

MARCH 2024

# IN THE HOUSE

Ross House Association Member and Tenant News

## Update on Ground Floor Commercial Lease

I am writing to provide another update on the progress for the ground floor commercial lease. I am excited to announce that Ross House Association has recently signed an updated Heads of Agreement (HOA) for the lease of the ground floor of Ross House. The HOA sets out the agreed key terms in preparation for formal lease.

There will now be a common area at the front of the ground floor that will be shared by Dukes Coffee staff and the new commercial tenant. In order to improve the entry area and design for the new commercial tenant, we are going to widen the stairs that lead up from the main entrance to ground level. These works will be done as part of the broader package of works to clear the ground floor.

We expect construction of a new Ross House reception area, the moving of the remaining ground floor tenants and clearing the ground floor to happen over April & May 2024, the stair widening work will happen during the tenants fit-out phase mid-year. Once a lease has been signed in late March, we will send out the relevant works notifications.

We are thrilled with this progress, as a commercial lease will enable the Association to continue to provide critical facilities to Melbourne's charity and not-for-profit groups into the future. This initiative forms part of our long-term strategic plan and was supported by the RHA Membership at a Special General Meeting of the Association in October 2022.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [michael.griffiths@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:michael.griffiths@rosshouse.org.au).

Michael Griffiths

CEO  
Ross House Association

## RHA COMMITTEE 2024

Treasurer  
Alba Chliakhtine  
(ABRISA)

Secretary  
Denise Boyd  
(STAR)

Samantha Marsh  
(BCA)

Keith Bettles  
(Ordinary Member U3A)

Ally Scott  
(Ordinary Member DRC)

De Grebner  
(Ex TreeProject Appointed  
Member)

Nazzareno Marchionda  
(Appointed Member RHA Staff)

Michael Griffiths  
(Ex-Officio, RHA CEO)



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.





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.



# Building and Maintenance

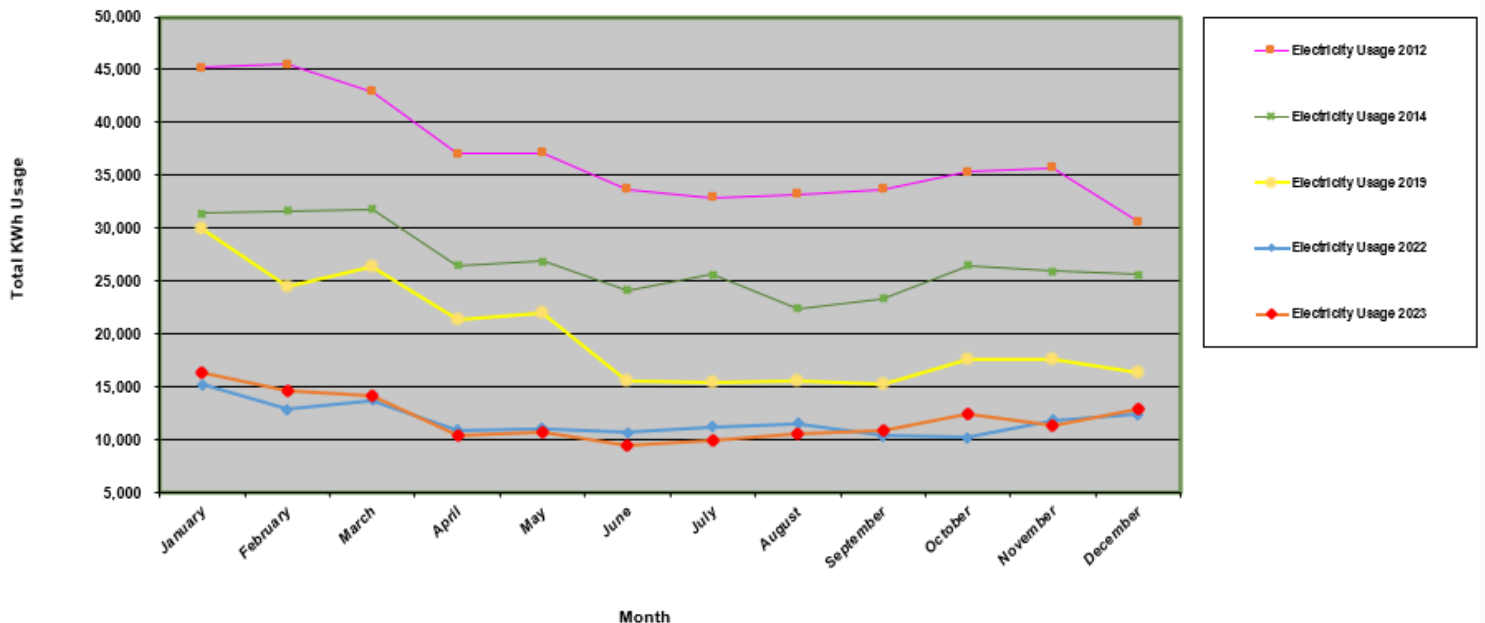
FROM THE ROSS HOUSE TEAM

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 carpet has been laid in the Christine McAuslan Room on level 1.
- New carpet has been laid in the Quiet/Prayer Room on level 1.
- RHA staff have purchased a second portable Logitech Camera for members and tenants to use for ad-hoc meetings. Please enquire at the desk for further information!

