

FEBRUARY 2023

IN THE HOUSE

Ross House Association Member and Tenant News

Ground Floor Commercial Lease Update

FROM THE ROSS HOUSE TEAM

I wanted to provide everyone with an update on the ground floor commercial lease as we start 2023. Following the Special General Meeting in October last year, and some of the feedback given at that meeting, the Association has been working towards a commercial lease that is in the best interests of the Ross House community. Part of this work has been looking at extending the Mezzanine lift down to Dukes Coffee and the basement car park. This would allow the new ground floor tenant to access stock and deliveries straight from the basement to ground floor without needing the main Ross House lift. Dukes Coffee would also be able to access a store room via the lift without needing to use the ground floor as a thoroughfare.

Prior to the end of 2022, lift contractors discovered a structural beam below the Mezzanine lift, preventing the extension of the lift shaft. Therefore we needed to engage the services of a structural engineering firm. First we had to obtain 3D scans of the structure around the lift shaft, which happened in January and then engineers inspected the structural beam mid-February. Following the inspection, they have stated that removing the beam and reinforcing the Mezzanine lift shaft to support the slab is feasible. We are now waiting on a formal report and costings for this project.

We will keep the community updated as we work through this next stage of the project. If anyone has any questions at any time, please don't hesitate to ask.

Michael Griffiths
CEO

2023 RHA Committee

Chairperson
Christine McAuslan
(COSHG)

Treasurer
Alba Chliakhtine
(ABRISA)

Secretary
Scot Muirden
(CBSF)

Keith Bettles
(Ordinary Member U3A)

Denise Boyd
(Ordinary Member STAR)

Greg Ferrington
(Ordinary Member DRC)

Nazzareno Marchionda
(Appointed Member RHA Staff)

Michael Griffiths (Ex-Officio,
RHA CEO)



Reflections by the RHA Chairperson

BY CHRISTINE MCAUSLAN



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The first committee meeting for the year took place last week on the 23rd February.

After every AGM the structure of the committee changes as people come and go. The Ross House Association governance model is based on member participation. However, as much as gaining new members to participate on the committee has been a constant factor for Ross House governance, it has also often been problematic in finding those who are willing to contribute.

Fortunately, we welcomed two new members from Ross House tenancies for the 2023 committee. Denise Boyd from STAR Victoria Inc and Greg Ferrington from Disability Resources Centre (DCR). Both bring substantial experience to the committee. The 2023 committee now comprises five tenant representatives, one non-tenant member rep, one staff rep and one appointed member (former tenant representative). Alba Chliakhtine replaces Keith Bettles as Treasurer. Unfortunately, there was no candidate for the Deputy Chair position.

There are many major issues the committee and staff will continue

to deal with this year, including impacts from the metro rail, the ground floor lease, the changes in many Ross House tenancies as to required space, and the groups who leave and those who apply. It is so very apparent in recent times that many looking at Ross House for tenancy, deem spaces and the building to not be up to scratch. Of course the impacts of COVID has contributed to many of these issues. Notably on Ross House finances. Like most in society Ross House is not sheltered from the rising costs for keeping things running and the consequences that arise from this.

With reduced finances there will be no immediate replacement of the Membership and Tenancy Officer position. The CEO and other staff will cover the position requirements for the foreseeable future until such time as the ground floor lease is contributing as intended to safeguard the future of Ross House. Our CEO Michael Griffiths has provided an update regarding the ground floor lease on the front page of this newsletter.

We wish all our members and tenants a very successful 2023.

RHA Chairperson
Christine McAuslan



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

- HAAG office extension works are currently being undertaken on level 1
- Basement lights have been replaced with LEDs. Predicted energy saving of 80%
- Keypads have now been installed on all meeting rooms, the storage rooms on levels 1 and 2, and on the prayer/quiet room on 1
- Shared office space on level 3 works are completed and it is now ready for use. Please call the Front Desk for more information.

