

JULY 2025

IN THE HOUSE

Ross House Association Member and Tenant News



Open Day July 26th FROM ROSS HOUSE ASSOCIATION

We are so excited to share that the Open House Melbourne Program is now live, featuring Ross House Open Day on 26th July! We are running a self-guided tour from 10 am - 4 pm, where guests are invited to wander through the building to points of interest. Giving our local community the opportunity to discover the incredible work happening within our walls.

Check out the program here:

<https://openhousemelbourne.org/event/ross-house/>

Ticket Release Information:

- First release tickets: 12pm Wednesday 2 July
- Second release tickets: 10am Saturday 5 July

There's still plenty of time to get involved! For more information or to discuss participation ideas, contact us at rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au.

What's On?

- **Community Scarf Knitting** with the Handknit Crochet Guild
- **Get Dramatic** Rolling play readings with the Victorian Drama League will showcase the art of storytelling through voice and expression.
- **HAAG's History: Housing Justice for Older Tenants** highlighting the stories of HAAG members and their campaigns for housing justice for older tenants.
- **Ever Wondered What it's Like to Have a Brain Injury?** session by BIM sharing their lived experiences and personal insights about what it's like to live with a brain injury.
- **Deafblind World** with **Deafblind Victoria**, an interactive experience designed to increase understanding and awareness of the deafblind communities.
- **Accessible Seated Meditation** sessions hosted by Lotus Group Projects.
- Several organisations are opening their office doors for the day, including SARU, LOTUS GROUP, VDL, DBV, and PPP.

Continued on page 3...

Included In This Issue

Building and Maintenance

Melbourne Rail updates

Colin's Corner

RHA Open Day

Mid-Year Morning Tea
Celebrating NAIDOC Week

Grants and Assistance

Update from TreeProject

Tenant Feature:
Deaf Victoria

Update from CLAN

Update from PPP

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 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.

It's been wonderful meeting so many new marvellous souls in the lifts and passageways of Ross House since my last Colin's Corner. These chance encounters are a constant reminder of the incredible work being done and of the unique and special nature of Ross House.

I'm delighted to report that a final draft for the Strategic Plan 2025-2030 has been approved by the committee after incorporating all your valuable feedback. Thank you for your supportive responses. Please check your inboxes for the final document over the next few weeks.



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

While it's been chilly outside, I hope that everyone has been keeping warm at Ross House. I am looking forward to a warm gathering for our NAIDOC Week event on July 10th. I am also looking forward to welcoming the public to our Open Day on July 26th. You will find more information about these events throughout this issue.

Stay warm and see you on the 10th!

Colin Neave AM, Chairperson
Ross House Association

Open Day July 26th Continued

FROM ROSS HOUSE ASSOCIATION

Continued from page 1...

Ross House Association will be hosting the following events:

- The Community in Action Art Gallery – with displays from Schizy Inc, BCA and COSHG
- Community in Action Video Screenings – showing videos from the Ross House archive, PPP, Schizy Inc, and Mixed Nuts Media
- A History of Ross House Display in the foyer, including original blueprints!
- Changemaker Networking Event, for other not-for-profit changemakers looking to share ideas and stories, and to connect.

Check out the program here: <https://openhousemelbourne.org/event/ross-house/>

See Page 12 to learn more about the bookable events happening at Ross House.



ROSS HOUSE
ASSOCIATION

Members and tenants
are invited

ROSS HOUSE MORNING TEA

in celebration of NAIDOC week

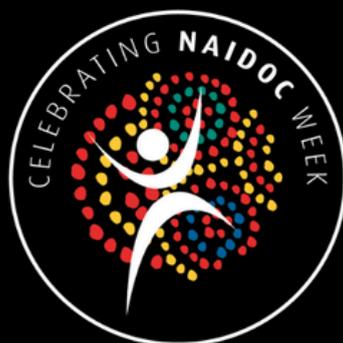
Hear from Ross House tenant, Woor-Dungin
whose mission is to support Aboriginal
community organisations towards
achieving their self-determined goals

10 JULY, 2025

11:30AM - 12:30PM

Hayden Raysmith Room, Level 4

RSVP at <https://form.jotform.com/rosshouse/rsvp-mid-year-morning-tea-2025>
or by emailing rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au





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:

