



**ROSS HOUSE**  
ASSOCIATION

**2021 RHA  
COMMITTEE**

**CHAIRPERSON**

Christine McAuslan  
(COSHG)

**DEPUTY  
CHAIRPERSON**

Ntannis Davi  
(DBV)

**SECRETARY**

Scot Muirden  
(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)

Maggie Maguire  
(Appointed Member)

Richard Caven  
(Appointed Member)

Nazzareno Marchionda  
(Appointed Member RHA  
staff)

Michael Griffiths  
(Ex-officio, RHA General  
Manager)

# IN THE HOUSE

AUGUST 2021

## 2020 - 2021 Ross House Association Annual Report

We are starting production of the 2020-2021 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 some of you have some terrific stories and photos to share!

### What do we need?

- ⚙ Focus stories – did you run a particular event or project in the 2020-2021 year that you could write approximately 250-400 words about?
- ⚙ Beneficiary stories – do you have a member who has shone brightly during the 2020-2021 year, and you'd love to tell their story in approximately 250-400 words?
- ⚙ High resolution photos - ideally photos should be a minimum of 1MB but it is better if they are between 2-3MB. Please ensure you have permission from the people in the photo and if you could advise who to credit the photo to, whether that be your organisation or an individual. Please note, photo submissions do not necessarily need to accompany a story. If a photo is all you wish to contribute, that is wonderful!

Please remember, to be eligible to submit a story:

- ⚙ You must have been a member or tenant between July 2020 and June 2021.
- ⚙ The activities you are writing about need to have taken place between July 2020 and June 2021.

### All submissions are due Wednesday 15th September 2021.

Take a look at the 2020 Annual Report and reacquaint yourself with the type of stories and photos we used last year. You can view this on our website under the publications section > [www.rosshouse.org.au](http://www.rosshouse.org.au)

We look forward to receiving your stories and photos in the coming weeks!

With thanks,

Michael Griffiths (RHA General Manager)

[Michael.griffiths@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:Michael.griffiths@rosshouse.org.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 replaced the guttering on the roof - this will avoid any future water leaks into the building.
- ⚙ RHA has upgraded the photocopier in the resource area. The system is very similar to the old one where a code is required for access. Your current code will remain the same. If you would like access or have any questions, please get in touch with Katie. Training can be provided when we are back in Ross House.