Electricity Comparison From 2012 to 2023  
 Ross House  
 247-251 Flinders Lane Melbourne VIC 3000





# 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 2024 include:

- station entrance construction and station build-out works
- station passenger area and operational rooms construction and fit out
- Campbell Arcade restoration works including fit out of the underground passenger connection to Flinders Street Station
- lift installations within the Degraves Subway at Flinders Street Station
- surface works in Flinders Lane and the adjoining alley ways
- train testing through the tunnel.

If you have any questions regarding these works, or would like more information on the project, please visit [www.metrotunnel.vic.gov.au](http://www.metrotunnel.vic.gov.au) or phone 1800 551 927.

*If you have something you would like to contribute to the next RHA Newsletter, please email Katie or Carol at [rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au)*



## Friendly Reminders!

### FROM ROSSHOUSE

- Please turn lights off if you are the last to leave your floor or office.
- Please close meeting room doors when you exit.
- If you need any AV training, please contact the Front Desk to book this in at least a fortnight before your booking.
- Please do not leave any unwanted furniture in the corridors of Ross House as it blocks access and makes the place look untidy. If you need assistance, please get in touch with the RH team.
- Please keep communal spaces, including kitchens, clean and tidy for use by others.

## Equipment 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/ross-house-user-guides/](http://rosshouse.org.au/facilities/ross-house-user-guides/)

For further information, please contact the Front Desk on 03 9650 1599 or at [rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au)

Ross House: Where Community Groups Grow





# Grants and Assistance Programs

BY ROSS HOUSE ASSOCIATION

These are some of the grants and assistance programs currently available that we think might interest you.

## Human Rights and Social Justice Grant

Australian Communities Foundation and Humanists Victoria

Humanists Victoria supports initiatives in Victoria that are working to promote and/or protect the human rights and civil liberties of individuals and groups, especially those experiencing discrimination.

### What will be funded?

Funding is available to initiatives that promote and/or protect human rights and civil liberties, including but not limited to those that focus on:

- strengthening democracy
- promoting social justice, inclusion or civic opportunities for marginalised groups
- addressing poverty or inequality
- addressing environment and climate change
- opposing religious privilege

**Eligibility:** Not-For-Profits, Unincorporated groups.

**Funding:** \$5,000 to \$20,000

**Round:** Open now! Closes March 5, 2024

For further information please visit:

<https://www.communityfoundation.org.au/support/humanists-victoria>

## Aboriginal Community Infrastructure Program.

The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR) (VIC) and Department of Premier and Cabinet (VIC)

Funding up to \$1.6 million is available for Aboriginal organisations to build new community infrastructure or repair, refurbish or expand existing community infrastructure, to support Aboriginal Victorians to thrive, and live self-determined and culturally rich lives.

### What will be funded?

To meet the needs of Aboriginal Victorians, the program supports organisations to:

- improve the delivery and responsiveness of services to communities
- improve cultural connectedness and community safety
- improve health and well being of communities
- improve education and economic participation opportunities for communities.

**Eligibility:** Not-For-Profits, Universities, Local Governments

**Funding:** \$50,000 to 1,600,000

**Round:** Open now! Closes April 22, 2024 at 2pm

For further information please visit:

<https://www.firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-community-infrastructure-program>



## Small Grants Program Equity Trustees

The small grants program invests in small to medium sized grass roots initiatives and organisations that empower local communities to thrive.

### What will be funded?

Projects with a wide range of purposes are eligible, including:

- Community support services
- Animal Welfare
- Ageing Well
- Medical Research

**Eligibility:** Not-For-Profits

**Funding:** up to \$40,000

**Round:** Open now! Closes March 11, 2024 at 5pm.

For further information please visit:

<https://www.eqt.com.au/philly/thropy/grant-funding/small-grants-program>



Members and tenants are invited

# Welcome back brunch

in celebration of

## International Day of Happiness



**Wednesday 20th March**  
11:30am – 1:30pm



**Hayden Raysmith**  
Room 4.1

Happiness is a fundamental human goal. The United Nations General Assembly recognizes this goal and calls for “a more inclusive, equitable and balanced approach to economic growth that promotes the happiness and well-being of all peoples.”

Come along for a snack and a chat, and share what happiness means to you.



# Tenant Feature: IndianCare

## ROOM 4.9

We at IndianCare are dedicated to supporting and empowering Indian-origin and other South Asian communities in Victoria, Australia.

As a not-for-profit organisation, our mission revolves around ethno-specific community development and welfare, focusing on addressing the unique challenges faced by migrants in unfamiliar settings.

Cultural displacement and a lack of social capital can often leave members of our community feeling vulnerable to hardship and loneliness. That's where IndianCare steps in. We specialise in connecting our clients with mainstream service providers by providing them with the required information and offering warm referrals.

Our approach is centered on providing support for overall well-being. We operate a helpline that offers assistance to community members facing challenges as migrants. Our social workers are fluent in native languages, helping to overcome language barriers and ensuring that our services are accessible to all.