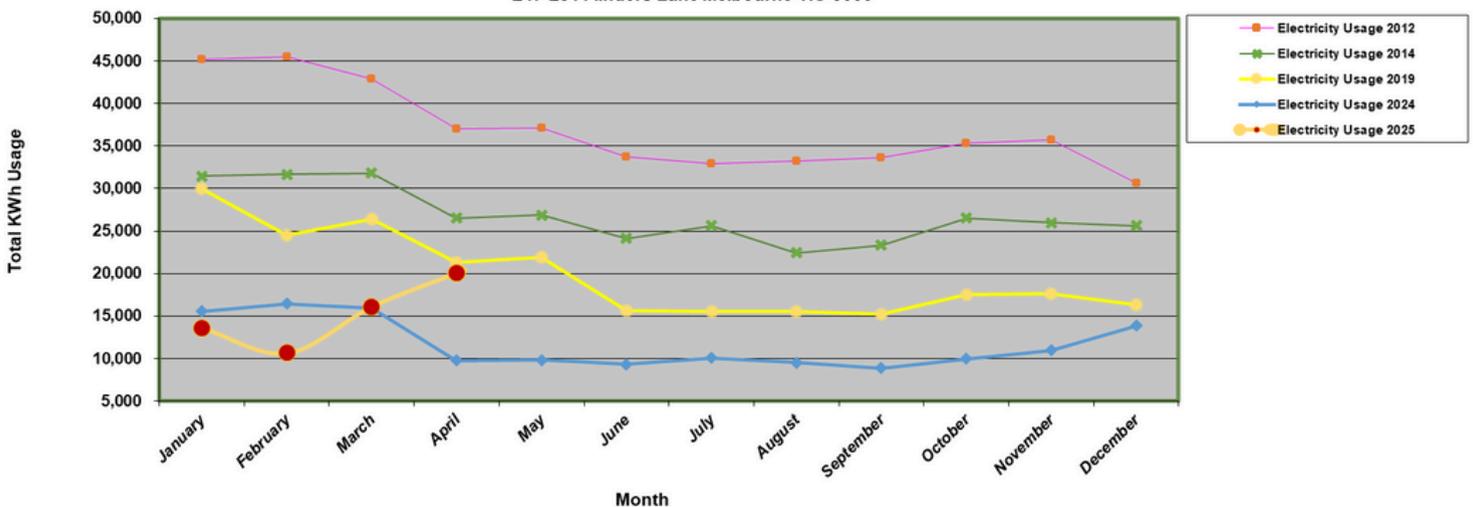
Over the next few weeks, Ross House will be migrating tenants and Meeting Room Wi-Fi Networks to one universal network called RH-Wi-Fi.

Every tenant will have a username and password to access this network. The reason that this is being implemented is to minimise the current number of networks on the system that has been causing congestion issues from time to time.

Nazz, our Facility Manager will be contacting every tenant regarding setting up their new Wi-Fi login over the coming weeks.



Electricity Comparison From 2012 to 2025
2025
Ross House
247-251 Flinders Lane Melbourne VIC 3000



Shred-X Secure Container Document Destruction Bin 2025

Located near the photocopier and shared resource area on Level 3 is the new addition of a Shred-X Secure wheelie bin. This bin is for secure document destruction and replaces the old shredder machine.

Anyone who has fought with the old shredder machine when it jammed will breathe a sigh of relief to learn of this bin!

Now it's as easy as dropping the documents you wish to be shredded into the locked bin, and they are taken away securely to be destroyed.

See below for the picture of Katie demonstrating the use of the bin. If you have any questions about the Shred-X bin, contact Carol or Katie:

rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au.

[ID: Katie places some paper documents she wishes to be destroyed securely in the top of the Shred-X bin located near the photocopier on Level 3 of Ross House].



Image credit: Zed Fitzhume

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 June 2025 include:

- Station entrance construction and underground build-out works at the City Square, Flinders Quarter and Federation Square sites
- Ongoing fit-out of above-ground structures and civil surface works at City Square
- Flinders Street northern footpath closure for workers lift removal and station infrastructure installation
- Campbell Arcade restoration works
- Train testing through the tunnel

For more information on these works, see the [June 2025 Town Hall construction update \(PDF, 1.4 MB\)](#).

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



Tenant Feature:

Welcome Deaf Victoria

Room 4.17b

A big warm welcome to our new tenants Deaf Victoria! Deaf Victoria advocate on behalf of Deaf and hard-of-hearing Victorians to increase access to services and to educate the wider community on how to work, play and study with deaf and hard-of-hearing people. They represent deaf and hard-of-hearing people in both state government and disability groups.

What Deaf Victoria do

- Provide advocacy support for the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities in Victoria
- Provide an array of resources from their community library
- Provide education and consulting
- Has a Community Directory to search for community groups and services to support the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities
- Promote news and events through their social media platforms and e-newsletter



