

JULY 2024

# IN THE HOUSE

Ross House Association Member and Tenant News

## Ground Floor Commercial Lease Update: Significant Building Works Underway

It has been an extremely busy June at Ross House with construction works occurring on multiple levels throughout the building. Following the signing of the ground floor commercial lease on 23rd May 2024, significant changes have been underway at Ross House to meet the July 1st handover date. The Ross House office and reception has moved to level 3, we are busy creating a new resources area, pigeon holes for mail and a warm and inviting space for members, tenants and visitors to Ross House. We would love to see you if you want to drop in for a look and a chat.

All remaining tenants have been relocated from the ground floor and the entire space has been stripped back to a concrete shell. Dukes Coffee had a store room on ground level and this has now been relocated to level 1. The kitchenette space on level 1 has also been redesigned to make it a more open and accessible space. I would like to thank all the tenants and regular facility users on level 1 for being patient as the works have been disruptive over the past few weeks.

Over the next few months, as we get more settled, we will improve wayfinding from the street level entrance up to level 3 reception, create a communal space around the reception area and further afield, look to replace the accessible ground floor toilets. We will be seeking ideas and suggestions for these upgrades so please get in touch if you have any thoughts. And keep a lookout in your emails and on our social media for upcoming opportunities for community consultation.

If anyone has any feedback or suggestions, please get in touch.

Michael Griffiths  
CEO, RHA

## Included In This Issue

Building and Maintenance

Melbourne Rail updates

Have your Say Community Survey

Grants and Assistance

Tenant Feature: HAAG

ERA Volunteer Opportunity

Welcome Back Brunch Event

Update from Assisi Aids Projects

Save the Date: International Day of Persons with a Disability

Grant Info Session

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)

**HAVE  
YOUR  
SAY!**



**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM OUR  
MEMBERS AND TENANTS**

Take our Ross House community survey at  
<https://form.jotform.com/rosshouse/rha-community-survey-2024>



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

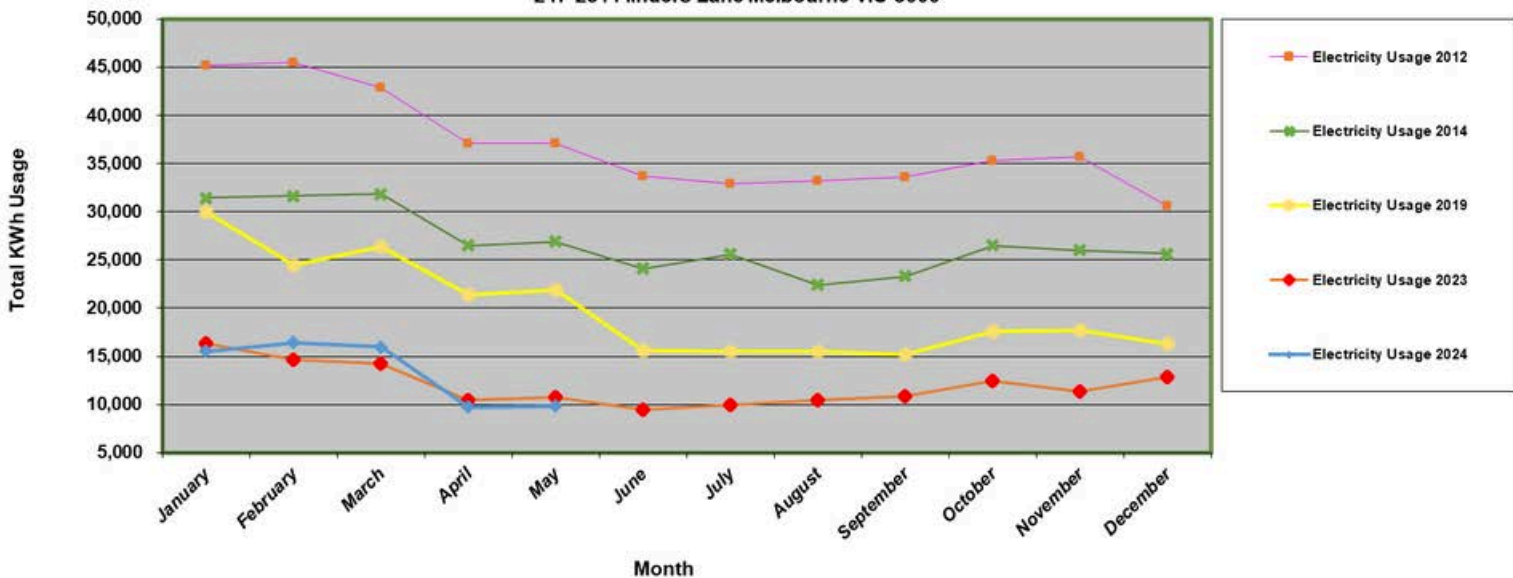
There is always a lot going on in this big old building of ours, so please make sure you keep an eye out for the building maintenance emails that circulate regularly.

