



**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

OCTOBER 2021

## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE 28 – Victoria's Roadmap

The State Government has outlined the roadmap to deliver the National Plan on COVID-19. The following rules apply at 70% 16+ fully vaccinated, from 11:59pm on the 21st October 2021.

- ⚙ There are no restrictions on reasons to leave home
- ⚙ There is no curfew
- ⚙ Movement between Metro Melbourne and Regional Victoria is restricted to specified purposes
- ⚙ Private gatherings permitted for up to 10 visitors, including dependents, vaccination strongly recommended
- ⚙ Public gatherings permitted for up to 15 including dependents, vaccination strongly recommended
- ⚙ Must still work from home
- ⚙ Community Facilities: changes relate to outdoor use only and are not relevant to Ross House (meeting room use not permitted except for essential support)

Once the State reaches 80% 16+ fully vaccinated, from 6pm Friday 28th October 2021, the following changes will apply to Ross House:

- ⚙ Work from home if you can OR go to work if you are fully vaccinated with a density quotient of 1-person per 2m<sup>2</sup> for areas non-accessible to public. Masks must be worn at all times (exemptions apply).
- ⚙ Community Facilities: Fully vaccinated only with a density quotient of 1-person per 4m<sup>2</sup>. Meeting room organisers will need to ensure attendees have been fully vaccinated and are able to sign in with the Ross House QR code, with a digital COVID-19 vaccine certificate connected to the Service Victoria App.

Once the State reaches 90% 12+ fully vaccinated additional restrictions will be removed and the State will transition to the National Plan.

RHA Staff will be working from home during the 70% phase and will start to return through the 80% 16+ and 90% 12+ phases as activity increases. Staff are available via email at [rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au) or on 9650 1599 if needed.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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

- ⚙ No building works have been undertaken due to Covid restrictions.

### Upcoming works / happenings

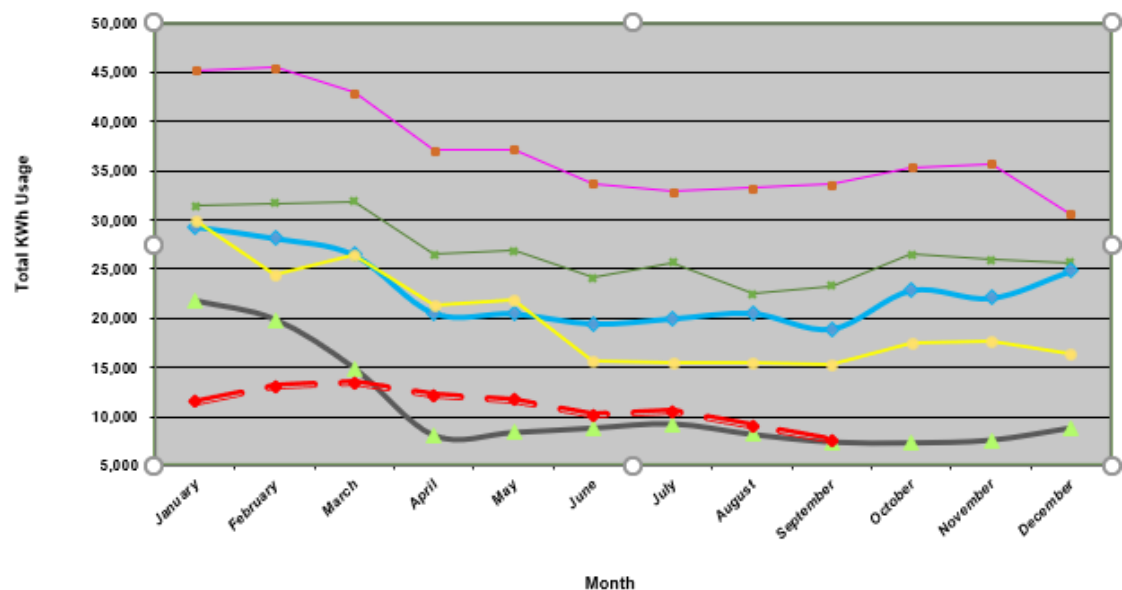
- ⚙ Now we have hit the 70% double vaccination rate, the upgrade works to the security swipe system will recommence (as well as the completion to the Amida office upgrade).
- ⚙ Please note that we are investigating several options to improve the air quality in the building via treating the air going through the duct with Ionisation and ultraviolet light. More details to follow.