At IndianCare, advocacy is another key aspect of our work. We collaborate with governmental agencies and serve as a voice for migrants and marginalised communities of Indian backgrounds. By advocating for their rights and needs, we strive to bring about positive change and empowerment.

Additionally, we deliver workshops and trainings tailored to the specific needs of our community to build stronger communities.

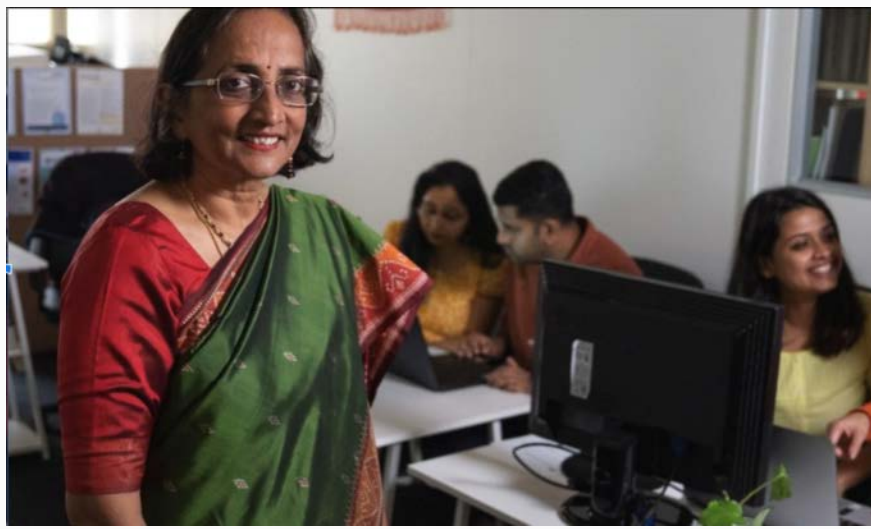


Image description: The IndianCare team wearing Indian dress are gathered in their office at Ross House, chatting and working on computers.

From in-language Baby Makes 3 workshops to women support groups, we create culturally appropriate spaces for growth and connection.

Our organisation receives main funding from the Victorian government and many local councils. In the past, we have established partnerships with various organisations, including GenWest, Orange Door, Intouch, and Westjustice. These partnerships enable us to expand our reach and impact, ensuring that we can continue to serve our community effectively.

Located at Level 4 of Ross House, we take pride in being part of a vibrant community of organisations working towards positive change. Our team is passionate about serving and empowering our community, and we welcome any opportunities for collaboration or support.

If you would like to learn more about IndianCare or explore potential projects for collaboration, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of marginalised communities in Victoria.

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

*If you would like your RHA member or tenant organisation to feature here, please email [rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au)*





# ABI Lived Experience Workshop

BY BRAIN INJURY MATTERS

Ever wondered why a person with brain injury might behave the way they do?

Join us for a unique and insightful workshop on understanding and supporting someone to navigate the challenges of brain injury. Facilitated by people with lived experience, this workshop aims to help support workers, support coordinators, caregivers or anyone interested, to better understand what it's like to live with a brain injury.

## Who is this workshop for?

Support workers, support coordinators, caregivers or anyone interested in getting valuable insights from people with lived experience of brain injury.

Topics include:

- What is an Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)?
- Causes of ABI
- Physical, cognitive and emotional challenges of ABI
- Tips and strategies for working with people with ABI.



Our knowledgeable facilitators will also share their personal stories, giving a real-world insights into living with brain injury.

Don't miss out on this valuable opportunity!  
COST \$50

**When?** Thursday 14 March 2024 10am - 12pm

**Where?** Hayden Raysmith Room, Level 4, Ross House

To find out more information, and to register, please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/COSLV>.

For further information, please visit [www.braininjurymatters.org](http://www.braininjurymatters.org).

Brain Injury Matters is a not-for-profit self-advocacy organisation that aims to empower people living with an acquired brain injury.

# Sexual Harassment & Discrimination of Women in the Workplace

Are you, or someone you know, interested in a presentation on sexual harassment/discrimination in the workplace against women with disabilities?

Disability Discrimination Legal Service (DDLS) is offering an in-person workshop or webinar for women with disabilities and their support person.

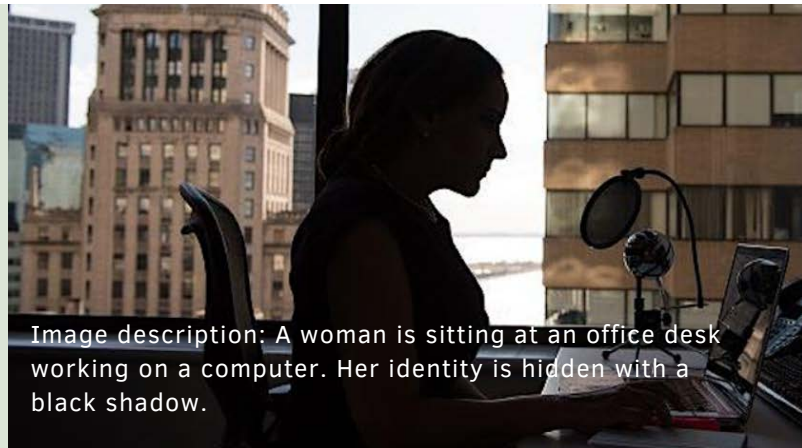


Image description: A woman is sitting at an office desk working on a computer. Her identity is hidden with a black shadow.

