

MAY 2024

IN THE HOUSE

Ross House Association Member and Tenant News

A Message From Our Newly Appointed Chair, Colin Neave

As we move into a new chapter at Ross House, we are pleased to share a message from Colin Neave AM, our newly appointed chairperson of the RHA Management Committee, voted in at the February committee meeting.

“Ross House is a unique institution.

The vision of those who saw the potential of establishing such a facility should never be far from our thoughts.

Given the importance of our history, I am honoured to join its Committee and contribute to its affairs by continuing its plans to strengthen it financially and preserve its mutually supportive culture.

All of us who are part of Ross House are working to serve the Victorian and Australian community.

I used to come to Ross House to consult organisations based there asking what they thought about a variety of policy proposals when I held various positions in Government and as the Financial Ombudsman and later the Commonwealth Ombudsman. Now when I come through our door, I like to think I’m “doing” not consulting!

I’m also looking forward to getting to know the people who work in Ross House as part of my wish to really understand all that is being achieved here and to understand how we can work together to mutually benefit the wide variety of organisations at 247 Flinders Lane”.

Colin Neave AM

Included In This Issue

Building and Maintenance

Melbourne Rail updates

Community Discussion Sessions Invitation

Grants and Assistance

Tenant Feature: DRC

IndianCare Job Opportunity

DeafBlind Victoria Workshop Invitation

Lotus Group Networking Day Invitation

International Day of Happiness Recap

Inclusive Meeting Training

Community Calendar



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.



RHA COMMITTEE 2024

Chairperson
Colin Neave AM
(ABC Friends)

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)

Maggie Maguire AM
(Appointed Member)

Nazzareno Marchionda
(Appointed Member RHA Staff)

Michael Griffiths
(Ex-Officio, RHA CEO)



open conversations for a stronger community

RHA COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS

Come have your say at our
Final Session!

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!





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 plaques have been installed outside of our meeting rooms including our most recently named room, the Christine McAuslan Community Meeting Room (1.2).
- 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 2024
 Ross House
 247-251 Flinders Lane Melbourne VIC 3000

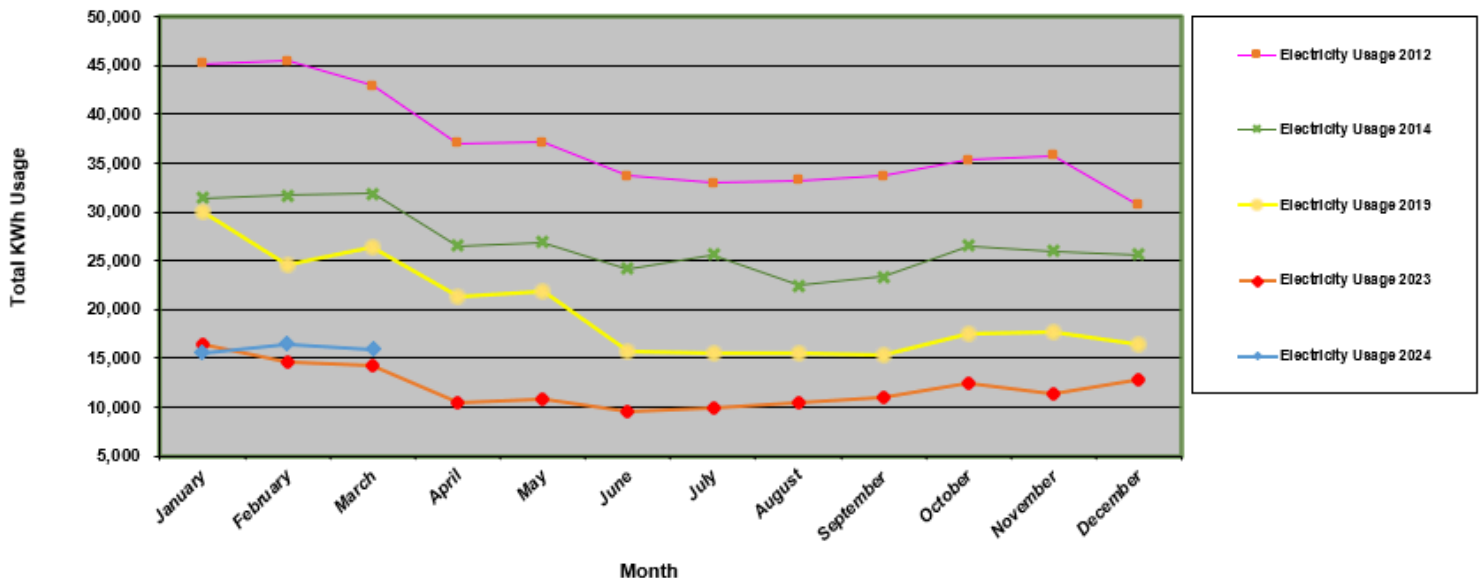




Image credit: Zed Fitzmaurice

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 2024 include:

- station entrance construction and 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 Degraeves Subway at Flinders Street Station
- pedestrian ramp widening works on Collins Street and Swanston Street and train testing through the tunnel.

