

DECEMBER 2024

IN THE HOUSE

Ross House Association Member and Tenant News

2024 AGM Recap

FROM THE
ROSS HOUSE TEAM

This year, the RHA AGM was held in the Hayden Raysmith meeting room and on Zoom on Wednesday 20th November. Colin Neave AM (ABC Friends Victoria) was elected Chairperson with Alba Chliakhtine (ABRISA) elected as Treasurer, both for a 2-year term. Ally Scott (DRC) was elected as an Ordinary Committee Member for a 1-year term and Maggie Maguire was confirmed as an Appointed Member also for a 1-year term.

Stepping down from the Committee this year are Keith Bettles (U3A), De Grebner (TreeProject/Appointed Member), and Samantha Marsh (BCA). De served on the Committee since 2007, with the last 3 years as an Appointed Member; Keith has served since 2012, including 10 years as the RHA Treasurer; and Samantha was elected in 2023. We thank each of them for giving their time and passion to our vital community.

Following the AGM, Kylie and Romeo from Positive Powerful Parents (PPP) presented the outstanding short film, Compare the Parents, a look at the lived experiences of parents with an intellectual disability. The film has been accepted into Sundance 2025 and was incredibly insightful, powerful and moving. Congratulations to PPP on this outstanding success.

Thank you to everyone who attended on the day; please see page 6 of this newsletter for photos of the event.

Thanks

The Ross House Team

Included In This Issue

Building and Maintenance

Melbourne Rail updates

Colin's Corner

End of Year Party: You're Invited!

Grants and Assistance

Update from TreeProject

Member Feature: NODSS

Schizy Inc Tree of Kindness

Update from Society of Women Writers

Community Calendar

RHA Holiday Closure Info



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 2024/2025

Chairperson
Colin Neave AM
(ABC Friends)

Treasurer
Alba Chliakhtine
(ABRISA)

Secretary
Denise Boyd
(STAR)

Ally Scott
(Ordinary Member DRC)

Maggie Maguire AM
(Appointed Member)

Nazzareno Marchionda
(Appointed Member RHA Staff)

Michael Griffiths
(Ex-Officio, RHA CEO)

Colin's Corner

Welcome to Colin's Corner!

Colin Neave AM, Chairperson of the Ross House Association, shares some thoughts and highlights from the last couple of months.



[Image Description: photo of Colin Neave wearing a checkered shirt, standing in front of green foliage smiling at the camera].

It was a pleasure to meet many members of the Ross House community, both in person and via Zoom, at our recent AGM.

I found the screening of 'Compare the Parents' exceptionally moving. This thought-provoking and informative film sheds light on the starkly different treatment received by parents with and without disability and should make us all aware of the need for change.

My heartfelt thanks to representatives from Positive Powerful Parents (PPP) who attended and to Romeo for introducing and speaking about the film.

As members of this unique community, it is important for all of us to be aware of the issues faced by one another and to take the opportunity to bring these issues to light in the forums and events we are part of.

Congratulations to PPP for winning the 2024 Focus on Ability Short Film Award for Best Short Film and for the exciting opportunity to showcase the film at the Sundance Film Festival in Utah next year.

While Michael has covered the formal details of the AGM on the front page, I would like to take a moment to thank and farewell Dee, Samantha, and Keith, whose contributions have been deeply appreciated. I am also looking forward to continuing to work alongside re-elected members Ally, Alba, and Maggie.

Finally, I am looking forward to the End of Year Party on December 12 and getting the chance to chat to as many members as possible. See you there!

Colin Neave AM, Chairperson
Ross House Association



MEMBER AND TENANT
END OF YEAR PARTY

Dress to impress

Disco music

Retro Snacks

Photo Booth

70's

RETROSPECT



Thursday December 12th
12:30pm - 2pm
Ross House, Level 3 Foyer



RSVP by emailing Katie or scanning the QR code by Dec 2nd. Please include any dietary requirements.



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.