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 From 2012 to 2023

Ross House
247-251 Flinders Lane Melbourne VIC 3000

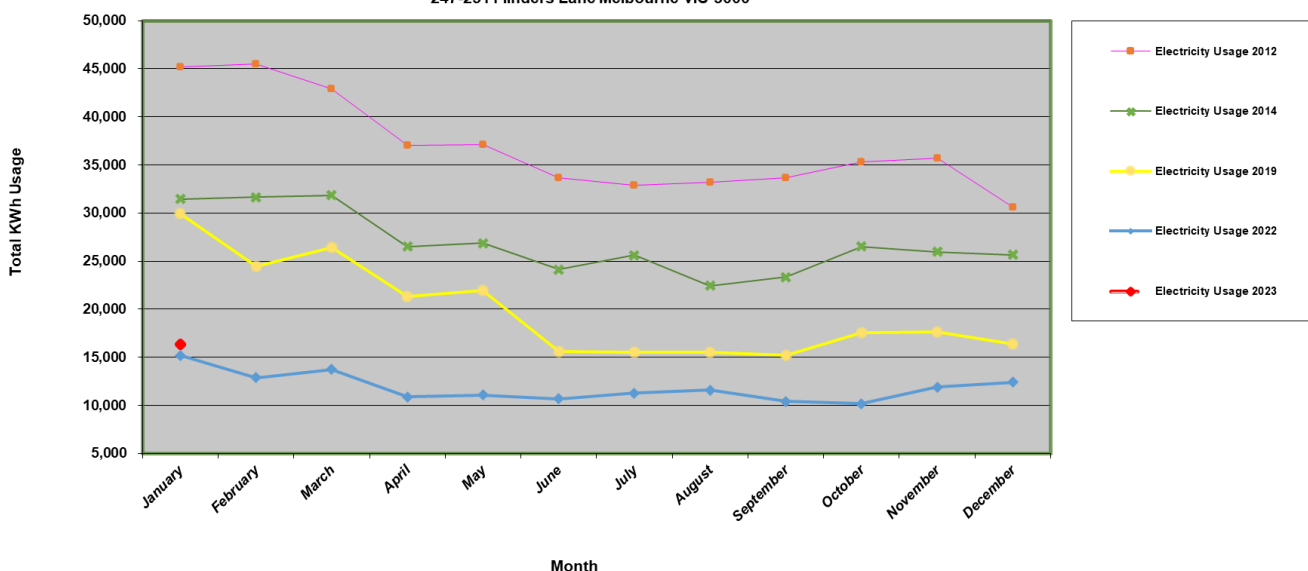




Image credit: Zed Fitzhume

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 include:

- Structures and lining works within the central cavern and rail tunnels
- Station entrance structure construction within the Flinders Quarter site
- Building renovation and connection construction within Campbell Arcade
- Lift installation works within the Degraves Subway via Flinders Street Station
- Station build out works at City Square

Construction of the Oversight Development (OSD) has been pushed back one year and is now expected to commence in November 2023, completed by 2026. The station will operate whilst the OSD is being constructed.

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



Friendly Reminders

FROM ROSSHOUSE

- Please do not throw rubbish into the cartridge bin in the foyer. It is for recycling printer cartridges only.
- Please return any borrowed spare office keys to the front desk or after-hours safe near the lift on the ground floor.
- Please turn lights off if you are the last to leave your floor or office.
- Please avoid conducting ad-hoc meetings in the Foyer. Please hop online and book a meeting space if needed.
- If you need any AV training, please contact the Front Desk to book this in at least a fortnight before your booking.
- If you need to cancel a room, please do so ASAP to free the space up for another organisation.
- We are still on the lookout for our lost Logitech conferencing camera. If you happen upon it please contact the Front Desk!

To contact the Front Desk call or email 03 9650 1599 / rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au



Grants and Assistance Programs

BY ROSSHOUSE

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

Broadtree Foundation

Financial support for LGBTQIA+ groups

The Broadtree 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.

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 visit www.broadtreefoundation.org/

Mercy Foundation

Social Justice Small Grants

The Mercy Foundation's Social Justice Small Grants Program provides seed funding to assist communities and organisations to build capacity that will help create structural change and bring about greater social justice in Australia.

