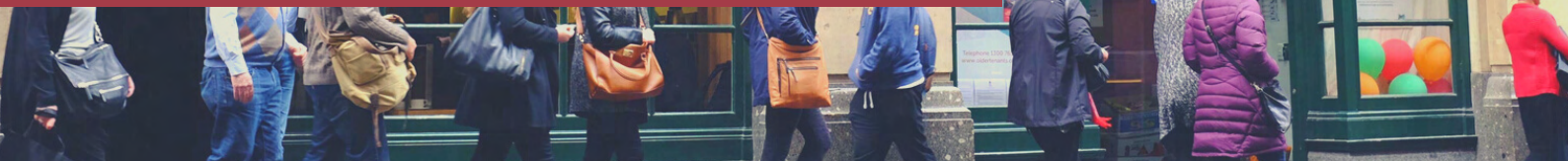


FEBRUARY 2022

IN THE HOUSE

Ross House Association Member and Tenant News



New Air Purifiers for Ross House 2022

FROM THE ROSS HOUSE TEAM

To make returning to Ross House safer in 2022, RHA has taken a number of steps to improve air quality in the building. Last year we installed dampers on the return air ducts to bring more fresh air into the building, this has increased fresh air by around 40-80%.

This year we have purchased 15 HEPA InovaAir V20 Air Purifiers. These are Australian made hospital grade air filters that feature a dual filter to capture dust, bacteria and viruses, with the main medical-grade H13 HEPA filter operating with a 99.97% minimum efficiency at 0.3 microns.

These air purifiers will be placed in the foyer of each floor and in each meeting room to help reduce the level of any virus in the building. Combined with the additional fresh air, we hope these changes will make Ross House a safer environment as we start 2022.

We look forward to seeing you in Ross House over the coming months.



2022 RHA Committee

Chairperson
Christine McAuslan
(COSHG)

Deputy Chairperson
Ntannis Davi
(DBV)

Treasurer
Keith Bettles
(U3A City of Melbourne)

Secretary
Scot Muirden
(CBSF)

Maggie Maguire (Appointed Member)

De Grebner (Ex TreeProject, Appointed Member)

Richard Caven (Appointment Member)

Nazzareno Marchionda
(Appointed Member RHA Staff)

Michael Griffiths (Ex-Officio, RHA General Manager)



Reflections by the RHA Chairperson

BY CHRISTINE MCAUSLAN

I hope this first newsletter of the year finds you all well and having had some measure of relaxation over the holiday season. Some of you over that period, like members of my own family, will have succumbed to COVID and had varying experiences of the virus. If you or someone close to you has been ill, I hope you had the support you needed and recovery has gone well. At least at this point in time, as we settle into 2022 it is good to see COVID numbers dropping. The last 2 years have showed us the impacts of this epidemic with many consequences for individuals, families and across communities. So it is with Ross House.

As the Committee comes together on February 24th for the first meeting of 2022, we look to another year of uncertainty as to what will eventuate, and the consequent decision-making and planning that will be required to sustain Ross House.

As much as we may anticipate and be pro-active regarding the potential consequences for Ross House and tenants during this 3rd year of the pandemic, we will need to be flexible in exploring options dependent on the reality of what 2022 brings.

On the good news front, our General Manager, Michael Griffiths has shown dogged perseverance in successfully obtaining government funding of \$10,000 for the House. This process involved identifying an inconsistency on the application form and ultimately writing to the relevant Minister to successfully have a change made. This meant other organisations would also be in the position to apply. Initially we were unsuccessful in receiving the funding. Michael followed up via a convoluted process. Eventually finding the problem was due to a presumption regarding our shared address with Duke's next door. With a written statement concerning there being no relationship between the two organisations other than leasing space, we were allocated the funds. As Michael commented 'All in all, about the hardest 10k grant we've ever done...'

At a time when financial considerations are paramount in keeping Ross House functioning, we thank Michael for all his efforts, particularly while being on leave.