To find out more information, please contact Hannah on 9654 8644 or [lawyer1@ddls.org.au](mailto:lawyer1@ddls.org.au).

For further information, please visit [www.ddls.org.au](http://www.ddls.org.au).



# RHA End of Year Celebration

Ross House members and tenants gathered in the Foyer on Thursday 14th December 2023 for the Ross House End of Year Celebration!

It was fantastic to see our wonderful community come together for snacks, a drink and some yummy food, catered by Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ACRC).

Thank you to everyone who attended on the day, after another successful year! We are very grateful for everything you do.

Be sure to attend our next event, the Welcome Back Brunch, where we will be celebrating International Day of Happiness (UN Day) which falls on Wednesday 20th March 2024.

More information is provided in this newsletter, we hope to see you there!



## 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 homepage of our website at [rosshouse.org.au](http://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/](https://www.facebook.com/rosshouseassociation/) and following the links!



# Neighbourhood Survey

BY THE CITY OF MELBOURNE

Shape the future of the area you live, work, study or play in by taking the City of Melbourne Neighbourhood Survey. We're checking in on the priorities you and your community already shared with us to make sure we're continuing to do what counts.

Your ideas could help inform Council's future budgets and the next four-year Council Plan.

## Have your say!

Take the survey by 31st March to help shape the future of your neighbourhood and for the chance to win a \$200 Queen Victoria Market voucher.

You can also join us at pop-up events in your neighbourhood to find out more.

To find out more information, and to take the survey, please visit [www.participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/Neighbourhood-Survey-2024](http://www.participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/Neighbourhood-Survey-2024).

# Warm Safe Home Project

BY THE HOUSING FOR THE AGED ACTION GROUP (HAAG)

Warm Safe Home is a community art project aiming to raise awareness about elder abuse, increase community connection through art, and show the importance of secure and affordable housing for older people's safety.

In partnership with COTA Victoria, Seniors Rights Victoria, councils and community libraries, we are inviting groups to host events across the state that start conversations about respecting older people, what elder abuse looks like, and spread the message that everyone has the right to live in a warm safe home.

This will culminate in exhibitions of the homes for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15th 2024.

To find out more information about the project, and Housing for the Aged Action Group, please visit [www.older tenants.org.au](http://www.older tenants.org.au).



**JUNE 15**  
**WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY**



# Inclusive Meeting Training

BY VOICE AT THE TABLE (VATT)

## What is Voice at the Table?

People with cognitive disability are often excluded from committees and consultations. The Voice at the Table Project seeks to create change and ensure that people with cognitive disability can have a real and equal voice on boards, committees, and consultations. This includes people with intellectual disability and acquired brain injury.

## What do we do?

- Training for people with cognitive disability about speaking up
- Inclusive meeting training for organisations.
- Meetups for people with cognitive disability who have done training.

## Who is the inclusive meetings training for?

Staff working for organisations aiming to ensure people with cognitive disabilities have a genuine say. For example, for committee members, support staff, or people organising consultations.

## What do you learn?

- Why inclusive practice is important.
- To identify and understand the barriers to participation for people with cognitive disability.
- Ways to make your meetings welcoming.
- Skills and techniques for getting people with cognitive disability to open up and speak confidently.

## How is training delivered?

- Online or in person.
- Training is co-designed and co-facilitated by people with cognitive disability in line with the VATT motto, 'Nothing about us without us'.
- Using plain and easy English.



Image description: VATT members are standing with a member of the public presenting them with a certificate.

## How long is the training in 2024?

The training is for 3 hours at Ross House on the below dates:

- April 24, 12:30pm - 3:30pm
- May 15, 12:30pm - 3:30pm
- June 13, 12:30pm- 3:30pm

## What is the cost?

- Free. VATT is funded by the Department of Social Services.

## How can I find out more?

Please contact Peter Whelan, VATT Inclusion Team Leader on [peter@voiceatthetable.com.au](mailto:peter@voiceatthetable.com.au) or [training@voiceatthetable.com.au](mailto:training@voiceatthetable.com.au). You can also phone 0493 701 954 on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

For further information about Voice At The Table, please visit [www.voiceatthetable.com.au](http://www.voiceatthetable.com.au).





# PCE Feast!

## BY POWER AND CULTURE IN ETHNICITY

You are invited to join Power and Culture in Ethnicity (sub-group of SARU) at their upcoming PCE Feast!

The event will be held on Harmony Day where you will hear from self-advocates whilst enjoying a yummy feast!

**When?** Thursday 21st March 2024 at 5pm

**Where?** Red & Orange Room, Multicultural Hub, Elizabeth Street

To find out more information, and to RSVP, please contact Janet Curtain on 0418 114 558, or, via this link >  
<https://forms.gle/FMrWAbzAaGg4AerA9>

PCE is a self-advocacy group for people with a disability from non-english speaking backgrounds.

