

A Letter to RHA Tenants and Members

FROM HAYDEN RAYSMITH AM

Dear members,

I recently was invited to meet with the committee of the Ross House Association to provide some history and context for making decisions about the future. I am happy to help in any way I can.

The Ross Trust came to me in 1980, when I was the Executive Director of VCOSS to ask for my help in making a single grant of \$650,000. It was the start of a new era for VCOSS, with a greater focus on disability and self help. It was fortunate that 1981 was International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP). After bringing together as many self help groups as could be found in those early days, I organised, with the help of Jenny Florence and the newly formed Collective of Self Help Groups (COSHG) a weekend gathering to seek their advice. The outcome was a recommendation to acquire a central resource building accessible by public transport. VCOSS considered several proposals for how best to use the large, one-off grant but in the end agreed with the COSHG recommendation.

A new legal trust structure had to be created to enable the building to be purchased and renovated. This led to the creation of the Victorian Community Foundation with ANZ Executors and Trustees (ANZET) as the Trustee; the owner of the building. ANZET owned and controlled the building until 2011.

Continued on page 2.

2022 RHA Committee

Chairperson Christine McAuslar (COSHG)

Deputy Chairperson Ntennis Davi (DBV)

Treasurer Keith Bettles (U3A City of Melbourne)

> Secretary Scot Muirder (CBSF)

Maggie Maguire (Appointed Member)

De Grebner (Ex TreeProject, Appointed Member)

Richard Caven (Appointed Member)

Margaret O'Loughlin (Appointed Member)

Nazzareno Marchionda (Appointed Member RHA Staff)

Michael Griffiths (Ex-Officio, RHA General Manager)



A Letter to RHA members from hayden raysmith am

Continued from page 1. In the early years of Ross House, the ground floor and first floor were leased to COSHG for self help and community advocacy groups. The upper floors were leased to commercial and full fee paying tenants. At several points ANZET endeavoured to sell the building to reduce its ongoing cost of administration and maintenance, but the trust arrangement prevented this from happening. Ross House is still owned by a trust, but this trust is now managed by the Ross House committee which must ensure that it is financially viable.

The committee has a dual responsibility. It must ensure that the building can be financially viable and it must ensure that it provides an affordable resource building for self help and advocacy organisations. This requires ongoing income beyond what tenants pay for rent.

Given the pandemic, changes to the CBD and proximity to the new underground rail loop the current proposal for a commercial tenant on the ground floor presents a unique opportunity to secure Ross House's future. This is not in conflict with the trust deed or how Ross House has operated in the past. I accept and understand that, for some, it seems at odds, but it will enable Ross House to secure its future and tenants to retain control.

Yours sincerely,

Hayden Raysmith AM

The Kitchens are Open!

FROM THE ROSS HOUSE TEAM

We are happy to announce that with fewer COVID restrictions we have now re-opened the shared kitchen facilities on each level for tenant use.

When using the kitchens please remember to have respect for others who are using the space and;

- Clean up after yourself wash, dry and put away what you use
- Wipe surfaces down after use with supplies from the cleaning tubs (located in each kitchen)
- · Label fridge and other food items
- Throw away foods that are out of date
- Use the appropriate bins
- Keep noise to a minimum



Free Crockery for use in the kitchens!

Ross House has a supply of second-hand mugs, glasses, plates, and serving trays that we would like to share with our community. If you would like to take some for use in your office or to stock the kitchen on your floor with, please let Ruby know at rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au or pop down to the reception between 10am-3pm Monday-Friday.

Reflections by the RHA Chairperson

BY CHRISTINE MCAUSLAN

In this newsletter you will find reference to the potential commercial leasing of the ground floor. Every member will have received a letter from me as Chairperson on behalf of the committee. The letter was accompanied by financial graphs and a letter from Hayden Raysmith who brings 41 years of experience to the table. Hayden being the person who set Ross House up and has continued to support Ross House and other community organisations over those decades. If you haven't had access to that information, please check with your own organisation to see who received it.

We have had a variety of responses with diverse opinions. We thank you all for your feedback.