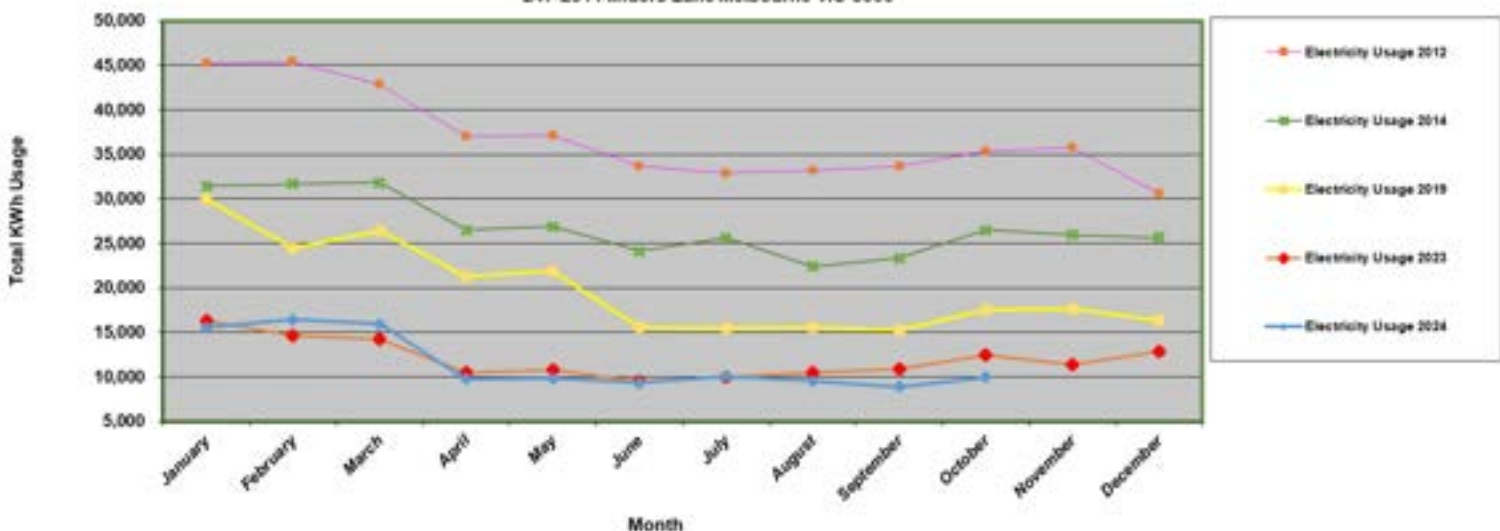
Current and completed works:

- Additional Wireless Access Points have been installed on each Level of Ross House to improve internet connectivity.
- Works continue on the ground floor with the Melbourne Winery expected to open in March 2025.

Looking ahead:

- With the success of the Ross House Emergency Procedure Info Session held in October, we will be looking to arrange another one in the New Year. More details to follow!

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





RHA Chairperson, Colin, addresses the room full of people from the podium



Above: Tables of goodies laid out on light red tablecloths



Below: RHA Treasurer, Alba, addresses the room from the podium



RHA staff members Ruby, Katie and Junxia smile at the camera



Romeo holds up PPP's Focus on Ability Short Film Festival Award and Certificate



Left: Romeo from PPP introduces their film 'Compare the Parents'



Right: RHA Chairperson and CEO, Colin and Michael, address the room together from the podium



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 from November 2024 include:

- station entrance construction and underground build-out works at the City Square, Flinders Quarter and Federation Square sites
- ongoing work on above-ground structures at City Square including the station entrance canopy
- removal of one tower crane from Swanston Street near Flinders Lane
- uplifting of the Collins Street southern footpath near the site entrance
- widening of the pedestrian ramps at the southern side of Collins Street and Swanston Street intersection
- Campbell Arcade restoration works including fit out of the underground passenger connection to Flinders Street Station & train testing through the tunnel.
- For more information on these works, see the [November 2024 Town Hall construction update \(PDE, 1.3 MB\)](#).