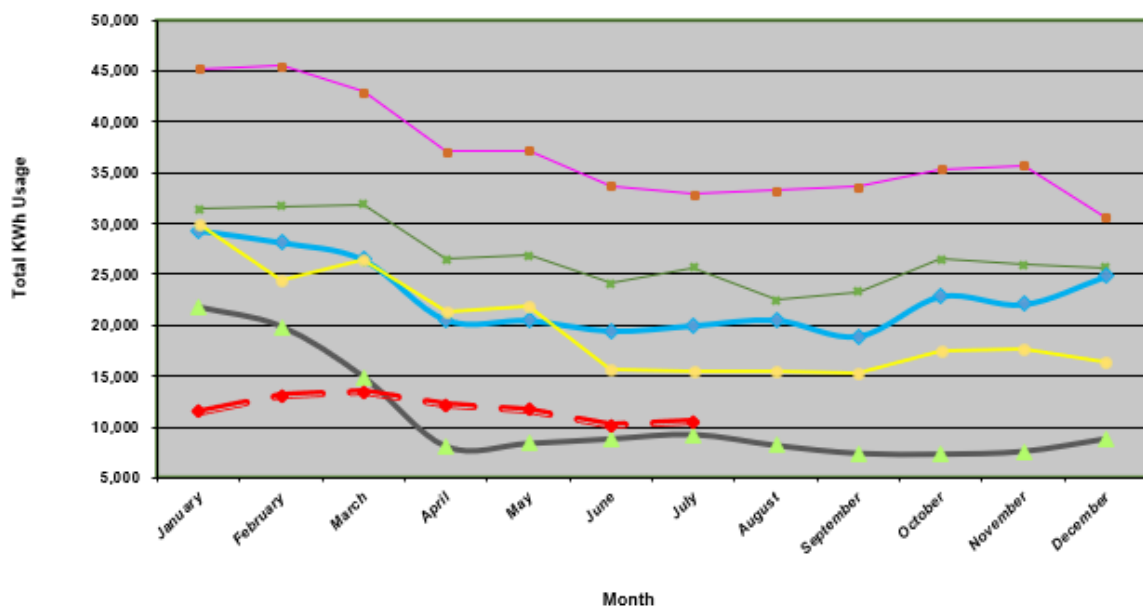
## Upcoming works / happenings

- ⚙ We will reschedule the First Aid course in the upcoming months - thank you to those groups that have signed up to participate. We will be in touch shortly with a new proposed date.
- ⚙ Nazz will organise a fire drill as soon as we can - we are still in need of fire wardens! If you are interested in becoming a fire warden, please contact Nazz on [n.marchionda@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:n.marchionda@rosshouse.org.au).
- ⚙ RHA is upgrading the security system across the building. Electrical works are currently underway.



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

It's such a pleasure to be able to report some good news in these challenging times. One of our community, Ria Strong, (who has had a long history of involvement in Ross House) is representing Australia at the Tokyo Paralympics in the seated shotput. Some of you may know Ria through her time as a disability self-advocacy worker with Brain Injury Matters and other groups in the House. We wish Ria all the best and congratulate her on the hard work and effort that has led her to this opportunity.

<https://olympics.com/tokyo-2020/paralympic-games/en/results/athletics/athlete-profile-n1415986-strong-maria.htm>.

Annual Staff appraisals have taken place over August. It is fair to say that all the staff have done an exceptional job over the last year, meeting the challenge to adapt and change many aspects of their work. Our General Manager provided a very comprehensive overview of all those changes he and the rest of the team have made in fulfilling their roles. They are to be congratulated on the adept manner in which they have done so.



Like any organisation, we need to recognise that working from home is not the best scenario for all workers. Juggling home schooling, child care, no dedicated office space etc, means that there can be personal impacts and consequences. Despite all of this, our staff has produced a very positive result for the Association during difficult circumstances in a year that has brought challenges to all of us.

Many of us will be missing the greetings and chats in the lift and corridors of Ross House that gives us the opportunity to catch up. Ross House as we know is a unique place, not just here in Victoria but on a global scale. It is far more than a 9 – 5pm office building.

At our August RHA Committee meeting, as we investigated the issues on the agenda and listening to the various opinions, I was reminded again of that uniqueness and just how much more Ross House is than office space. It is about people and purposes, shared values and ethics. It takes dedication and commitment from staff, committee and all of us to maintain this special place, particularly through these tough times, when so much of what we know and experience has been turned upside down and many struggle with the changes to our personal and work based norms.

I know, like many of you, I am so looking forward to a time when the Ross House community can get together and gather in the Hayden Raysmith room for one of the events we were so used to experiencing. Meanwhile please take care of yourselves, be well and safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Christine McAuslan'.

RHA Chairperson  
Christine McAuslan



## Good luck Maria (Ria) Strong in the Paralympics!

Best golden wishes in Tokyo to Maria (Ria) Strong!

Many Ross House tenants and participants will know Ria. For many years disability self-advocate Maria (Ria) Strong participated in various Ross House groups including coordinating and co-coordinating Brain Injury Matters.

Maria also linked with (and has supported) many Ross House groups over the years and participated in many of their events.

She is currently representing Australia in Tokyo at the Paralympics and Lotus Group wishes her well, aiming for gold in the seated shot put. Go Ria!

Lyn Macdonald



## Support Rainbow Rights

From 1st September 2021, the Grill'd store in South Yarra will have a token jar for Rainbow Rights!

If you are passing the store, why not stop and buy a burger and help Rainbow Rights by popping a token in their jar. If Rainbow Rights get the most tokens they will win \$300!

The Grill'd South Yarra Address is 670 Chapel St, South Yarra.

Please help support Rainbow Rights!



## Donate now! Help Rise raise vital funds for their 'door-to-door' Emergency Relief Drive Program



Ross House tenant, RISE Refugees and Ex-detainees need your help.

As you may know, COVID-19 is having a huge impact on our refugee community. As the Founder of RISE pointed out, ex-detainees are struggling due to a lack of support in all areas. With over 3000 registered members relying on the essential services we provide, we would like to ask for your financial support during these times.