Below is a picture for you of the Level 4 entrance. The date is unknown but is sometime in the early 1980s! We have come a long way since then...



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

This time last year, as we headed to the Ross House AGM, there was hope that 2020 would see the end of lockdowns and restrictions and a return to 'normal'. As we know, unfortunately 2021 turned out to be another year of confronting COVID impacts and meant Ross House has been a very empty space, apart from a handful of users at times.

We have had some new tenants in Ross House over 2021 and sadly because of the nature of this year, they have not had the full experience of Ross House without the usual events giving the tenancies opportunity to gather together. With vaccinations steadily climbing, this may allow us all to return to those special times, sooner rather than later.

On another associated topic COVID wise, both our General Manager, Michael Griffiths and I attended a very informative webinar presented by Not for Profit Law on '*National Managing Mandatory Vaccine Policy for Not-for-profit Organisations*'. This is a topic that is being discussed and investigated by the Committee. Many of you no doubt are considering the same subject for your own organisations. It is a very complex issue and one that can change quickly depending on COVID numbers, vaccine percentages and consequent government declarations. It is one that also can have legal ramifications, depending on decisions made and implemented, that are not in accordance with for instance Public Health Orders.

We are now heading into another November Annual General Meeting to be held via Zoom. As you can see from the example above, the Committee is involved in some important decision making that affects us all as members and tenants. This is probably one of the most challenging times in the history of Ross House, since its inception. With this in mind, I urge all Ross House Nominated Representatives to think about standing for the Committee or contributing on a sub-committee. I am only too happy to answer any questions you may have as will the General Manager.

Lastly on a very happy note, I want to congratulate Ross House's staff member Katie and her partner James on their news, with their baby due early next year...and a very special shout out to Katie's family in the UK who are probably itching to be able to travel to this side of the world again. Let's hope we all get to see our overseas and interstate loved ones before too long.



A handwritten signature of Christine McAuslan in black ink. The signature is stylized and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

RHA Chairperson  
Christine McAuslan



## Congratulations to Maria (Ria) Strong in the Paralympics!

You may have remembered in the last edition of *'In the House'* we wished Maria (Ria) Strong well on her venture to the Paralympics.

We would like to congratulate her on winning bronze in the shotput! Well done Ria!

(Image provided by Lyn Macdonald)



## HAAG is seeking a new Treasurer!

Ross House tenant, Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG) is seeking a new Treasurer for their Committee of Management.

The role of the Treasurer is to be responsible for the financial oversight of the organisation to allow the Committee to provide good governance. The Treasurer is also responsible to regularly report on the organisation's financial status to both the Committee and the members and will work closely with the HAAG's finance worker.

The closing date is Thursday 11th November 2021.

To find out more information, please visit <https://www.older tenants.org.au/Vacancies>.



## TreeProject's operational sites - our story

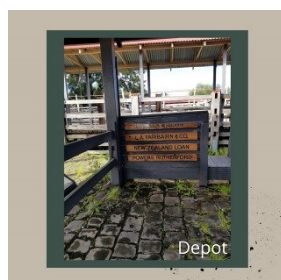
Tree Project is spread across various locations, all integral to servicing the many moving parts that make up our unique and successful revegetation program.

The office is located in Melbourne's Flinders Lane, within the beautiful heritage listed Ross House. As far as we are aware, Ross House is the only self-managed and community-owned not-for-profit building in Australia. Being built in 1899, the building is steeped in history - you may wish you read more about Ross House here: <https://rosshouse.org.au/about/heritage-building/>.