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.

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



Holiday Housekeeping

FROM THE ROSS HOUSE TEAM

The Ross House office will be closed from Saturday December 21 and will reopen Monday January 6.

- End of year fridge clean outs will be happening on the week of Monday December 16. Anything funky looking or unlabeled will be thrown out.
- If you are in the building during this closure period please ensure communal spaces are kept clean. This includes kitchens, meeting rooms and hallways.
- The after-hours safe has been relocated from Ground Level to Level 3! Note it wont be opened during this period.

More information on the holiday closure on Page 30.



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.

IMPACT Philanthropy Application Program

Perpetual Limited Grants

The IMPACT Philanthropy Application program allows philanthropists and not-for-profits (NFP's) to connect.

It allows NFP's to demonstrate how they improve outcomes for the communities in which they operate. They encourage high quality outcomes by identifying organisations that can maximise their impact through good governance, solid leadership, strong strategy and being outcomes focused.

Eligibility: Not-for-profits and universities, DGR Status is required.

Funding: up to \$120,000

Round: Closes soon on 6th December 2024

For more information, please visit <https://www.perpetual.com.au/wealth-management/not-for-profits/impact-funding/?PreferredLocation=true>

Community Grants Program

Insignia Community Foundation

The Insignia Community Foundation partners with Australian not-for-profit organisations to help create financial wellbeing for people who have limited access to opportunities.

We look for impactful programs addressing and relieving a specific need of people in the community, and look to ensure people who participate in the program will leave the program in a better way.

People usually supported through our grants are low-income families, at-risk young people and those who are experiencing inequalities. Specifically, the Foundation supports the community across five impact areas:

1. Financial wellbeing
2. Basic needs
3. Reconciliation
4. Diversity and inclusion
5. Mental health

Eligibility: Not-for-profits, DGR status is required

Funding: \$10,000 to \$150,000

Round: Open, and closes on 31st December 2024

For more information, please visit www.insigniafinancial.com.au/corporate-responsibility/community/foundation

Tech Grants for NFPs

Little Phil Foundation

Little Phil is on a mission to empower not-for-profits around the globe. The grant will typically cover an average of 30% of the cost of the procurement of the technology or solution, however the funders may approve up to 50% in special circumstances.

This grant is available for those who meet the following criteria:

- Registered with the ACNC
- Can afford the technology upfront and be reimbursed via the grant within 30 days of procurement.
- Operates efficiently to maximise impact.
- Inclusive of all individuals & community groups regardless of background, race, ethnicity, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, economic status and other diverse backgrounds.
- Looks to address at least 1 of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Eligibility: Not-for-profits, unincorporated groups, DGR status required

Round: Ongoing

For more information, please visit www.littlephil.org/lp-foundation

Member Feature: Narcolepsy and Overwhelming Daytime Sleep Society



[Image Description: The word NODSS & a white graphic of a person's face with lines, a circle and a star in the middle of the head. The image is on a blue background.]

Narcolepsy and Overwhelming Daytime Sleep Society (NODSS) is a support group set up to help people with sleep disorders.

While we do tend to have more Narcoleptics as members, we provide counselling and information to people with any sleep disorder. NODSS is staffed entirely by volunteers and raises funds for its services through membership fees, donations and government grants.

A Brief History

NODSS was founded by psychologist Dr Dorothy Bruck in 1986, along with a small group of volunteers.

NODSS became an incorporated body in 1988, and was also classified as a public benevolent institution under the Tax Act (Australia). It also operates as a national body.

The Aim of NODSS

- To provide support for people with narcolepsy or any other sleep disorder and also their families and friends
- To provide support for doctors, health professionals & students
- To encourage and aid research into sleep disorders
- To gather information and make it accessible

Services provided by NODSS:

- 24-hour phone counseling and information service.
- Bimonthly newsletter "The Reveille"
- The NODSS Facebook Group - a safe online meeting place for members
- Bi-monthly meetings in Melbourne with guest speakers
- A library of articles, books & resources

www.nodss.org.au

[Image Description below: a photo of NODSS members Elizabeth Hickey and Maria Mclean at the Schizy Inc networking CEO event in the Jenny Florence Room].