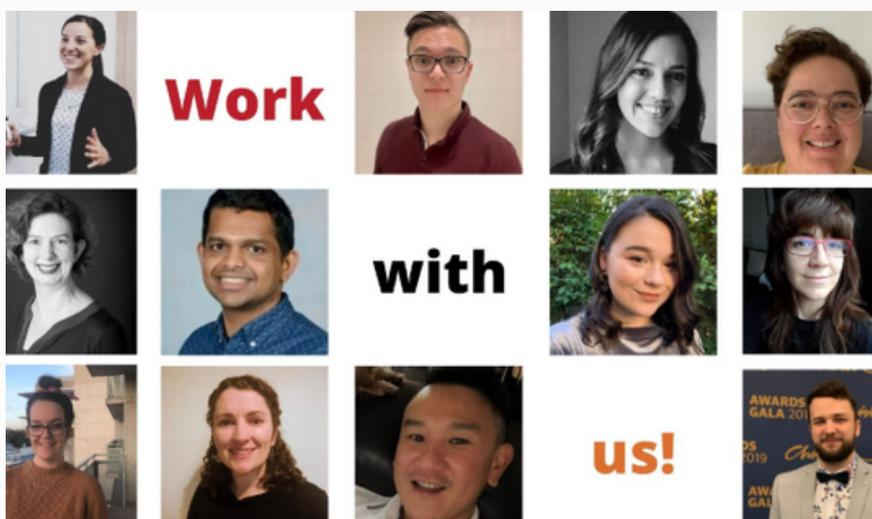
[ID: Deaf Victoria logo - Red and black text which reads 'Deaf Victoria' sits to the right of a red circle graphic with the letters DV in the middle].

Volunteering at Deaf Victoria

A not-for-profit organisation since 1982, Deaf Victoria is made up of a volunteer board and a small team of paid staff. They welcome those keen to volunteer with them who may be able to contribute to their work and the broader Victorian Deaf Community.

Depending on your skills and our current areas of need, they can offer short or long-term positions for volunteers, those seeking placements to compliment study, work experience or as members of our board. Preference for these positions are given to deaf and hard-of-hearing people or those looking for a long-term career in the Deaf sector. Volunteers must be able to sign.

To find out more information about Deaf Victoria, please visit www.deafvictoria.org.au.



A Quick Welcome to FCCVic

We also welcome the Filipino Community Council of Victoria who moved into level 4 on July 1st!

www.filipinocommunitycouncilofvic.org.au



Grants and Assistance Programs

BY ROSS HOUSE ASSOCIATION



[ID: A yellow sign in front of green foliage reads 'Grants and Funding']

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

Content Grants **Community Broadcasting Foundation Ltd**

You can apply for a Content grant if you are a current or prospective community broadcaster who is producing content for broadcast by a recognised community media organisation.

Eligibility: Not-for-profits, Unincorporated Groups

Funding: not specified

Round: Open, closes 12 August 2025

To apply head to <https://cbf.org.au/grants/grants-available/#content-grants>

Make the Difference! Grants Program **Future2**

Applications are now open for grant funding targeting financial wellbeing programs across four key areas: young Australians, disadvantaged Australians (including those experiencing mental health issues, social isolation, domestic violence, homelessness, or poverty, as well as First Nations and refugee & migrant communities), women, and those in regional and remote Australia.

Eligibility: Not-for-profits,

Funding: \$10,000

Round: Opens 10th July, closes 21st August 2025

To apply head to <https://future2foundation.org.au/grants/future2-make-the-difference-grants/>

Community Grants Program **Sisters of Charity Foundation**

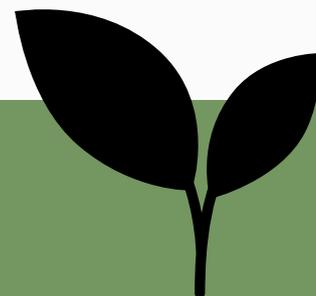
These grants are aimed at helping groups who make a huge difference to those in need, but struggle to find funding through other avenues. They may be ineligible for government assistance, or be too small or lacking the right market appeal to attract the attention of larger organisations, but their causes are no less worthy and their needs are no less real.

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

Funding: up to \$15,000

Round: Open, closes 31st July 2025

To apply head to <https://sistersofcharityfoundation.org.au/applying-for-grants/>



LET'S PLAY BADMINTON

Free Sessions
South Asian Women-Only

*Sports Arena,
Clyde North*



*Starts 30 June,
Every monday*



5 PM - 6 PM



*Limited spots available-
register today*

*welfare@indiancare.org.au
0424 966 197*

Equipment provided!



IndianCare

Winter in the Paddock with TreeProject

BY TREEPROJECT

TreeProject is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to revegetating Victoria, and we've been doing it since 1989. Our planting days are held from winter through to spring in some of the state's most beautiful rural regions.

As the cool months roll in, there's no better time to pull on your gumboots, grab your gloves, and head out into Victoria's countryside to plant something that matters.

This July through to September, TreeProject invites you to spend a day out in the paddock, planting indigenous seedlings that will grow to protect our waterways, restore ecosystems, and provide vital habitat for native wildlife.

Planting days are being held in the Yarra Ranges, Melbourne surrounds, Bendigo, and Ballarat — giving you the chance to connect with the land close to home or enjoy a day trip to somewhere new.



[ID: Tree Project logo - black text reads Tree Project with a green leaf as the dot on top of the letter J].

What to expect

Be prepared for digging, bending, and walking on uneven ground — a good level of fitness is needed. Some days are suitable for children too, so be sure to check the event details when booking.

Why do it?