The Depot, another location deeply steeped in history, is located at Kensington Stockyards. The depot is where the many working sessions, or as you may be familiar with, our famous working bee activities take place - for example, washing tubes, preparing volunteer kits, distributing kits to volunteer growers etc. You may read more about the history of this location here: <https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/articles/4304>

Finally, the nursery is snugly situated within the Fairfield Community Garden in Fairfield, where thousands of seedlings are sown and nurtured year on year. You may wish to read more about where the nursery is located here: <https://fairfieldcommunitygarden.wordpress.com>.

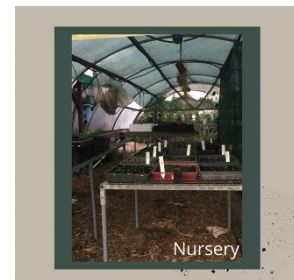
To find out more information about TreeProject, please visit [www.treeproject.org.au](http://www.treeproject.org.au).



Depot



Office



Nursery



## Travellers Aid raising vital funds via community lottery

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.

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



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

**WHO DO YOU KNOW?**

**Friends**

**Family**

**Neighbours**

**HELP US GET MEMBERS FOR**

**Disability organisations**

**Cultural groups**

**colleagues**

**PCE**  
Power in Culture and Ethnicity  
AUSTRALIA



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

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

### Department of Social Services (DSS)

#### *Inclusive Communities Grants*

The Strong and Resilient Communities (SARC) Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants aim to support vulnerable and disadvantaged people on pathways to self-reliance and empowerment through local community-driven solutions that support them to participate socially and economically. The program will run over 5 years from 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2027. This grant seeks applications for projects to be delivered from 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2024.

The grants will focus on supporting people of working age (15-64 years) in geographic areas of high socio-economic disadvantage across all states and territories. The grants support vulnerable people through participation in community activities by reducing social isolation, developing soft skills and supporting social and economic participation by funding projects that:

- ⚙ support the development of young people aged 12 to 18 years who are, or are at risk of, being disengaged, marginalised and having limited engagement with education/training
- ⚙ support people with disabilities and/or mental health issues to participate in their community, and work towards becoming and/or remaining independent and engaged
- ⚙ support vulnerable women who are, or are at risk of, isolation or discrimination to participate in their community and increase their sense of self agency and empowerment
- ⚙ support people who are unemployed to address individual barriers to employment and increase their capacity to engage with existing employment/training services and/or work towards gaining employment

Eligibility criteria: To be eligible, you must be a not-for-profit organisation and be one of the following entity types: Indigenous corporation, company, local government, cooperative, incorporated association, statutory entity or a trustee on behalf of a trust.

Applications from consortia are acceptable, as long as you have a lead applicant who is solely accountable to the Commonwealth for the delivery of grant activities and is an eligible entity as per the list above.

Funding Available: eligible organisations may apply for grants of up to \$360,000 AUD (over 2-years).

The round opened on 5th October 2021 and closes on 15th November 2021, 9pm (AEST).

For further information please see: <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants/sarc-inclusive-communities-grants>.

### Department of Home Affairs & Services Australia

#### *COVID-19 Disaster Payment*

This is a lump-sum payment for people who lost work and income due to a Victoria COVID-19 public health order. If you lost less than 20 hours work, you'll get \$375 for each recognised event. If you lost 20 hours or more of work, you'll get \$600 for each recognised event.

For further information please see: <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/covid-19-disaster-payment-victoria>.



## Grants continued...

### Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria & Domestic Violence Victoria

#### *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Small Grants*

Domestic Violence Victoria (DV Vic) and the Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria (DVRCV) are partnering with Respect Victoria (RV) for the upcoming '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence'. Following positive reception for the campaign messaging in 2020, this year's theme will be **Respect Women: Call It Out (Respect Is)**.

To support the delivery of the *16 Days of Activism* initiative, Respect Victoria has funded DV Vic and DVRCV to connect and build the capacity of community organisations (and local councils) to engage with the campaign. All three organisations are hosting a range of capacity-building activities available to everyone, including an event to support you to engage in the campaign, a helpdesk and a resource kit. In addition, there is a small support fund, with grants of \$1200 for organisations across Victoria.