In closing, on behalf of the committee, I wish you all and the groups and organisations you are involved, in a happy and successful New Year.



RHA Chairperson
Christine McAuslan



Included In This Issue

Building and Maintenance

Melbourne Rail updates

Housekeeping Notices

Grants and Assistance

Tenant Feature: Schizy Inc

Feel Good Story by Assisi
Aid





Building and Maintenance

FROM THE ROSS HOUSE TEAM

There is 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

- InovaAir DV20 Air Purification Units to be rolled out into meeting rooms and foyers.

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.

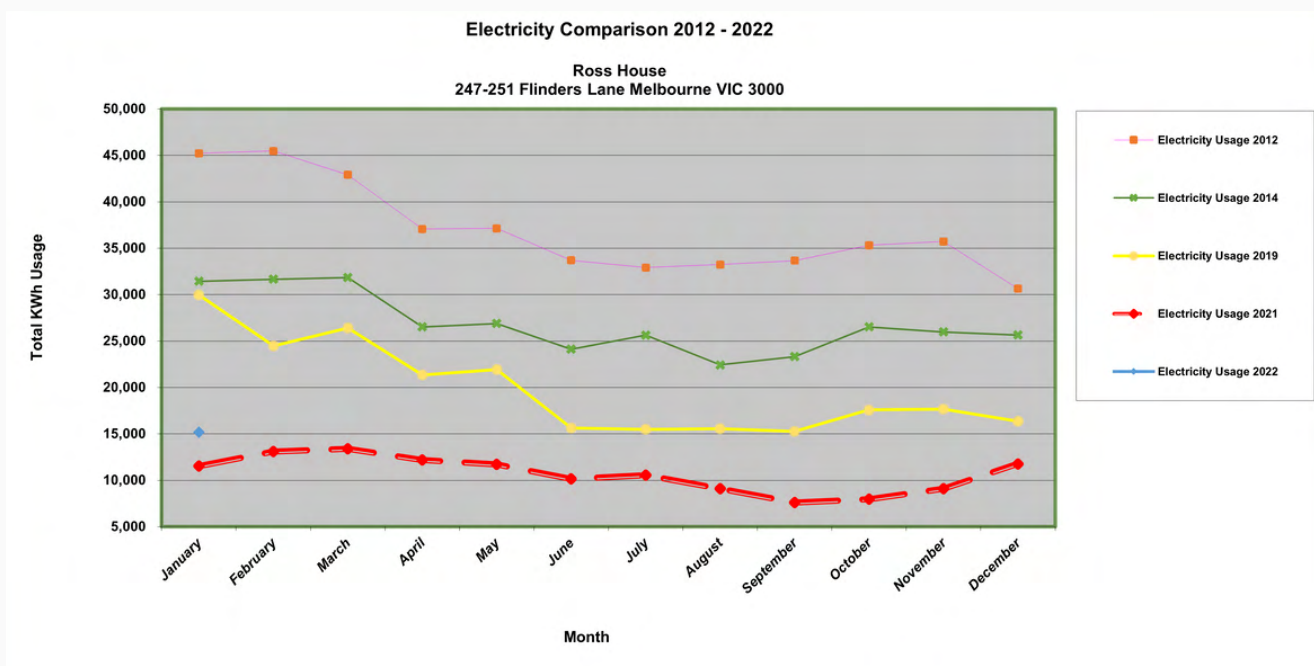




Image credit: Zed Fitzhume

Melbourne Metro Rail Update

FROM THE ROSS HOUSE TEAM

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

- Construction works within the Town Hall Station precinct during February 2022 include:
 - Structures and lining works within the central cavern and rail tunnels
 - Shaft construction and shaft A deck removal works within the Flinders Quarter site (noisy works)
 - Utility relocation works within the Flinders Link site
 - Station build out works within the acoustic shed at City Square
 - Works to enable the installation of 2 tower cranes on Swanston Street outside City Square and the installation of the loading bay and concrete pump on Collins Street.
- Construction of the Oversight Development (OSD) will commence once a concrete slab has been installed at the Flinders Quarter site. Expected in late 2022.

