

JULY 2026

IN THE HOUSE

Ross House Association Member and Tenant News



World Bee Day Recap FROM THE ROSS HOUSE TEAM

Ross House members and tenants came together to enjoy a delicious morning tea on World Bee Day on Wednesday 20th May, 2026. World Bee Day honours the critical role bees play in global food security and biodiversity.

Along with the yummy food (honey a big ingredient!) we had the pleasure of bee expert, Robert of Bee Sustainable, talk to us about bee keeping and the importance of bees.

As Michael mentioned in his speech on the day, “On 20th December, 2017, following three years of international efforts, UN Member States unanimously approved Slovenia’s proposal that May 20th be proclaimed World Bee Day. By observing World Bee Day each year, we can raise awareness of the essential role bees and other pollinators play in keeping people and the planet healthy, and the many challenges bees face today”.

We all appreciated Robert for the entertaining and informative talk and bringing in some hive friends for us all to see. Thank you also to Sarah Witty MP who joined us for the event and all that came along and made the morning a real buzzzzz! See page 6 for images of the day!

www.beesustainable.com.au

Included In This Issue

Building and Maintenance

Colin’s Corner

World Bee Day Event
Invite Recap

Grants and Assistance

DBV Sausage Sizzle event

Member Feature: APAN

Update from NCWV

Update from HAAG

Community Calendar

Disability Pride
Celebration - DRC



[ID: RHA CEO Michael Griffiths, Sarah Witty MP, Katie (RHA) and Ruby (RHA) smile at the camera, standing in front of a glass box full of bees and honeycomb.]



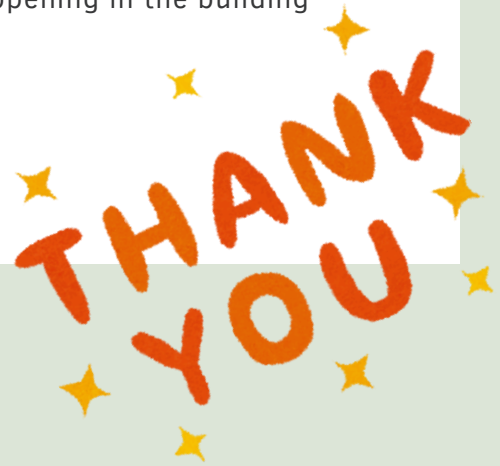
Thank You for Renewing

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership for another year, and for paying your fee on time.

As a member-run and owned organisation your ongoing support is what keeps us going. We hope the next 12 months are positive ones, and that you make real progress on the missions you're all working so hard for.

Keep an eye on the e-bulletin and your emails for what's happening in the building over the coming months.

Here's to another great year!
From the Ross House team



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.



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.

Over the past few years, RHA management has had to carefully prioritise essential works while navigating some challenging financial periods. Now that our income is beginning to stabilise, we're finally in a position to begin tackling several important projects that have been on hold for far too long.

I'm also pleased to share that our Level 3 DDA-compliant bathroom project is due to be completed this week.

One of our next projects is repairing our ageing roof. Decades of rust and deterioration mean this work can no longer be put off. These repairs will also prepare the roof for the future installation of solar panels as we continue working towards our sustainability goals.

We'll also be restarting repairs to the crumbling render on the eastern heritage façade, a project that has been on hold for more than six years.



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

Alongside these works, we'll continue investing in building security. In addition to locking Levels 1, 2 and 4 and installing doorbell monitor systems for organisations with drop-in services, we'll be upgrading our swipe card and keypad access system, as well as our CCTV system.

We're also beginning work on a refresh of the Ross House website and brand, with a focus on improving accessibility while better showcasing our wonderful community and the incredible work our members and tenants do.

Thank you everyone, as always, for your support and patience.

Colin Neave AM, Chairperson
Ross House Association

RHA COMMITTEE 2026

Chairperson
Colin Neave AM
(ABC Friends)

Treasurer
Alba Chliakhtine
(ABRISA)

Secretary
Pia Cameron
Woor-Dungin

Ally Scott
(Ordinary Member DRC)

Sally Davis
(Appointed Member)

Steve Einfeld
(Appointed Member)

