

## Governance at Ross House

## FROM THE ROSS HOUSE TEAM

Vincent Kierin Kiss outlined the purposes and ideals of what became Ross House in the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1985. Part of that vision was the establishment of a management committee for the administration and management of the building. That committee would determine which organisations would use the premises and the terms and conditions of occupancy. Later on, this concept evolved with Ross House Association being appointed by the Trustees in 1994 to manage Ross House on the Trustees' behalf. In 2011, RHA took the next step to become the Trustee for the Ross House Trust, meaning this building is now truly community-owned and managed. The mission of the Association, as outlined in the constitution, is to work towards a socially just, environmentally sustainable, and non-discriminatory society based on the community development principles of inclusion, consultation, and collaboration, by supporting and enhancing the contribution of small community organisations towards their communities and the broader society.

The governance structure that exists at Ross House is designed so that Ross House Association members have input into the decisions that affect them. Along with the Committee of Management, who are elected at the AGM, there are a number of subcommittees that members can join at any time. Currently in operation are the Finance & Risk Subcommittee, Community Development Subcommittee, Membership & Tenancy Subcommittee, and the Green Focus Working Party. If you are interested in being involved in the governance structure of Ross House, please contact CEO Michael Griffiths at michael.griffiths@rosshouse.org.au.

# 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)

De Grebner (Ex TreeProject Appointed Member)

Nazzareno Marchionda (Appointed Member RHA Staff)

Michael Griffiths (Ex-Officio, RHA CEO)



## Ross House Announcement



## Tenant and Member Information Call Out!

We are in the process of updating all Ross House Member and Tenant information in our database and website. The update will help us to communicate with your organisation better and enable us to provide the most up-to-date information to service users via our website. You should have received and email request early this week, but if you haven't already provided your updated contact and public organisation information, please do so via the following links:

Tenants: https://form.jotform.com/rosshouse/tenantinfo

Members: https://form.jotform.com/rosshouse/memberinfo

You can also provide an update by calling the Front Desk at (03) 9650 1599.

Ross House Association acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work. We respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation and the traditional owners of the land on which Ross House is located. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.



## Reflections by the RHA Chairperson

BY CHRISTINE MCAUSLAN



A SHOUT OUT FOR PARTICIPANTS to join the RHA Community Development (CD) sub-committee.

We are currently seeking Ross House community members to join sub-committees and contribute to Ross House. All sub-committees explore ideas and options, making recommendations that go to the RHA CoM for approval. At present, we are specifically looking for additional Community Development sub-committee members.

This sub-committee meets for approximately an hour every six weeks, either in person or via Zoom, depending on what activities we are planning. We look at events and initiatives for tenants and members by exploring ways to enhance the Ross House community networks and showcase events. For example, in May, we will hold a morning tea for the community to celebrate IDAHOBIT day. You will find more detailed information about the event in this newsletter.

Currently, we are exploring in-person and digital initiatives to bring the Ross House Community together. This includes the development of a yearly calendar of events.

Members of sub-committees do not need to be a member's nominated representative. They can be anyone interested in Ross House, Community Development, and wish to contribute to Ross House and its governance model.

Active participation in Ross House community management has always been part of Ross House philosophy. It is essential that people put their hand up to be part of the way Ross House operates. Since its inception, Ross House has always been a community-run model, and that is unique.

I encourage anyone interested in knowing more to contact CEO Michael Griffiths at michael.griffiths@rosshouse.org.au or myself at cmca.rha@gmail.com.

RHA Chairperson, Christine McAuslan.