## Current and completed works:

Works are currently underway for the redevelopment of the Ground Floor, including the relocation of our office to Level 3. We would like to thank everyone for their patience during this transition period as there has been a lot happening around the place. We will continue to update you throughout this journey but please get in touch with any queries or concerns.

See images on page 22 of this newsletter for progress so far!

Electricity Comparison From 2012 to 2024  
 Ross House  
 247-251 Flinders Lane Melbourne VIC 3000





# 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 June 2024 include:

- Station entrance construction within the City Square, Flinders Quarter and Federation Square sites
- Flinders Street drainage works & water main renewal works on Swanston Street to be completed by Greater Western Water
- 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 & removal of site sheds and gantries & installation of an underground stormwater tank on Swanston Street
- Train testing through the tunnel.

For more information on these works, see the [June 2024 Town Hall construction update \(PDF, 810.7 KB\)](#).

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.

# 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 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)

*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)*



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.

### Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation

Each year, the Tucker Foundation considers applications from organisations seeking to undertake projects that further the Foundation's aims and objectives, including:

- The relief of poverty and the suffering of children.
- The provision of or support for scholarships to disadvantaged children or young adults up to the age of twenty-five years.
- The protection of women from abuse.
- The initiation and support of social change which goes towards increasing the equal treatment and social acceptance of all persons in the community.
- The protection of wildlife and habitat.
- Protection of animals from cruelty.

**Funding:** Up to \$25,000

**Eligibility:** Not-for-profits, DGR status required.

**Round:** Opens on 1st July and closes on 31st August 2024.

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

### Sisters of Charity Foundation Community Grants Program

Aimed at helping groups who make a huge difference to those in need, but struggle to find funding through other avenues. They may be ineligible for government assistance, or be too small or lacking the right market appeal to attract attention of larger organisations.

#### Favours programs that:

- Provide compassion, hope and practical assistance
- Fall between the cracks of other funding sources
- Are not associated with well established organisations with significant reserves and/or are not capable of raising their own funds
- Are not eligible for funding from government or other sources.

**Funding:** Up to \$15,000

**Eligibility:** Not-for-profits, DGR status required.

**Round:** opens on 8th July and closes on 31st July 2024.

[www.sistersofcharityfoundation.org.au/applying-for-grants](http://www.sistersofcharityfoundation.org.au/applying-for-grants)

### Department of Home Affairs: Cyber Awareness Support for Vulnerable Groups

The Australian Government is inviting applications via an open competitive process to apply to deliver services under the Cyber Security Program – Cyber Awareness Support for Vulnerable Groups from 2024–25 to 2026–27.

The program will help to expand the national cyber security awareness campaign to uplift cyber security outreach and literacy among the Australian community.

#### What will be funded?

Some examples of eligible grant activities that may be undertaken include:

- translation services for cyber security advice
- tailoring guidance materials to suit target cohorts
- training session or workshops
- online courses
- community events and consultations
- one-on-one support
- providing printed or online outreach materials.

**Funding:** Up to \$35,000

**Eligibility:** Not-for-profits / individuals

**Round:** Open and closes on 11th July 2024

[www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=685311c7-f38d-4520-acc0-b95e62d4753a](http://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=685311c7-f38d-4520-acc0-b95e62d4753a)

**THURSDAY 18 JULY**

**11AM - 12:30PM  
HAYDEN  
RAYSMITH ROOM**

**MEMBERS AND TENANTS YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR**

# **WINTER WARMER**

**TO CELEBRATE**

**DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH**

**HEAR FROM GUEST SPEAKERS LARISSA MACFARLANE  
(DRC) AND SANDY JEFFS (SCHIZY INC)**

Yummy hearty food and refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP to  
[rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au) by  
Wednesday 10th July 2024.



# Tenant Feature: Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG)

## ROOM 1.1

Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG) is a member-based, community organisation that was established in 1983 and have been at Ross House since 1991.

Coming from grass-roots beginnings 40 years ago, HAAG today is over 800 members strong.

They work towards the alleviation of housing related poverty for older Australians through our advocacy work and their service – Home at Last.

### Home at Last Service

The Home at Last service provides accessible, equitable and appropriate support and housing information to older people who are homeless or facing homelessness.

Their services range from providing tailored housing information to assistance with housing applications, support during the move and referrals into aged care and other supports.

A key component of their work focuses on early intervention, where we engage with communities directly to reach people before a crisis point.



Image description: Housing for Aged Action Group staff are gathered in a Meeting Room, each with one of their arms in the air clenching a fist.