Please remember those of us, who have put up our hands and were elected onto the committee, do so because we believe in Ross House and why it exists. However, the reality is, responses to queries may take longer to get back to you than some expectations demand. Participating on the committee means a great amount of time and effort is spent away from work and other life commitments. So please be a little patient if you do not hear back immediately.

Stay warm and safe in this cold wet winter.

Christine McAuslan

Congratulations Leighton and Rosemary Boyd!

FROM THE ROSS HOUSE TEAM

RHA was delighted to see Leighton and Rosemary Boyd, from Ross House tenant Retina Australia, in the 2022 Queens Birthday Honours List this year. Leighton has been appointed a Member (AM) of the Order of Australia (General Division) in recognition of his "significant service to people who are blind or have low vision", and Rosemary has been appointed the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) (General Division) in recognition of her "service to people who are blind or have low vision".

Retina Australia has long been a supporter of Ross House, being a long-term tenant and heavily involved in its governance over the years and we wish to congratulate them on this outstanding achievement. Well done!

Read more about Leighton and Rosemary's accomplishments on page 8.



Included In This Issue



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Melbourne Rail updates

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Grants and Assistance

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Queen's Birthday Honours for Leighton and Rosemary Boyd

BCA Hugh Jeffrey Scholarship Program



Building and Maintenance

FROM THE ROSS HOUSE TEAM

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

- External Windows have been cleaned
- Fluorescent lights have been replaced with LEDs on levels 2,3,& 4.
- Security Access Control System rollout has been completed.
- Backdrop Wall in the Hayden Raysmith room has been painted to allow for improved contrasting with projector screen
- Meeting Room 2.2 on level 2 to be soundproofed. Works Commenced 24 June.

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.

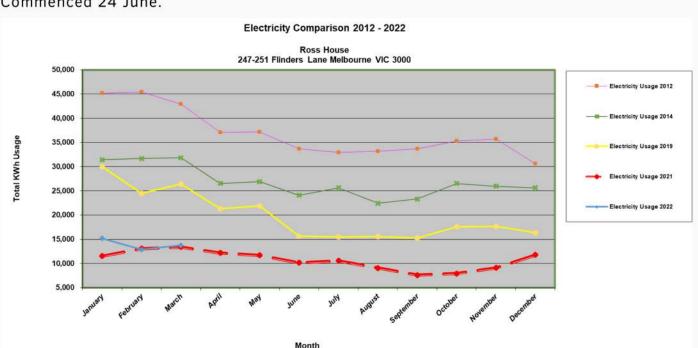




Image credit: Zed Fitzhume

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



Melboure Metro Rail Update

FROM THE ROSS HOUSE TEAM

Construction works within the Town Hall Station precinct during June 2022 include:

- Structures and lining works within the central cavern and rail tunnels
- · Shaft construction within the Flinders Quarter site
- Tram stop crossing reinstatement on Flinders Street
- Building renovation and connection construction within Campbell Arcade
- Station build out works within the acoustic shed at City Square
- Station build out preparatory works outside the City Square acoustic shed including installation of a tower crane on Swanston Street.
- Construction of the Oversite Development (OSD) will commence once a concreate slab has been installed at the Flinders Quarter site. Expected in late 2022.

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



Housekeeping Notices

FROM THE ROSS HOUSE TEAM

Thank you Ross House Community for your support while we adapt to the new security system recently installed throughout the building. We appreciate the patience and understanding you have all shown.

Just a quick reminder of the following:

- Please do not throw rubbish into the cartridge bin in the foyer. It is for recycling printer cartridges only. General rubbish and recycling bins are located to the rear of the ground floor
- Please return any borrowed spare office keys to the front desk or afterhours safe near the lift on the ground floor.
- Please turn lights off if you are the last to leave your floor or office.

Grants and Assistance Programs

FROM THE ROSS HOUSE TEAM

These are some of the grant programs currently available that we think look good:

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
- · cultural heritage promotion and maintenance

Eligibility: Not-for-Profits

Funding Available: Grants of up to \$2,500 and

\$5,000.

Round: Closes 29th July

For further information please see:

https://eastweb.squarespace.com/grants

Stay connected and follow RHA on Instagram and Facebook!