Priority for funding will be given to organisations who:

- ⚙ Represent or can demonstrate work with diverse communities;
- ⚙ Are a local entity representing local communities, or based in a rural and remote location; or
- ⚙ Present an application from multiple organisations, for joint activities/projects.

Eligibility: Members of the Victorian Council of Social Services, the Municipal Association of Victoria, DV Vic/DVRCV, Women's Health Services Council and No to Violence are eligible to apply.

For further information please see: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VYDLWM8>.



## 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 October 2021 include:
  - ⚙ road header tunnelling and demobilisation
  - ⚙ underground platform construction
  - ⚙ shaft construction works within the Flinders Quarter site
  - ⚙ roof construction works within the Flinders Link site
  - ⚙ station build out works at City Square including preparation works for tower crane installation
  - ⚙ tram pole relocation and DDA pedestrian ramp construction at Federation Square.
- ⚙ Flinders Quarter basement walls have been completed.
- ⚙ Flinders Link hoarding to be removed February or March 2022.

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).



## Member and tenant 2022 room booking and window display forms

A friendly reminder to submit your forms to Katie to avoid disappointment for 2022 room and window display bookings!

### Window display 2021

To all our members and tenants that missed out on a display this year, we will endeavour to make sure you have priority in 2022 but please submit the 2022 form if you would like a slot.

Below is a couple of fantastic pictures of Ross House tenant, Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE) and one of their volunteers, Martin Powell, who designed and installed their window display this year.

The concept behind this wonderful piece of lego art is promoting BZE's Million Jobs Plan, which shows how in just five years, renewables and low emissions projects can deliver 1.8 million new jobs in the regions and communities where these are needed most.

To read more about the plan, please visit the BZE website > [www.bze.org.au](http://www.bze.org.au).



## Non Profit Training

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

Below is their upcoming schedule:

- ⚙ **Online Governance Training Melbourne**  
Thursday 18th November 2021 (11am- 4:30pm) \$280 per person
- ⚙ **Online Planning and Project Management Training Melbourne**  
Thursday 2nd December (11am - 4:30pm) \$280 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/>.





# Post Polio Victoria Inc - who are we?



Post Polio Victoria Inc. (PPV) was established in 2011 after a large group of people (with polio) gathered together in Melbourne. It was clear to us all that we needed to advocate for the services and ensure that both we and the health professionals had the necessary information to provide the best possible care.

## How are we set up?

Post Polio Victoria (Inc) is run by a volunteer management committee consisting largely of people who have had polio. Under its constitution, two-thirds of its Committee must be people who have had Polio. PPV has no ongoing funding and its work is reliant on donations and one-off grants.

## Our Vision - People and polio, Uniting and thriving

- ⚙ Our mission is through engagement and collaboration with communities and we advocate for best outcomes and equal and equitable access for people with polio to enable all to thrive
- ⚙ While focused on Victoria, we are involved with Polio Australia and liaise closely with our interstate equivalents and polio support groups in Victoria
- ⚙ PPV has DGR status for tax-deductible donations



## PPV's achievements over the years include:

- ⚙ Facilitating a large public meeting as part of the forming of the group. For many participants, it was the first time they had made contact or networked with a group focused on polio
- ⚙ Running an education session for GPs on issues associated with polio
- ⚙ Representing Victoria before the 2012 Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into Post Polio
- ⚙ Partnering with St Vincent's Hospital to produce protocols for the hospital to guide their staff and consultants in working with people with polio
- ⚙ Providing a regular information service, via our website, email and hard copy, on the latest issues to do with polio, its members, partners and supporters
- ⚙ Advocating to Federal and State Ministers and parliamentarians on issues affecting people with polio

## What are we doing now?

We are currently actively communicating and meeting with State and Federal Governments around the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and Aged Care sector, which has implications for people with polio. Polio survivors over 65 are currently missing out on important support and services. Inclusion in the NDIS will grant them equitable access to the disability services they need.

The more members we have the greater our voice, which will enable us to achieve future goals. By joining (as a member) you can choose to receive our e-bulletin, access vital support and receive informative email updates about relevant news and events from around Victoria. We also send out invitations to our occasional meetings and get-togethers, where you are invited to participate.