### Current Projects

HAAG is currently working some fantastic projects including:

- Ageing on the Edge - HAAG's national project
- LGBTI Housing Project
- Goulburn-Hume Regional Pilot project

They also hold a busy events calendar, connecting people from all over Victoria.

Some of their upcoming events are:

- HAAG Member Event in Seymour, 16th July 2024
- Doncaster Accessing Affordable Housing Info Session, 7th August 2024
- August General Meeting, 15th August 2024

For more information about HAAG and the wonderful work that they do, please visit [www.older tenants.org.au](http://www.older tenants.org.au).

For further information about becoming a supporter or member of HAAG, please visit:  
[www.older tenants.org.au/join-us](http://www.older tenants.org.au/join-us)



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





# Volunteer with ERA

BY ELDER RIGHTS  
ADVOCACY

Volunteering with Elder Rights Advocacy helps our organisation and improves the health and wellbeing of older Victorians. It's also an opportunity to get personal satisfaction, contribute your talents and experience, and develop new skills.

## Volunteer Visitors Scheme

Elder Rights Advocacy delivers the Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme (ACVVS), a social-based program for people who could benefit from having a dedicated volunteer. ACVVS brings older people receiving aged care together with caring volunteers for friendship and companionship.



# Elder Rights Advocacy

Supporting your right to quality care

Image Description: Blue text saying 'Elder Rights Advocacy, supporting your right to quality care' on a white background. White text in a triangle shape sits to the left of the other text; this is the ERA logo.

We're looking for volunteer visitors who:

- live across Victoria
- can commit to one visit or contact, phone or letter, per fortnight.

For more information about volunteering with Elder Rights Advocacy, call us on 1800 022 887 or visit [www.elderrights.org.au](http://www.elderrights.org.au)

# Seeking volunteers

Find a  
new friend  
and make an  
impact in the life  
of an older person

## BENEFITS

- Enjoy the satisfaction of making a positive difference
- Learn from older people's diverse life experience and cultures
- Choose when and where you want to volunteer
- ERA's ongoing support ensures you are confident in your role
- Develop your interpersonal and communication skills

“Volunteering with the Elder Rights Advocacy presents a wonderful opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of older individuals in Victoria while experiencing the personal rewards of giving back to the community.” - Happy Volunteer

Call us to discuss opportunities in your area.

1800 022 887 | [acvvs@era.asn.au](mailto:acvvs@era.asn.au) | [www.elderrights.org.au](http://www.elderrights.org.au)



# Elder Rights Advocacy

Supporting your right to quality care

# Story of Change

BY ASSISI  
AIDS PROJECTS

This month at Assisi Aid Projects, we wanted to highlight the incredible impact achieved through our projects and partners, by sharing the story of one of our project participants.

Our Jajal Wae Sustainable Agrotourism project in Indonesia, implemented by our partner Dreamdelion, increases the confidence, leadership skills and business acumen of women in the Ngawi region of East Java, as well as providing them with opportunities to create sustainable sources of income.

Before her involvement in the project, Bu Asih was concerned with the limited opportunities available to the women in her community, beyond traditional roles as mothers and wives. Hoping to create a positive platform for women to engage in more productive activities, she established a community group for 25 women in her village, “Mahmud”, focused on group savings. Since teaming up with Dreamdelion last year, Mahmud has expanded activities and started a vegetable picking tourism initiative, garnering appreciation at the Ngawi district level. This recognition has served as a reminder to the women that they possess significant potential to be powerful agents of positive change in their communities.

Bu Asih said: “I am so happy and proud of the Mahmud community... together we have produced a total of 100 kg of vegetables, with an approximate value of Rp 8,000,000 (AUD \$767). We could not imagine before that we could create such an amount that now can be used to purchase more plant seeds, farming equipment, and land maintenance.”



Image Description: A woman in a light pink hijab is holding a bunch of herbs, smiling at the camera in a bushland setting.

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.

Assisi Aid Projects supports women as agents for economic and social resilience in their communities through strengthening women’s skills, knowledge and confidence; supporting women’s collectives; and addressing systemic barriers to gender equality.

Established in 1985, Assisi Aid Projects currently works in India and Nepal, delivering projects by working in partnership with and through local civil society organisations.

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



# My Vote My Voice Student Event

BY NATIONAL COUNCIL  
OF WOMEN VICTORIA

The outstanding annual student event 'My Vote My Voice', conducted by the National Council of Women of Victoria, is being held in the Legislative Council Chamber of Parliament House Melbourne on Friday 9th August 2024, 9am - 12:30pm.

Students from government and independent schools in Melbourne, covering the full spread of multicultural backgrounds in our Victorian community, will address the topic 'My Vote My Voice: Social Media – A Blessing or a Curse'.

This is designed to encourage students to consider the effect of social media on themselves, their peers and the wider community.