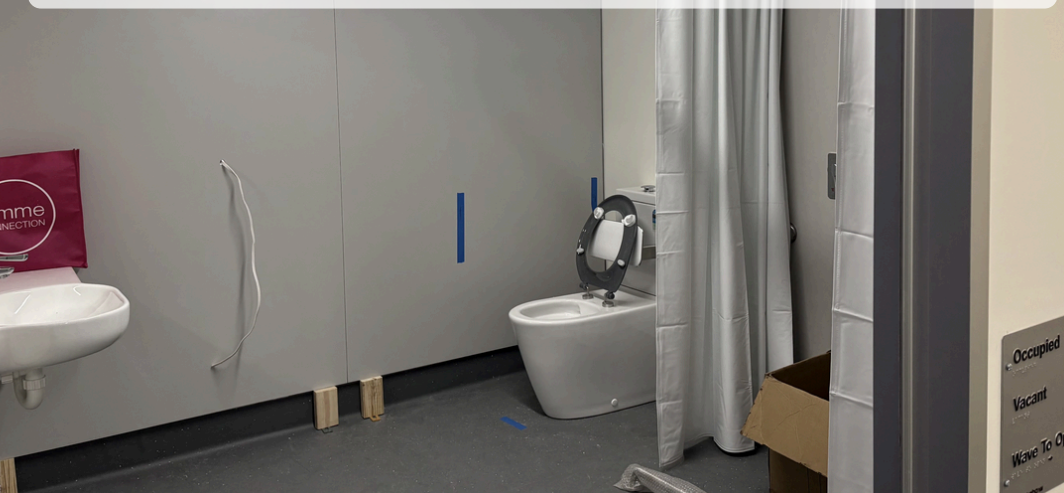
Jen Stokes
(Appointed Member)

Nazzareno Marchionda
(Appointed Member RHA Staff)

Michael Griffiths
(Ex-Officio, RHA CEO)



[ID: Photo of the almost completed DDA compliant bathroom on level three. The photo shows light grey walls, dark grey floor, white basin, toilet, and shower curtain and unfinished wiring, and wall cladding.]



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.



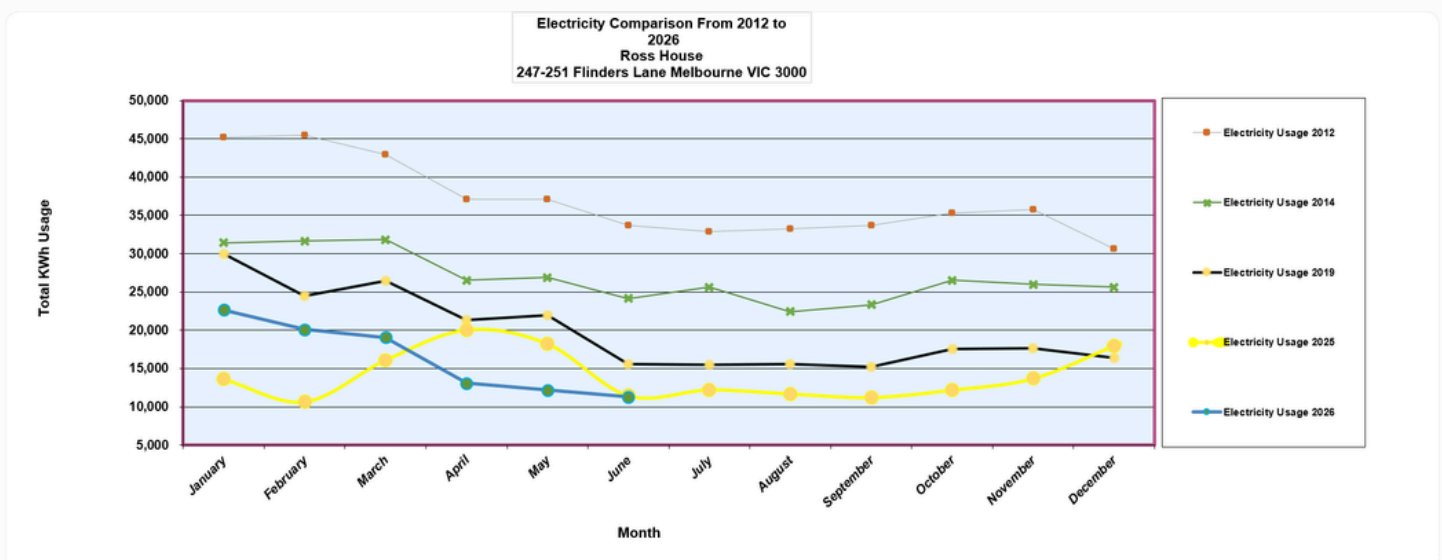
Building and Maintenance

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:

- Exciting news! The Level 3 toilet renovations will be completed this week. Watch out for an announcement from the RHA team.
- As part of our ongoing security improvements, four additional security cameras have been installed, two on the front of Ross House and two down the Royston Place laneway.
- The RHA team will be organising a fire drill in August 2026. We will inform you of the scheduled date soon.