@rosshouseassociation



rosshouseassociation



Broadtree Foundation

Financial support for LGBTQIA+ groups

The Broadtree Foundation is a family operated Private Ancillary Fund (PAF) which provides direct funding to not-for-profit organisations in order to improve the quality of life for people within various communities.

The Foundation aims to support the improvement of the quality of life for people identifying as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex (eg people who do not identify as heterosexual) and their families. Within this broad community they also focus on:

- · Young people
- · Older people
- People who are or at risk of homelessness
- · People with a disability
- Families

What will be funded?

- Organisational capacity building One off funding to support new organisations or organisations which are seeking to grow their capacity in a relevant area.
- Project funding Recurrent funding (up to 3 years) for a new initiative which will achieve outcomes aligned with the goals of the Foundation (see below for more on this).

Eligibility: Not-for-Profits, Unincorporated

Groups (DGR Required)

Round: Ongoing Funding: \$25,000

For further information please see: https://www.broadtreefoundation.org/appl ying

Non Profit Training

Ross House Member, Non Profit Training, provides training for notfor-profit organisations, associations and charities across Australia. Below is there upcoming schedule:

Online Governance Training Tuesday 19 July (10am-3:30pm)

Cost: \$300 per person

Online Leadership Training Program

Thursday 21/28 July (10am-3:30pm)

Cost: \$600 per person

Online Grant Writing Training

Wednesday 3 August (10am-3:30pm)

Cost: \$300 per person

Online Finance Training

Thursday 18 August (10am-3:30pm)

Cost: \$300 per person

Online Project Management Training

Wednesday 24 August (10am-

3:30pm)

Cost: \$300 per person

Ross House members and tenants 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





Welcoming Roland BY CAHA

Earlier this year the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) formally welcomed Roland Sapsford as our new CEO. CAHA Founder and former Executive Director, Fiona Armstrong, is moving into a Strategic Projects Director role. Roland is in the process of moving to Melbourne from Aotearoa/New Zealand, and will be here permanently from late July. Prior to joining CAHA he has been working to respond to the challenge of climate change and the task of reducing emissions through public policy and activism for much of his professional life.

This work has ranged from being involved in New Zealand's first study of the impacts of carbon taxes and work on energy efficiency and home insulation policy, through to getting solar panels installed on a local community centre and campaigning against major roading projects.

We encourage our fellow tenants at Ross House to stop and say hi to Roland as he transitions into life in Australia and within the RHA community!



Join the Ross House Buy, Sell, give Donate Facebook group! www.facebook.com/groups/212 4908287663214



Queen's Birthday Honours for Leighton and Rosemary Boyd

BY RETINA AUSTRALIA

We are delighted to announce that our Chairman Leighton Boyd, and Company Secretary Rosemary Boyd have both been recognised in the 2022 Queens Birthday Honours List.

Leighton has been appointed a Member (AM) of the Order of Australia (General Division) in recognition of his "significant service to people who are blind or have low vision", and Rosemary has been appointed the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) (General Division) in recognition of her "service to people who are blind or have low vision".

Leighton has been involved in Retina Australia and its predecessor organisations, Retina Australia (Victoria) and The Retinitis Pigmentosa Society of Victoria, since joining the committee in 1982. He served as the Victorian President since 2008, and as Chairman of the national organisation Retina Australia since 2015. Leighton was also a Vice President of Retina International from 2015 - 2021 and a member of the organising committee for four World Congresses.

IMAGE: Leighton and Rosemary Boyd



Leighton has also contributed across the sector through his participation as a board member of the former Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind; a volunteer and committee member with Blind Citizens Australia from 2000 - 2015; a committee member focussing on the needs of the blind and low vision communities with Vision 2020 Australia since 2011, and by being a supporter of Bionic Vision since 2010.

In his local community in Nillumbik, Leighton has served as a member of the Disability Advisory Group from 2001 – 2009, the Community Inclusion Advisory Committee 2010 -2014 and was recognised as Nillumbik's Volunteer of the Year in 2009.

"It is a great honour to receive this award. I would like to thank everyone who has supported me in my endeavour to make a difference to the lives of Australians who are affected by an inherited retinal disease." Leighton Boyd, June 2022.