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



COME CELEBRATE WITH US DECEMBER 3, 2024

Ross House 247-251 Flinders Lane
Melbourne Level 4
Hayden Raysmith Room
10:45am for an 11am start



International Day of
People with Disability

Please wear something purple. Prizes for the most noticeable "PURPLE PROMOTOR"

SPEAKERS - SELF ADVOCATE PRESENTERS - BADGE MAKING - NEW SELF ADVOCACY PASS THE PARCEL GAME - BANNER CREATION - INFORMATION/GIFT BAGS

LUNCH PROVIDED SO PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING

An event for everyone!
Support Workers/Carers
Welcome!

INQUIRIES/RSVP:
Lyn 0413239236 or
lotusgroupabi@gmail.com



Organised by Lotus Group Projects in partnership with Ross House and COSHG. Funded by the City of Melbourne

Another Remarkable Year for TreeProject

For over two decades, TreeProject has been part of the Ross House community. Initiated in 1989 by two dedicated women with a mission to plant one million trees in Victoria, their passion has evolved into a significant legacy.

Fifteen years later, their goal was achieved, and more than 30 years on TreeProject has planted over two million trees, and counting.

This year brought many highlights, starting with an honourable nomination for a Landcare Award. These awards celebrate the efforts of innovative individuals and community groups working tirelessly to rejuvenate Victoria's landscapes. While we didn't take home the award, being in the same space, and learning about so many small but mighty projects, was an absolute inspiration.

TreeProject was also featured in the first-ever From the Ground Up film festival, hosted by the legendary Costa Georgiadis of Gardening Australia fame. We were thrilled to be one of eight organisations showcased for our commitment to environmental sustainability.

TreeProject is unique in that we don't just plant trees - we grow them too. Urban volunteers are trained to cultivate indigenous seedlings in their backyards, nurturing them until they're ready for planting in regional Victoria.

These seedlings are then transported to rural landholders and Landcare groups in need, where yet another group of dedicated volunteers plants them. This model fosters collaboration between urban and rural communities, working together to restore Victoria's landscapes.

Looking ahead, 2025 is shaping up to be one of our biggest years yet. We're calling on nearly 500 volunteers to help grow over 156,000 native seedlings which will play a crucial role in repairing damaged ecosystems across the state.

Thanks to our incredible volunteers' time and energy we can keep costs low for farmers and landholders. For many of them, getting affordable seedlings from TreeProject is all the encouragement they need to start rejuvenating their land.

If you're passionate about making a difference, we'd love for you to join us. Sign up today to grow native seedlings for 2025 and be part of the movement that's transforming Victoria's countryside—one seedling at a time.

From the Ground Up:
www.melbournewater.com.au/media/22441

www.treeproject.org.au



[Image Description: TreeProject Manager, Susi Millton & TreeProject volunteers are sitting at the meeting room table, packing and sorting seeds].

SARU

Self Advocacy Resource Unit



Self Advocates and supporters are invited to the SARU and VSAN Christmas party



When: Tuesday 17 December



Where: Level 4 Hayden Raysmith Room
Ross House 247 Flinders Lane Melbourne



Time: 11:00am - 2:00pm



Come celebrate the end of 2024 with friends, food and music



If you want to come email jessica@saru.net.au or call 9639 6856

Empowering Women in Rural Communities

BY ASSISI AID PROJECTS

ROOM 4.0

Assisi Aid Projects works with overseas partners to deliver impactful projects which economically empower women in rural communities across the Asia-Pacific region.

The projects, currently in India, Nepal and Indonesia, facilitate a range of activities including interest-free business loans and skills development, and provide practical support. Through the projects, women participants are empowered to start their own businesses and earn sustainable incomes, enabling them to be financially independent and support their families.