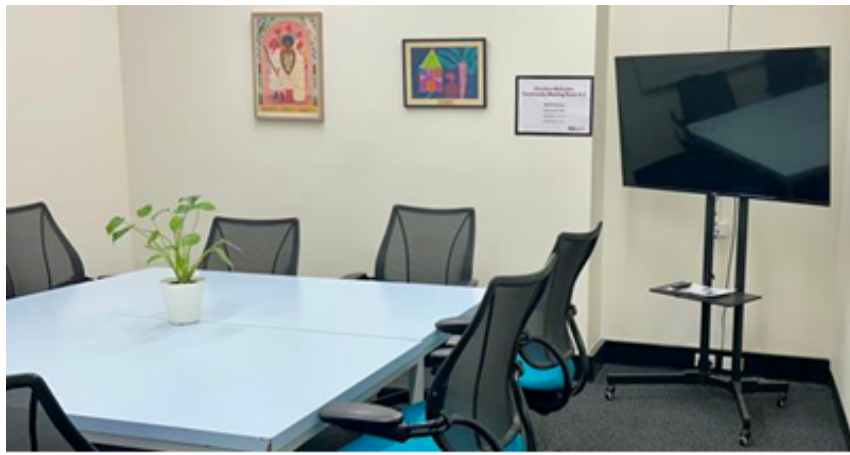
RHA Price Updates

BY RHA

From July 1st, there are some changes to RHA's prices and pricing structures. Meeting Rooms, Resources, Car Parking and Rental Scales have all been updated.

There has been a slight increase in some of our meeting room prices, and changes to how the rooms are categorised. We have maintained our competitive pricing across all meeting rooms, but especially affordable for our not-for-profit and smaller groups.

Meeting Room bookings already made for the second half of 2026 will be charged at our current rate.



[ID: photo of the Christine McAuslan Meeting Room, Level 4 - eight chairs sit around a meeting room table with a TV in the corner of the room.]

We have placed the Hayden Raysmith meeting room in its own category A+, to better reflect the additional features of that space, and increased the cost of hire for large for-profit, government and educational organisations.

To view our updated prices, head to the Facilities page on our website at www.rosshouse.org.au/facilities

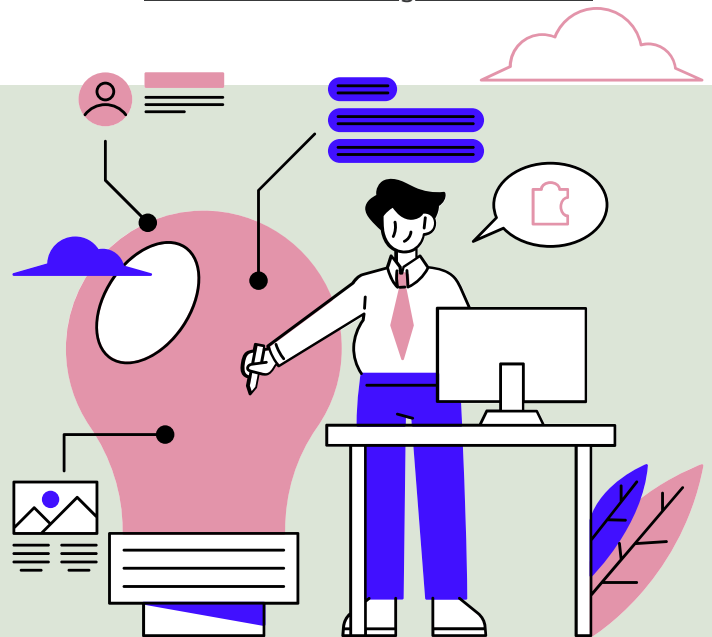
Need help with Writing Tasks?

BY RHA

Steve Einfeld, one of our Committee of Management members, is offering free writing help to the Ross House community.

His background includes a bit of everything: community-based social worker, public servant, researcher, manager, consultant, migrant English teacher, and adult literacy tutor. These roles have involved written communication with many readerships.

If you are a member or tenant of Ross House and need some writing help, call the Front Desk on 03 9650 1599 or email rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au.



Steve can help with:

- Funding submissions
- Reports including Annual Reports
- Policies and procedures
- Standards
- Statements of values
- Histories of organisations
- Position descriptions
- Newsletters
- News Releases
- Summaries of larger documents
- Difficult letters
- Templates for frequently used letters and documents