**NCWV** NATIONAL  
COUNCIL  
OF WOMEN  
VICTORIA

Image Description: White text on a purple background saying NCWV, National Council of Women Victoria. This is their logo.

Students may carry out research, collect data from their peers and others to gain wider views.

Students are invited to make a group presentation of their findings in the Legislative Council Chamber. The quality of past student presentations has been outstanding, so there is no reason why this year's students should not make a genuine and valuable contribution to the debate on the effect of social media on our young people and society.

For further information about National Council of Women Victoria, please contact Pam Hammond, Convenor, on [info@ncwvic.org.au](mailto:info@ncwvic.org.au)



Image Description: a large group of women from diverse backgrounds gathering in a hall, both standing and sitting, smiling looking at the camera.

# Take to the Slopes with Disabled WinterSport Australia

BY DWA

This season, Ross House tenant, Disabled WinterSport Australia (DWA) is thrilled to announce the official opening of the new Alpine Gateway Building at Mount Hotham, a year-round public facility that provides undercover disabled parking and safe access to dedicated storage and change rooms, plus direct access to the snow.

These facilities were designed cooperatively by DWA and Alpine Resorts Victoria - Mt Hotham courtesy of \$4.2 million in funding from the Allan Labor Government through Regional Development Victoria.

This accessibility augmentation project was funded with a grant of \$245,000 by the Australian Government.

To find out more about this exciting development, or to find out more about DWA, please visit their website:

[www.disabledwintersport.com.au](http://www.disabledwintersport.com.au)

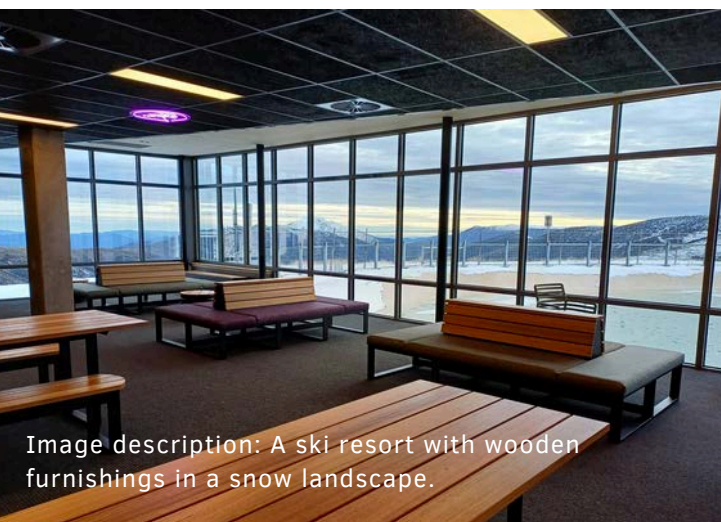


Image description: A ski resort with wooden furnishings in a snow landscape.

# ABRISA's Festa Junia Party!

BY ABRISA

ABRISA - the Brazilian Association in Victoria has its annual Festa Junina - Brazilian Solstice celebration.

The party comes from the Portuguese tradition in Europe and of course these days is as big as the annual carnival.

At the event we have the traditional Brazilian Live Music (Forro) as well the delicacies of Brazilian culture.

All are welcome to this festival. Our Aim is to share this great cultural event to all here in Melbourne.

**ABRISA is offering six free tickets to the Ross House tenants & members who are interested in going.**

**When?** Saturday 6th July at 1pm

**Where?** Meat Market, 3 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne

For more information, please see the next page of this newsletter or visit [www.abrisa.org.au](http://www.abrisa.org.au).



[Image Description: the ABRISA logo is at the top right-hand side of the page - the text ABRISA is in blue and green colours, with three red stars around it].

JULY 06

Starting at 1pm

# FESTA JUNINA

Arraiá Abrisa

Venue:

**Meat Market**

3 Blackwood Street - North Melbourne



TICKETS | [WWW.ABRISA.ORG.AU](http://WWW.ABRISA.ORG.AU)



# FREE training with City of Melbourne



Image description: Two people are sitting in a classroom style venue looking at computers.

## BY NON PROFIT TRAINING

The City of Melbourne has invested in building the capacity of local community groups and non profit organisations by partnering with Non Profit Training to deliver free training sessions.