RISE would like to increase casework support and emergency aid support for refugees particularly for ex-detainee communities who have nowhere to go. Your donation will help them to:

- ⚙ Provide emergency aid
- ⚙ Provide material support
- ⚙ Increase staffing
- ⚙ Make referrals and advocate for medical help
- ⚙ Stock our foodbank

Please make a recurring donation now to RISE Emergency Appeal! Your money will be used to provide direct emergency relief of essential supplies to ex-detainees, asylum seekers and refugees in crisis.

For more information, and to donate, please see below.  
<https://www.givenow.com.au/rise-emergency-appeal>.





## Community Music Victoria (CMVic) singing camp

The wonderful volunteers that make up the Community Music Victoria (CMVic) VicSings Committee, have been beaver away at developing a nurturing, replenishing and inspiring singing camp - an opportunity to relax, reset and enjoy the wonder of singing together in harmony.

### What will happen at the camp?

The plan is for a face-to-face event held on 16th October 2021, rather than a residential weekend camp.

As you can imagine, contingency planning for COVID-19 has been a key consideration, as well as the impacts of lockdowns on singing leaders' budgets. More details will follow!

To find out further information, please visit

<https://cmvic.org.au/whats-on/events/2021-amberley-singing-camp-16-october>

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



## Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) is recruiting!

Ross House tenant, Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) is seeking a full-time CEO! Reporting to an active and committed Board, the CEO will be an empathetic and strategic leader, a highly effective communicator and persuasive fundraiser, with the networks and capacity to deliver on CAHA's ambitious goals.

This is an amazing opportunity for a dynamic and strategic leader in the climate / health movement.

To find out more information, please visit <https://www.ethicaljobs.com.au/members/caha/chief-executive-officer?keywords=climate%20and%20health%20>

Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) is the national peak body on climate change and health in Australia. A coalition of more than 60 health groups, representing more than 500,000 health and medical professionals, CAHA's mission is to build a powerful health sector movement for climate action and sustainable healthcare.



CLIMATE AND  
HEALTH  
ALLIANCE



## Grants and other support during the COVID-19 crisis

These are some of the grants and COVID assistance programs currently available:

### Mary MacKillop Today

#### *Community Grants*

The Community Grants Program supports small but life-changing initiatives that provide opportunities for life-long learning in Australian communities. Mary MacKillop Today partner with organisations who support Australia's most vulnerable and marginalised people, improving their lives through education in all its forms. Priority is given to small or emerging organisations.

Eligible organisations may apply for grants of up to \$10,000.

The 2022 round of the Community Grants Program will support two streams of funding:

- ⚙ Stream 1: Open ONLY to Sisters of Saint Joseph (SOSJ) and associated entities.
- ⚙ Stream 2: Open to ALL applicants who meet the eligibility criteria (SOSJ and associated entities not eligible to apply under this Stream).

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

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.
- ⚙ Given the size and nature of funding, preference will be given to 'small' and 'medium' charities as defined by the ACNC. For example, with an 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.

The round opened on 16th August 2021 and closes on 17th September 2021 at 5pm.

For further information please visit <https://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/what-we-do/our-projects/grants/>.



## Grants continued...

### Besen Family Foundation

#### *Besen Family Foundation Grants*

The Besen Family Foundation awards grants (in Victoria and Israel) and support projects that address disadvantage and inequity, encourage social inclusion and community connection which are innovative and transformative. The Besen Family Foundation has three priority areas for grant making: Health & Welfare, Jewish Interests and Arts & Culture. Grants are made to support the immediate and long-term needs of the wider community in Victoria and Israel. The Foundation aims to assist these communities to build capacity, community connection and to achieve long-term change towards a better quality of life.

- ⚙ These grants are available to not-for-profits (DGR Status is required). The funding available is \$10,000.
- ⚙ The round opened on 23rd August 2021 and closes on 8th October 2021.

For further information please see: <https://www.besenfoundation.org.au/>.