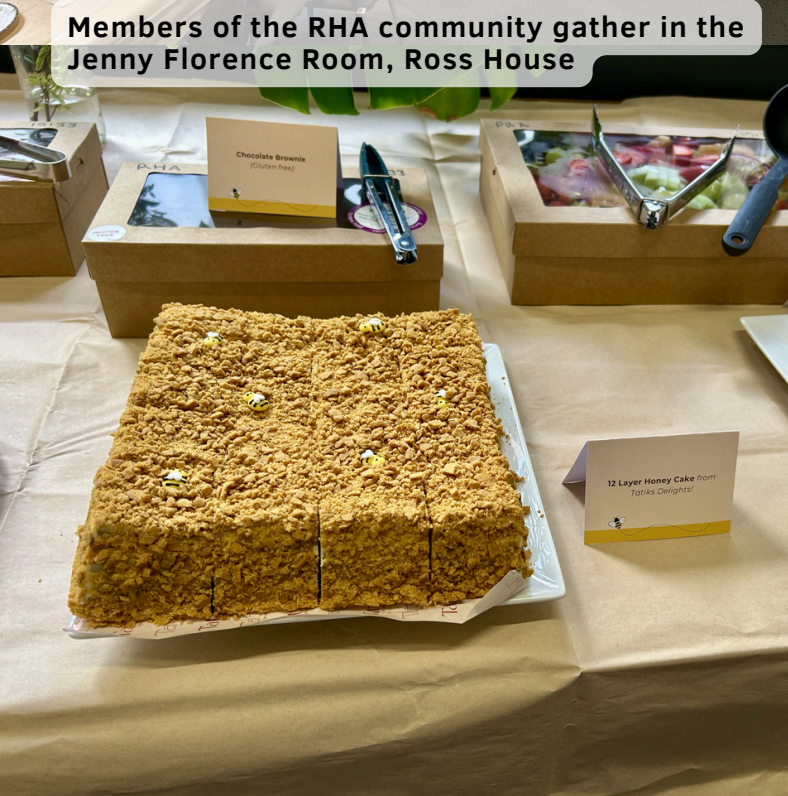
RHA CEO Michael Griffiths and Robert from Bee Sustainable stand in front of a bee enclosure



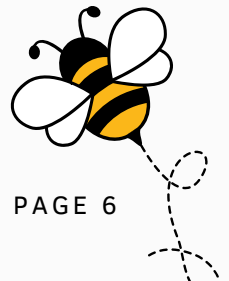
Sarah Witty MP and Katie (RHA) point at the bee enclosure



Members of the RHA community gather in the Jenny Florence Room, Ross House



RHA Chairperson Colin Neave and Robert from Bee Sustainable stand in front of the bees, smiling at the camera



Tenant Feature:

ABRISA

ABRISA was founded on December 9, 2002. It arose from a study on "The Culture of Health Care of Brazilian Immigrant Women in Australia", developed in Melbourne. This study consisted of interviews and local groups with Brazilian women, from July 2002 to February 2003. Based on the interviews, a list of needs emerged. Based on the negotiations with the participants, meetings were held once a month, in the various residences.

The purpose of the meetings was to create a space for reflection on the causes and solutions of the problems encountered, among which the following stood out:

- lack of interaction between members of the Brazilian community and integration into Australian society
- lack of social support to cope with health problems, including: depression, panic attacks, cancer, asthma; and
- socio-cultural, economic, and political barriers to accessing Australian health services. In the interviews, the creation of a Brazilian association emerged as a possible solution.

The women's group decided to become proactive and create an association. This association aims to support members of the Brazilian and Portuguese-speaking community, newcomers to Australia, as well as those already residing in the country.

Goals:

- They provide information to members of the Brazilian and Portuguese-speaking community who have recently arrived in Australia, minimising the shock of the transition.
- They work in connection with Australian institutions, helping and instructing newly arrived immigrants in the use of available services, such as English courses, health care, among others.

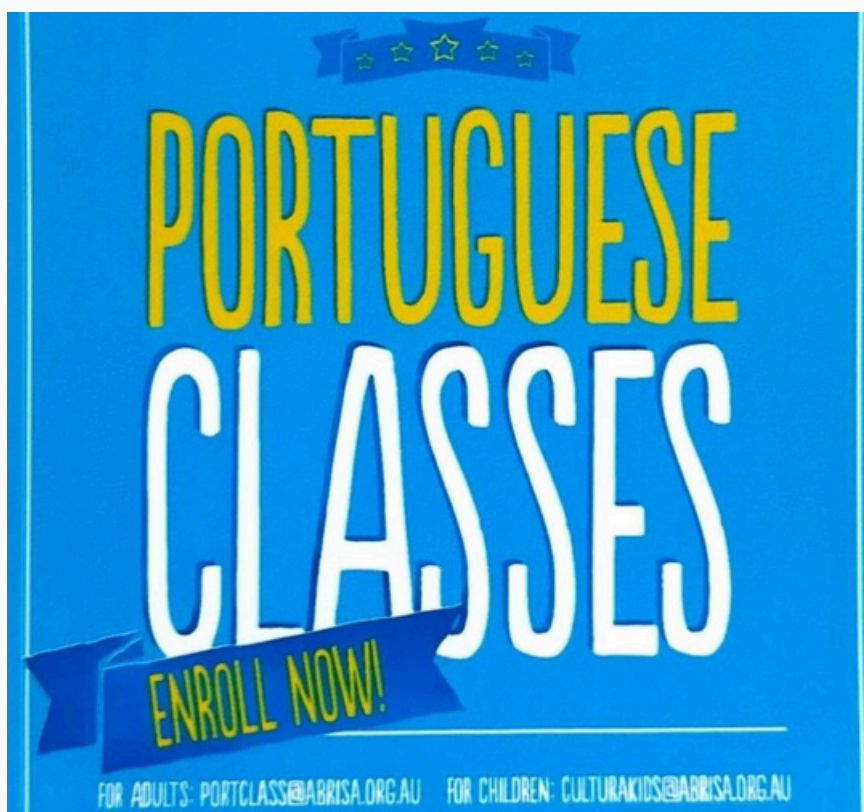


[ID: the ABRISA logo - the text ABRISA is in blue and green colours, with four red stars around it.]