For more information on these works, see the **April 2024 Town Hall construction update (PDF, 1.2 MB)**.

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

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.

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/

For further information, please contact the Front Desk on 03 9650 1599 or at rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au

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



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.

Inclusive Employment Grant

Westpac Foundation

\$50,000 over two years to support up to 40 community organisations and social enterprises creating jobs and training opportunities for those facing complex barriers to employment.

Focus Areas:

Support existing (not start-up) jobs-focused social enterprises and community organisations earning trading revenue that want to:

- Strengthen their business model and build greater financial resilience and sustainability in delivering their social mission.
- Build skills and career pathways in jobs-rich growth sectors such as tech, care and the green economy.

Eligibility: Not-for-Profits, DGR status required.

Funding: \$50,000 (total pool)

Round: Open now, closes on 20th May 2024 at 5pm

For more information, please visit: www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/our-foundations/westpac-foundation/grants/inclusive-employment-grants/.

National Disability Conference Initiative 2024-25

Department of Social Services

This grant opportunity provides grants to conference organisers to assist people with disability to participate in nationally-focused, disability-related conferences held in Australia.

What will be funded?

Grants will support eligible conference organisers to provide accessibility measures that will maximise the inclusion and participation of people with disability at their conference. This in turn supports the vision of Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031.

Eligibility:

Organiser of a disability-related and nationally focused conference being held in Australia in the 2024/25 financial year.

Round: Open now, closes at 9pm on 20th May 2024

Funding: \$10,000

For further information, please visit: www.grants.gov.au/Go/List and search 'National Disability Conference initiative'.



Showcasing Granting Opportunities

Australian Communities Foundation

The Australian Communities Foundation showcases granting opportunities so their community of givers can be inspired to support initiatives that are aligned with their interests. You're invited to submit a proposal.

Organisations can submit up to 2 proposals per calendar year and your proposal must be for activities in line with your organisation's charitable purpose.

Eligibility: Registered with the ACNC

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

Round: Ongoing

For more information, please visit:

www.communityfoundation.org.au/making-a-difference/seeking-funding.

HAND KNIT & CROCHET GUILD VIC.

YARN & CRAFT Market

Billed as one of Victoria's premier fibre, fleece, yarn and accessories markets - featuring a carefully curated selection of Victorias finest indie and bespoke dyers of fine yarns and other delights.

1 - 2 JUNE 2024

Merri-Bek Town Hall, 90 Bell St, Coburg, Victoria

Saturday 1 June - 10am to 3pm

Sunday 2 June - 10am to 2pm

**FREE
ENTRY**

\$2 ticket to door
prize draw

Scan QR to book,
or just turn up!



Aveley Finnsheep ~ Can Do Books ~ Cat & Sparrow Fibres ~ Changeling Coloured Yarns
Cloverleaf Corriedale Stud ~ Dairing ~ Dyed by Hand ~ Fairfield Finns
Fibre Naturally Woollen Mill ~ Fibres of The Yarra Valley ~ Fluff and Nonsense
Great Ocean Road Woollen Mill ~ Green Tea Yarns ~ HalfBaked HandDyed
Handweavers & Spinners Guild Vic ~ Heathermaid ~ IxChEL Yarns & Fibres
Kaye Adolphson Designs ~ KAY'S KEEPSAKES ~ Mavis Handmade ~ Maximoo Yarns
Melbourne City Dyeworks ~ Ochre Yarn ~ Owl of Athena Fibre Arts ~ Ozifarmer's Market
Passioned Flower ~ Push My Buttons ~ Stitch'n'purl ~ SWISH Yarns ~ Tarndwarncourt
The Devoted Luddite ~ Wool 2 Yarn ~ Wyndara Black Sheep ~ Yarn Barn ~ ZigoZago

Tenant Feature: Disability Resources Centre

ROOM 3.111

Disability Resources Centre (DRC) is a values-led advocacy and campaigning organisation run by and for people with disability.

Together we centre Disability Justice, we practice Disability Pride and we work in solidarity with other disability human rights organisations. DRC represents disabled people across the state and works to uphold our rights and choices. Established in 1981, we have a long history of campaigning for equality and inclusion here in Victoria.