Each planting day is a chance to connect with nature, with others, and with the shared goal of repairing our landscapes, one seedling at a time. Whether you come with friends, family, a work crew, or solo, you'll be warmly welcomed into a community of people getting their hands dirty for a greener future.

For more information, and to register, please visit the link below:

www.treeproject.org.au/how-you-can-help/tree-planting-dates



[ID: A close up shot of a green native bush].



You're Invited!!

TreeProject

STORIES
OF THE CITY



OPEN HOUSE
MELBOURNE

SATURDAY JULY 26

ROSS HOUSE

Ross House Open Day 2025

Bookings Open

You can now book tickets for the three following bookable events happening at Ross House as part of the event on July 26th 2025. All events are FREE, the City of Melbourne charge a \$7 booking and admin fee. Head to <https://openhousemelbourne.org/event/ross-house/> to get your tickets! You can also pop in on the day and participate in the self-guided tour.

Seated Meditation with Lotus Group Projects.

Lotus Group is inviting people to participate in a Loving Kindness meditation, a non-religious meditation suitable for everyone regardless of belief or non-belief.

Why offer a Loving Kindness meditation? The world is a troubled place and many people suffer with anxiety and/or depression; a healing remedy for assisting with overcoming these challenges is learning to appreciate or love yourself and others, by promoting inner peace.

This meditation session will show participants how to practice this loving-kindness meditation; a free take-home information and instruction kit, to practice the meditation at home, will also be provided. There will be additional free kits created for interested people who cannot make the Open Day. They can be collected from the Lotus Group Projects office on Level 3.

For more information, please contact Lyn on 0413239236. We hope to see you there!



Lotus Group Projects

lotusgroupabi@gmail.com

0413239236

Deafblind World with DeafBlind Victoria.

Hosted by DeafBlind Victoria (DBV), DeafBlind World is an interactive workshop designed to help the wider community understand what it's like to live with deafblindness.

Presented by DeafBlind people, this hands-on experience covers DeafBlind communication methods, assistive technology, barriers and access issues, guiding techniques, and much more through engaging live activities. This workshop welcomes everyone, including Deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing participants, CODA (Children of Deaf Adults), Auslan learners, Auslan teachers, Auslan community members, and more.

Auslan interpreters and morning tea will be provided. Please provide your communication preferences to rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au.



Changemakers Mixer with Ross House Association

The RHA Community Development Subcommittee is hosting a networking event for local changemakers who are looking to connect and share skills and knowledge with others. Afternoon tea will be provided.



BELONG and DRC present

Light Up Your Life: A Disability Pride Celebration

**Kensington Town Hall
30/34 Bellair St, Kensington 3031**

**Friday 18 July 2025
1pm to 4pm**

Click [HERE](#) to book your free ticket
or scan below:



Or contact
info@drc.org.au



**Disability
Rights and
Culture**

Kind Society – The Disabled Experience of Mental Health



BY SCHIZY INC

Celebrate Disability Pride Month with Darebin Libraries and Ross House tenant, Schizy Inc.

Schizy Inc. is a disability lived experience-led arts organisation, which facilitates the proud expression of diverse mental health in Australia.

Mental health disability advocate Heidi Everett will host a panel discussion with Australia's leading Disabled Arts and Advocacy professionals - Carly Findlay, Jael Espinal, Rachel Edmonds and Laura Pettenuzzo with performances from Schizy Inc artists.

If you have any access, dietary or transport requirements, such as Auslan interpreting, dim lighting or taxi vouchers, please contact heidi@schizy.org by 4th July 2025.

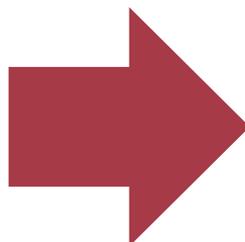
This is a sensory gentle event, please refrain from wearing scents. Please note, a Guide Dog will be present at this event.

[ID: Schizy Inc logo which says 'Schizy Inc' in yellow text on a black circle background with a red border. There are blue, purple and red love hearts on the black circle too].

Where? Reservoir Library, 23 Edwardes Street Reservoir

When? Saturday 19th July 2025, 1pm - 3:30pm

For more information about tickets, please visit the QR code link below.



[ID below: Photo of a group of people performing on a stage with a black background, wearing colourful clothing, smiling at the camera].