Representatives from local community groups who are located in, or provide services for those in the City of Melbourne can register to attend these free sessions:

### **Building a Funding Plan**

Tuesday 23rd July 2024, 6pm - 8pm  
Hybrid (in person at Ross House or via Zoom)

### **Governance Training**

Wednesday 24th July 2024, 10am - 3:30pm  
Online via Zoom

### **Marketing and Social Media**

Wednesday 31st July 2024, 9:30am - 12:30pm  
Hybrid (in person at Ross House or via Zoom)

### **Project Management Training**

Thursday 8th August 2024, 10am - 3:30pm  
Online via Zoom

### **Finance Training**

Wednesday 14th August 2024, 10am - 3:30pm  
Online via Zoom

### **Grant Writing Training**

Thursday 22nd August 2024, 10am - 3:30pm  
Online via Zoom

### **Budgeting and Writing an Acquittal for Grants**

Tuesday 27th August 2024, 2:30pm - 5pm  
Hybrid (in person at Ross House or via Zoom)

### **Measuring and Evaluating Projects and Programs**

Tuesday 27th August 2024, 6pm - 8:30pm  
Hybrid (in person at Ross House or via Zoom)

### **Board Chair Training**

Thursday 5th September 2024, 6pm - 9pm  
Online via Zoom

To find out more information, please contact the Strengthening Communities Team on [commstrength@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:commstrength@melbourne.vic.gov.au).

Alternatively, please visit:

[www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/strong-communities/community-organisation-training/Pages/community-organisation-training.aspx](http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/strong-communities/community-organisation-training/Pages/community-organisation-training.aspx)



## Non Profit Training

Image Description: Non Profit Training logo - purple and blue text saying Non Profit Training sits under three circle graphics with the letters NPT in the middle.

# Urgent Action Needed!

BY SELF ADVOCACY  
RESOURCE UNIT (SARU)

Minister Shorten and Minister Rishworth's media release ignored organisations providing services to people with disability through current Individual Capacity Building ILC grants.

Without support from the Department of Social Services these vital organisations are at risk of closure and services will be lost.

- Brain Injury Matters
- Have a Say Bendigo
- Positive Powerful Parents
- Power in Culture and Ethnicity
- Reinforce
- Voice at the Table
- Voices for Change

Don't let the NDIS be the only lifeboat in the ocean. We call on DSS to fund self advocacy now.

## Call to Action:

Email [minister.shorten@dss.gov.au](mailto:minister.shorten@dss.gov.au) to let the government know that self advocacy groups need funding NOW to keep their doors open.

## Urgent Action Needed

**Without support from the Department of Social Services these vital organisations are at risk of closure.**

*Have A Say*  
Bendigo

POSITIVE  
POWERFUL  
PARENTS 

**reinforce**  
self advocacy  
OWNERSHIP OF OUR OWN LIVES

 **voices**  
for change

**Brain Injury Matters**  
**Have a Say Bendigo**  
**Positive Powerful Parents**  
**Power in Culture and Ethnicity**  
**Reinforce**  
**Voice at the Table**  
**Voices for Change**



**Don't let the NDIS be the only lifeboat in the ocean, we call on DSS to fund Self Advocacy NOW.**

# Lotus Group Projects Inc Tenant Info Sharing Day Recap

BY RHA

A huge congratulations to Ross House tenant, Lotus Group Projects Inc. for hosting a wonderful Tenant Info Sharing event on Thursday 23rd May 2024.

On the day, we heard from our wonderful members and tenants including Disability Resources Centre, Aspire Learning Resources, Housing for the Aged Action Group, Brain Injury Matters, ABC Friends, The Victorian Drama League Inc, Slavery Links, Star and COSHG. Ross House tenant, Positive Powerful Parents (PPP) was also present with a stand of information about their vital work.

It was a fabulous day of sharing and networking with lots of yummy food and treats from local favourites. Thank you once again Lotus Group Projects!



Image Description: Purple lotus flower on a green background.

This event was supported by the City of Melbourne, COSHG, the RHA Community Development subcommittee and RHA staff.

For more information about Lotus Group Projects Inc. please visit:  
[www.facebook.com/LotusGroupProjects](https://www.facebook.com/LotusGroupProjects)

Image Description: Photo collage of members of the Ross House community sitting in a meeting room looking at a presentation & speakers.





# Plant with Us!

BY TREE PROJECT

Join us to plant some beautiful native trees in Taradale, an hour north of Melbourne CBD, Castlemaine!

We are looking for some enthusiastic, environmentally aware volunteers to help us get some trees in the ground. It will be a rewarding day with beautiful fresh air, a delicious lunch and the satisfaction of knowing you are helping to restore Victoria's landscape - no experience required!