- They promote the values of Brazilian culture, stimulating the integration of the community through social events.
- They promote the health and well-being of members of the Brazilian and Portuguese-speaking community, providing resources to prevent health problems.
- They also hold weekly Portuguese classes at Ross House, supporting newly arrived and existing immigrants from the Brazilian community.

To find out more information about ABRISA, and their classes, please visit www.abrisa.org.au.

[ID below: yellow and white text on a bright blue background reads 'Portuguese classes, enroll now!']



Grants and Assistance Programs

BY RHA

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

Community Grants Bunnings

The Bunnings Community Grants Program has been established to complement the incredible work already happening in stores, and will sit alongside the amazing local fundraising, BBQs and community engagement taking place in store.

This grant supports local, grassroots projects that create immediate benefits for communities across Australia and New Zealand, including projects focused on regional areas.

Round: open, closes 31 July, 2026

Amount: up to \$10,000

Eligibility: not-for-profits

https://bunnings.smartygrants.com.au/Bunnings_Community_Grants_Round_1



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

Funding for Charitable Organisations Australian Communities Foundation

As a public ancillary fund, Australian Communities Foundation represents subfunds, each with their own funding priorities and interests. The Foundation's donors are part of an engaged community of individuals, families, corporate giving groups, location-based giving circles and like-minded groups.

As part of their donor engagement, ACF hosts a Funding Proposal Portal that allows their Donor community to identify grant opportunities aligned with their interests.

Round: ongoing

Amount: unknown

Eligibility: not-for-profits, unincorporated groups

<https://communityfoundation.org.au/funding-platform/>

Secretary of the Board - Diploma of Governance Scholarship Institute of Community Directors Australia (ICDA)

This scholarship helps secretaries build skills in governance processes, meeting management and legal responsibilities. Board secretaries keep organisations compliant, organised and moving forward, yet their work often goes unrecognised. These scholarships give community leaders, board members and emerging directors the skills they need to guide their organisations with confidence.

Applications are rolling and will remain open throughout the year, but places in diploma courses are strictly limited, and scholarships are subject to [terms and conditions](#).

The full cost of the Diploma is \$4,999, comprising enrolment, assessment and administration. Scholarship recipients will need to arrange payment of the remaining fee of \$3,999.

Round: ongoing

Amount: \$1000 towards cost of Diploma

Eligibility: individuals

<https://icda.smartygrants.com.au/2026SecretaryoftheBoard>

RHA Equipment Grant

The next round of our Tenant Equipment Grant opens on 1 August 2026. More info will be sent to your organisations via email in the coming weeks.



Deafblind Victoria is cooking!



COME JOIN US FOR OUR

Sausage sizzle



**SATURDAY 1 AUGUST 2026
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
BUNNINGS CHADSTONE
675-685 WARRIGAL RD, CHADSTONE
WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE!**



**ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS FUNDRAISER WILL GO TO
DEAFBLIND VICTORIA'S REGIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM**

CAN'T MAKE IT?



SCAN HERE TO DONATE

www.deafblindvictoria.com

Bay Views for All – Homelessness Week Documentary Screening

BY HOUSING FOR THE AGED
ACTION GROUP (HAAG)

Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG) and Mornington Community Support Centre (MCSC) will be screening two documentaries - Bay Views for All and The Ranch.

This event marks the end of 2026 Homelessness Week and features the voices of people affected by the housing crisis unfolding across Melbourne.

Bay Views for All tells the story of residents of the Barak Beacon housing estate joining forces to fight for a future in safe, secure and affordable Public Housing.



HOME
at last

[ID: the word HAAG in brown text sits under a sketched orange roof image. Underneath is a picture of a house with a red roof and to the right of it is red text saying Home at Last.]

The Ranch puts the focus on the Hidden Homelessness Crisis on the Mornington Peninsula - a picturesque region with only one crisis accommodation centre, which was threatened with imminent closure.

Where? State Library Theatre, 179 La Trobe Street

When? Friday 7th August 2026 from 3pm

For more information, please visit www.older tenants.org.au/events/views-from-the-bay-homelessness-week-documentary-screening.