In Indonesia our Jajal Wae Sustainable Agri-Tourism project is implemented through our partner, Dreamdelion. The project takes place in the Ngawi region of East Java, where women often struggle to earn a sustainable income to support their families. The high levels of poverty, poor education, and discriminatory social and cultural norms have all resulted in women in the region having low wages and limited opportunities. The women must often leave their families to secure work in larger cities, the nature of which is often physically demanding and poorly paid.



[Image Description: Image of Ibu Arin, a midwife in the village of Girikerto is dressed in a white clothing head piece in a rural setting].

The project helps alleviate this situation, enabling women to drive social change. Through economic empowerment the project establishes a formal eco-tourism management group and helps to create business opportunities for over 170 women in remote villages. The project's activities enable the women to develop new business skills, set up effective Micro, Small and Medium-Enterprises, and profitably market and sell their products.

Ibu Arin, a midwife in the village of Girikerto, joined the project as she felt it offered a safe place and a community for women to be both socially and economically empowered. Using her background in health, Ibu Arin started a small business to sell healthy food products, made from local and natural ingredients free from preservatives, at the local market.

Ibu Arin believes the project is continuously supporting women to become financially independent and increasingly more confident in themselves.

www.assisi.org.au



Thank You Aunty Jane!

BY RHA

Ross House is delighted to share that community member Aunty Jane Rosengrave has created a stunning artwork to celebrate our disability community.

The original piece will soon be proudly displayed in the Ross House foyer and will also feature on our new History of Disability Organisations in Ross House postcards.

These postcards will be available at the International Day of Persons with Disabilities event on December 3, organised by Lotus Group Projects.

Further information about the International Day of Disability event can be found on page 10 of this newsletter.

[Image Description below: a photo of RISE Founder, Ramesh Fernandez and Aunty Jane standing in front of the RHA Front Desk, smiling at the camera and holding up Aunty Jane's Artwork].



Welcoming Everyone to Ross House

Painted by Ross House community member Aunty Jane.

DESCRIPTION: Ross House is a welcoming place for people with different disabilities from different cultures to visit with any problems they have. The hands represent the varied cultures and needs of people who seek assistance at Ross House. Sistersgirls are depicted sitting in yarning circles on the grass under the shade of trees, discussing their diverse health needs.

On the left, is Aunty Jane's clan emblem from the Yorta Yorta tribe, the long-neck turtle.



[Image Description: a photo of Aunty Jane in a red top, standing in-front of the RHA Front Desk & holding up Aunty Janes Artwork].

For the Love of Writing Festival 2025

BY SOCIETY OF WOMEN WRITERS VICTORIA (SOWW)

For the Love of Writing festival, 21st -23rd February 2025, brought to you by The Society of Women Writers Victoria.

The festival will commence on 21st February 2025, when The Society of Women Writers Victoria launches their forthcoming book, Write On! charting the first fifty years of the society's history from 1970-2020.

The launch will be held at Ross House in the Jenny Florence room. Tickets for this event are \$60.00 which includes a copy of the book and light refreshments.

To support the cost of publishing the book we are raffling a beautiful quilt hand-made by one of our members at \$10 a ticket or \$30 for five.

The rest of the festival is all online and includes prompt-writing sessions, writing workshops, author talks, an Open Mic, and a showcase of monologues.



[Image Description: Green and purple graphics of a pen nib on a circle shape with black text reads 'The Society of Women Writers'].

When? Friday 21st - Sunday 23rd February 2025

Where? Jenny Florence Room, Level 3 & Online

Cost? \$60 per person

For further information about SOWW please visit www.swwvic.org.au.



[Image Description: black text on a pink floral background reads 'For the Love of Writing Festival'. In person: Friday 21st February 2025, online Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd February 2025. For festival information and tickets, visit www.swwvic.org.au].

