



ROSS HOUSE
ASSOCIATION

2021 RHA COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Christine McAuslan
(COSHG)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

Ntennis Davi
(DBV)

SECRETARY

Scot Muirden
(CBSF)

TREASURER

Keith Bettles
(U3A City of Melbourne)

De Grebner
(Ex TreeProject, 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 2021

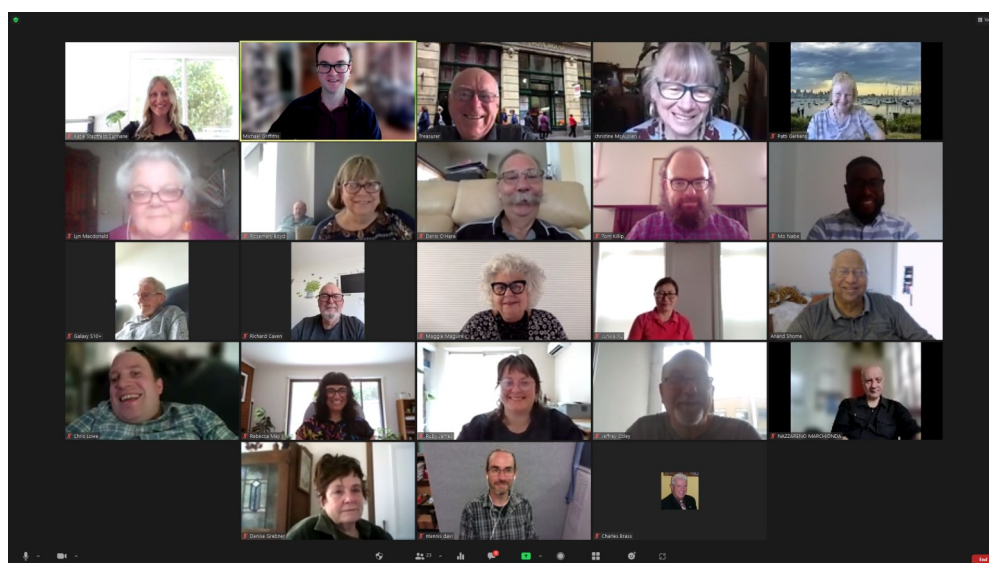
Ross House Association 2021 AGM

The Ross House Association 2021 AGM was held via Zoom on the 24th November 2021. The 25 attendees heard the annual Chairpersons and Treasurers reports and special thanks was given to Valerie Elliot for her years of service to the Ross House Association Committee of Management. The new 2021-2022 Committee comprises of the following members;

- ⚙ Chairperson: Christine McAuslan
- ⚙ Deputy Chairperson: Ntennis Davi
- ⚙ Treasurer: Keith Bettles
- ⚙ Secretary: Scot Muirden
- ⚙ Appointed Member: Maggie Maguire
- ⚙ Appointed Member: De Grebner
- ⚙ Appointed Member: Richard Caven
- ⚙ Staff Representative: Nazzareno Marchionda
- ⚙ Ex-officio: Michael Griffiths

Following the meeting attendees watched a delightful short recorded musical performance by Pirritu, a Ngaympaa man and First Nations singer-songwriter.

We thank everyone who attended on the day and the Committee looks forward to addressing the challenges of 2022 for all the members and tenants of Ross House.



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

- ⚙ The Jenny Florence Room has a new interactive AV system allowing Zoom meetings to be more inclusive for both internal and external meeting attendees. To operate, please contact Nazzareno (Facilities Manager) for a demo prior to use.