## Included In This Issue

**Building and Maintenance** 

Melbourne Rail updates

**Grants and Assistance** 

Tenant Feature: Welcoming Mixed Nuts Media

Assisi Aid Projects Update

Update from ERA

Invitation to RHA Morning Tea May 17

A Letter from Deafblind Victoria

Job Opportunity with Post Polio Victoria





## Building and Maintenance

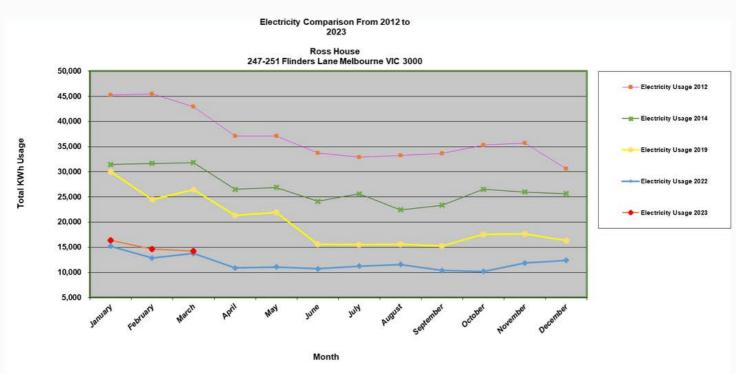
FROM THE ROSS HOUSE TEAM

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

- New kitchen bench, cabinets, and sink have been installed in the level 2 kitchen
- The door to the Jenny Florence meeting room on level 3 have been widening to improve accessibility
- Logitech conference cameras have been installed in Meeting Room 4.2 and in the Esther Harris Room 2.1. Please contact the front desk to arrange an induction prior to use.

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.





## 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 April 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 at Flinders Street Station
- Platform screen doors installation across the central cavern
- Station build out works at City Square.

Construction of the Oversite 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 turn lights off if you are the last to leave your floor or office.
- If you need any AV training, please contact the Front Desk to book this in at least a fortnight before your booking.
- We are still on the lookout for our lost Logitech conferencing camera. If you happen upon it please contact the Front Desk!
- Please keep communal spaces, including kitchens, clean and tidy for use by others.

# Equiptment User Guides

We have been developing a series of AV and equipment guides to assist you in using the Ross House Facilities. Find them on our website at rosshouse.org.au/facilities/rosshouse-user-guides/

For questions, please contact the Front Desk on 03 9650 1599 or at 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:

## Australian Communities Foundation

Funding for Charitable Organisations

Australian Communities
Foundation supports a range of charitable organisations and projects each year. As a public ancillary fund, they represent around 310 subfunds, each with their own funding priorities and interests.

#### What will be funded?

- The funding proposal submitted must be for activities in line with your organisation's charitable purpose.
- Your organisation must be based in Australia, or have an Australian auspice partner.

Eligibility: Unincorporated Groups, Not-for-Profits (DGR Status required) Round: Ongoing

Funding: \$2,000-\$15,000

For further information, please visit www.communityfoundation.org. au/making-a-difference/seeking-funding/

#### **GLOBE**

**GLOBE Community Grants** 

The Gay and Lesbian
Organisation of Business and
Enterprise (GLOBE) Inc. has a
long history of providing
financial support to individuals,
groups and organisations in the
Melbourne LGBTIQ+community
with the GLOBE Community
Grants.

## What will be funded?

Projects and initiatives that support the Victoria LGBTIQ+ Community.

Elligibility: Individuals, Not-for-Profits

- You must be based in Victoria.
- You must support the Victorian LGBTIQ+ Community through your activities.
- You will utilise the Grant within the next 12 months.

Round: Opened 17 April, Closes

28 May 2023

Funding: Up to \$2,000

For further information, please visit globevictoria.com.au/about-globe/community-grants/



## The ArtsPay Foundation Small Arts

A pilot grant round to help ArtsPay best understand how they can support artists and small arts organisations from Australia into the future.

#### What will be funded?

Small arts organisations with an annual turnover of less that \$1 million who work in arts such as:

- Performance and Visual Art
- Literature, film and gaming
- Multi-Art Form
- Community and Cultural Development
- Experimental and new arts forms

Eligibility: Not-for Profits, Unincorporated Groups, Individuals

Round: Closes 9 May 2023 Funding: Up to \$10,000

For further information, please visit

artspayfoundation.org/funding

# JOIN US AGAINST LGBTQIA+ DISCRIMINATION ON MAY 17

On May 17, IDAHOBIT (International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia & Transphobia) is a day to activate, educate and change the world.



**EVENT** 

Morning Tea on Wednesday May 17th

TIME & LOCATION

10:30 - 11:30 AM in the Ross House Foyer

**DETAILS** 

Please RSPV with any dietary requirements to rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au by May 3rd 2023. Refreshments provided. See you there!





# Tenant Feature: Welcoming Mixed Nuts Media!

BY MIXED NUTS MEDIA INC. ROOM 4.8

Mixed Nuts Media Inc. (MNM) is a video and arts organisation for people with mental illness. We formed in 2012 and have made commissioned videos for other organisations including Cohealth, the Flemington Kensington News, and Moonee Valley City Council. We have run courses in video production, editing and writing, made videos for ourselves, and we have developed a website. We have just moved into Ross house and are excited by the opportunities to interact with other groups.