Priority will be given to projects that address the growing epidemic of family and domestic violence particularly where it concerns women and girls, and/or groups in the community that experience inequality, discrimination or marginalisation

Eligibility: Not-for-Profits

Round: Closes 13th March 2023

Funding: \$10,000

For more information, please visit

www.fundingcentre.com.au/grant/G00598/info

Humanists Victoria/ Australian Communities Foundation

Human Rights and Social Justice grant round.

Funding is available to Victorian-based initiatives of any scale that seek to have a positive impact on the Victorian community, including but not limited to those that focus on:



- protecting marginalised groups from violence, discrimination and/or other human rights abuses
- promoting social justice, inclusion and/or civic opportunities for marginalised groups
- the abolition of discriminatory laws.

Funding can be used for:

- Advocacy
- Capacity building
- Program development
- Research and dissemination

Eligibility: Not-for-Profits, Unincorporated Groups, Based in Victoria

Round: Closes 5th March 2023

Funding: \$5,000 - \$20,000

Further information at www.communityfoundation.org.au/support/humanists-victoria

Tenant Feature: CLAN

ROOM 2.18 & 2.15A

Care Leavers Australasia Network (CLAN) is an international, independent, peak membership body which represents and advocates for people who were raised in Australia and New Zealand orphanages, children's homes, missions, and foster care. CLAN was founded in July 2000 by two Sydney Care Leavers, Joanna Penglase, and Leonie Sheedy and has been a tenant of Ross House since 2012.

Becoming a Member

Membership with CLAN is open to any person who grew up in an Orphanage, Institution or Children's Home, as a State Ward, Home Child or in foster care. Family members of Care Leavers are also eligible to join CLAN. Members are spread across Australia, New Zealand and the world.



CLAN is excited to announce the Relocation of the Australian Orphanage Museum.

Operated by CLAN the new Australian Orphanage Museum will be opening its doors on April 1 2023 and be opened by patron and Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, Richard Marles.

The Orphanage Museum aims to collect, document and present objects and material from orphanages and children's homes from across Australia. There are hundreds of items in the collection including; plaques, signs, badges, photos, crockery, personal diaries, and personal material such as suitcases donated by care leavers. For more info visit www.clan.org.au.



Image descriptions: Top, Melbourne Orphanage, Dendy St, Middle Brighton VIC. Open from 1853 - 1926. Bottom, Catherine Booth Salvation Army Girls Home, Sackville St, East Kew, VIC.

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



Lotus Group Projects Becomes Incorporated!

BY LYN MACDONALD

After being dormant for quite some time, Lotus Group Projects Inc. now has a small grant to revive post-Covid, and is now "Incorporated" to be eligible for project grants.

Lotus group is a coordinated self-help and mutual support collective of people most of whom identify as having a neurological disability.

When funding allows, community awareness raising workshops and projects promoting the skills of people with disabilities are developed. The group meets fortnightly at Ross House to provide mutual support to its members.

Lotus Group is coordinated by a tertiary qualified and experienced coordinator with disabilities. The coordinator encourages and supports group members to participate and take leadership roles, including



self-advocacy, when participating in project development teams.

Group members improve skills and grow greater self-confidence from shared group participation.

We have group 'come and try days', which welcomes newcomers, support workers, and allied health workers. There is no cost to attend and meetings will continue throughout 2023. If you, or someone you know is interested, please contact Lyn on 0413 239 236

Referrals from support workers and allied health workers welcome. Carers welcome. Inquiries Lyn Macdonald 0413239236 or email lotusgroupabi@gmail.com

Lotus Group Projects can be found on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/LotusGroupProjects/>

Lotus Group Projects Inc is a member of Collective of Self-Help Groups (COSHG) who provides advice and support for the group.



STAY CONNECTED AND SIGN UP TO THE WEEKLY E-BULLETIN

Ross House produces a weekly e-bulletin that highlights upcoming workshops and webinars for NFP organisations, and member and tenant events.