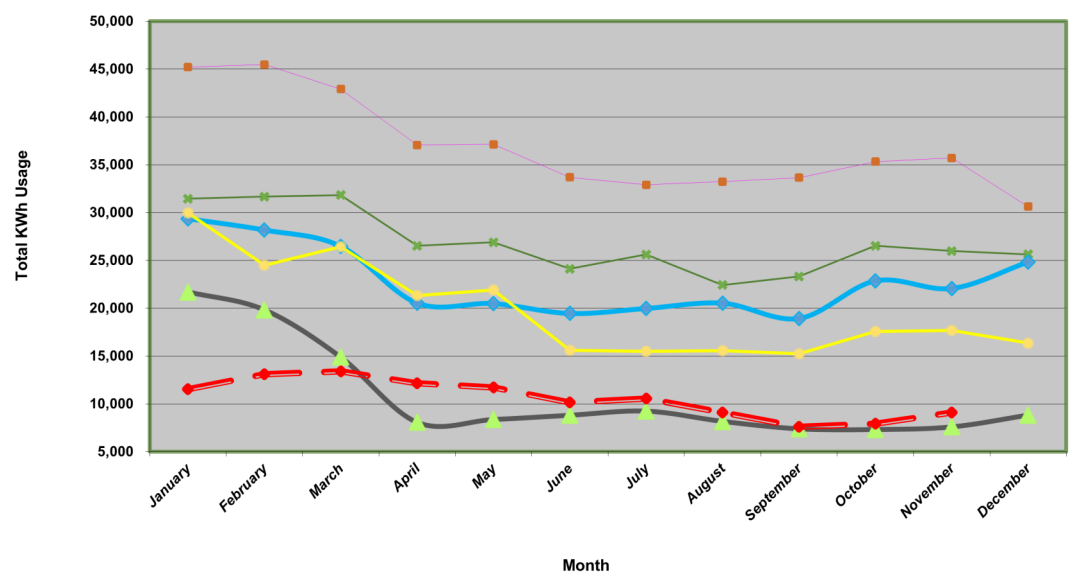
Upcoming works / happenings

- ⚙ RHA will be installing InovaAir DV20 air purifier units on each level and in every meeting room. This product is currently being used in many hospitals and hotel quarantine to reduce the exposure of Covid 19 aerosols. Units are expected to arrive in February 2022.
- ⚙ We have received a grant to replace all of the level one fluorescent lights with LEDs.



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 big thanks goes to all those who attended the Ross House Annual General Meeting held on 24th November 2021. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces, even if it was via zoom rather than the preferred gatherings in the Hayden Raysmith room. All in all approximately 25 people participated.

Although not entirely unanticipated due to COVID impacts on us all, there were no new candidates for any positions on the committee. Since the last AGM held in 2020, we have had five people who have needed to depart from the committee. This has been due to no longer working in Ross House, work and family commitments and the recognition of work life balances during a challenging time. We thank each and every one of those committee members for their time given, their input in all discussions and for contributing to the wellbeing of Ross House.

In particular, we thank Valerie Elliott who has stepped down from the committee after well over a decade of participating. Val has contributed in the roles of tenant representative ordinary member, several terms as Chairperson and at least one term as Deputy Chair. Her knowledge and skills have contributed in benefiting Ross House. Val's quiet generosity to those of us who know her is such a strong component of who she is, along with her quick sense of humour and her quite notable skill in being the first to put her hand up when a motion needs a mover or seconder. We will miss you Val at our meetings.

Fortunately, Val will continue on the Membership and Tenancy sub-committee and we will not entirely lose her long-term experience and knowledge as to what is required in decision-making.

As we all know Ross House is member run organisation. At the moment we have some very experienced appointed members who give their valuable time to the committee's work in sustaining the 'House'. However, I cannot emphasise enough how important it is for tenant representatives to be involved in this level of decision-making. I ask all member representatives to consider over the next year the possibility of joining the committee. This is an opportunity to be part of the commitment to ensuring Ross House is a home for community organisations who share Ross House's aims and purposes. And to share your knowledge and experience as we explore the possibilities for the future.

Please feel free to contact our General Manager Michael Griffiths, or myself for any queries as to what being a member of the committee involves.

Once again our thanks goes to the Ross House staff for the way they have continued their work over a second year of challenges. We welcome Ruby James-Strawhan to her new role at Ross House, (many of you will remember Ruby as a casual on the front desk from time to time). Meanwhile we say love and best wishes to Katie Stadtfeld Cunnane for the impending arrival of the new member of her and James's family as Katie takes a year's maternity leave.

As we head into summer and the holiday season, I hope everyone gets time to recover and recuperate from the experiences of the last 2 years. Stay safe and stay well.



RHA Chairperson
Christine McAuslan



Welcome Ruby!

Ross House Association would like to welcome Ruby James-Strawhan to the Ross House team! Ruby will be covering Katie (whilst on maternity leave) and will be working alongside Katie (for the next few weeks) to ensure a smooth handover.

Ruby has been a casual at Ross House for over two years now and will be a great asset to the team! If you see her in Ross House at any time, feel free to say g'day!