If you have something you would like to contribute to the April RHA Newsletter, please email Ruby at rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au



Positive Powerful Parents News and Events

Positive Powerful Parents (PPP) turns 10 on the 13th March! Thanks to everyone for all the support in getting us this far. It means a lot to us.

Events coming up:

PPP have two online events for parents with an Intellectual disability coming up on March 4th and April 1st.

We are hoping to have two face-to-face events for parents with an Intellectual disability on March 25th and April 29th, but this will depend on Covid. Please check our website or Facebook page for updates!

Our Website is:

www.positivepowerfulparents.com.au

Our Facebook page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/positivepowerfulparents>

POSITIVE POWERFUL PARENTS



Housekeeping Notices

FROM THE ROSS HOUSE TEAM

We can't wait to see more smiling faces back in Ross House, here are some things to remember:

- Please use the designated bins in the foyer on the ground floor for cartridges and masks only. General rubbish and recycling bins are located down the corridor towards the back of the building.
- Please don't flush wipes down the toilet. It is bad news for our plumbing!
- There is a minimum two hour charge for meeting room use without a booking, so make sure you book!



Vaccine Project - SARU

Get vaccinated! Self Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU) is running a Vaccine Project. The project can help people with disability to:

- Book a vaccine appointment
- Organise transport to and from appointment
- Understand vaccine information

If you would like to get support or would like to know more about the project, please contact SARU Vaccine Officer, Annie Hooper at annie@reinforce.org.au

RHA Has a new Photocopier!

Ross House is excited to announce the arrival of a snazzy new photocopier/printer/scanner for use by members and tenants.

If you would like to learn more about using the new photocopier, or would like a quick lesson on how to navigate the touchscreen control pad, please contact Ruby on rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au.

Window Display Opportunities

Promote your organisation, current campaigns, projects, or events, in the Ross house display windows on Flinders Lane.

We have a handful of month long 2022 spots left so if you're interested please contact Ruby at rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au to discuss further.

Available for use by RHA Members and Tenants.



Grants and Assistance Programs

FROM THE ROSS HOUSE TEAM

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

Pride Foundation Australia (PFA)

Small Grants Program

The Small Grants program supports projects proposed by individuals and or organisations and or communities who would otherwise be limited by the constraints of other funding programs. Grants are up to \$750, and the project needs to directly or indirectly assist, involve and benefit LGBTQIA+ people and promote positive social outcomes and mental health in the community.

Pride Foundation will invest in projects that benefit either LGBTQIA+ individuals or community or strengthen LGBTQIA+ organisational capacity:

Through the projects LGBTIQ organisation will:

- be better able to recruit and retain volunteers and members
- work better with the community and/or other organisations
- improve the skills and knowledge of volunteers/members
- develop resources it needs to undertake its work.

The planned activity must involve and benefit LGBTQIA+ members and promote positive social outcomes in our community.

Eligibility: Not-for-Profits, Unincorporated Groups, Individuals

Funding Available: \$750 (max)

Round: Open, Applications Close 07-Mar-2022

For further information please see:

<https://pridefoundation.org.au/small-grants/>



EastWeb Fund

EastWeb Grants

EastWeb Grants fund projects that build the capacity of communities to create long term strategies for change. EastWeb gives small grants to projects within Victoria working with Indigenous, Asylum Seeker or Refugee communities in the areas of:

- health care;
- employment;
- education; and
- cultural heritage promotion and maintenance.

Eligibility: Not-for-Profits

Round: Open, Closes 29-Apr-2022

Funding: \$2,000-\$5,000

For further information please see:

<https://eastweb.squarespace.com/grants>

*Stay connected and
follow RHA on Instagram
@rosshouseassociation*



Amazing Women!

BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
WOMEN VICTORIA

In March we hold International Women's Day and Women's History Month. This particular March, the National Council of Women of Victoria celebrates 120 years!

We were founded by women including Janet Lady Clarke, Women's Christian Temperance Union, YWCA, the Melbourne Jewish Women's Guild and the Austral Salon of Music Literature and the Arts in March 1902. We honour the pioneering women who established Victorian women's organisations and those who continue the work for these organisations today. They have been described over the decades as , Stirrers with Style, and Champions of the Impossible.

Actions speak louder than words – whether it is the first women's public toilets in Melbourne in 1927 or warning labels on alcohol about Foetal Alcohol Syndrome. Like Grace Tame and Brittany Higgins, we expect action by our elected representatives to comprehensively and consistently legislate, fund and implement expert recommendations regarding gender equity in wages and education, aged care, sexual harassment, family violence, affordable and accessible housing and liveable income support.

For our part we should expect that the behaviour of individuals and organisations will change and become consistent with these legislated 'norms'. But after 120 years we are not naive. Hopefully, addressing the gaps in the existing regimes will be an indicator to perpetrators and under-performers to lift their game - to meet or exceed the raised bar. We will hold them to account.

Check out our advocacy and our history at www.ncwvic.org.au. Read about our members – Legends like characters like Vida Goldstein, Dame Ada Norris and Muriel Heagney – all notable women in our country's history.

Look out for our display in the big window during March.



From Woor-Dungin

At Woor-Dungin, we have charged into 2022 with a new Community Development Manager, Kirsty Sword Gusmão AO, on our team and a number of exciting programs in train. Our Cultural Audit Toolkit project will develop a tool to assist philanthropic and grant-making institutions to assess their culture and practices to ensure they are not inadvertently discriminating against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people and their communities.

We are looking forward to sharing an early iteration of the Toolkit with the Aboriginal communities and partners we work with at our May On-Country Gathering. Not having been able to conduct the Gathering for the past two years, we are really excited about the prospect of getting together for an in-person yarn and to deepen the conversations we have been having with Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations across Victoria.

We invite fellow residents of Ross House to pop by and hear more about what we are up to. On Thursdays our office is a hive of activity as most of our volunteers and Committee of Management members get together for meetings on this day.



Enterprise Activities Changes Lives in India

BY ASSISI AID PROJECTS

Single women in Tamil Nadu, India are severely disadvantaged, and face isolation and discrimination. Assisi Aid Projects supports the empowerment of these women, to alleviate their situation and create lasting change in their communities.

One way this happens is through the provision of enterprise opportunities. Establishing their own business not only enables the single women to earn an income, but also help build confidence, encourages acceptance, and enables integration with community life.

Assisi's partner in India, Integrated Development Trust, recently shared the stories of Thela* and Devi* (names changed), members of the Single Women's Project.

Thela from Katiyambandal village has started a small grocery shop. She has worked hard running the business on her own after receiving a loan from the project, and now generates a profit each month. Through her hard work, she has been able to install a CCTV camera in the shop, helping to reduce theft and keep her community safe. Thela has expressed the joy she gains from both her business and participating in the project.

Devi from Nelvoy village has recently bought a flour mill machine for her home-based business, after receiving a loan through the project. She now produces flour and sells it to other single women and families throughout her community. Devi has expressed that she is happy with her work and enjoys engaging with the community when customers come by her home to purchase flour.

Assisi Aid Projects works towards women's empowerment and community development in Southern India.



ASSISI AID PROJECTS
Empowering Change

If you're interested to learn more, go to www.assisi.org.au, follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#) or drop into our office on Level 3 of Ross House.

Image description: Above – Thela has worked hard to save money to install a CCTV camera in her grocery shop; Below – Devi produces flour for her local community from her flour mill after receiving a loan from our projects. Image credit: IDT 2021-22



ASSISI AID PROJECTS
Empowering Change



HEARD & seen

STARTS JANUARY 2022

Are you deafblind?