Where we put Self Advocacy  
on the table

# PCE Feast

(pronounced as 'Peace Feast')

21st March 2024 | 5 pm  
Red & Orange Room, Multicultural Hub  
506 Elizabeth St, Melbourne VIC 3000

RSVP to Janet curtain at 0418 114 558



Image description: A poster with the event information on a brown background with an image of bowls of brightly coloured food underneath.

# Congratulations Colin Hiscoe!

## BY REINFORCE

Reinforce Self Advocacy is proud to acknowledge that Reinforce President, Colin Hiscoe has been recognised in the 2024 Australian Honours List. Colin has been awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to people with a disability through advocacy roles.

Colin has worked tirelessly, as a volunteer, on committees and advisory boards for over 30 years and has played a part in shaping the oldest self advocacy organisation for people with intellectual disability right here in Ross House.

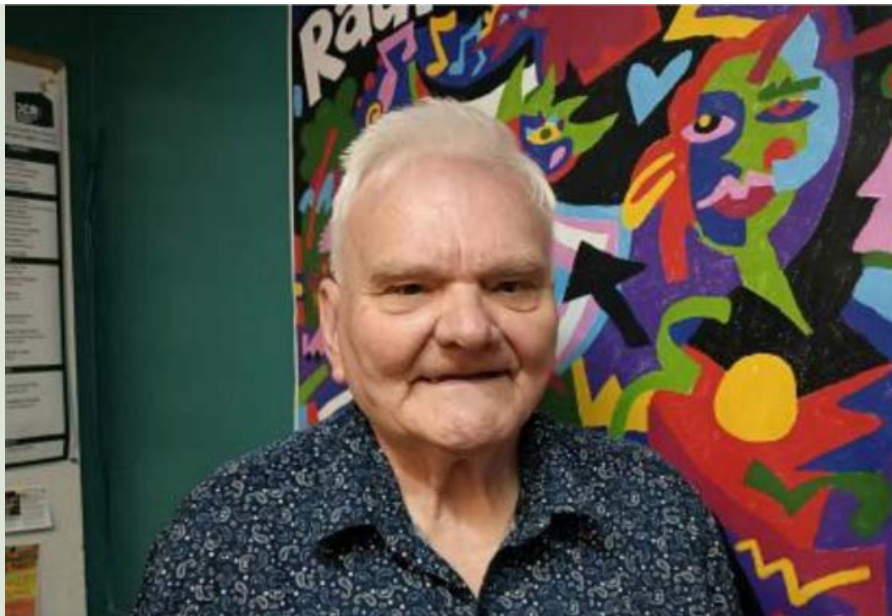


Image description: Photograph of Colin Hiscoe from Reinforce, standing in front of a colourful abstract painting.

Reinforce is a self-advocacy organisation for people with an intellectual disability.

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





SiDAS 2024

Writing  
Workshop

**Graeme  
Simsion**

**Tuesday 6 March 2024  
12PM - 4PM**

**For writers with  
complex mental health**

Abbotsford Convent  
1/3 St Heliers St,  
Abbotsford VIC 3067

**Register Attendance**  
studio@schizy.org

Cost: \$5 or Donation

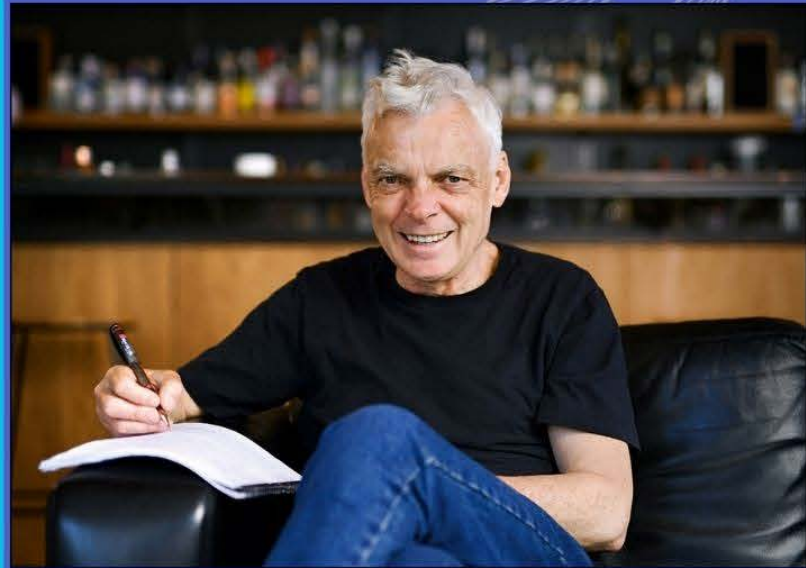


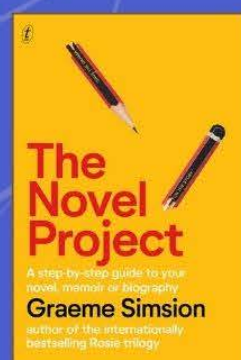
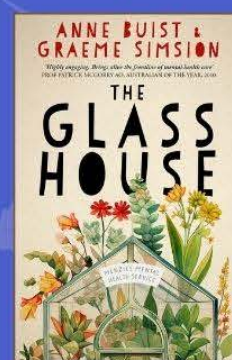
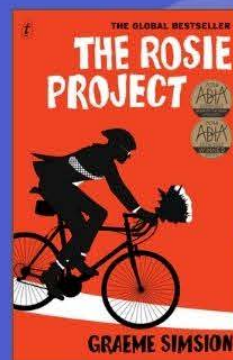
Photo credit: Darren James

### About Graeme Simsion

Graeme Simsion is an internationally acclaimed author and screenwriter, well known for his award-winning series of books *The Rosie Project*.