64th Pioneer Women's Ceremony

BY NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN VICTORIA

The 64th Pioneer Women's Ceremony will again be held at the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden in the Kings Domain, Melbourne.

This memorial garden of remembrance was created in Kings Domain as part of the 1934 celebration of the Centenary of Melbourne.

A variety of fundraising ventures occurred, including producing and selling a commemorative book, and receiving public subscriptions to have a particular woman's name inscribed on a "sheet of remembrance". These sheets are buried beneath the sundial in the garden.

The garden was designed by Hugh Linaker and is a formal, symmetrical garden traversed by a watercourse. This flows into a grotto which contains a bronze statue of a woman by the sculptor Charles Web Gilbert.

About the event

This event celebrates Victorian Pioneer Women, conducted annually by the National Council of Women of Victoria (NCWV) to acknowledge past and present women pioneers.

In 2025, we are acknowledging 30 years since the Australian Bureau of Statistics recognised, under occupations in the Census, that women could be farmers.



[Image Description: photo of the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden; a rectangle pave-stoned landscape sits on a flat green garden with trees and a pond].

We will shine the light on women in agriculture including those in rural and regional Victoria.

One speaker, Alana Johnson, will speak about the 'Invisible Farmer' Project and aspects of women in agriculture.

At this event, chairs, canopies and water will be provided, but please bring your own water bottle/cup.

We also encourage those attending to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy in this special place under the canopies or in the open on the grass.

When? Sunday 2nd February 2025, 11:30am - 1:30pm

Where? Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden in the Kings Domain, Melbourne (Melway Map: 2G A10)

Please notify NCWV of your attendance by emailing info@ncwvic.org.au.

www.ncwvic.org.au

NCWV NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN VICTORIA

YOU'RE INVITED!



Wednesday 18th December
11.30-1.00
Level 4, Ross House

Join us for a
jolly good time!

fun food
music friends

reinforce
CHRISTMAS
PARTY

Please reply by 11th December to
info@reinforce.org.au or 96507855



Cont. from previous page...

In support of this wonderful initiative, Ross House tenant, DBV, gathered together on the 9th of October to create leaves for the Schizy Inc 'Tree of Kindness', at Ross House.

Each person brought their unique perspective to their paper cut-out leaves with art and messages about things for good mental health that are important to them.

The tree, found near reception on level 3, displayed these contributions for the month.

Here are some of the messages that came about in the DBV workshop:

“Laughter, confidence, positivity and relaxation is good for mental health.” (by Kathy)

“You are loved”

“Doing art and craft helps improve my mental health.” (by Dennis)

“Insight, communication, support, self-care.” (by Phoenix)

“Inclusion, positivity, social connection, laughter.” (by Jael and Jackie)

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



[Image Descriptions. Above: Six colourfully decorated paper leaves adorned with gem stones. A leaf in the foreground reads 'DBV' in braille written in gem stones. Below: Members of the DBV community sit in the Hayden Raysmith Room carefully creating and decorating their leaves.



Order a **TreeProject** e-card today to ask friends to donate!

Celebrating a special occasion? Order an e-card that includes a request to donate to TreeProject. You can send this to friends and family for a special occasion and ask them to donate to TreeProject instead of presents or flowers.

www.treeproject.org.au





Community Calendar

DECEMBER 2024

Monday 2nd December: **Room bookings calendar opens to the public**

Tuesday 3rd December: **IDPWD event (Info page 10)**

Tuesday 10th December:
Human Rights Day

Thursday 12th December: **RHA End of Year Party (Info page 4)**

Saturday 21st December 2024 -
Sunday 5th January 2025: **RHA office is closed for holidays.**

Friday 20th December 2024 :
Final operating day for the Ross House Association Office for 2025

JANUARY 2025

Saturday 4th January: World Braille Day

Monday 6th January: **RHA office re-opens today**

Sunday 19th January - Sunday 9th February: Midsumma Festival

Sunday 26th January: Survival Day

Monday 27th January: **RHA Office closed for Public Holiday**

Wednesday 29th January: Luna New Year, celebrating Year of the Snake

FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday 2nd February: **The 64th Pioneer Women's Ceremony, NCWV (Info page 16)**