DRC hosts Belong, a radically inclusive network that aims to connect absolutely everyone in the disability community. You may have physical/sensory disability, intellectual disability, psychosocial disability, neurodiversity, chronic illness or you may be self-diagnosed: whatever your disability experience, culture, age or geography, you are welcome here. Belong members meet online and face-to-face to build connections, share experiences and be there for one another.

Belong facilitates a raft of meetings each week. Once a month, for example, we host art and making afternoons held in Ross House and also online. Led by disabled artists, we use different media and try out different ideas each time we meet. Belong hosts campaign meetings, guest speakers and topic-based discussions.



Image description: Six Belong members are sitting round a table creating arts and crafts.

We connect via chat platforms, zoom and email. We share opportunities and collaborate on submissions. The Belong Rainbow Collective for disabled LGBTQIA+ members, and those who are questioning their gender or sexuality, meets monthly on zoom.

DRC also offers an individual advocacy service which strives to meet people where they are. We understand that the multiple barriers we all face makes life complex, and that at times you need someone in your corner. Our advocates are very experienced and have established cross-sector partnerships. If there is a problem, you don't know how to solve, we can either help or point you in the right direction.

DRC also leads and supports campaigns for disability rights, including the campaign for universally accessible public transport. We respond to systemic issues when they arise, and we collaborate on community-based campaigns.

If you are part of the disability community and you are not yet connected to DRC please do get in touch, we would love to hear from you.

For advocacy: advocacy@drc.org.au
To join Belong: belong@drc.org.au
For general enquiries: 03 9671 3000

For more information, please visit www.drc.org.au

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



Congratulations Colin Hiscoe!

BY RHA

Ross House tenant, Reinforce is a self-advocacy organisation run by and for people with intellectual disabilities.

Last week, Reinforce President Colin Hiscoe AM, attended Government House to receive his award from The Governor of Victoria, which recognised his many years of work in self-advocacy.

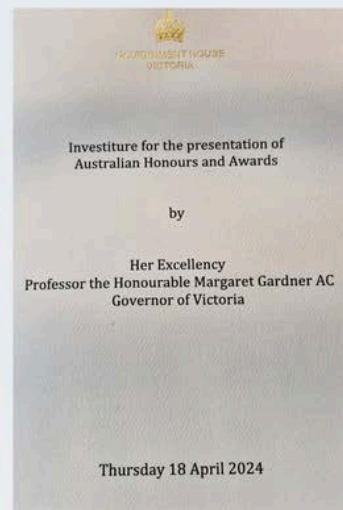
We all heartily congratulate Colin, and sincerely thank him for all his hard work and all that he contributes to Reinforce, and the wider Ross House community. Well done Colin!

If you would like to find out more information about the great work Reinforce do, please visit their website:

www.reinforce.org.au



Colin Hiscoe AM



*For significant service to
people with a disability
through advocacy roles*



Image Description: Image collage of Colin receiving his award. Colin is wearing a suit and a medal, and is smiling at the camera with his thumbs up.



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 (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!

Try Before you Ride Workshop

BY TRAVELLERS AID AUSTRALIA

Try Before You Ride events help people of all abilities feel more confident when using the public transport system.

This includes people with accessibility requirements, parents with children and seniors.

Attendees can practice getting on and off our trains, trams, buses and taxis safely or speak with public transport staff and learn about accessibility features.

Where? Southern Cross Station, Melbourne

When? Thursday 9th May 2024, 10:30am - 2pm

For further information, please visit www.travellersaid.org.au



Image Description: Try Before You Ride Promotional flyer. Images of trains and buses connecting iconic Melbourne buildings on a black metro line, on a blue background.

This event is coordinated with:

- V/Line
- Yarra Trams
- Metro Trains
- Kinetic, and
- Travellers Aid Australia

In partnership with:

- The Department of Transport and Planning
- Safe Transport Victoria

BCA Launches New Connect Group

BY BCA

We're excited to announce that BCA is launching a new Peer Connect Group: Crafty Creations!

Get ready to unleash your imagination as you explore a world of crafting wonders, from intricate DIY projects that will ignite your artistic spirit to delicious cooking recipes that will expand your tastebuds.

Join "Crafty Blind Girl Donna" and connect with like-minded individuals who share your passion for crafting and cooking.

The first meeting will occur on Monday 13th May at 7pm - more details to follow on Facebook.

IN THE HOUSE: MAY 2024



Image Description: Decorated graphic containing text that reads "New Peer Connect Group. Crafty Creations. Monday, 13th May. Experience the joy of crafting and cooking together in a supportive and welcoming environment."