DRC
advocacy



Disability Pride Flag Raising

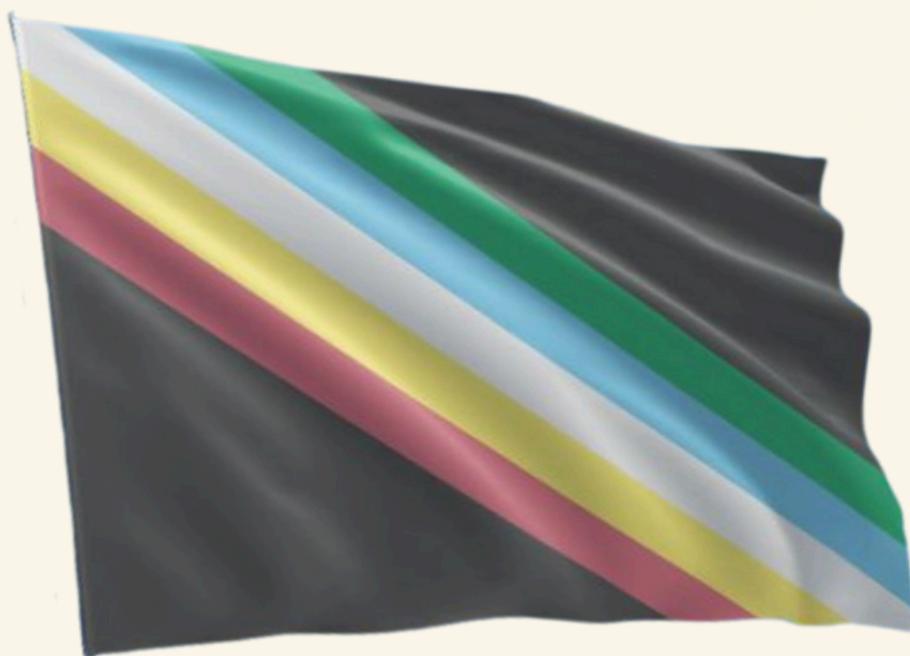
TUESDAY 8 JULY
2:00PM – 3:30PM

ST ALBANS COMMUNITY CENTRE
33 PRINCESS ST, ST ALBANS VIC 3021

Proudly
Supported by



CELEBRATE DISABILITY PRIDE
WITH JOY & COMMUNITY
(PLUS, AFTERNOON TEA!)



SCAN TO BOOK
FREE TICKETS



Empowering Parents with Intellectual Disability – PPP

POSITIVE POWERFUL PARENTS



[ID above: Positive Powerful Parents logo - White text against red background reads 'Positive Powerful Parents'. An image depicts a large hand with a small hand overlapping it].

A huge congratulations to Positive Powerful Parents (PPP) who made it into the Link Disability Magazine!

You can access the magazine via the below link:

The article is called 'Empowering Parents with Intellectual Disability' and is about Positive Powerful Parents sharing their stories about the issues and discrimination parents with intellectual disability face, when they are involved with the child protection system.

www.linkonline.com.au

PPP's article is featured on pages 34 & 35.

For more information about PPP, please visit www.positivepowerfulparents.com.au.

PAGE 35

Link to...Profile

Empowering parents with intellectual disability



By Daniela Kitchol

For parents with an intellectual disability, the joy of parenting can be marred by the impact of crossing paths with the child protection system.

Fortunately, a disability-led advocacy group aims to provide support through these tough times.

Called Positive Powerful Parents (PPP), the organisation was founded by a parent with intellectual disability who had felt alone when dealing with the child protection system. When she found out she wasn't, she decided to do something about it.

The self-advocacy group raises awareness of the discrimination these parents face and aims to stop families

from losing their children. It runs in Melbourne, Gippsland and online, providing a variety of touchpoints for Victorian parents to get involved.

PPP currently operates primarily in Victoria, with a parenting group also available in Queensland. Victorian participants have travelled to Queensland to help train staff there in advocacy and provision of support, creating a connected community around the country.

Lee* joined PPP by chance after going to one of their meetings and quickly became involved in making resources for the group, including a video called 'How Would You Feel', which asks parents answer questions about how they felt to lose their children or have

reduced access through the child protection system.

It was an emotional experience for Lee, who has four children aged from 14 to 26, who he sees just a few times a year.

Lee, who has an intellectual disability, described PPP as "a safe place for parents to meet" and said the services the group provides are varied, but extremely helpful.

"We connect parents with an intellectual disability with other parents... we make resources for parents and run training about safe story-sharing. We support parents to learn about self-advocacy, we link parents into supports they may need, and share information," Lee said.

Lee is now a peer worker with PPP, which means helping run the Friday friendship groups where members take part in bonding activities, learn about self-advocacy, and talk about their experiences. Lee is one of the longest standing members, having been there for 13 years.

He is also on the committee, which meets monthly to report on milestones reached and work out topics that need to be addressed with attendees, like child safety policies or how to advocate for oneself.

PPP is fully run by parents with intellectual disability. The committee, made of five or six people who share the role of Chair, makes all decisions relating to the organisation, which provides opportunities for the parents to learn skills in policy and governance.

According to staff although it means sometimes decisions can take extra time, it ensures that decision-making is in the hands of those who will be most affected: people with disability. This gives them ownership over their actions – something that for many can be lacking in their dealings with the child protection system.

Lee said being involved with the system means parents face unique challenges.

"[Things like] not seeing our kids, not being able to see their first day in school or graduation. We don't get to see any of that as soon as they are taken out of our care," he said.



"I only get to see them for an hour for access. We are discriminated against by services like the NDIS because we don't have children in our care, so they don't think we need support as parents."