Friendly Reminders From the Ross House Team

- ⚙ Please remember to share your online booking account username and password (within your team) if you are heading on leave
- ⚙ Please cancel any bookings that you are not using to avoid any confusion on invoices
- ⚙ Please provide us with updated staff information if people leave (or join) your organisation so we can update our records

Many Thanks!



Invitation to Join a New Peer Support Program: The Buddy Network

Would you like to do more to help other people? Are you a good listener? Do you want to make new connections in your community?

Disability Resources Centre (DRC) is launching a new peer support project, The Buddy Network, in response to the really tough couple of years so many of us have experienced. Loneliness and social isolation are rife, but it's time to reach out. Because no one in our community should feel alone.

Buddies are volunteers with disabilities living anywhere in Victoria. They give one to one support to others who are going through difficult times by allowing them to feel heard with kindness and solidarity. These support sessions can be held online or in person.

If you sign up to become a Buddy DRC will be with you every step of the way. You will be offered training and ongoing professional development. You will also be invited to join the network's online fortnightly peer support group.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please click on the link below. Alternatively, head along to an introductory session where you can ask any questions you may have. <https://drc.org.au/disability-advocacy/the-buddy-network/> Together we can reconnect, one human being at a time.



DRC
advocacy

Travellers Aid Supporting the Bounce-Back

Travellers Aid is excited to support the bounce-back of Melbourne businesses as well as individuals as we emerge from restrictions and open up again.

We are particularly excited about the launch of two new projects: the Participation Assistance Service and the Access and Inclusion Service at Queen Victoria Market. Both projects are about enabling people to explore and participate in some of our great events and activities.

Over the summer months, Travellers Aid will have a presence on peak market days (Friday to Sunday) at Queen Victoria Market to provide mobility equipment hire and volunteers to help navigate from tram stops to the market and within the market. This service is for people with mobility challenges, sensory disabilities, physical or mental health issues or people who just feel more comfortable with someone walking beside them. The service will extend to the Summer Night Market from January to April 2022.

The participation assistance service provides trained companions for people to visit and engage in attractions, venues, events and other activities across metro Melbourne and regional hubs. There is also an opportunity to utilise this service as carer respite for people who care for a family member or friend.

To find out more about our services, please visit our website www.travellersaid.org.au, email us at info@travellersaid.org.au or call us on (03) 9654 2600.

If you are interested in volunteering please visit our website for different volunteer opportunities or email us at volunteers@travellersaid.org.au.



Raising Funds for Travellers Aid

Every year, the People's Choice Community Lottery gives local sporting clubs, schools, charities, volunteer groups and other not-for-profit community groups around Australia the opportunity to raise funds and achieve fundraising goals.

This year, you can support Travellers Aid by buying tickets in the People's Choice Community Lottery. Tickets are \$2 each & there are some incredible prizes to be won!

To find out more information, please visit <https://communitylottery.peopleschoice.com.au/products/travellers-aid-australia>.

Travellers Aid is a Victorian based, not-for-profit charity established in 1916. Their core purpose is to empower older people and people living with disabilities to connect, engage and participate within their communities by providing accessible transport opportunities.

All funds raised will be used to develop new services around safe, secure, and accessible transport opportunities in a COVID normal world. Visit www.travellersaid.org.au for more information about this great organisation.



Ross House Building Closure and Holiday Period

Ross House Association (the office) is closed from **12pm, Friday 17th December 2021 to Friday 28th January 2022 (inclusive)**.

For emergencies, please contact security (1300 02 04 06) from Friday 17th December 2021 to Monday 3rd January 2022 (inclusive). From Tuesday 4th January 2022, please contact the RHA staff office on (03) 9650 1599 / rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au.

For people who have booked a room at Ross House during this period:

- ⚙ Please make sure you have your four-digit access code to get in to the building
- ⚙ Please follow all COVIDSafe practices – see our website for more information @ www.rosshouse.org.au
- ⚙ For emergencies please contact Security on 1300 02 04 06

If you need help, contact the Front Desk on (03) 9650 1599 / rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au before 12pm on Friday 17th December 2021.

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
- ⚙ If you do not have a swipe key, please contact Ross House before 4pm on Tuesday 14th December 2021 so we can organise this for you

Please be reminded that your swipe only gets you onto Ground Level and the Level of your office.