Views from
THE BAY



Update from National Council of Women Victoria

BY NCWV

Join Ross House member, National Council of Women Victoria (NCWV) at their next council meeting in August.

The speaker will be Tracey Beaton, newly appointed Commissioner for children and young People. Tracey is a former nurse and was Victoria's Chief Mental Health Nurse for seven years, introducing Safewards into mental health hospital settings to reduce occupational violence and contributing to development of the state's Mental Health Act.

She brings more than 35 years of experience as a clinical practitioner and academic, with a strong record of improving child protection systems and delivering better outcomes for children, young people and families.

She has served as Chief Practitioner and Executive Director of the Office of Professional Practice at the former Department of Health and Human Services, where she provided strategic advice and delivered reforms to strengthen child welfare and embed evidence based practice.

Tracey's priorities include creating a new road map for the organisation, particularly those systems that service really vulnerable youth. It will also make recommendations to government to improve services for children.

Head along to hear from Tracey about the progress to this point and her future plans.

Where? Jenny Florence Room, Level 3, Ross House

When? Thursday 6th August 2026, 12:15pm – 2pm

[ID: Photo of the Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament of Victoria.]



[ID: White text on a purple background reads 'NCWV, National Council of Women Victoria'.]

My Vote My Voice

My Voice My Vote started as a result of research finding that young people were disengaged with the democratic processes. Since 2014, 40 different schools (19 Government, 10 Independent, 10 Catholic, one Islamic) have participated, many several times, and a total of 600 students. The topics have raised students' awareness of the rights and responsibilities of voting, gender issues in local and state governments, diversity in local organisations and councils, attitudes of young people to voting, when women and First Nations people were able to vote, the role of Treaty in achieving reconciliation, social media – a blessing or a curse and what is special about Australian democracy and others.

This year's theme is 'How AI is Affecting Your Education'. Students may carry out research, and gain insights from their peers and others to inform their views on the theme. Students make a 10 minute group presentation of their findings from the speaker's lectern in the Red Chamber. Awards are determined based on the quality of their content and presentation skills.

Where? Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament of Victoria

When? Friday 21st August 2026, 9am – 12:30pm

For more information, please contact info@ncwvic.org.au.

www.ncwv.org.au



AusWISE Walkathon 2026

BY AUSWISE

Lace up your sneakers and grab your caps for the AusWISE Walkathon 2026!

Prioritising movement with intention, stop by Princes Park at 10am on Sunday 2nd August, for a day of networking, opportunities and employability awareness.

Find fellow international students, get advice from people in your field, and have a chat under the trees, connecting with the community outside of the classroom. No pressure, no expectations - just casual conversation.

But that's not all you'll get. If you've been craving a moment to pause and prioritise you, that's what the AusWISE Walkathon is here for. We'll provide the space you need to breathe, away from work and uni, in one of Melbourne's most beautiful parks.

[ID: The Auswise logo - White text on a light blue circle graphic reads 'AusWISE'.]



Don't worry about anything. We'll provide the t-shirts, and company - all you have to do is bring your water bottle and walk. We'll help you find your footing.

Bring your friends and family. Everyone is welcome! Let's break isolation, one step at a time.

Where? Princes Park, Carlton

When? Sunday 2nd August 2026, 10am

Please visit our website for more information.
www.auswise.org.



ABC Friends Celebrates 50 years of Advocacy

BY ABC FRIENDS

Ross House tenant, ABC Friends has been working to uphold and promote the vital role of the ABC as a national public broadcaster since 1976. It is a not for profit, non-partisan, volunteer-based organisation which advocates, and campaigns for a fearless, independent, fully funded ABC. It is active across all states and territories.

To mark this significant milestone, ABC Friends Victoria recently hosted a celebratory event at the Capitol Theatre in Melbourne.

The event brought together members from across the decades. A brilliant new history website, researched by Jennifer Bowen, entitled ABC Friends: The First 50 Years, was launched - www.history.abcfriends.au.

A panel discussion featuring ABC broadcaster Jonathan Green, media academic Denis Muller, former ABC journalist and podcaster Nicole Chvastek, moderated by former ABC journalist Amanda Smith, explored the issues facing the ABC and independent media today. Brian Nankervis delighted the audience with a mini RockWiz and Meg Paul, Victoria's founding member, cut the celebratory birthday cake.



[ID: Blue, yellow and purple stripe graphics sit above blue bold text which reads 'ABC Friends Victoria'.]

The ABC continues to be under attack. In a time where misinformation and disinformation are rife, where AI mimics reality, the role of a trusted public media is more important than ever. It plays a vital role in our democracy.

Our fight to protect the ABC continues into the next decade.

For more information about ABC Friends, please visit www.abcfriends.au.

[ID: Below left, image of a stage - Jennifer Bowen and Amanda Smith sit on chairs, the ABC logo is projected behind.