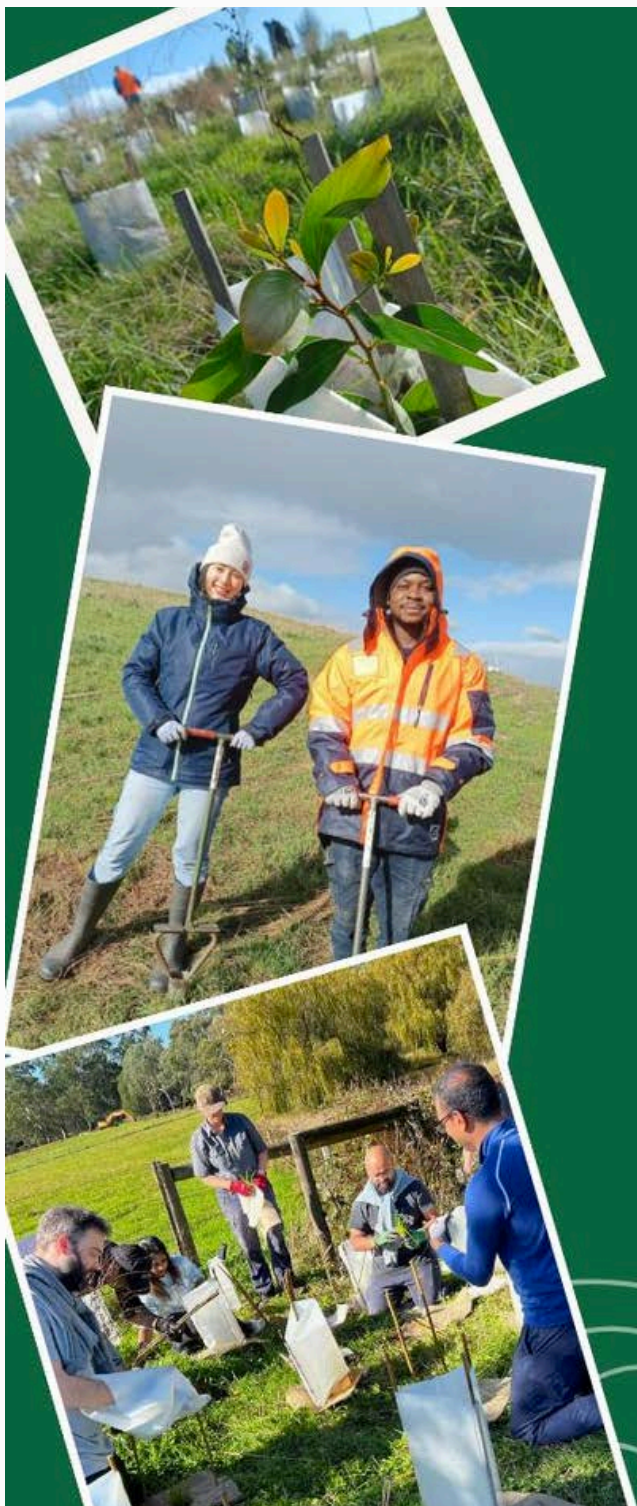
# TreeProject

Image Description: Tree Project logo - black text saying Tree Project with a green leaf as the dot on top of the letter J.

There are two dates available:

- Saturday 20th July 2024
- Saturday 27th July 2024

To find out more information, and to register, please visit [www.facebook.com/TreeProject](http://www.facebook.com/TreeProject)



## PLANT TREES WITH US IN TARADALE!

Tree planting in the picturesque Victorian countryside is a fabulous way to spend a day! Join us for a fulfilling day, surrounded by fresh air, physical activity, and mouthwatering meals.

Just an hour north of Melbourne, amidst the beauty of regional Victoria, we need your help in revegetating this rural property in Tarradale.

Don't wait any longer! Reserve your spot now by registering as a [volunteer on Humanitix](#) today! Please like and share!

### Tarradale Planting Days

Date	Day
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Saturday
27 <sup>th</sup> July	Saturday

# Schizy Inc Mojo of Arts Festival Recap

BY SCHIZY INC

Schizy Inc continues to smash stereotypes of mental health with the recent Mojo Festival of Arts in Melbourne featuring the biggest series of events yet centred around World Schizophrenia Day.

A dazzling lineup of over 60 artists, creatives, philosophers and renegades presented a cosmic array of new creative work in theatre, cabaret, music, spoken word and visual art across three Melbourne venues - Fringe Common Rooms (Trades Hall), Motley Bauhaus and Boyd Studio-1.

With everything from an avant garde harp ensemble to the Deaf experience of mental health, to Graeme the Alien's quizzical musings about humanity, no stone was left unturned looking for gems of lived experience wit and wisdom.



Schizy Inc and Mojo Festival of Arts 2024 is supported by City of Melbourne, Creative Australia and Department of Social Services, along with generous backing from donations and the love of volunteers, allies and friends.

To find out more information about Schizy Inc, please visit [www.schizy.org](http://www.schizy.org)

Image Description: A group of people wearing bright colourful cabaret clothing are performing on a stage with a black background.



Photo by Darren Gill of Mojo Festival cabaret artists.

# Ross House Grant Info Session

Ross House is thrilled with the success of our new grant initiative! We have been able to provide four tenants with much-needed equipment, including a printer, laptop, desktop computer, and projector.

Curious to learn more?