"People think that you just go and have a normal life and everything will be OK, but it is not. It is much harder for a parent with an intellectual disability to get their kids back – we don't have the same rights as other parents."

Most parents he said, lose their children at birth or soon after, and only get to see them four times a year. The children are often housed in kinship or foster care, and many parents don't get through that.

"We suffer. I lost my two youngest when they were three and 18 months. I haven't seen any of their kinder, school graduations, anything. I only get an hour's access. And at the end of the access, you do nothing but cry because you don't get to see any of what they do day-to-day."

But Lee said parents with intellectual disability should be supported in their parenting, so they aren't forced to give up their children.

"All parents with an intellectual disability have different needs and will need different supports."

"It is hard when some parents lose their children at birth because they don't get the chance to ask for support, and then they won't know what support they might need. Some parents need support with appointments to understand what the doctor is saying, because they don't talk in plain English. Some parents need support reading and understanding documents because they aren't in plain or easy English. They might need extra support around the house, like cooking, cleaning, and gardening, while others need extra support to learn parenting skills because parenting programs are not in plain or easy English."

Supports shouldn't just focus on the act of parenting. Many parents who lose their children are also faced

with the realisation afterwards that the NDIS doesn't cover things like access to therapy or counselling to deal with the trauma of losing a child. Although they can access some psychology appointments under a mental health care plan, PPP's advocates say the limited number of appointments available under those plans is not enough to adequately process the trauma.

Lee believes parenting resources for people with intellectual disability could be provided under the NDIS. The government – whether state or federal – have a role to play in funding accessible parenting programs.

He said they just want access to similar programs to those available to parents without disability, because no parent really knows what they're doing when they start out – but they all benefit from having supports in place to help.

Another change that could benefit parents with intellectual disability, according to PPP, would be for the government to actively work with parents to try and keep them and their children together.

In the meantime, PPP tries to provide a supportive place for parents to grieve, come to terms with their loss, and learn the skills they need to advocate to the system alongside their peers.

"We can understand what parents are going through and have been through. PPP doesn't judge people's experiences," Lee said.

"It's important for parents to have a space where they feel safe and can talk about anything. PPP understands and stands up for the rights of parents with an intellectual disability. We're all friends... it's just like a big friendship group."

To find out more about PPP, visit www.positivepowerfulparents.com.au or visit the Positive Powerful Parents Facebook page.

*Lee's name has been changed to protect his identity and also the children's link

CLAN's 25th Anniversary!

BY CARE LEAVERS
AUSTRALASIA NETWORK
(CLAN)

On Saturday 5th July at the Petersham RSL in Sydney, NSW CLAN will celebrate 25 years of service to Care Leavers with Clannies, their partners, CLAN Supporters and Patrons.

Saturday 5th July 2025 celebrations include:

- 9:30am: Registration
- 10am: Start time
- 11am: Morning tea
- 1pm: Lunch

Dinner will commence at 6:30pm. On the night, there will be speeches, a 25th Anniversary powerpoint detailing our work, a small raffle with prizes to be won, items from The Australian Orphanage Museum on display and more! CLAN looks forward to celebrating 25 years with ALL attendees!

RSVP by Friday 19th June to CLAN to reserve your spot at this wonderful celebration by calling 1800 008 774

www.clan.org.au

*Please join us for the celebration
of CLAN'S*



"25 Years Caring for Care Leavers"

<i>Saturday 5th July, 2025 Registration at 9:30am</i>	<i>Start Time 10:00am at Petersham RSL, 301 Trafalgar St, Petersham NSW 2049</i>
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*RSVP by Friday 19th June to CLAN to
reserve your spot at this wonderful celebration
1800 008 774*

[ID: CLAN event flyer. Gold text on a navy blue background specifying the details of the 25th anniversary event]



[ID: CLAN logo - blue text which reads 'Care Leavers Australia Network' sits on a yellow map of Australia. Blue and yellow swirl-type graphics sit to the left of the image]

Kathryn Purnell Poetry Prize

BY SOCIETY WOMEN
WRITERS VICTORIA

Each year the Society of Women Writers Victoria (SOWW) runs a competition, alternating between poetry and short stories. This year was the Kathryn Purnell Poetry Prize, which closed in May. We received 147 entries from women poets across Australia!

In July, we will meet at Ross House, in the Hayden Raysmith Room for the announcement of the winners.

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



We will hear from our judge, Alice White, and the winning poems will be read out as well as others on the shortlist, where possible by the authors who are invited to attend along with our members.

Where? Hayden Raysmith Room, Level 4, Ross House

When? Friday 18th July 2025, 11am - 1pm

For more information about SOWW, please visit www.swwvic.org.au

Volunteer with Travellers Aid Australia

When you volunteer with Travellers Aid you help people with a disability or older travellers' get where they need to go.

If you value access and inclusion for all, you'll love being part of our volunteer workforce.