Sign up on the home page of our website at rosshouse.org.au (scroll to the bottom of the home page) or by [clicking here](#).

View previous publications by visiting our [Facebook page](#) and following the links!

Blind Citizens Australia Online Forum

Are you a person who is blind or vision impaired, and between 18 to 35 years of age?
We want to hear from you!

As the representative organisation for all Australians who are blind or vision impaired, Blind Citizens Australia (BCA) is committed to representing all of our members equally and effectively.

BCA is keen to connect with young people who are blind or vision impaired, to better understand how we can represent you, your interests, and the issues that matter most to you.

We will be hosting an online discussion forum on Tuesday, 28th February at 7pm for BCA members aged 18 to 35. We invite you to attend and share your thoughts about how we can better serve our younger members, as well as share any ideas for future programs and initiatives that you may have.

You can register for the forum by heading to events.humanitix.com/under-35s-forum.

Not a Blind Citizens Australia member? No worries! You can sign-up to be a member at no cost by completing the form at bca.org.au/members/ or giving us a call.

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please feel free to contact us on events@bca.org.au or call Christina on 1800 033 660.



SARU
Self Advocacy Resource Unit

WELCOME BACK MORNING TEA

To welcome everyone back in 2023 SARU is hosting 3 morning teas.

When?
10am Thursday February 16
10am Wednesday March 15
10am Tuesday April 4

Where?
The SARU Office
1st Floor Ross House



To RSVP
Call 0400 985 929 or email melanie@saru.net.au

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 Governance Training
Thursday 23 March (11am - 4:30pm)
Cost: \$300 per person

Online Project Management Training
Wednesday 29 March (11am - 4:30pm)
Cost: \$300 per person

Online Chair Training
Wednesday 29 March (6pm - 9pm)
Cost: \$190 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 nonprofittraining.com.au

Assisi Aid Projects Update

Image Credit: BPW Nepal.



Assisi Aid Projects has had a busy start to the year and is excited to include an update on our growing team and programs. We have a new Project & Engagement Officer, who will oversee our communications content and assist with project reporting and review processes. And two new interns who will be getting involved in various organisational activities.

Following the success of an initial short-term project with our partner BPW Nepal, a new

ANCP-funded project is now underway supporting agro forest-based enterprises in Jumla and Nuwakot, supporting disadvantaged rural women to be economically self-reliant entrepreneurs.

Operations are further expanding through an exciting new partnership with Dreamdelion in Indonesia, implementing a project that supports women's empowerment through sustainable agro-tourism in the Ngawi regency of East Java. Our

partnership with IDT in India continues to support almost 2,000 single women and over 800 children in rural villages.

Learn more about our work at www.assisi.org.au.

Follow us on Instagram: @assisi_aid_projects

Like us on Facebook: Assisi Aid Projects

**Join the Ross House Buy,
Sell, give Donate Facebook
group!**
www.facebook.com/groups/2124908287663214





people from Federation Square to the MCG and back via our buggies. This assistance was also a collaboration between Metro trains and Travellers Aid.

The roll out of our new service in Ballarat and our services at Southern Cross, Flinders Street and Seymour continued to operate smoothly during one of the busiest and challenging periods of the year. The team now turns its attention to Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, Moomba and more. We look forward to launching our service in Ballarat and extending our support even further.

An Exciting Start to the Year for Travellers Aid Australia

In January, Travellers Aid Australia provided access and inclusion services at the Australian Open (AO). A massive amount of effort went into planning, preparing, and delivering our services among record crowd numbers.

The initiative was an amazing achievement in enabling people to participate and engage in a world class event. We received wonderful feedback from many patrons, including a woman who required assistance for her mother. She expressed that the Australian Open provided the best accessibility support of any tournament in the world, having been to Wimbledon and the French open!

As if the AO wasn't enough to keep us busy, we also provided support to Metro Trains during their upgrade and disruption of the City Loop. Our team of Trio Bike riders kept people connected along St. Kilda Road during some scorching hot weather.