To find out more information, please visit www.bca.org.au.

Celebrating International Day of Happiness!

BY RHA

Ross House members and tenants gathered in the Hayden Raysmith Room on Wednesday 20th March 2024, to celebrate International Day of Happiness!

It was fantastic to see our wonderful community come together for snacks, a drink and some yummy food, catered by our local favourites, Seedling Cafe, Dukes Coffee Roasters and Heartbaker Bahn Mi.

We also heard from our newly appointed RHA Chair, Colin Neave, as well as RHA CEO, Michael Griffiths, who both spoke about the importance of happiness as a fundamental human right, and what it meant to them on a personal level.

Thank you to everyone who attended on the day! The RHA team were incredibly grateful for your time to take a moment to embrace the present, network and reflect on what happiness meant to you.

You can read our CEO's International Day of Happiness Address on the next page of this newsletter.

What's next?

Be sure to attend our next event taking place on Thursday 18th July 2024, the Mid-year Lunch, where we will be celebrating Disability Pride Month!

Watch out for further details in your emails and across our social media platforms.

Thanks
The Ross House team

Image Description: A collage of images from the Welcome Back Brunch of Members and Tenants happily enjoying some delicious food in the Hayden Raysmith Room at Ross House.





CEO's International Day of Happiness Address

"I would like to begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting today, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Welcome everyone to our first event of 2024, the Welcome Back Brunch. We are hosting today's event on the United Nations International Day of Happiness. As we look around the world and watch current event on the news, it is perhaps more important than ever that we focus on what makes us happy, both as a society and as individuals.

The resolution to proclaim the 20th of March as International Day of Happiness was initiated by Bhutan in 2012. Bhutan has recognized the value of national happiness over national income since the early 1970s and famously adopted the goal of Gross National Happiness over Gross National Product.

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."

So, we must ask, what habits, institutions and material conditions produce a society where people have higher well-being?

The World Happiness Report has studied these questions each year, by comparing the average life satisfaction in different countries and seeing what features in the population explain these differences. The findings show that the ethos of a country matters – are people trustworthy, generous, and mutually supportive? The institutions also matter – are people free to make important life decisions? And the material conditions of life matter – both income and health.

One of the key factors to happiness, which I think is relevant to Ross House is that of altruism, cooperation, and fairness. The World Happiness Report defines these as pro-social behaviours, something we might define at Ross House as working towards social justice.

However, sadly this work does not always bring happiness. Full-time voluntary caregivers, looking after vulnerable children or elderly parents, often report quite low, life-satisfaction. Caregiving is rewarding, but also difficult and painful and needs social support.

The report calls for special institutions to support the hard work of caregivers. Something that organisations at Ross House have been doing for many years. So, the work that goes on in this building is vital and contributes significantly to the happiness of our society. It is something we should be proud of. So, I invite you all today to share with those next to you, what makes you happy?

On a personal note, I have two young children, seven and five years old, so I am quite busy and don't often get out much between school drop offs, commuting, full-time work, cooking dinners, cleaning up, and bedtime routines. So, it is the small things in life that bring happiness. Running tree to tree in the rain, with the kids laughing because I forgot the umbrellas, cycling to work along the Mullum Mullum and Kooyong creeks and seeing people grow and improve in the martial art that I teach.

So please enjoy today, share with others what makes you happy, if you would like to, and let's celebrate the happiness that Ross House has brought to many lives over its 37-year history

Thank you."

Michael Griffiths, Ross House CEO

Job Opportunity: IndianCare

IndianCare is seeking two Community Development Officers. IndianCare is dedicated to supporting and empowering Indian-origin and other South Asian communities in Victoria, Australia.

As a not-for-profit organisation, their 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 their community feeling vulnerable to hardship and loneliness. That's where IndianCare steps in - they specialise in connecting clients with mainstream service providers by providing them with the required information and offering warm referrals.

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



Image description: Four people of Indian origin smiling and gathering around a laptop.

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

They are currently seeking two Community Development Officers to join their wonderful team! The positions will work on multiple projects and will help with community development, client management and community outreach work.

To find out more information, please visit:

www.ethicaljobs.com.au/members/indiancare/community-development-officers-x2?employer=Indiancare%20Inc

www.indiancare.org.au

Community Learning Hub

The City of Melbourne has launched a Community Learning Hub which provides organisations in the City of Melbourne FREE access to on-demand learning resources. The hub contains hundreds of articles, blogs, micro-videos and courses!