### Department of Premier and Cabinet (VIC)

#### *Small Business COVID Hardship Fund*

The Small Business COVID Hardship Fund provides \$10,000 grants for eligible small and medium businesses that have experienced a reduction in turnover of at least 70%. The Victorian Government's Small Business COVID Hardship Fund assists small to medium sized businesses whose operations have been severely impacted by COVID restrictions that have been in place between 27th May 2021 and August 2021 and;

- ⚙ have experienced at least a 70 per cent reduction in turnover as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions, and
- ⚙ are ineligible for other key COVID-19 Victorian Government business grant programs that have been announced since 27 May 2021.
- ⚙ This fund is available to businesses, not-for-Profits and individuals
- ⚙ The funding available is \$10,000 (total pool is \$180,000,000)
- ⚙ The round opened on 12th August 2021 and closes on 10th September 2021, 11:59pm.

For further information please see: <https://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/small-business-covid-hardship-fund>.

## Melbourne Metro Rail Update

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

These are the planned and current works for the Melbourne Metro Rail Project:

- ⚙ Construction works within the Town Hall Station precinct during include:
  - ⚙ Road header tunnelling & underground platform construction
  - ⚙ Shaft construction works within the Flinders Quarter site
  - ⚙ Oversized deliveries from the Flinders Quarter site
  - ⚙ Service investigations on Swanston Street
- ⚙ Necessary permits and exemptions to undertake works within Campbell Arcade have been received, enabling works to connect the Flinders Street site to the existing Campbell Arcade to take place.
- ⚙ 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](http://www.metrotunnel.vic.gov.au).



# CMVic's Bundoora Ukulele Festival

Ukulele enthusiasts rejoice, for the Bundoora Ukulele Festival (BUF) is coming! And don't panic, if you're not ready to venture out into the world just yet, there is a Zoom option for Saturday!

## Who is this festival for?

For beginners, experienced strummers, learners and leaders.

## Where will it take place?

The Boroondara Ukulele Festival will take place at the Ashburton Community Centre (and online)!

## What will happen during the festival?

On Friday 24th September, Community Music Victoria (CMVic) start with a professional development day for leaders and teachers run by Australian Ukulele Teachers and Leaders Association (AUTLA). Teachers can pick up tips from presenters including Sally Carter and The Grubby Urchins.

On Saturday 25th September, festival participants can learn clawhammer, rhythm tips and tricks and plenty of bass ukulele with workshops catering to absolute beginners as well as more experienced players from leaders including Bruce Watson, Dan McEoin and Oli Hinton.

Pat's Music will also be onsite on Saturday to cater for all your ukulele needs, and perhaps tempt you with a new four stringed friend to add to your collection.

And, to top it off, there will be a raffle (with an amazing first prize from Kala ukuleles) plus other fabulous prizes!

To find out more information, please visit the CMVic website here > <https://cmvic.org.au/whats-on/events/boroondara-ukulele-fest-buf-24-25-september>.



## Non Profit Training

Ross House member, Non Profit Training provides training for organisations all around Australia. Below is their upcoming schedule.

### September 2021

- ⚙ **Online Governance Training Melbourne**  
7th September 2021 (10am – 3.30pm) \$280 per person.
- ⚙ **Online Planning and Project Management Training Melbourne**  
14th September 2021 (10am – 3.30pm) \$280 per person.
- ⚙ **Develop a sustainable funding plan training Melbourne**  
23rd September 2021 (10am – 2pm) \$280 per person.

To find out more information, please visit <https://nonprofittraining.com.au/non-profit-training-melbourne/>.



**Non Profit Training**





# Reinforce Skills Workshop

## SELF-ADVOCACY SKILLS WORKSHOPS

FREE

*For people with intellectual disability by people with intellectual disability!*

### Teamwork Skills



- Learning Skills
- Working Together
- Supporting Each Other

**Date:** Wednesday 22nd September

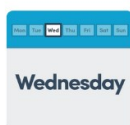
**Time:** 10.30 to 12.00 pm

**Where:** Ross House, 247-251 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000

Please contact Reinforce to let us know you are coming:

Call **039650 7855**

Or email [info@reinforce.org.au](mailto:info@reinforce.org.au)



**reinforce**  
**SATU**  
SELF ADVOCACY TRAINING UNIT



## Part-time Administration Support Officer vacancy (Post Polio Victoria)

Ross House member, Post Polio Victoria Inc. (PPV) is seeking a part-time (5 hours per week) Administration Support Officer to provide business and administrative support.

The role works closely with the President and Board to provide support for PPV's advocacy work. The position is responsible for maintaining membership, providing information to constituents, managing the website, social media platforms and preparing and coordinating articles for various communications such as the annual report and regular bulletin.