Participants in MNM need to have a mental health diagnosis or have formerly had one. We also have mentors who don't have to have mental illness. We acquire new participants for courses and training. We have obligation-free discussions with people who want to participate or develop a project.





Mixed Nuts Media is settling into Ross House and we are working on planning for new training and projects. We have a management committee and are a not-for-profit, incorporated association. During the COVID19 pandemic we made a video for the Moonee Valley City Council called "The COVID Chronicles." It is available on our website and on the Moonee Valley City Council's website where it was one of their most popular films. It is about how people with various disabilities handled the lockdowns. We made "The Making of the COVID Chronicles," also. Many of our videos we don't have rights over as they were commissioned by other organisations, but we have a good selection of videos on our website.

We also have a division in MNM called FIG which is The Female Issues Group, for our female members to work on their own projects. Many of our videos relate to mental illness or disabilities in general, but we can make videos on any topic. We also sell art and a colouring-in book created by our chairperson Sue Armstrong. These are available on our website.

For more information, to contact us, or to purchase our colouring in book visit us at www.mixednutsmedia.org.au, or we may see you around the building.

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



IN THE HOUSE: MAY 2023 PAGE 8

# Assisi Aid Projects Update

In March, Assisi's CEO Jacqueline Parisi and Program Manager Cate Coleman travelled to Tamil Nadu, India, to visit our partner Integrated Development Trust. While there, they spoke to project staff and participants of our joint single women's and children's projects and visited the projects.

Jacqueline and Cate were highly impressed by the work carried out by the project teams and were moved by the stories the women in the communities shared with them. Speaking of the experience, Jacqueline says, "Through meeting the participants, it was clear to us how the lives of the women and children have been truly changed through the projects - we were able to see first-hand the wonderful impact our projects are having. Thank you very much to all our supporters!"



Meanwhile, on International Women's Day, Her Excellency Ms Felicity Volk, Australian Ambassador to Nepal, visited Business and Professional Women Nepal (BPW Nepal) and Assisi Aid Projects' new ANCP-funded project, 'Advancing Women in Agroforestry Business Enterprises', in Jumla. Ms Volk said, "Women's economic empowerment underpins the wellbeing and prosperity of local communities, nations, and the globe. It is also key to the realisation of the human rights of women and girls themselves. That is why the Australian Government has a target that 80 per cent of its development investments must effectively address gender equality." Many thanks to Ms Volk and everyone involved in making the day a great success!

Image descriptions: Top, March 2023 Nepal Visit Bottom, Ambassador Volk Nepal Visit.

www.assisi.org.au

Assisi Aid Projects is a small international development organisation with a strong focus on women – empowering women to create positive change in their own lives, in their children's lives, and in their communities.

## Voice At The Table Radio Show On 3CR

BY VOICE AT THE TABLE

Voice at the table (VATT) is a program that supports and build the advocacy skills of people with cognitive disability. The aim is for people with a cognitive disability to be confident to speaking up in their own lives and take on leadership roles in the community. For example, by being part of boards and committees.

People with cognitive disabilities are too often left out of the conversation. We do not get to hear their voices. The VATT radio show enables the stories and experiences of people with a cognitive disability to be put out into the world. And it supports people with cognitive disability to continue to build their advocacy skills.

The VATT radio show is hosted by Warren Loorham with Dan Sullivan as the audio producer.





Images: Meet the VATT Radio Show hosts. Left, Warren Loorham, Right Dan sullivan

The people who come onto the show to share their stories have cognitive disability.

The exciting news is that the VATT radio show is now being played on the community radio station 3CR. You can listen the show live every fourth Wednesday of the month at 6pm.

You can listen to previous episodes anytime. To listen please visit www.3cr.org.au/voiceatthetable

You can listen to the VATT radio show at www.3cr.org.au/voiceatthetable



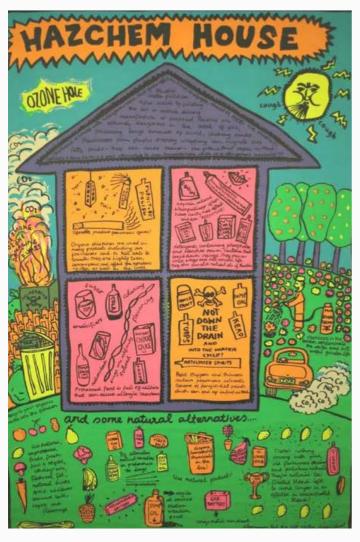
# STAY CONNECTED AND SIGN UP TO THE WEEKLY E-BULLETIN

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 at www.facebook.com/rosshouseassociation/and following the links!