Mail holding

All mail delivered to Ross House (247-251 Flinders Lane) will be **ON HOLD** between Saturday 18th December 2021 and Monday 10th January 2022 (inclusive).

If you have any questions, please contact the Ross House Front Desk on (03) 9650 1599 / rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au.

We hope you have a lovely break!

Blind Citizens Australia Keeping Members Connected

Throughout the year and continuing, Blind Citizens Australia (BCA) has hosted a number of online events and activities to keep members connected to each other and the organisation. These include casual weekly “happy hour” chats and trivia nights, monthly information forums, quarterly new member forums etc.

If you or someone you know could benefit from being a member of BCA please contact them on 1800 033 660 or email bca@bca.org.au.



Blind Citizens Australia

WE WANT TO FIND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY FROM A NON ENGLISH SPEAKING BACKGROUND

WHO DO YOU KNOW?

Friends

Family

Neighbours

Disability organisations

Cultural groups

colleagues

HELP US GET MEMBERS FOR

PCE
Power in Culture and Ethnicity AUSTRALIA

Non Profit Training

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

Below is their upcoming schedule:

⚙️ Online Grant Writing Training

Tuesday 22nd February 2022 (11am- 4:30pm) \$300 per person

Ross House members are still able to receive a discount of 10% on all sessions by using the discount code "ROSS".

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



Giveaway computer monitors

Ross House tenant, Woor-Dungin has seven surplus computer monitors (with VGA connector cables) available free of charge.

Please contact Denis O'Hara on 0419 583 244, or come to the Woor-Dungin office (Level 2) on a Thursday between 09:30am and 3:00pm.

National Sustainable Living Festival: Bounce Back Melbourne

We know Melbourne has been hit hard by the pandemic, and now it's time to pull together and rebuild, with a focus on sustainability. That's why, in 2022, the National Sustainable Living Festival will run a dedicated program to help support in-need businesses get back on their feet.

The 'Bounce Back With Sustainability' program uses the power of sustainability to attract audiences to struggling Melbourne cafes, restaurants, retail locations and enterprises throughout the city.

Join the program and let us work with you to co-host a sustainability speaker, an eco-workshop, enviro-art display or other creative activation in your space. We're selecting 20 enterprises to be part of this feature series of free Festival events.

Submit an expression of interest via <https://www.slf2022.org/bounce-back>



Description: Sunflowers out the front of the Melbourne Town Hall.



Grants and Other Assistance Programs

These are some of the grants and assistance programs currently available that we think look good:

Bennelong Foundation

Bennelong Foundation Grants

The Bennelong Foundation aims to enhance community wellbeing and provide opportunities for positive and lasting change in their community.

Program funding areas:

1. Education Training and Employment: Programs providing access, equity and inclusion opportunities to Education and Training or that support and build Pathways to Sustainable Employment.
2. Community Health and Wellbeing: To assist organisations that conduct programs with the express purpose of improving the physical health, nutrition, and well-being of the Australian community.

Priority Target Communities:

- ⚙ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- ⚙ People with a refugee background, newly arrived migrants and culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- ⚙ Communities/groups experiencing socio-economic disadvantage

Exclusions: programs with the main focus on disability, mental health, and healthcare (i.e. programs directly addressing illness and disease) are not current priority areas for the Bennelong Foundation.

To be eligible you have to be a not-for-profit, university or an unincorporated group (DGR required). The maximum funding available is \$30,000 and expressions of interest close Friday 28th January 2022. Applications close Friday 11th March 2022.

For further information please see: <https://www.bennelongfoundation.com/fundingareas>



Uniting Vic.Tas

Escaping Violence Payment (EVP) Program

The Escaping Violence Payment Program offers financial assistance and confidential support for people who have recently left a violent intimate partner. It will help you move forward and set up a home that's free from violence. The Escaping Violence Payment (EVP) Program is available for people 18+ who have recently experienced family violence, have a changed living situation and are experiencing financial stress.

That violence can be:

- ⚙ Physically, verbally or sexually abusive
- ⚙ Emotionally, spiritually or psychologically abusive
- ⚙ Economically abusive
- ⚙ Threatening, coercive, or seeks to control or dominate the other person.

Eligible individuals may be able to access up to \$5000 financial assistance and the round is ongoing.