Join us on August 13th for an information session hosted by Ruby. She will discuss the grant's details, eligibility criteria, and the types of equipment covered. Ruby will also provide valuable tips on the application process and explain the support available to grant applicants.

## Event Details:

**Date:** Tuesday, August 13th

**Time:** 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

**Location:** Jenny Florence Room, Level 3, Ross House (and online via Zoom)

RSVP by August 9th to  
[r.jamesstrawhan@rosshouse.org.au](mailto:r.jamesstrawhan@rosshouse.org.au).



Image Description: Ross House logo - white text saying Ross House Association, with the window and leaves emblem, on a maroon circle.

# Community Calendar

July & August 2024

**1st - 31st July** - Disability Pride Month

**Thursday 11th July** - World Population Day

**Monday 15th July** - World Youth Skills Day

**Thursday 18th July** - Winter Warmer Member and Tenant Event celebrating Disability Pride Month (page 7)

**Tuesday 30th July** - International Day of Friendship

**Friday 9th August** - International Day of the World's Indigenous People

**Tuesday 13th August** - Tenant Grant Info Session

**Friday 16th August** - National Day of Action Against Bullying & Violence

Save the Date for Tuesday 3rd December for the International Day of People with a Disability (page 16)

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.



# Join the Digital Community Notice Board



Image Description: RHA tenant working in Ross House

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/](https://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.

## 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.

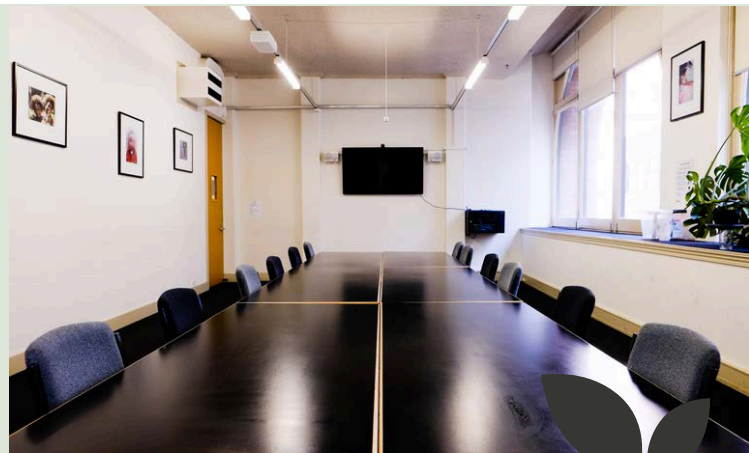
Please note that this is a private group and will be restricted to member staff and volunteers.

For more information or feedback, please email Ruby on [r.jamesstrawhan@rosshouse.org.au](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!

# 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



# 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!

# The Ross House Clock

On the 28th May 2024 our Ross House Clock had some care and attention to make sure it continues to mark time for many years to come. This allowed us the great pleasure of catching up with Hayden Raysmith and his brother, Adrian Raysmith.

Adrian is the creator of the Ross House Clock. It was a privilege to learn more about the concept and design of the clock from Adrian. He also spoke in praise of working with Glenn Romanis, the artist of the clock, 24 years ago.

Their words from when the clock was first unveiled still resonate and are worth revisiting all these years later...

The following is an article written at the time of the unveiling of the Ross House Clock.

“On the 14th December, 2000 at Ross House, Adrian Raysmith and Glenn Romanis unveiled a clock that was created for our building. It is up on the 4th floor of the foyer area adjacent to the Hayden Raysmith room. The clock maker, Adrian Raysmith wrote Science has been measuring things since enquiring minds first searched for answers. The measurement of time began dramatic improvements from about the 1300’s onwards, ever refining and ever increasing it’s power and control over a wider portion of the community till today we are almost unaware of it’s ubiquitous effects.

The advent of the global communication revolution we are experiencing is further reducing our personal awareness of the natural cycles that are a part of us all.

It is important that good timing and coordination are an efficient part of our modern society. It would be chaotic if there were no standard and no adherence to it, however there needs to be a balance of regimental performance and the respect for each individuals rhythmic cycles.



Image Description: photo of the Ross House clock which has a central figure in brown of a wedge tailed eagle, with Aboriginal graphics surrounding it including a sun, water, moon and water.

The purpose of the design of the Ross House Clock is to, just for a moment, remind us of other cycles of nature going on around us moment by moment. That is why the minute and second hands have been removed and the twelve hour arc of the sun or moon going across the sky more closely mimics the real thing. The hours are still easily measured but they do not speak down to us with a metered tic, toc, tic, toc, “you’re running late, work faster, run, rush”.

This clock tries to say: “Have time to speak to someone, look for a moment at the birds, plants, weather, close your eyes for a moment and relax, walk from your path to smell a flower.” Value yourself in the rhythm of your life a little more.