Support was also provided to cricket fans at the Big Bash League, where we connected

Find us at:

Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show

Travellers Aid will be providing an Access and Inclusion Service to encourage everyone to participate in one of Melbourne's most iconic and beautiful events. The service will assist people with disability or mobility impairment to access the event and get around the venue as required. Mobility equipment hire is also available.

When: 29 March – 2 April 2023

Moomba

Travellers Aid has been named as Accessibility Partner for the 2022 Moomba Festival. This partnership with City of Melbourne will enhance accessibility and inclusion at the festival. Our friendly staff and volunteers will provide communication, meal and mobility assistance as well as mobility equipment hire.

When: 12 – 14 March 2023

Visit: travellersaid.org.au/accessible-events/
Call: (03) 9654 2600

Skills Development Workshops For Creatives

BY SCHIZY INC.

Disability-led arts organisation and Ross House tenant Schizy Inc, have been awarded a highly competitive Australia Council for the Arts grant.

The funds will support Schizy Inc to produce professionally led workshops and mentoring in visual arts, performing arts, and writing for people in the mental health lived experience community. These creative sectors have been identified by Schizy Inc to have opportunity for improved access and representation by artists with complex mental health realities.

Schizy Inc's upcoming workshop will take place on Saturday March 11, and is aimed at creatives who aspire to practice and work in the performing arts.



The workshops will be based at Ross House and facilitated by acclaimed director and playwright Cathy Hunt. Artists interested in theatre, acting, stand up comedy

and all stage performance arts are welcome to register.

RSVP to:
admin@schizy.org

www.schizy.org/

STAY CONNECTED!

 [@rosshouseassociation](https://www.instagram.com/rosshouseassociation)

 [rosshouseassociation](https://www.facebook.com/rosshouseassociation)

 [Ross House Association](https://www.linkedin.com/company/RossHouseAssociation)

BIM are seeking a Project Co-Manager!

Brain Injury Matters (BIM) is looking for a person with an ABI to co-manage current projects alongside their current project manager.

The project manager develops and supports peer groups that connect people with an ABI, with each other. This project has been running since August 2019 and has developed six peer support groups in an effort to build confidence and address isolation amongst the community.

Full details of the position can be found on Ethical Jobs at www.ethicaljobs.com.au.



Brain Injury Matters (BIM) appreciated the opportunity to make use of the large window display at Ross House over the months of December 2022 and January 2023.

Col and I had fun organising and setting up the informative display which included a non-stop screen presentation, our new BIM display flag and an inclusive doll diorama (which represented one of our many successful Peer Support groups).

I had a heart-warming moment when I was shopping in the city, to walk past and see a young girl excitedly pointing out the display to the person she was with. I'm hopeful our display opened some conversations around brain injury and differences people live with.

I really enjoy all the window displays at Ross House and learning about other groups and fellow tenants and neighbours. I encourage all groups to put a display up when the opportunity arises.

www.braininjurymatters.org/

Brain Injury Matters Ross House Window Display

BY CAROL FRANKLIN

Image descriptions: Top, Member Col poses with the recent BIM window display in flinders lane. Bottom, The inclusive doll diorama.





**MELBOURNE
INTERNATIONAL
FLOWER AND
GARDEN SHOW**

PRESENTED BY




Would you like to attend the Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show?

Travellers Aid will be providing an Access and Inclusion Service to encourage everyone to participate in one of Melbourne's most iconic events.

This free service will assist people with mobility challenges to access the event and with getting around the grounds if required.

29 March to 2 April 2023
ROYAL EXHIBITION
BUILDING & CARLTON
GARDENS

Services available include:

- Free connection assistance with buggy service
- Wheelchair assistance
- Wheelchair and stroller hire

For further information call us on 03 9654 2600 or head to travellersaid.org.au



THANK YOU FOR PAYING YOUR INVOICES ON TIME

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 the Front Desk on (03) 650 1599 / rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au

Window Displays Spots Available!

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

Contact the Front Desk at rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au if you're interested. Available to RHA Members and Tenants.



ROSS HOUSE ASSOCIATION STAFF THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



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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

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