Do you know someone with deafblindness?

Deafblindness is when a person experiences an impairment or loss of both their hearing & vision.

Deafblind Australia are running **FREE** workshops in all major cities of Australia to help the Deafblind community become better digital citizens.

Each session will teach a variety of topics including using websites, search engines, social media, technology and government portals. Participants can also bring their own devices and software or learn on our equipment. Sessions are free and one-on-one assistance will be available.

To register for the Seen & Heard workshops contact
janet.chalhoub@deafblindaustralia.org.au
www.deafblind.org.au

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Go to www.dss.gov.au for more information

Seen and Heard Project

Deafblind Australia are running an exciting new project in 2022 for the community in Victoria. This project is called Seen & Heard and is focused on building independence in using technology. Seen & Heard is open to the Deafblind community, including your support network. A series of workshops will be scheduled for 2022 in Victoria. The workshops will include FREE sessions on topics like Microsoft, Apple products, Quantum training, government portals, search engines, social media and more.

Send an email to janet.chalhoub@deafblindaustralia.org.au to be included or to hear more about it!

Seen & Heard is a national program with workshops happening now and into 2022. If you are not in Victoria, but would like to know more about Seen & Heard in your State, please email lauren.croiset@deafblindaustralia.org.au.

An Update from IndianCare

Not-for-profit IndianCare addresses the welfare requirements of South Asians across Victoria. Our move to Ross House has been one of many meaningful developments for our organisation in the last few months.

Since December, we've had the opportunity to host two in-person events for South Asian international students at Scape Swanston, with more than 130 participants: a professional networking event in collaboration with VicWISE, and a Bollywood Dhamaka dance workshop.

We have also run a series of information sessions on family violence and positive parenting, through our family violence prevention program, Project Ujala.

Our Priority Response to Multicultural Communities (PRMC) hotline has been instrumental in supporting our community across Melbourne through COVID-19. Individuals of South Asian Origin in need of culturally relevant, in-language support can call: 1300 00 50 40.

We've got volunteering opportunities open for individuals in social work, community development and public health. Apply at indiancare.org.au/get-involved. You can get more details on all of our services and events on our brand new website at indiancare.org.au.



Tenant Feature

SCHIZY INC. ROOM 3.2

Schizy Inc. is the joyful ringleader for people with schizophrenia in Victoria, if not Australia. We're doing things for mental health the government can't! Schizy Inc. are fully living experience led, which means innovative arts projects connecting people and supporting pathways into rich life. Schizy Inc. engages natural spaces to support a sense of healing, and we (the inmates!) hold the only public event for World Schizophrenia Day. Why? Because we believe people with schizophrenia and diverse mental health are far more than medical problems to be fixed - we have the right to experience culture, express our uniqueness and contribute fully to an embracing society.

Schizy Inc. is currently working on opening Victoria's first living experience led not-for-profit art studio in Melbourne, for creatives with schizophrenia and similar realities. We're also at stage two of establishing the country's first 'healing farm', a working property managed by people with living experience of diverse mental health. Schizy Inc. don't sleep so we run arts industry workshops throughout the year and we're very excited to be about to launch our first program at Ross House, supporting new artists in stand up comedy, songwriting, visual arts and writing for activism.

Want to come say g'day? Email us at admin@schizy.org and give us a heads up.

Questions about Covid19 requirements? Check out the RHA Meeting Room Guide on our website home page





Call out for artists with living experience of schizophrenia and similar realities.

Schizy Inc are accepting **Expressions of Interest** from creatives wanting to attend workshops to create a work for our World Schizophrenia Day event. Artists can select one of the following:

SONGWRITING *Feb/March*

WRITING/SPOKEN WORD *March/April*

VISUAL ART *April/May*

STAND UP COMEDY *April/May*

Please email info@schizy.org for an EOI pack.