If you wish to join our great network and would like to support PPV, then please visit [www.postpoliovictoria.org.au/joinus](http://www.postpoliovictoria.org.au/joinus). Membership is free of charge!

If you can support us as a donor, please visit <https://www.postpoliovictoria.org.au/donate/>. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible - your support would be greatly appreciated.

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



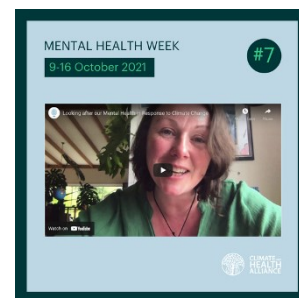


## Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) share message about mental health in the face of climate change

Ross House tenant, Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) has recently shared a short video with Dr Anna Seth for tips on how to protect your mental health in the face of climate change.

Dr Seth's top 3 tips are to:

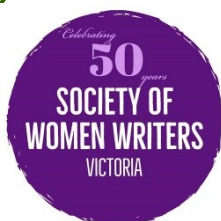
- ⚙ Build a network of support around you. Talk to people in your life about why acting on climate change is so important to you. If they refuse to listen and act, find people that feel how you do.
- ⚙ Get personal with nature. We are not separate to nature. Care for self is care for the planet.
- ⚙ Keep a focus on the big picture. Humans have overcome adversity in the past. There are millions of people who have dedicated their lives to this fight. Hope is not lost.



Overall, *"Let's start with building kindness and compassion for ourselves, and extend that vision to include the whole planet."*

Watch the full video here > <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brAL96ZfdTc>.

## Nance Donkin Award for Children's Literature - Society of Women Writers



Nance Donkin, AM, (1915–2008) was a pioneer and leading light in the world of Australian literature for children. She began her writing career at the age of sixteen as the Maitland Daily Mercury's first female journalist. She moved to the Newcastle Herald and later, having settled in Melbourne, was on ABC radio and television.

Nance was a reader and a writer who held strong feminist and political views. She opened her mind to current issues and was not afraid to challenge those she did not agree with. Through her CAE lectures about women in Australian history, she brought to light previously overlooked and unrecognised women.

In 2009, the Society of Women Writers Victoria (SOWW) established the biennial Nance Donkin Award for Children's Literature, a fitting memorial to her contribution to the children of Australia and validation of the importance of writing for children.

This year, the recipient of the Award will be announced at an online event Celebrating Australian Children's Literature on Thursday 4th November 2021 at 6:30pm. Davina Bell (author and publisher), Susannah Fullerton (author and lecturer), Hazel Edwards, OAM (author) and Caz Goodwin (author) will be speaking about children's books old and new, and the current status of children's book publishing in Australia. All are welcome to join.

By Dr Caroline Webber, President, Society of Women Writers Victoria.

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

Presented by The Society of Women Writers Victoria and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Victoria

*Nance Donkin Award for Children's Literature 2021*


**CELEBRATING AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE**

Join DAVINA BELL, SUSANNAH FULLERTON, HAZEL EDWARDS, OAM, and CAZ GOODWIN for discussions on children's books old and new, and the current status of children's book publishing in Australia.

*Plus:*  
The announcement of the Nance Donkin Award for Children's Literature 2021

THURSDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2021 – ONLINE via ZOOM 6.30pm-8.00pm  
Book: <https://www.trybooking.com/BURYG>

[www.swwvic.org.au](http://www.swwvic.org.au) | [www.scbwaustralianz.com/scbwvicsatlas/](http://www.scbwaustralianz.com/scbwvicsatlas/)


## 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).

### 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](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.

## New members!

### Travellers Aid

Travellers Aid is committed to enabling individuals of all abilities to connect to people and place.

They operate from three service sites at Southern Cross and Flinders Street Stations in Melbourne and Seymour Railway Station in regional Victoria.

Their services provide a high level of care, respect and dignity and are designed to enable travellers with special requirements to fully participate in life activities.

To find out more information, please visit [www.travellersaid.org.au](http://www.travellersaid.org.au).



## 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](mailto: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

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[@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](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 Gerken