In this half-day workshop with Schizy Inc, Graeme will lead you through a step-by-step guide in planning your novel or memoir. You'll also gain tips on the writing process including understanding structure, character and story.

### Graeme's Books





Lotus Group Projects invites you

# TENANT INFO SHARING DAY



- \* Strengthen a sense of community between Ross House tenants
- \* Reconnect with local community work students
- \* Connect new people with Ross House
- \* Invite city-based dwellers and organisations into Ross House
- \* Provide a carry bag of information about Ross House and how to access meeting rooms and link with the various tenant groups

Ross House tenant Lotus Group Projects has received a City of Melbourne Grant to host three information sessions and an event for International Day of Disability in early December 2024.

The first session will be a Ross House tenant information sharing day inviting local community work students and organisations to participate.

If you:

- would like table space to provide information about your group
- are interested in presenting information about your group
- can be part of the organising team for this and future events

**Contact: Lyn on 0413239236 or email [lotusgroupabi@gmail.com](mailto:lotusgroupabi@gmail.com)**

**THURSDAY  
MAY 23 2024, 11AM**

**HAYDEN RAYSMITH ROOM  
LEVEL 4 ROSS HOUSE  
247-251 FLINDERS LANE  
MELBOURNE (BETWEEN ELIZABETH  
AND SWANSTON ST)**



**LUNCH INCLUDED! PLEASE RSVP**



# Volunteer Information Session

BY ANTaR VICTORIA

Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR) Victoria is a grassroots, non-government organisation.

ANTaR Victoria supports land rights, justice and reconciliation in solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. We support these voices by advocacy and educating the non-Indigenous community.

ANTaR Victoria is currently recruiting volunteers in 2024 to support work in the following roles:

- Social Media Coordinator
- Online Shop Volunteer
- Promotional Material Volunteer
- Grant Writer
- Event Volunteers
- Membership Coordinator



Image Description: picture of people clapping hands and holding an ANTaR Victoria Booklet.

If you would like to learn more about the work of ANTaR Victoria and our volunteering opportunities, please attend our upcoming virtual (zoom) information session on Thursday 7th March 2024, 6pm - 7pm.

Please register your attendance on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/antar-victoria-volunteer-information-session-tickets-827947873377>.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please email us at [antar@antarvictoria.org.au](mailto:antar@antarvictoria.org.au)



# Women's ABI Group

BY BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (BIM)

Are you a female or female identifying person with a brain injury? If so, join us for a special Brain Injury Matters Women's Peer Support Group at Level 4, Ross House on Monday 4th March 2024, 11am - 12.30pm.

The theme will be International Women's Day (which occurs that week on the Friday 8 March 2024. Please note: our group will meet on the Monday 4th March and regularly on the first Monday of the month.

We will have special hampers to give away to the first four women who RSVP to attend.

Please RSVP to [poppy.egan@braininjurymatters.org](mailto:poppy.egan@braininjurymatters.org) for your chance to win a hamper, and for catering purposes.



Brain Injury Matters

# Tree Project Grow with Us

BY TREE PROJECT

TreeProject has been a part of the wonderful Ross House community for over 20 years. It started in 1989 as a passion project when two women pledged to plant 1 million trees. Fifteen years later that goal was met, and now over 30 years later TreeProject has planted over 2 million trees.

But we don't just plant the trees, we grow them as well – from seed! Our organisation recruits and trains urban volunteers to grow indigenous seedlings in their backyard and nurture them until they are ready to be planted in the ground. The seedlings are then transported to rural landholders and Landcare groups who need our help with revegetation, where another group of volunteers plants these natives in the ground. This way, urban and rural communities work together to put trees back on the land.

This year we have 375 volunteers growing over 134,000 native seedlings that will go a long way to restoring and repairing Victoria's ecosystems.



Image Description: picture of people standing in a rural setting next to newly planted trees.

Our volunteers contribute their time and hard work to propagate and care for seedlings of indigenous plants to keep costs down for landholders. Being able to access 'at-cost' seedlings from TreeProject is often all the incentive and encouragement they need to start restoring areas.

Would you like to be a grower with us?

Do you have a rural property that needs revegetating?

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



Image Description: Newly planted trees on a green hillside landscape, with hills and sky.



# Free Hearing Tests for Members and Tenants

Members & Tenants of Ross House, and their clients are invited to participate in a free hearing test at Ross House, provided by Hearing Australia.

**Where?** The old Sue Healy Room / Mezzanine Room, Ground Floor, Ross House

**When?** Wednesday 27th March between 10am - 1pm (the hearing check will take between 5 -10 minutes)

To find out more information, and to make a booking, please reference your organisation, and contact Electra Mook (Community Hearing Advisor) on 0461 458 810 or [electra.Mook2@hearing.com.au](mailto:electra.Mook2@hearing.com.au).