Representatives from non-profit and community organisations that are based in City of Melbourne and provide services within City of Melbourne can request a free license to access the library, which contains resources on a broad range of topics including events, governance, budgeting, fundraising, grant writing, and more.



Photo @ City of Melbourne. Image description: close-up of a person's hands writing on paper with a fountain pen.

To sign up email commstrength@melbourne.vic.gov.au or head to www.iclick2learn.com.au/city-of-melbourne-ic2-resources-2023-hidden/



IndianCare

Volunteer Meetup

18 May 2024

11 AM - 1 PM

Ross House



IndianCare is celebrating the volunteering spirit of our Indian community. We invite all current and potential volunteers to join us for lunch.



Ross House
247/251 Flinders Ln, Melbourne
VIC 3000

Join Us for
Lunch

RSVP - 12 May 2024



Know about
IndianCare



Tell us about
yourself



Networking
Opportunities

For more information,
contact -

1300 005 040

(Priyanka Sharma)

community@indiancare.org.au

or scan QR Code to register



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: Two VATT members are standing with a member of the public presenting them with a training certificate.

How long is the training in 2024?

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

- 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 or 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.



Deafblind Awareness Workshop

BY DEAFBLIND VICTORIA

Ross House tenant, Deafblind Victoria (DBV) is delighted to invite you to a special Deafblind Awareness Workshop.

This session will be a great opportunity to learn about the deafblind community and culture.

Topics will include integrating activities, deafblind communication, technology, barriers, and accessibility.

Where? Hayden Raysmith Room, Level 4, Ross House

When? Tuesday 28th May 2024, 10am – 12:30pm (arrive at 9:45am for 10am start)

Cost? Free or donation if you wish.

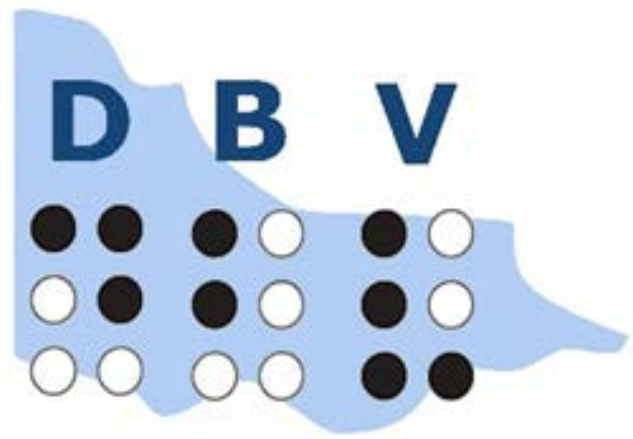


Image description: the image is the DBV logo which has blue text saying DBV with Braille black and white dots underneath. Both the text and Braille is on a lighter blue image of a map of Victoria.

Auslan interpreters will also be provided.

Please RSVP to Heather Lawson on dbvheather@gmail.com by Monday 20th May 2024.

Deafblind Victoria is excited to meet you at the workshop!

For further information about DBV, please visit www.deafblindvictoria.com.

Ross House Self-Advocacy Groups Came together to Share Knowledge for International Visitors

Ross House tenants Positive Powerful Parents, Reinforce, Rainbow Rights, Voice At The Table, SARU and supporter group Power in Culture and Ethnicity, came together to host a meeting with Taiwanese visitors that wanted to know about Self Advocacy and how it works in Australia.



Image description: Photograph of members of SARU, PPP, VATT, PCE and Reinforce smiling at the camera in the Hayden Raysmith Room.

The event was a great success and wonderful to see our groups come together to share knowledge.

To find out more information, please visit SARU Facebook page - www.facebook.com/groups/102307067022

Victorian
Self Advocacy
Network

A VSAN EVENT

VSAN



You are invited!

**Self Advocacy:
power & money to people
with disability!**

The foundation
and starting point
of Self Advocacy is
human rights.

Self Advocacy
groups are a way
for people with
disability to **take
action together.**

**This is a call to action
for Self Advocacy to have
ongoing funding.**

Your group can tell the decision makers
what would happen if funding stops?

Be in the video filmed at the event.

Lets be a big voice together!



MAY

14

Tuesday

11:30am to 2:30pm

Where?

Hayden Ray Smith Room 4th floor

**Ross House
247/251 Flinders Lane,
Melbourne VIC 3000**

Tenant Networking Event

BY THE RHA

Ross House tenant, Lotus Group Projects is delighted to invite you to a Tenant Networking event on Thursday May 23rd at 11am.

The event will be held at Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, in the Hayden Raysmith Room on level four.