Volunteers, just like you, make Travellers Aid's free and low-cost support services possible.



[ID: The Travellers Aid logo of blue lines with white background and the text 'Travellers Aid'].

Our service hubs in Melbourne, Seymour and Ballarat help people connect with public transport, navigate transport disruptions, get to their appointments and outings and enjoy Melbourne's special events.

To find out more about volunteering at Travellers Aid, please visit:

www.travellersaid.org.au/support-us/volunteer

[ID: Photo of people sitting in a buggy driving in a city landscape'].



Manimuthu's Story: Finding Strength and Connection Again

BY ASSISI AIDS
PROJECTS

Our work at Assisi Aid Projects is simple but powerful; we support women to build livelihoods and live with dignity. So far this year, we have seen hundreds more women in rural India, Nepal and Indonesia access training, develop small businesses, and gain financial independence - often for the first time in their lives. We are proud to share Manimuthu's inspiring story in this newsletter.

Manimuthu, a 57-year-old widow in Tamil Nadu, India, has faced many of the challenges common to widows and single women. With little support and few chances to earn an income or feel part of their community, women can become isolated, taking a serious toll on their health, confidence, and sense of self-worth.

In partnership with Integrated Development Trust, and supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), our project in India encourages women like Manimuthu to rebuild their confidence, understand their rights, and tap into their entrepreneurial potential.



[ID: Manimuthu is wearing blue and gold Indian dress and is standing in front of a turquoise background'].

Being an active member of the Single Women's Project has created significant change in Manimuthu's life. After taking part in a hands-on training program to learn how to make mats and bags, Manimuthu used an interest-free business loan to start her own small business. Now, Manimuthu's earning a steady income from the bags and mats she makes and sells.

For Manimuthu, "The Single Women's Project group and the training helped me feel strong and respected. My family now includes me in all decisions, and I feel proud to be part of village meetings".

www.assisi.org.au



ASSISI AID PROJECTS

Empowering Change

First Aid Recap at Ross House

BY ROSS HOUSE ASSOCIATION

A sneaky peek at our first aid session from last month with our brilliant trainer Ben! It was fantastic learning new skills on how to respond effectively in emergencies and build knowledge that could genuinely save lives and prevent further harm.

We're planning another first aid training session in the coming months, so we'll keep you posted on when that'll be happening. Huge thanks to Ben for his expertise, and to everyone who came along!



Left to right: Carol (RHA), CPR Trainer Ben and Vasundhara (IndianCare) gather round a mannequin on the floor.



Nazz (RHA), Jun (RHA) and Katherine (DWA) perform CRP on baby mannequins on a table



Stephanie (HAAG) and Annie (SARU) perform CPR on a mannequin in the Hayden Raysmith Room



Members of the Ross House community sit in a circle looking at the CPR trainer, Ben



Community Calendar

JULY 2025

Tuesday 1st - Thursday 31st July - Disability Pride Month

Saturday 5th July - Care Leaver Australia Network's 25th Anniversary

Thursday 10th July - RHA Morning Tea celebrating NAIDOC Week

Saturday 19th July - Kind Society - The Disabled Experience of Mental Health event, Schizy Inc

Saturday 26th July - RHA Open Day!

AUGUST 2025

Monday 4th August - Annual Report Article Call Out

Monday 4th August - National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

Monday 11th August - National Day of Action Against Bullying & Violence

Tuesday 19th August - World Humanitarian Day

Friday 29th August - Wear it Purple Day

SEPTEMBER 2025

Friday 5th September - International Day of Charity

Wednesday 10th September - World Suicide Prevention Day

Thursday 11th September - RUOK Day

Tuesday 23rd September - Bi Visibility Day

Tuesday 23rd September - International Day of Sign Languages

Friday 26th September - RHA Office Closed for Public Holiday



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.

Image Description: Cover image, Reinforce members standing in front of a white wall smiling at the camera. In article image, RHA staff member Ruby's fawn coloured Greyhound poses on a green couch

RHA Updates

BY ROSS HOUSE
ASSOCIATION

It's been a busy old time in this big building of ours. As we enter the second half of the year, working on events, projects, grant applications (and soon to be, gasp, AGM season), we'd like to take a moment to reflect on our achievements over the past year.

With the winery now steadily underway, we'll start to see the benefits it will have on our community through proposed upgrades to the building and community spaces in line with our new five-year strategic plan. This is now finalised and available to view here:

<https://rosshouse.org.au/app/uploads/2025/07/RHA-Strategic-Plan-2025-2030-Final-Ver.pdf>

RHA has been busy addressing some of the teething issues with the winery – we thank you all for your patience on this matter as we continue to improve operations.



[ID: Carol and Nazz from RHA stand outside the RHA office with our new tenants, Filipino Community Council of Victoria].

We've also begun work on our new Community Development Plan based on feedback from our community discussion sessions last year. We'll be planning some community consultations for the draft version, so watch out for more information in the coming weeks.