Rosemary has been involved in Retina Australia and its predecessor organisations, Retina Australia (Victoria) and The Retinitis Pigmentosa Society of Victoria since joining the committee in 1986. She served as the Victorian Honorary Secretary from 2008 – 2019 and has been a Board member of Retina Australia since 2008, and Company Secretary since 2013. Rosemary has served as a delegate to Retina International for over 10 years and was the organiser of the Australian Retinitis Pigmentosa Conferences in 2002 and 2015.

Rosemary has also worked as Executive Officer for Blind Citizens Australia from 2013 – 2015, and was Chairman of Ross House Association, the current home of Retina Australia, from 2009 – 2013.

"I am extremely proud to receive this award. It has been a privilege to work with, and for, the inherited retinal disease community throughout Australia." Rosemary Boyd, June 2022.

We would like to congratulate both Leighton and Rosemary for this well-earned recognition and thank them for their huge contribution to Retina Australia and the blind and low vision community.

Tenant Feature

DEAFBLIND VICTORIA, ROOM 3.7B

Deafblind Victoria is a community group on level 3 of Ross House, run by and for Deafblind people. Many of us use tactile sign language to communicate, so meeting face to face is important to us. Through lockdowns we have kept our vulnerable community connected, while doing advocacy and awareness raising. June is Deafblind Awareness month, and DBV celebrated with a deafblind group in Bangalore (India) via teleconferencing, with dozens of interpreters at each location.

Our community faces a chronic shortage of interpreters and support workers who can communicate with us. Deafblind Victoria's Heather Lawson was recently featured on ABC TV to talk about it, at an event announcing the state government's new funding of free TAFE courses for Auslan students. We welcome this news and hope that there will be more Auslan students, and eventually more support workers and interpreters to fill the gap. We also offer volunteer positions for Auslan students who want to gain experience in the language.

DBV recently ran a Deafblind Awareness workshop for staff from LendLease, a construction company involved in the Metro tunnel project that Ross House members are probably very aware of! LendLease staff

If you would like your RHA member or tenant organisation to feature here, please email rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au



learned about Deafblind accessibility in urban design, and also how to ensure that during construction, Deafblind people are not at risk from hazards and obstructions.

You can learn more about the work of Deafblind Victoria and see photos and videos on the DBV website: deafblindvictoria.com.

IMAGE ABOVE Founding members of Deafblind Victoria: Michelle, Heather, and Trudy. IMAGE BELOW: Deafblind Victoria members Heather and Joe demonstrating tactile Auslan.





Regular Happenings at BIM

BY BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (BIM)

Online Coffee Mornings

Mondays at 11am

Open to anyone with a brain injury. A fun way to start the week includes jokes, quizzes, and conversation starters. Contact

office@braininjurymatters.org to receive the Zoom link.

Peer Support Groups

Small groups of people with brain injury meet weekly to catch up, learn from each other and have some fun. Current groups:

- Northcote Tuesdays at 10am
- Frankston Tuesday at 10am
- Online only Wednesdays at 10am
- Ringwood Thursdays at 10:30am
- Footscray Thursdays at 10am

All groups are back meeting face to face following the end of lockdown. We are complying with the Victorian Government directions about how these catch ups take place. Contact office@braininjurymatters.org if you are interested in joining a group.



A series of 3 peer-developed workshops for people living with an ABI sharing how to build a "New You"

Next online series: 1pm - 3pm Thursdays 7th, 14th and 21st July

These sessions will be conducted online via Zoom

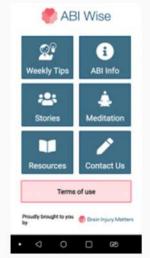
Please email **office@braininjurymatters.org** to enquire or confirm your spot



Check out our Website, ABI Wise App, Facebook and Instagram https://www.braininjurymatters.org/.

ABIWise App is free to download from GooglePlay and the App Store.





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.







Hugh Jeffrey Scholarship Program

2022 APPLICATIONS OPEN SOON!

Funded by the Commonwealth's Information, Linkages and Capacity-building program and the Jeffrey Blyth Foundation, Blind Citizens Australia (BCA) is offering five scholarships for educational expenses up to \$5,000 each for Semesters 2, 2022.

