow.com.au/shakti-emergencyappeal?fbclid=IwAR3RNCI4vSi5DmEGO6eBMLwU6L2mpztLshVLwk0eBSM4rVTW6ZfwUshw0o)

[fbclid=IwAR3RNCI4vSi5DmEGO6eBMLwU6L2mpztLshVLwk0eBSM4rVTW6ZfwUshw0o](https://www.givenow.com.au/shakti-emergencyappeal?fbclid=IwAR3RNCI4vSi5DmEGO6eBMLwU6L2mpztLshVLwk0eBSM4rVTW6ZfwUshw0o).



Information for members and tenants - FAQs for the upcoming weeks

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. Organisations with under 40 staff can have up to 10 staff onsite currently and 20 staff from 11th January 2021. So, Ross House tenants can return to their offices subject to requirements.

See <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covidsafe-summer>.

Please make sure you have your swipe and office key. You will not be able to access your office without these when Staff are on leave. 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. Can I have additional cleaning in my office?

A. Please let RHA know when you are planning to return to Ross House, we can then arrange suitable cleaning for your level of office usage.

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 attendance recording system under their COVIDSafe plan, as there may be barriers to accessing the digital smartphone system.

Q. Will Ross House staff be around to answer my queries over Xmas?

A. RHA staff will be taking leave from Friday 18th December and returning Monday 11th January 2021. For emergencies please contact Security on 1300 02 04 06.



FAQs continued....

Q. What happens if I forget my office key or swipe during the Xmas period?

Unfortunately, RHA will be unable to assist during the Xmas period. Please arrange to pick up swipes or keys from RHA staff before Friday 18th December 2020.

Q. What will happen to my mail over the Xmas period?

A. RHA staff will hold your mail from Saturday 18th December – Monday 11th January 2021 inclusive. If there is anything important you are waiting on, please inform Katie on rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au / (03) 9650 1599 before 18th December 2020. We also encourage you to go paperless with bills and other correspondence.

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.

Q. Can I book a car space?

A. Yes, excluding Saturday 18th December – Monday 11th January 2021 inclusive.

Q. Our organisation has grown during the year 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.



Grants and other support during the COVID-19 crisis

Please find below some of the grants that look interesting at the moment.

Community Legal Grants

Community Legal Grants provide up to \$20,000 to support projects that improve community understanding of civil legal issues where there is a demonstrated community need.

These grants will fund one-off projects that address a legal issue for a specific community, such as development of a resource, series of workshops, pilot projects that offer new approaches to delivering legal information or to trial a strategy. For example, the delivery of legal information in a new way that could be replicated in other services.

Applications close Monday 15th March 2021.

For more information please visit: <https://victorialawfoundation.org.au/grants/community-legal-grants/>.

Women's Economic Security Project Grant Round

The Women's Economic Security Project Grant Round supports charities and social enterprises building financial wellbeing through innovative employment opportunities and tailored financial capability support for women across Australia.

Applications are now open for a grant round totalling \$2,000,000 closing 12th February 2021

As a guide, funding proposals should be between \$50,000 - \$300,000 depending on the scale of the initiative and the relative size of the applicant.

For more information please visit: <https://www.ecstra.org.au/womens-economic-security-project-grant>.

AGM video of the Ross House membership

The RHA team made a little video (which was shared at the RHA AGM) of all of the great work that the RHA membership has done this year.

Below is a link if you happened to miss it. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wq4uUuXIHJ8>.

DBV event 2021

You are invited to a DBV event - *To new beginnings 2021* on Wednesday 17th February 2021 (12pm – 4pm) in the Hayden Raysmith room, Level 4.



It will be a chance to get together, have a drink and some snacks (which will be provided by DBV). Volunteers are welcome to assist on the day.

Please bring your own comm-guides/support workers.

For further information and to RSVP, please email deafblindadvocacy@gmail.com.

Thanks
DeafBlind Victoria Team





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.

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