For further information, please visit [www.hearingaustralia.com.au](http://www.hearingaustralia.com.au).



## Providing expert hearing care for over 75 years





# Non Profit Training

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

Tailored online and face-to-face training services, they educate and empower non-profit organisations, to enable them to focus on their purpose and deliver better outcomes to the community. Below is their upcoming schedule:

Online Leadership Training Melbourne  
5 March, 11am – 4.30pm  
\$700 (GST incl.) per person.

Online Finance Training Melbourne  
6 March 2024, 11am – 4.30pm  
\$350 (GST incl.) per person.

Online Board Chair Training Melbourne  
7 March 2024, 6 – 9pm  
\$210 (GST incl.) per person.

Online Project Management Training Melbourne  
14 March, 11am – 4.30pm  
\$350 (GST incl.) per person.

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

# Society of Women Writers

In 1970, Margaret Hazzard gathered together fourteen women – journalists, authors, playwrights, illustrators, contributors of articles paid for by newspapers or magazines, and TV and radio writers, to form a Victorian branch of the Society of Women Writers. In recognition, the Margaret Hazzard Short Story Award was established.

The competition runs biennially with women writers residing in Australia (or members residing overseas) are invited to submit short stories of up to 2,000 words on any theme. The competition closes on Tuesday 30th April 2024.

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

# Community Calendar March / April 2024

- Friday 1st March - International Wheelchair Day
- Friday 8th March - International Women's Day
- 18th - 25th March - Cultural Diversity Week
- Wednesday 20th March - International Day of Happiness / Welcome Back Brunch Member and Tenant Event
- Wednesday 27th March - Free Hearing Test for Members and Tenants
- Ross House Community Discussions:  
Wednesday 17th April, 11am - 12pm (Zoom)  
Tuesday 23rd April, 2pm - 3pm (Zoom)  
Thursday 2nd May 1:30pm, -3pm (HR Room)

For more information, please visit Page 22.

If you would like to add your event to our Community Calendar, in our next In the House, please email [rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au) or phone (03) 9650 1599.



# Ross House Updates

## RHA Equipment Grant – Round 2!

Last year, we introduced the RHA Equipment Grant, a micro-grant program designed to support our tenant organisations with general expenses such as printing, equipment, IT infrastructure, and furniture costs.

Despite encountering a few teething issues, the inaugural round proved to be a success! We were delighted to assist two tenants in purchasing much-needed computers and printers.

We are thrilled to announce the opening of Round 2 of the RHA Equipment Grant on Monday, March 4th!

This round offers a single grant of up to \$2000 and is open to all RHA tenant organisations, regardless of their size (be it incubator, small, medium, or large). Sorry, not available to associate member tenants.



Image Description: RHA tenant working in Ross House

### Key Dates:

- Applications Open: Monday, March 4th, 2024
- Applications Close: Thursday, March 28th, 2024

Further details and links to the online application form have been sent to all tenants via their primary email addresses.

If you have not received the link, please let us know at [rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au).



## Late Payments on Invoices

RHA would like to thank everyone for paying their invoices on time.

A friendly reminder that a \$15 late payment fee will be applied to your invoice if late and/or outstanding. Groups who want to pay in advance please get in touch.

If you need help, please contact the Front Desk on (03) 650 1599 / [rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au).

## Public Holiday Closure Dates

Ross House will be closed on the below dates:

Monday 11th March 2024 - Labour Day

Friday 29th March 2024 - Monday 1st April 2024  
- Easter Weekend.

Thursday 25th April - Anzac Day closure

For more information about the above closures, please contact the Front Desk on

(03) 650 1599 / [rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au).



# Digital Community Notice Board Launching March 11!

BY RHA

Exciting news! Our current Buy, Sell, Give, Donate Facebook group is getting an upgrade!

Introducing the RHA Community Notice Board – a new digital member and tenant hub launching on March 11.

This expanded platform will allow you to connect with other members, promote events, seek help, and share resources easily. It will also enable us to reach you faster than email, provide updates on building works and other goings-on, and offer a platform for quick questions and discussions.

On March 11, the Facebook group name changes to RHA Community Notice Board, and we will be uploading a new set of user guidelines – please read!



Image Description: RHA tenant working in Ross House

Your active participation is what will make this group a success. Keep selling or donating furniture, but also start discussions, ask questions, and make this group a valuable digital hub for our community.

Please note that this is a private group and will be restricted to member staff and volunteers. For questions or feedback, please email [r.jamesstrawhan@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:r.jamesstrawhan@rosshouse.org.au).



## Ross House Room Bookings

If you're feeling a bit lost or confused about how to use our online booking system, we've got your back! The front desk team is here to offer some one-on-one training sessions. They'll walk you through the whole process and make sure you're totally comfortable using our platform. This also includes information on how to update your key register, contact details and make a cancellation.