Below right, image of Jennifer Bowen, Meg Paul and Pam Creed cutting the 50th birthday cake (from left to right). Photographer: Elijah Cristiano.]



Disability Pride Celebration

BY DRC

Disability Rights and Culture will be hosting our annual free Disability Pride event on Friday 31 July from 2pm to 6pm at the iconic Trades Hall at 54 Victoria Street, Carlton.

This is a hybrid event, which means we will also be welcoming participants online!

There will be a variety show line up, food, an open bar, badge making, bedazzling, board games and much more. Our headline act is comedian Alexandra Hudson. Our other acts include comedian Oliver Hunter, and Drag performer Dragon Yutell.

Disability Rights and Culture is a community-building, campaigning, and advocacy organisation. We are a radically inclusive Disabled People's Organisation, working to unite people with disability across culture, identity and experience.



Disability Rights and Culture

[ID: Black text reading Disability Rights and Culture sits to the right of red, pink and green letters 'DRC'.]

This event is about coming together to celebrate Disability Pride. This is an event for everyone in the disability community and their allies.

Where? Fringe Common Rooms, Trades Hall, Melbourne

When? Friday 31st July 2026, 2 – 6pm

For more information, and to grab your free ticket, please visit www.tinyurl.com/5yext9k3.

[ID below: Colourful text which reads 'Disability Pride Celebration, Friday 31st July 2026, 2pm - 6pm, Fringe Common Room, Carlton' sits on a rainbow themed background'.]

Disability PRIDE Celebration 2026

FREE EVENT!

Friday 31 July, 2pm - 6pm

Fringe Common Rooms Carlton, VIC

variety show · open bar · games and prizes · open mic

belong Event supported by drc

The banner features a rainbow background with a dark blue banner across the middle containing the word 'PRIDE' in large, colorful letters. Above it, 'Disability' is written in black on a green background, and below it, 'Celebration' is written in black on a pink background. At the bottom left, '2026' is written in white on a red background. On the right side, there is a circular logo with the text 'belong Event supported by drc'.

From Fields to Phones: Rajya's Journey with Digitalisation

BY ASSISI AID PROJECTS

In Nepal we have been working with rural women farmers to transform subsistence production of apples, coffee, Marci rice (Himalayan red rice), herbs, vegetables and walnuts into small agricultural businesses.

Rajya is an apple and herb farmer in Jumla. She is an inspiring example of how digital literacy can create impactful and lasting change for small businesses and farmers. Joining four community groups to grow her connection with other women working in agriculture and build new skills, Rajya immersed herself in digital skills training.

Digital skills training has supported Rajya to learn new ways of communication. Rajya now uses apps like WhatsApp for marketing and understands how to do transactions on her mobile phone.



[ID: Image of Rajya holding a smart phone looking down at the screen. She is wearing a pink head scarf and purple cardigan.]

Using her phone, Rajya can access new and growing markets, is continually expanding her customer base, and regularly interacts with and learns from the community of women working in agriculture. Rajya's experience shows how digital literacy is creating new pathways for women to connect with their communities, expand their business opportunities and create sustainable livelihoods.

The Women in Agri-forestry Business Enterprises Project is delivered in partnership with our implementing partner, BPW Nepal, and supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

www.assisi.org.au

2026 Margaret Hazzard Short Story Award

Join members of the Society of Women Writers Victoria (SOWWV) to hear the results of our 2026 Margaret Hazzard Short Story Award from judge Melanie Cheng.

Melanie is a renowned writer of short stories and novels who will share some of her insights into the shortlisted stories.

Join us for a shared lunch - to which we each bring a contribution of \$5 cash.

Where? Arts Centre Melbourne

When? Sunday 24th May 2026, 2pm - 3pm

For more information, please visit www.tinyurl.com/3b95t3rp

www.swwvic.org.au

[ID: Green and purple graphic of a dip pen with black text reads 'The Society of Women Writers'.]



**Wanted:
Humans who don't mind dirt
under their fingernails**



TreeProject

www.collections.humanitix.com/july-august-september-planting-days-2026

What is Self Advocacy Video

BY SARU

There is a new video about what Self Advocacy is and what Self Advocacy Groups are.

People with disability from Self Advocacy Groups worked together to make the video.

The Self Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU) and the Self Advocacy For Everyone (SAFE) project supported this video to be made. Self Advocates and Groups can use this video in their work, at their events and out in the community.

This can help people understand what Self Advocacy and Self Advocacy Groups are and why they are important!



[ID: a photo of Colin Hiscoe who is sitting on a chair with film crew around him. Disability Pride flags are pinned up on a wall behind him.]

To watch the video, please visit www.voicestogether.com.au/learn-what-self-advocacy-is.