The closing date is Friday 3rd September 2021.

For more information (and a copy of the position description) please contact Shirley Glance on [shirley@postpolio victoria.org.au](mailto:shirley@postpolio victoria.org.au) / 0411 660 860.

[www.postpolio victoria.org.au](http://www.postpolio victoria.org.au)



## Regional Community Engagement worker (HAAG)

Ross House tenant, Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG) is seeking a Regional Community Engagement worker (HAAG).

The aim of this role is effective delivery of HAAG's community engagement work in Shepparton/Hume and the Goulburn Valley Regions.

Key areas of focus include empowering older people to make informed choices about their housing future by connecting with older people in their community, facilitating conversations about their housing circumstances and options and supporting sector capacity through professional education and network development.

This role involves considerable time on the road. It sits within the HAAG Community Engagement team working closely with other team members (and the wider organisation) but will largely operate independently building relationships and connecting with people in the Shepparton/Goulburn region.

The closing date is Friday 10th September 2021.

To find out more information, please visit <https://www.seek.com.au/job/53574211>.



## ABRISA in partnership with VIRWC are seeking women to participate in a video project

Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Women's Coalition (VIRWC), in partnership with Ross House tenant ABRISA, have been creating videos in different languages in support the Victorian Government initiative of promoting vaccination.

So far, the organisations have created videos with women from Eritrea, Lebanon, Mauritius and Brazil.

If you work with women from different cultures who you think would like to be involved in this project, please get in touch with Alba Chliakhtine on 0433 931 722.

Below is an example of their amazing work!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdaDJ2Mxsm4EBgP7X7P8a4w>.



## 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](mailto: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](http://www.rosshouse.org.au) or contact Katie on [rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au).

## RHA invoices

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

## Tenants moving out of their office

- ⚙ Federation of Spanish Speaking Senior Citizens (FSSSC) have been tenants of Ross House for over 20 years. They will continue to be members and use the meeting rooms for their weekly events.
- ⚙ Shakti have been members and tenants for the last 8 years. They will continue as members but will vacate their office. They plan to be back in February 2022.

If your organisation needs have changed and you would like a different space in Ross House, please contact Rebecca to have a chat > [rebecca.may@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:rebecca.may@rosshouse.org.au).

## Farewell to tenant Emerge Australia

Emerge Australia have been members of Ross House since 2015 and tenants since 2018.

They were great contributors to the RHA community and we wish them continued success in the future.



## Welcome new members of Ross House!

- ⚙ **ANTaR** work together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and leaders on rights and reconciliation issues. ANTaR is an independent, national network of organisations and individuals working in support of justice, rights and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia.
- ⚙ **IndianCare** is a not-for-profit organisation set up in 2014 dedicated solely to address the welfare needs of Indian origin people in Victoria.
- ⚙ **Humanists Australia** envisage a future where every Australian knows what Humanism is and can join a supportive, inclusive Humanist community. Humanists Australia are an influential voice effecting positive social change in keeping with Humanist values.
- ⚙ **Permanent Care and Adoptive Families (PCA Families)** is a not-for-profit member-based organisation representing families formed by permanent care, kinship care and adoption in Victoria. PCA Families take a child-centred and family-focused approach to supporting strong and stable families.
- ⚙ **Schizy Inc** makes space in the arts for people with schizophrenia and diverse experience of mental health.





247-251 Flinders Lane  
Melbourne VIC 3000

Phone: 03 9650 1599

Email: [rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au)

Website: [www.rosshouse.org.au](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au) with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

## Ross House Association Staff



### General Manager

Michael Griffiths

[michael.griffiths@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:michael.griffiths@rosshouse.org.au)



### Facility Manager

Nazzareno Marchionda

[n.marchionda@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:n.marchionda@rosshouse.org.au)



### Membership & Tenancy Officer

Rebecca May

[rebecca.may@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:rebecca.may@rosshouse.org.au)



### Finance Officer

Junxia xu

[junxia.xu@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:junxia.xu@rosshouse.org.au)



### Information & Administration Officer

Katie Stadtfeld Cunnane

[rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au)

### Casual staff

Ella Marchionda

Nina Marchionda

Patti Gerkens