Sunday 2nd February: Physical Disability Awareness Day

Tuesday 4th February: **SARU Morning Tea at Ross House and the RH Open House Ideas Session for Members and Tenants (Info page 22)**

Sunday 9th February: Victoria Pride

Thursday 20th February - World Day of Social Justice

Friday 21st - Sunday 23rd February: **For the Love of Writing Fest, SOWW (Info page 15)**

Image Description: Ross House tenant, Reinforce members are stood behind a blank white wall smiling at the camera.

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.

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 October, we saw Ross House tenants SARU and Schizy Inc raising awareness about Mental Health Awareness Month. In November, HAAG promoted their Home at Last Project and Warm Safe Home campaign.

Looking ahead:

Window Display Booking Requests for 2025 will be emailed directly to those who popped requests through. Thank you!

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 Descriptions. Top Right: Heidi Everett from Schizy Inc is wearing a hat and colourful clothing, sitting on the RHA window display ledge in front of her display. Bottom Right: HAAG & SARU display windows full of colourful images, campaign and project information].



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

Expression of Interest: Ross House Open Day – Saturday 26th July 2025

We are exploring the opportunity to participate in The City of Melbourne Open House Melbourne 2025, held over the weekend of 26th –27th July 2025.

We are proposing to open Ross House on Saturday, 26 July, from 9am to 6pm, as part of this city-wide event.

The 2025 theme, Stories of the City, highlights the hidden and overlooked layers of urban life through architecture, culture, and community. Ross House offers a unique story, reflecting both architectural and social history.

From the City of Melbourne website: “Stories of the City’ will illuminate stories hidden behind closed doors or overlooked in everyday life. By exploring the layers of urban life through stories of architecture, culture & community, the 2025 Open House Melbourne Weekend will foster a deeper appreciation of the relationship between people and place, lived experience & built form”.

Benefits of Participation:

- Inclusion in Open House Melbourne's program
- Promotion to City of Melbourne 52,000 email subscribers, 60,000 social media followers
- Extending reach to interstate and international visitors
- City of Melbourne provided Volunteers

Ideas for Activities:

- Guided tours of the building
- Tenant Presentations
- Tenant Performances
- Open offices
- Volunteer recruitment

RHA staff will assist on the day, and room hire will be free for participating tenants.

Next Steps

We will host an Ideas Session on Tuesday 4th February to brainstorm activities. If you are interested in participating, please let us know so we can assess feasibility. If there is enough interest, RHA will submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) on behalf of Ross House. The EOI is due on 21st February 2025.

Please email rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au if you are interested in participating or have any questions.

For more information about the City of Melbourne Open House head to

<https://openhousemelbourne.org/the-weekend/expression-of-interest-2025/>

RHA Annual Report

Our wonderful Annual Report is now available to view! Put together by our Membership & Engagement Officer, Ruby, with the help of Teags Humm Design.

Be sure to sit down with a cuppa and have a read of the wonderful articles and happenings that have taken place over the last financial year.

You can view the Annual Report by visiting:

www.rosshouse.org.au/publications/annual-report/rha-annual-report-2023-2024/

Limited hard copies are available at the Front Desk.
IN THE HOUSE: DECEMBER 2024



ROSS HOUSE ASSOCIATION | ANNUAL REPORT

Kitchen and Cleaning supplies – An exciting SOAP update!

BY RHA

In line with our commitment at Ross House to being an environmentally sustainable society...And in keeping with our Green and Ethical Procurement Policy, we are moving to refillable hand soap in our kitchenettes!

Over time we will extend this to the dishwashing liquid and cleaning spray bottles.

This will be a gradual process as we use up the supplies stocked during the Covid years.