The team has also been working hard in the lead-up to 'Stories of the City', the City of Melbourne Open Day on 26th July! View the programme here: <https://openhousemelbourne.org/event/ross-house/> and get in touch if you'd like to participate, there's still time!

Finally, we're excited to welcome two wonderful new tenants to Level 4: Deaf Victoria and Filipino Council of Victoria. Make sure you say g'day if you see them around the place!

Equipment Grant Success Stories

Two years ago, RHA introduced a new initiative to support tenants in their work with the RHA Equipment Grant, which is currently offered twice per year.

Tenants can apply for equipment through the grant, and successful applicants are selected by the Community Development Sub-Committee.

We'd like to congratulate the recipients who have been selected as part of this initiative: DRC, ABRISA, Mixed Nuts Media, BIM, ANTAR, Hand Knit & Crochet Guild, Assisi AIDS Projects and Schizy Inc.



[ID: Kirsty from Assisi Aids Projects is sitting at an office table, smiling at the camera].

Recipients have received funding for a range of equipment such as laptops, printers, lighting equipment and IT software.

The next round opens in August, seep an eye out for an email.

For more information and/or support & feedback on the application process, please contact Ruby on r.jamestrawhan@rosshouse.org.au.

2025 Window Displays

The Ross House team would once again like to thank the members for their wonderful window displays!

We know how much effort and planning goes into each display and it's always exciting to see how the space is cleverly utilised to best effect!

In May we had eye-catching displays from the Hand Knit & Crochet Guild and the Disability Discrimination Legal Service.

During June we've had great displays from ABRISA who celebrated their lively Brazilian festival mid-month, and Elder Rights Australia. You would have no doubt seen these displays as you entered Ross House recently, but if not, please check out the photos of their proud displays.

June is a big month for DeafBlind Victoria, and for the reason their display has shared the month with ABRISA. This display coincides with DeafBlind Awareness Week (22nd June to 28th June) and also celebrates Helen Keller's birthday which is June 27th.

[ID below: DBV, Elder Rights Australia and ABRISA share awareness days and festivals with bright, eye-catching promotional material].



[ID: 'Handknit & Crochet Guild & DDLS promote their organisations with colourful display].

In July the window will continue to house the display from DeafBlind Victoria and will be joined by Tree Project.

Looking ahead! We are now fully booked with the year's window displays! Thank you to everyone for their enthusiasm in filling our window.

If you would like to find out more information about our window displays, please get in touch with Carol at rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au.



Friendly Reminder about Phone Booth Bookings

Are you new to Ross House or need some information about our phone booth?

Located on Level 3, the Phonebooth is a free-to-use, soundproof space for phone calls and remote meetings. It contains a desk, two chairs, and Wi-Fi access, and is the perfect spot to take those private calls.

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.

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



[ID:Image of the phonebooth - a table, chair and desk lamp in a small meeting room space].

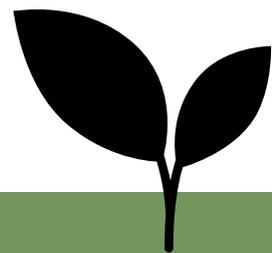
- Exclusive to tenants - maximum of three people, excluding interpreters

Please get in contact with us if you have any questions or issues accessing the space.

We are also interested to learn if there is anything we could do to improve the space, so if you have any suggestions please let us know.

We hope that you enjoy the space!

Thanks
The Ross House team



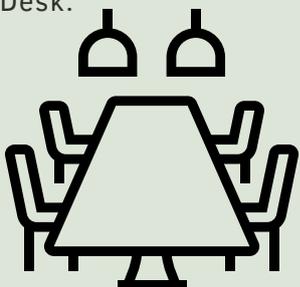
Meeting Rooms

A friendly reminder to all Meeting Room Users to return chairs and tables to their original positions after use.

The RHA team also has a portable vacuum cleaner, if required, for hire which can be borrowed from the Front Desk.

Thank you for your understanding!

Thanks,
The Ross House team



STAY CONNECTED!



@rosshouseassociation



rosshouseassociation



Ross House Association

Join the Community Development Sub-Committee

Members and tenants are invited to join the RHA Community Development Sub-Committee (or CD Sub-Committee). This sub-committee looks after community engagement initiatives based on the CD principles of inclusion, consultation and collaboration, and brings recommendations to the main committee.

The RHA Community Development Sub-Committee meets every couple of months and we're currently working on a five-year CD plan to make sure we can achieve the community actions in our new Strategic Plan. We also plan events, community consultations, and have begun discussions around creating improved social spaces. If you're interested in joining please reach out to us at rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au.



[ID: photo of a person in a city protest-type setting. They are holding a megaphone].

If you don't have time to join but have some ideas for engagement we'd also love to hear from you!

the e-bulletin



Weekly guide to environmental and social justice happenings in Melbourne

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. The e-bulletin goes out every Thursday so please feel free to send us your exciting news to share!

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!

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



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