IN THE HOUSE: MAY 2023 PAGE 10



Images: Top, *Hazchem House* environmental justice poster. Bottom, *Culture Begins at Home* campaign poster.

# Social Justice Posters

BY COSHG

Ross House tenant, Collective of Self Help Groups (COSHG) has started a new Instagram account @socialjustice\_posters to share posters from their Picturing Social Justice project — an eclectic collection of social justice campaign and event posters from the 1980s and 1990s. Damaged posters from the collection are currently being restored by students at Melbourne University's Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation.

Check out this piece of local history and follow the Picturing Social Justice project here: www.instagram.com/socialjustice\_posters

Website:www.coshg.org.au/picturing-social-justice-project/



## A Letter From Deafblind Victoria

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of DeafBlind Victoria Australia to inquire if your organisation and colleagues would be interested in making a donation. This is to support a deafblind person's attendance at the Deafblind International (DbI) 18th World Conference in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada from July 22 to 28, 2023. The conference includes a comprehensive 4-day educational program run by Deafblind Network of Ontario (DBNO), providing an opportunity for the Deafblind Victoria representative to connect with people who understand deafblindness globally and bring back networks and learnings to create greater opportunities for the local Deafblind community.

DeafBlind Victoria has a paper in the conference about the history of DeafBlind Victoria, which started in 2007. DeafBlind Victoria is a non-profit community group with a low annual income of under \$20,000, which covers rent and event costs, etc. It is a self-advocacy group run by deafblind people, with three co-founders: Michelle Stephens, Trudy Ryall, and Heather Lawson. Over 50 deafblind members within Victoria participate in projects and events, with approximately 30 volunteers. We are anxiously looking forward to achieving our goal to reach \$50,000 to cover the expenses for 1 deafblind person, 2 Auslan interpreters, and 2 support workers to attend the conference, a total of 5 people.

The details for this year's conference are as follows (CND = Canadian Dollars):

- Air flight costs: \$6,000 return per person. For 5 people, the total cost of air flights is \$30,000.
- Accommodation costs: Two Bedroom Suites at THE WESTIN OTTAWA (11 Colonel By Drive Ottawa, ON K1N 9HA Canada) cost \$329 CND per night per person. For 5 people, the total cost of accommodation is \$2,268 CND.
- Conference registration fees: \$1,250 for full conference registration for 1 deafblind person, and \$500 each for full conference registration for 4 support persons, totalling \$3,250 CND.
- Other miscellaneous expenses (food, public transport, travel insurance, etc.): Total costs of miscellaneous expenses are \$14,482. CND

We know organisations such as yours have a desire to give back to local communities. If your organisation would like to contribute any amount of money for this wonderful opportunity, we can provide an invoice of the donations. If you make a direct deposit, please include the words "conference donation" in the transaction description. Account details are as follows:

Deafblind Victoria
Commonwealth Bank of Australia

BSB: 063 011

Account: 10556690

Address: DeafBlind Victoria, Level 3,

247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne

Please send an email to deafblindadvocacy@gmail.com confirming the donation. If you have any questions, please contact me by email or SMS at 0481 715 869.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Trudy Ryall
President and Events and Administration Manager
DeafBlind Victoria

IN THE HOUSE: MAY 2023

## **Helpful Links!**

18th Deafblind International World Conference: www.deafblindnetworkontario.com/18th-deafblind-international-world-conference-2023/

Deafblind Victoria: www.deafblindvictoria.com



# Job Opportunity: Post Polio Victoria

Ross House Member, Post Polio Victoria, are seeking a part time Administration Support Officer

This is a part time role working remotely.

Post Polio Victoria (PPV) is seeking a motivated and enthusiastic person to work as a part time Administration Support Officer (5 hours a week)

#### The role includes:

- Maintaining of database/electronic filing
- Prepare monthly bulletin.
- Website maintenance Word Press
- Preparing for Annual Report
- Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn & Instagram

#### The applicant must have:

- A proven track record
- Reliable, enthusiastic, friendly & warm
- High level of written and verbal communication, strong computer skills
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office, excellent time management skills & ability to prioritise tasks
- Have a working understanding of and experience withing the not-for-profit and disability sector (not essential)
- Current ABN
- laptop provided

People with a disability are strongly encouraged to apply.