This event is funded by City of Melbourne and supported by Ross House staff, the Community Development sub-committee and the Collective of Self-Help Groups (COSHG). The aim of this event is to promote a sense of community among Ross House tenants and also help link the wider local community with Ross House by inviting students, course coordinators and local organisations to attend and share lunch and networking time with a variety of social justice, environment and disability groups.

Please see the event poster on the next page.

Event Plan

11am: Welcome and introduction by Lyn Macdonald from Lotus Group Projects

11:10am – 12.30pm: Presentations from COSHG and Ross House Assoc followed by short presentations from tenant groups

12:30pm -1:30pm: Lunch and networking

Please RSVP by May 14th to Lyn on 0413239236 or at lotusgroupabi@gmail.com



Image Description: Purple lotus flower on a green background.

Attendance is free, and lunch is provided so please RSVP with the number of attendees to allow for catering.

If attending please let Lyn know the:

- Name of your group
- Contact person's phone number
- Number from your group attending and their names

Information Tote Bags

Everyone attending will receive a tote bag containing information on the various tenant groups, how to access affordable Ross House meeting rooms, and how to use the facilities. If not attending but would still like to contribute information to put in the tote bags, please provide them to Lotus Group office, or Ross House Front Desk by May 14th.

Employment Opportunity

Lyn is also looking for an event superstar to assist her on the day for six hours, from 9am - 3pm. Tasks will include set-up and pack down, manage the catering and other ad-hoc duties.

For enquiries or if you are interested in participating contact Lyn at 0413239236 or lotusgroupabi@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you on the 23rd of May!

Lotus Group Projects invites you

TENANT INFO SHARING DAY



- * Strengthen a sense of community between Ross House tenants
- * Connect new people with Ross House
- * Recieve a carry bag of information about Ross House and how to access meeting rooms and link with the various tenant groups

11:00 am Welcome and Introduction by Lyn from Lotus Group Projects

11:10 am - 12:30 pm Hear from COSHG and Ross House Association. Followed by short presentations from tenant groups including Aspire, Schizy Inc, Hand Knit and Crochet Guild, Brain Injury Matters, and Housing for the Aged Action Group.

12:30 - 1.30 pm Lunch and Networking

LUNCH INCLUDED! PLEASE RSVP to Lyn on 0413239236 or email 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)**



Hosted by Lotus Group Projects and funded by City of Melbourne. Supported by Collective of Self-Help Groups (COSHG) and Ross House staff and Community Development subcommittee.

Morning Tea With Aspire Recap

BY RHA



On 26th March 2024, Ross House tenant Aspire Learning Resources hosted a wonderful morning tea to promote a grant opportunity for our tenants and members.

"At Aspire Learning Resources our mission is simple: education transforms lives. We believe in lifelong learning and are passionate about positively impacting our community.

We have introduced an exciting grant opportunity through our Aspire Foundation. We're privileged to offer Ross House members & tenants the chance to apply for \$10,000 worth of our learning resources. Let's enrich our community education and workforce development programs together!"

Thank you Aspire for hosting such a wonderful event, and for providing such a valuable resource for our membership!

Aspire Learning Resources is a not-for-profit company who specialise in the development of competency-based training and assessment resources for VET (Vocational Education and Training).

They were founded back in 1991 and their first task was to develop competency standards for the clerical-admin, now called business services, workforce. They now focus their efforts on developing quality VET resources. In 2001 the Aspire Foundation was established to provide disadvantaged people access to vocational training programs resulting in job outcomes or further study.

To find out more information about Aspire Learning Resources, please visit www.aspirelr.org.au.



Grow with Us

BY TREE PROJECT

TreeProject's mission is to restore damaged ecosystems and enhance biodiversity across Victoria by growing and planting healthy indigenous vegetation. Trained volunteer growers nurture indigenous seedlings in their backyards, which are then planted on landholder properties by additional volunteers, fostering connections between urban and rural communities.

May marks the beginning of our tree planting days, a highlight in the TreeProject calendar, with over 50 days booked for community involvement.

There are many ways to engage including Sponsor a Planting Day or Attend a Tree Planting Day!

Sponsor a Tree Planting Day!

In honour of Earth Day, held on April 22, 2024, we're extending our Sponsor a Tree Planting Day campaign. You're invited to sponsor one or more of our 50+ tree planting days. We plant up to 1,000 seedlings in a day to support revegetation efforts and it's an opportunity to showcase commitment to environmental sustainability.

Attend a Tree Planting Day for Free!

From Autumn to Spring, we host planting days in beautiful countryside locations across Victoria.

Join us to protect waterways, enhance ecosystems, and create wildlife habitat.

Why attend?

It's FREE, it's also an opportunity to meet new people, bond with family and friends, do something for the environment with your work colleagues, or celebrate special occasions.