Regards... Adrian.

The Ross House Clock article continues on page 25.



Glenn Romanis, the artist, had a few words to say about his work on the clock and what the art symbolized.

The central figure – Bunjil, the Creator for the Kulin nation, has here taken on the form of the Wedge tailed Eagle – being one of the 2 skin groups. The other skin group is Waa (normally depicted by the Crow).

The line work above the wings represents one skin group, and below the wings represents another skin group.

The Yarra River is used here because it is specific to this area.

The Southern Cross has been added to depict reconciliation. We are all from many different backgrounds but are all under the same sky. Glenn Romanis.”

Glenn Romanis has gone on to do over 200 large scale projects and you will recognise his art in many locations.

For more information on this great artist, I highly encourage you to head to his website [www.glenromanis.com](http://www.glenromanis.com) and seek out his art to enjoy, appreciate and learn from.



Image Description: Hayden Raysmith, Adrian Raysmith, Michael Griffiths and Ruby James-Strawhan are standing and smiling in front of the clock.

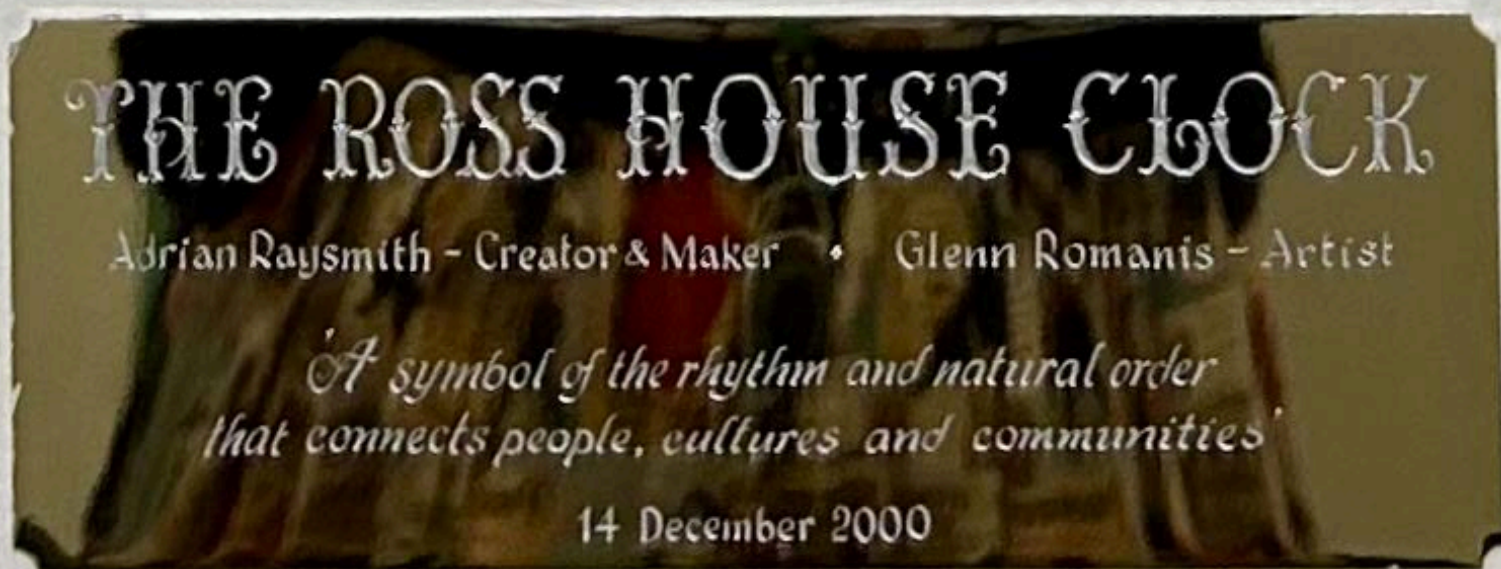


Image Description: a brass plaque saying 'The Ross House clock, Adrian Raysmith - creator & Maker, Glenn Romanis - Artist. Underneath in italic font it says 'A symbol of the rhythm and natural order that connects people, cultures and communities, 14 December 2000'.



# 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 June, we saw Ross House tenant Deafblind Victoria create a colourful display celebrating Deafblind Awareness Week.

We also had the Handknit and Crochet Guild present their annual Yarn and Craft Market!

Want to display something from your organisation?

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



Image Description: Ross House large window displaying two groups' information - Handknit and Crochet Guild & DeafBlind Victoria (DBV). One display is promoting a Yarn & Craft Market on a board with yarn underneath, the other display has a pinboard of colourful images saying 'Deafblind Awareness Week 2024'. There is a colourful patchwork quilt hung below.

## 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).

## STAY CONNECTED!



@rosshouseassociation



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Ross House Association

# 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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