Please click on the link below for the full position description. www.postpoliovictoria.org.au/administ ration-support-officer-part-time/

Position closes on 8th May 2023



Post Polio Victoria advocates for people with polio so they can have access to the information and services needed to live actively and independently.

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





## Mojo Festival of Arts for World Schizophrenia Day

BY SCHIZY INC.

Schizy Inc is pleased to present Mojo Festival of Arts for World Schizophrenia Day.

Mojo Festival of Arts is Schizy Inc's latest annual event to honour World Schizophrenia Day and is supported by Australia Council for the Arts and Creative Victoria. Schizy Inc and Mojo are fully lived-experience led offering a unique voice in the world of mental health, and disability leadership and innovation.

#### So, what is schizophrenia?

Schizophrenia as a spectrum of experiences involving a mix of complex trauma injury, environment and social attitudes, as well as non-negotiable factors such as brain/body chemistry and physiology. Schizophrenia is not 'hearing voices', a split personality, or 'acting crazy'. In fact, hearing voices was taken out of the diagnostic criteria a few years ago as many



people without mental illness have auditory hallucinations. A condition like schizophrenia needs to be thought of more as an acquired injury, and people with schizophrenia deserve respect, humanity and care.

There are many ways to integrate mental health realities like schizophrenia into a fulfilling life. These include counselling, understanding personal stressors and coping mechanisms, medication, trauma healing and cultural connection. The arts offer a great way for everyone to express voice and identify, begin to heal, and feel part of good things.

www.schizy.org

# There are two events we at Schizy Inc would love to invite you to

Mojo Performing Arts Gala. Trades Hall Ballroom, Carlton. Sunday 21 May. 3pm - 5pm.

Mojo Art and Literary Exhibition. Abbotsford Convent - Hellier Gallery. May-June 2023.

Tickets and info, please contact Heidi at Schizy Inc - admin@schizy.org

World Schizophrenia Day is on May 24.

# Update from Elder Rights Advocacy

From 15 – 21 May, we celebrate our amazing volunteers as part of National Volunteer Week. The theme this year is The Change Makers, and our Community Visitor's Scheme volunteers definitely create change with the friendships that are made with older people in the community.

Our Board Members and Ambassadors are also creating change through their leadership, support and tireless commitment to ensuring that the rights of older people are upheld.

In June, our advocates will be speaking at different events for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) events at local councils and community groups. If you have an event you would like us to participate in, please email education@era.asn.au.

Sadly, we lost two great people recently. Phillipa Campbell, our CEO from January 2020 to October 2022, passed away in February. Mary Anne Hunt, former Elder Rights Advocacy President and OPAN Chairperson, also suddenly died from illness on April 11. We value the contribution of these two incredible humans. They will be missed.

Please visit our website for further tributes. era.asn.au/about-us/news/latest-news/



## Non Profit Training

Ross House Member, Non Profit Training, provides training for not-for-profit organisations, associations and charities across Australia.

Online Finance Training Tuesday 16 May 2023 10am - 3:30pm Cost \$330

Online Governance Training Saturday 20 May 2023 10am - 3:30pm Cost \$330

Online Governance Training Wednesday 31 May 2023 10am - 3:30pm Cost \$330

Online Project Management Training Thursday 8 June 2023 10am – 3:30pm Cost \$330 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 www.nonprofittraining.com.au



IN THE HOUSE: MAY 2023 PAGE 15



# 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 only.



# ROSS HOUSE ASSOCIATION STAFF THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



MICHAEL GRIFFITHS
CEO
michael.griffiths@rosshouse.org.au



NAZZARENO MARCHIONDA Facilities Manager n.marchionda@rosshouse.org.au



RUBY JAMES-STRAWHAN
Information & Administration Officer
rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au



KATIE STADTFELD CUNNANE Information & Administration Officer rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au



JUNXIA XU
Finance Officer
junxia.xu@rosshouse.org.au

Casual Staff: Ella Marchionda, Carol Franklin, and Patti Gerkens

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 us, advising of submission deadlines.

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



247 - 251 Flinders Lane

Melbourne VIC 3000
03 9650 1599 | rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au | rosshouse.org.au