*Beginners, emerging artists and older adults welcome..

www.schizy.org

Arts Takeover 2022

Schizy Inc are running classes at Ross House in stand up comedy, songwriting for performance, visual art and writing for spoken word. People need to have lived experience of schizophrenia or similar. Schizy Inc. is the only not-for-profit advocating rights and access for people with schizophrenia. For more information, email Heidi at admin@schizy.org.

Register now via this [online form](#).





Reducing Single-use Plastics in Healthcare

BY THE CLIMATE AND HEALTH ALLIANCE

Join the campaign!

We have released a factsheet and website to assist health care institutions on their reduction of single use plastics journey - it offers success stories, challenges and a number of practical resources to help however far along an institution is.

To view the factsheet [click here](#).

To head to the website, please [click here](#).

Work in a healthcare setting or know someone who does? Please feel free to place this factsheet in your workplace or share this with those who might!

These resources are collaborative. Do you know of a resource we should add or have an idea or feedback? Let us know by sending an email to gghh@caha.org.au.

[Sign up to the Campaign now!](#)

Non Profit Training

Ross House Member, Non Profit Training, provides training for not-for-profit organisations, associations and charities across Australia. Below is there upcoming schedule:

Online Finance Training

Thursday 10 March (11am - 4:30pm)
Cost: \$300 per person

Online Governance Training

Thursday 17 March (11am - 4:30pm)
Cost: \$300 per person

Online Leadership Training Program

Tuesday 22/29 March (11am - 4:30pm)
Cost: \$600 per person

Online Project Management Training

Tuesday 5 April (10am - 3:30pm)
Cost: \$300 per person

Online Grant Writing Training

Thursday 7 April (10am - 3:30pm)
Cost: \$300 per person

Online Governance Training

Wednesday 27 April (11am - 4:30pm)
Cost: \$300 per person

Ross House members can access a 10% discount by entering the code 'ROSS' in the discount/promo section when checking out.

For more information visit
<https://nonprofittraining.com.au/>

Image credit: Non Profit Training

Join the Ross House
Buy, Sell, give Donate
Facebook group! Click
here.





STAY CONNECTED AT 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. You can subscribe by heading over to our website at www.rosshouse.org.au and scrolling to the bottom of the page or by emailing us at 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 invoices on time.

A friendly reminder to cancel any room bookings (via your online account) that you are not using. This will avoid any confusion and cancellation charges on invoices. If you need help, please contact Ruby on (03) 650 1599 / rosshouse@rosshouse.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 / (03) 9650 1599.





247 - 251 Flinders Lane
Melbourne VIC 3000

📞 03 9650 1599

✉️ rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au

🌐 www.rosshouse.org.au

📘 @rosshouseassociation

📷 [rosshouseassociation](#)

📺 [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 and event or share some exciting news about your organisation, keep your eye out for an email from Ruby, advising of submission deadlines.

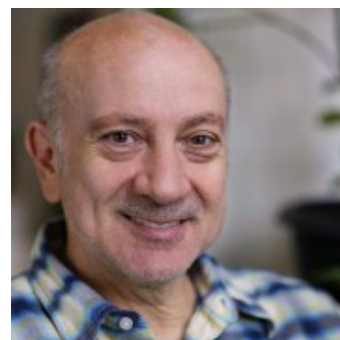
Please send submissions to:
rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au

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 THANKS YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



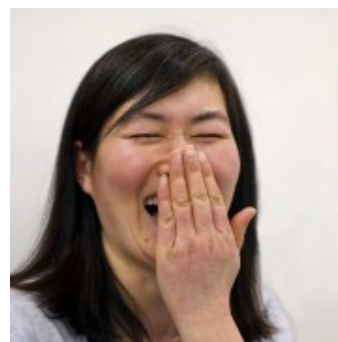
General Manager
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Membership & Tenancy Officer
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