Book your spot by visiting:
<https://events.humanitix.com/host/treeproject>

To find out more information, please visit
www.treeproject.org.au.

TreeProject

Image Description: Volunteer tree planters on a green hillside landscape, posing next to newly planted trees.



Schizy Inc Presents Mojo of Arts Festival!

BY SCHIZY INC

Ross House tenant Schizy Inc is hosting the best and biggest ever public event to celebrate World Schizophrenia Day on 24 May 2024.

'Mojo Festival of Arts' is a multi-day, multi-venue event across Melbourne featuring creatives, artists, philosophers and renegades with diverse experience of complex mental health including schizophrenia, bipolar and everything else neurospicy!

Event schedule:

- Mojo Gala Event at Trades Hall Ballroom, Carlton. Saturday 18 May 2pm
- Sidas Studio development showing (visual arts). Boyd Studio, Southbank Thursday the 23 May 6pm
- Comedy Show 'Comedy Treatment Order' Motley Bauhaus, Carlton Saturday 25 May 3pm



Ross House is the sweet home to Schizy Inc where many of the creative development workshops for Mojo are held.

City of Melbourne recently recognised the work of this little powerhouse organisation, awarding the first ever Access and Inclusion Award for a Melbourne based project to Mojo Festival.

If you, or someone you know, work, care for or wonder about, relates to the diverse experience of mental health in all its complexities, Mojo Festival is where to be this May.

To find out more information about Schizy Inc, please visit www.schizy.org/

Got your attention?

World Schizophrenia Day 24 May 2023

Mental illness - it's not your fault.



Schizy Inc presents

MOJO FESTIVAL

2024

THEATRE, DANCE, SPOKEN WORD, MUSIC, CABARET

A fantastical rebellious and unsanctioned creative inquiry into mental health by Melbourne artists, philosophers and performers with lived experience.

Saturday 18 May 2024

\$10

Info: www.schizy.org/contact

Trades Hall Ballroom

Cnr Lygon & Victoria Sts
Carlton VIC 3053



www.schizy.org

MOJO

Festival of arts

World Schizophrenia Day

24 May



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 Governance Training Melbourne
14 May 2024, 10am – 3:30pm
\$350 (GST incl.) per person.

Online Finance Training Melbourne
22 May 2024, 10am – 3:30pm
\$350 (GST incl.) per person.

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

Online Project Management Training Melbourne
8 August 2024, 10am – 3:30pm
\$350 (GST incl.) per person.

To find out more information,
please visit www.nonprofittraining.com.au.



Non Profit Training

educating and empowering
those with purpose

Community Calendar

MAY 2024

2nd Final Ross House Community Discussion Session (p3)

9th Travellers Aid Try Before You Ride: (p10)

14th Self Advocacy Call to Action (p17)

15th VATT Inclusive Meeting Training (p15)

16th *Global Accessibility Awareness Day*

17th *IDAHOBiT Day*

18th IndianCare Volunteer Meetup (p14) and Schizy Inc Mojo Festival (p33)

20th DeafBlind Vic Workshop (p16)

21st *World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development*

23rd Lotus Group Projects Tenant Info Day (p18)

24th *World Schizophrenia Day*

25th Schizy Inc Comedy Treatment Order (p25)

26th *National Sorry Day*

27th May - 3rd June Reconciliation Week

JUNE 2024 - Pride Month

1st-2nd HKCG Yarn & Craft Market (p7)

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



stand up

COMEDY



COMEDY Treatment Order

The mental health system
CTO is under review!

*awesome lineup of comedians
with lived experience*

Saturday 25 May 2024

3pm

\$20/\$10

Motley Bauhouse

118 Elgin St, Carlton VIC

www.themotley.com.au



Find us on Eventfinda tickets
'comedy treatment order'

Info: www.schizy.org/contact



MOJO

Festival of arts

World Schizophrenia Day

24 May



Ross House Updates

Friendly Reminder – Digital Community Notice Board

Don't forget to head over to the RHA Community Notice Board on Facebook – a newly created digital member and tenant hub that was launched on March 11:

www.facebook.com/groups/rhcommunitynoticeboard/

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.



Image Description: RHA tenant working in Ross House

Why is this important?

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.