Applications for the third round of BCA Hugh Jeffrey Scholarship are open Friday 17th June 2022 and close July 17, 2022, at 11:59pm AEST. You can find all the details on our website at www.bca.org.au/2021-2022-bca-scholarship-program/

Program Objectives

The BCA Hugh Jeffrey Scholarships program has two key objectives:

- To increase the opportunities available to people who are blind, or vision impaired to participate in tertiary/further education, by offering financial assistance.
- To raise the awareness of main-stream education providers of the valuable contributions and unique perspectives people who are blind or vision impaired offer to education and training.

Eligibility criteria

Scholarship recipients must:

- Be a full member of BCA
 AND
- Provide evidence of enrolment or acceptance letter for a post-secondary educational program that results in a recognized qualification (Internship and

Graduate Program applicants may apply while waiting for confirmation of acceptance; with Scholarship awarded on successful application), and

- Not be a current BCA staff member or Director (board member).
- Commit to providing feedback regarding the scholarship application process.
- Commit to providing semi-regular updates on course progress.

Scholarship recipients will receive:

- Recognition of personal ambition, promoted and celebrated through organisational channels.
- · Alumni network of support.
- BCA support and/or advocacy as appropriate to ensure their study is accessible to them.
- Support for their place of study to further develop its institutional accessibility and inclusion by utilizing BCA's expertise, advice and/or resources.
- Pathway to BCA leadership and/or committee roles.
- Access to BCA programs to support their study and skills development, as well as
- · Financial support for study.

Preparing Your Application

Applications will be received online, the link for the application form will be released on the day the applications open.

Please note that to submit your application you will need to:

- Upload a signed Authority to Release/ Exchange Information form to confirm your enrolment with your place of study,
- Upload two references
- Prepare answers to open-ended questions.

You can review the application particulars via the BCA website at www.bca.org.au/2021-2022-bca-scholarship-program/

For more information, please contact Danielle Verhoeven on 1800 033 660 or at danielle.verhoeven@bca.org.au.

ROSS HOUSE INVITES YOU TO A

WINTER WARMER



Join us for soup and snacks Tuesday 19th July 2022 | 12:30-2PM

Hayden Raysmith Room RSVP Monday 11th July rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au







is having its 25th anniversary! To celeberate, join us for our launch party of

Tomorrow Australia Campaign

Truth and Treaty as the pathway to Tomorrow

Sunday 10th July 2022 Richmond Town Hall, Melbourne 2.30pm - 5pm

"Be part of the change, we need to create a new cultural tapestry" - Uncle Richard Frankland (Gunditimara) Featuring First Nations speakers and performers:

> Sue-Anne Hunter (Deputy Chair, Yoorrook Justice

> > Commission)

Marcus Stewart (Co-Chair, First Peoples Assembly Victoria)

Incle Richard Frankland Author, filmmaker, singer/songwriter

> FREE EVENT!

Bonnie Dukakis (Deputy Executive officer, Koori Youth Council)

Drinks and nibbles provided

A Message from Schizy Inc.

Schizy Inc. has a new art studio at Abbotsford Convent and we're looking for artists to fill it! Visual artists and writers with living experience of schizophrenia and similar mental health realities are welcome to apply for a residency. Preference will be given to people who haven't received support to access or practice their art (e.g. not supported by NDIS). Artists need to be committed to making art or writing and be able to get to Abbotsford Convent at least once a week.

Schizy Inc. is also running skills development workshops for emerging creatives in theatre, writing and visual arts. Everyone with diverse mental health realities welcome to apply.

To enquire email: studio@schizy.org





HUMANS OF ROSS HOUSE

We invite you to participate in Humans of Ross House, a social media initiative that provides you with an opportunity to tell your own story and show what's important to you and your organisation.

EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL. WE'D LOVE TO HEAR YOURS.

Email rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au to get involved



STAY CONNECTED AT ROSS HOUSE

Weekly 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 has 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.co
m/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



(4) @rosshouseassociation



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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 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!



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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 Gerkens, and Carol Franklin