For further information please see: <https://www.unitingvictas.org.au/unitservices/family-services/family-violence-services/escaping-violence-payment/>

Uniting

**Uniting for
greater change**



A Letter to Ross House

Dear Ross House,

The Melbourne Esperanto Association will celebrate our oldest member on 6th December. Marcel Leereveld who attains the age of 104 on 4th December, joined the club nearly 60 years ago and has been an energetic and dedicated teacher and member since then. He is the world expert on the usage and grammar of Esperanto.

Marcel emigrated from the Netherlands in 1952 with his family and settled first in Melbourne, then soon after became a language teacher at The Friends School in Hobart, then back to Melbourne at Caulfield Grammar where he taught languages including Esperanto for 22 years. He also taught summer school at Wesley College for many years.

He is a keen Opera goer spending thousands of dollars a year for tickets for his family and friends. He puts his great age down to never competing in sports, but keeping his heart calm.

He has kept fit working in his large garden as well as having a robust social life with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

We are looking forward to many more years of his expertise and knowledge.

Heather Heldzingen for the Committee,
Melbourne Esperanto Association



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 December 2021 and January 2022 include:
 - ⚙ Structures, lining and excavation works within the central cavern and rain tunnels
 - ⚙ Shaft construction and acoustic shed and deck removal works within the Flinders Quarter site
 - ⚙ Backfill and utility relocation works within the Flinders Link site
 - ⚙ Steel bridge widening works at the Federation Square site
- ⚙ 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.



IndianCare Moves Into Ross House



New Tenants at Ross House; IndianCare, is thrilled to begin 2022 alongside the incredible occupants of Ross House.

We are a not-for-profit, established to address the welfare requirements of Indians in Victoria. In 2020, we expanded operations to include South Asians from Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

IndianCare runs an information and a referral helpline to connect community members to relevant services. We provide emergency food relief and necessary referrals to counselling services. We work in primary prevention of violence against women and harm minimisation from alcohol and other drugs. We work with diverse populations including international students, women, seniors and intergenerational families.

We engage, educate and support our community, connecting them by removing their barriers to service access across Melbourne. We look forward to continuing this work from our new home at Ross House.

Welcoming New Ross House Tenants and Members

Please welcome our new Tenants to Ross House. Give them a wave if you see them in the corridor or strike up a conversation and find out what they are all about!

PCA Families

Permanent Care and Adoptive Families (PCA) support adoptive families to help their children to thrive. They have moved into Room 4.15, Level 4

**Permanent
Care and
Adoptive
Families**



ANTaR Victoria

ANTaR Victoria is a grassroots organisation campaigning for justice in solidarity with Australia's First People. They have moved into Room 2.10, Level 2.



Schizy Inc

Schizy Inc creates space in the arts for people with schizophrenia and diverse experience of mental health. They have moved into Room 3.2, Level 3.



New Member

Victorian Forest Alliance

Victorian Forest Alliance (VFA) aims to protect and restore native forests in Victoria. They are a newly formed alliance of grassroots groups from seven regions of Victoria that actively work to stop native forest logging. Welcome VFA!



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.

E-bulletin

- ⚙ Please make use of our weekly e-bulletin, which goes out to over 600 subscribers. 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.



RHA invoices

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

Join the Ross House Buy, Sell, Give, Donate Facebook Group!

Ross House Association has launched a new Buy, Sell, Give, Donate Facebook group for members and tenants!

This exclusive group will allow you to post and manage items for sale (or to give away) within Ross House. You can also post items you are seeking too.

To join this group, please click here > <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2124908287663214/>

Follow and like us!

Did you know that Ross House Association has a Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn page?

Follow us now by clicking the links below:

- ⚙ Facebook > <https://www.facebook.com/rosshouseassociation>
- ⚙ Instagram > <https://www.instagram.com/rosshouseassociation/>
- ⚙ LinkedIn > <https://www.linkedin.com/company/4860123/admin/>

We share member and tenant happenings on a daily basis. If you would like to share anything, please contact us on rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au / (03) 9650 1599.



RHA Annual Report

A huge thank you to the members who contributed articles and images for the Annual report.

We are very grateful and proud of our community and their achievements. You can view our previous years' at <https://rosshouse.org.au/community-news-and-media/publications/>.





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)



[rosshouseassociation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/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



Facilities 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



Information & Administration Officer

Ruby James-Strawhan

rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au

Casual staff

Ella Marchionda

Patti Gerken