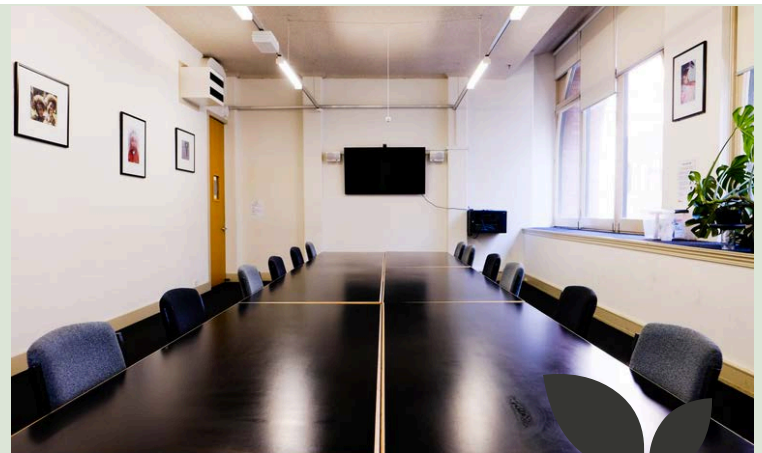
Please note that this is a private group and will be restricted to member staff and volunteers.

For more information or feedback, please email Ruby on 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



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!



JOIN OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD!

Staff and volunteers of our members and tenants, we invite you to join our new Facebook group, the Ross House Community Notice Board.

**WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
GROUPS/RHCOMMUNIT
YNOTICEBOARD**



or scan this QR code

Join Us for Our Final Community Discussion Session on May 2!

BY RHA

A big thank you to everyone who has attended our community discussion sessions so far. It's been wonderful to chat, learn a bit more about your organisations, and hear your ideas for strengthening our community.

Our third and final session is coming up, and we'd love for you to join us in person at Ross House!

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.

Phone Booth

The Phone Booth on level 3 is a free-to-use, soundproof space for private phone calls and remote meetings. It contains a desk, two chairs, and Wi-Fi access, and will hopefully be the perfect spot to take those private calls.

As the room is designed for spur-of-the-moment convenience, the following booking restrictions apply:

- Bookings can only be made in blocks of max 2 hours
- Bookings can only be made within a two-week period



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

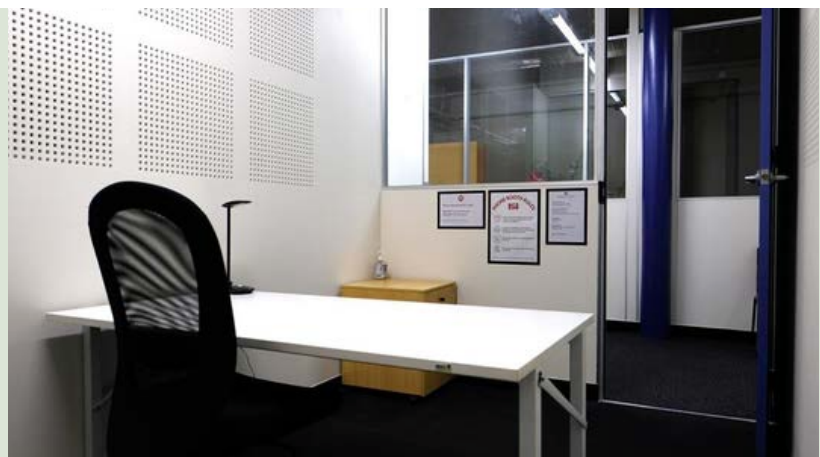
Remember, Ross House is not your typical organisation, it is owned and managed by the community. It's you, our members and tenants, that make Ross House the supportive community hub that it is. Together, we can create a stronger, more interconnected community that benefits every member and user.

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

Where? Hayden Raysmith Room, Level 4 Ross House

There is no need to RSVP just show up!

For more information, please reach out to Ruby at r.jamesstrawhan@rosshouse.org.au.



Access to the room is via a 4-digit code provided on booking. Please book online to avoid any confusion and to obtain this code.

To find out more information, please contact the Front Desk on rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au.



2024 Window Displays

BY RHA

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

During March, we saw Ross House tenant Self Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU) and Member Travellers Aid Australia display their fantastic banners which provide valuable information about their organisations!

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 still 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.



Image Description: Ross House large window displaying two groups' information - Self Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU) and Traveller's Aid Australia. The displays have blue banners, with pamphlets and merchandise underneath.

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.

STAY CONNECTED!



@rosshouseassociation



rosshouseassociation



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

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!



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



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



RUBY JAMES-STRAWHAN
Engagement & Communications Officer
rubyxxxxx@rosshouse.org.au



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



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



CAROL FRANKLIN
Administration Support Assistant
rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au

Casual Staff: Patti Gerkens

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



247 - 251 Flinders Lane
Melbourne VIC 3000

03 9650 1599 | rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au | rosshouse.org.au