The kitchenettes are checked regularly by Ross House staff but sometimes things get used quicker than anticipated.



[Image Description: An eco soap bottle sits on a wooden ornament surrounded by yellow and orange native plants and leaves].

Please continue to let us know if anything is running low or needs restocking.

A big ‘Thank you’ to all who use the bins, recycle bins and coffee cup recycle tubes correctly. Every time makes a difference.

Sometimes the spaces we all share can get a bit messy(!) and we ask that all users continue to wash, dry and put away any kitchen items.

Thank you!

Ross House Staff.



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](#).

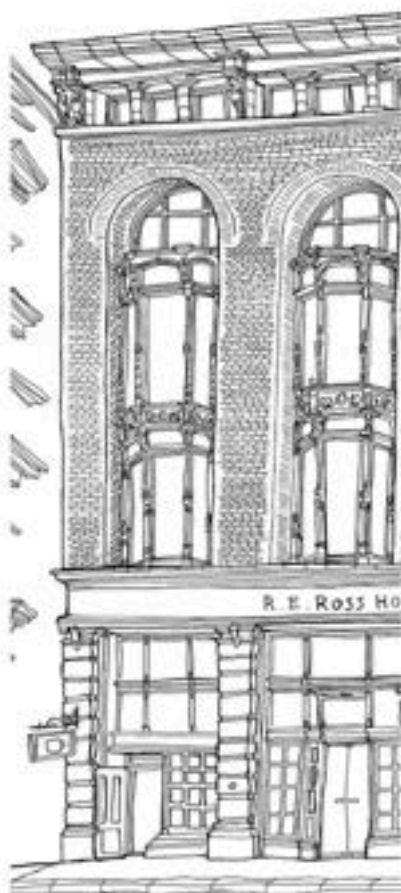
View previous publications by visiting our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/rosshouseassociation/ and following the links!

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

Ross House Association Office is CLOSED from

**3pm, Friday 20 December
2024 to Sunday 5th January
2025 (inclusive)**

RHA staff will be unavailable during this period and will be back online, and in the office, on Monday 6 January 2025



Access information for tenants:

- Please make sure that you have your swipe key with you
- If you do not have a swipe key or 4-digit code you cannot get in to the building
- If you have booked a meeting room you will need the 4-digit access code found in your booking confirmation email to gain access
- If you need help, please contact Ross House before 2pm on Friday 20 December 2024

For emergencies during this period please contact Security on 1300 02 04 06



If you have any questions please contact reception on (03) 9650 1599

Happy Holidays from the RHA Team!

On behalf of the Ross House team, thank you for your continued support over the past year!

Our office closure period is Saturday 21st December to Sunday 5th January 2025 (inclusive). We will be back online and in the office on Monday 6th January 2025.

Please make sure that you have your swipe key or four-digit access code if you are accessing meeting rooms during this period.

If you have any questions before 2pm, Friday 20th December 2024, please contact the Front Desk on (03) 9650 1599 or rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au.

We hope you have a wonderful break and will look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Important contact information:

Ross House office: (03) 9650 1599 / rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au / www.rosshouse.org.au

Security: 1300 02 04 06
Emergency Services: 000

Ross House Mail holding:



Ross House mail will be held at the post office during the holiday period from 3pm, Friday 20th December 2024 to Monday 6th January 2025. Deliveries will not be accepted at the Front Desk during this period so ensure parcels are re-directed or managed yourself for collection.



[Image Description: The Ross House team and RHA Chair Colin Neave are smiling at the camera in the Hayden Raysmith Room. From left to right: Jun, B, Carol, Michael, Ruby, Colin, Katie, Nazz].

ROSS HOUSE ASSOCIATION STAFF THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



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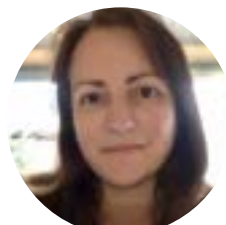
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In The House is a Ross House Association internal publication, produced five times a year.

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



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