Reach out to the front desk if you would like to book some training by contacting [rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au)



## Friendly reminder about Cancellations

Please keep on top of your cancellations in your online account. We would hate for groups to miss out on rooms last minute if they are not being utilised - please cancel bookings if you aren't using them - thank you so much!

# Open Discussions for a Stronger Community

BY RHA

**Members and tenants are invited to have their say!**

Join us for our upcoming Community Discussions, designed to help us understand the true needs of our member and tenant community. Your thoughts and ideas will go towards informing a new multi-year RHA Community Development Strategy. Our Engagement and Communications Officer, Ruby, is excited to be hosting three sessions this April and May.

Ross House Association is committed to improving our level of support and resources, but we can't do it without your input!

## Why Attend?

Contribute to the further development of our unique and supportive community.

- Help inform the RHA Community Development Strategy.
- Have the opportunity to let us know what your organisation needs to thrive.
- Explore ways to tap into the diverse wealth of resources within our community.

Remember, Ross House is not your typical organisation, it is owned and managed by the community. It's you, our members and tenants, that make Ross House the supportive community hub that it is.

Together, we can create a stronger, more interconnected community that benefits every member and user.



Image Description: RHA tenant and member collage of 12 people. The images are headshot photographs.

Before the meetings you will receive a series of questions to consider and anyone unable to attend will have the opportunity to submit an online survey.

There is no need to RSVP just show up!

## Session 1 (online):

**When?** Wednesday 17 April, 11am - 12pm

**Where?** Online via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82738429188>

Meeting ID: 853 7771 9998

## Session 2 (online):

**When?** Tuesday 23 April, 2pm - 3pm

**Where?** Online via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82738429188>

Meeting ID: 853 7771 9998

## Session 3 (Hayden Raysmith Room):

**When?** Thursday 2nd May, 1:30pm - 3pm

**Where?** Hayden Raysmith Room, Level 4 Ross House

For more information, please reach out to Ruby at [r.jamesstrawhan@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:r.jamesstrawhan@rosshouse.org.au).







open conversations for a stronger community

# RHA COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS

**WEDNESDAY**

**17 APRIL, 2024**



**11 AM - 12 PM**



**ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

**[HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM.US/J/82738429188](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82738429188)**

**MEETING ID: 853 7771 9998**

**TUESDAY**

**23 APRIL, 2024**



**2 PM - 3 PM**



**ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

**[HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM.US/J/82738429188](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82738429188)**

**MEETING ID: 853 7771 9998**

**THURSDAY**

**2 MAY, 2024**



**1:30 PM - 3 PM**



**HAYDEN RAYSMITH ROOM  
LEVEL 4 ROSS HOUSE**



Members and tenants are invited to come along and share their insights into how Ross House Association can better support our community.

Before the meetings you will receive a series of questions to consider and anyone unable to attend will have the opportunity to submit an online survey.

There is no need to RSVP just show up!



# 2024 Window Displays



BY RHA

The Ross House team would like to thank the membership for their wonderful window displays throughout 2023! We know how much effort and planning goes into each display.

With the coming changes to the Ground Floor space, the large window will be our main avenue to showcase the wonderful work that you do. Moving forward, it has now become a shared window that will be split into two sections.

On the next page of this newsletter is a schedule of the upcoming allocations, and who you will be sharing a window with so you are aware of your friendly neighbour! We also have some vacant spots in the upcoming months, so please reach out to us if you would like to utilise this space.

If you would like to find out more information about our window displays, please get in touch with Katie or Carol at [rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au).



Image Description: Ross House large window displaying two member groups' information. Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG) and the Society of Women Writers (SOWW) have kicked off the year with some fantastic displays! The displays have banners and colourful flags and merchandise.

## Ross House Launches on tagvenue

We wanted to share with you a bit of good news.... After refreshing our meeting room photos, Ross House launched on TagVenue.com, a popular online platform for booking meeting rooms. This move is part of our efforts to boost the visibility of Ross House. Now when you search for meeting rooms in Melbourne, you can find us within the first few links!

We are super happy with the positive reception so far. We've received some great reviews, earned the status of Supervenue, and welcomed around 20 new facility users already! The increased visibility will help to spread the word of the Ross House community, and allow us to build a wider web of connections.

## STAY CONNECTED!



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



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



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





# 2024 WINDOW DISPLAY BOOKINGS

**There are still some vacancies available for this years window displays!**

Window allocations are for a period of one month and your allocation will start on the first weekday of the month (e.g. April 1st falls on a Saturday so the window will be available on Monday April 3rd).

Your display must be cleared out by the last weekday of your allocated month for the next organisation (e.g April 30th falls on a Sunday, so the window must be cleared out by Friday 28th).

You will receive a reminder email closer to the date to arrange collection of the window key.

Window Display pin board dimensions:  
Height - 1940cm, Width - 1040cm

For more information, please contact the Front Desk on [rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au)

## LEFT

SOWW

CAHA

SARU

Handknit and Crochet Guild

ERA

**VACANT**

ACFS

**VACANT**

**VACANT**

HAAG

**VACANT**

## RIGHT

Antar

PPP

Travellers Aid

DDLS

DBV

BIM

ABC Friends

CLAN

Schizy Inc

HAAG

Esperanto

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

# 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 five 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](mailto:rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au)



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