If you want the link sent to your email, please ask SARU:

Email: helpdesk@selfadvocacy.org.au

Phone: 9639 6856

Website: www.saru.net.au

**JULY IS
DISABILITY
PRIDE
MONTH**

Learn more about Disability Pride at www.drc.org.au/disability-pride-and-culture/

Neurovision for World Schizophrenia Awareness Day

BY SCHIZY INC

Neurovision the latest evolution of award-winning 'Mojo Festival of Arts' by Schizy Inc. showcased to a sold-out audience at the Arts Centre Melbourne on World Schizophrenia Awareness Day Sunday 24th May 2026.

Week by week individual pieces came together, in the Show Room at The Arts Centre. As Neurovision began to take shape and The Show Room filled with the unifying intention of showcasing the tagline of Schizy Inc; Proud expression of diverse mental health through the arts.

There was so much collegial support, and as the show came closer that support and respect for each other grew. On Sunday 24 May, 2pm Arts Centre back-stage as the crowd took their seats Heidi Everett gave the rallying cry of why we do this work and what the work represents.

Back stage there was a screen so we could see what was happening on stage; Fiona Scott Norman on brand in her mother's beautiful silver gown MC'd, we could see the audience lean in, hear the applause and laughter, affirming the wonderment of the work produced.



[ID: a photo of Neurovision performers in colourful dress, stand on a stage with a black background.]

The pride in the work grew even more as performers were greeted in the foyer area post show by friends, family and supporters of Schizy Inc. And as we left the Arts Centre I glanced up with joy as the spire lit up in purple and silver for World Schizophrenia Awareness Day.

A huge shout out to the Neurovision Artists; Sarah Dwyer, Eva Sifis, Rohan Quayle, StephY, Gizem Acaroglu, Isabella Fels, Chris Wright, Sirani McNeill, Angela Murnane, Shona Rimmer, Heidi Lupprian and Sandy Jeffs, devised their deeply personal stories of neurodivergence and mental health, through cabaret, music, poetry, and incredible costumes.

A huge congratulations also to the Creative Team Artistic Director: Heidi Everett Associate Producer: Justine Sless Director: Myf Powell Music Director: Tom Dickens (ACM) and the Arts Centre Melbourne's Creative Learning team.

www.schizyinc.org



[ID: a photo of Sandy Jeffs OAM holds a violin on a stage with a black background.]



Lendlease's Proposed Town Hall Place Development

BY RHA

Lendlease has proposed a new 76.6 metre building above the Metro Tunnel site. The current plan allows for 10 storeys, but Lendlease is now seeking approval for 16, well above the 40 metre height restriction currently in place for the area.

The extra height would overshadow many Flinders Street buildings.

We were given a very tight window to provide feedback on the proposal, but we've made sure our voice was heard and have submitted a response.



[ID: Photo of Melbourne's skyline and Flinders Street Station.]

Our CEO, Michael Griffiths, was asked to comment on the proposal. "It seems like Lendlease can't make enough money off the original design and so has said it needs to add in a lot more levels," Griffiths said. "I'm not sure it's the best way to make policy decisions and why the people of Melbourne should be wearing it."

See the age article featuring our CEO, Michael Griffiths here > <https://rosshouse.org.au/community-news-and-media/>

Degraves Street Accessibility

BY RHA

For over a year, Ross House has been working alongside AMIDA to push for accessibility improvements on Degraves Street. Many of you will know the current design is a real barrier for people with mobility needs, so we're glad to finally have some good news to share.

The City of Melbourne has completed a feasibility study looking at raising the road level on Degraves Street between Flinders Lane and Degraves Lane, flush with the footpaths. As part of this study, Council assessed underground services, how the street interfaces with adjacent buildings, and the potential impact on nearby properties during rainfall events. The finding is that raising the road is feasible.



[ID: Close up image of Degraves Street, Melbourne.]

Council plans to consult residents and businesses on the proposed works soon. This feedback will help finalise the project scope, draft design, and budget, with delivery proposed for the 2026-27 financial year, subject to approval.

We're hopeful this project will make Degraves Street fully accessible and welcoming for everyone in our community. We'll keep you posted as things progress and let you know when the feedback process begins.



Community Calendar

JULY 2026

1st - 31st July - Plastic Free July and Disability Pride Month

Sunday 5th to Sunday 12th - NAIDOC Week

Saturday 11th July - World Population Day

Tuesday 14th July - International Non-Binary People's Day

Wednesday 15th July - World Youth Skills Day

Friday 24th July - International self-care Day 2026

Friday 31st July - Disability Pride Celebration (pg 14)

AUGUST 2026

Monday 3rd - Sunday 9th August - Homelessness Week 2026

Sunday 2nd August - Auswide Walkathon (p 12)

Tuesday 4th August - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

Thursday 6th August - NCWV Council Meeting (p 11)

Sunday 9th August - International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Friday 28th August - Wear it Purple Day

Monday 31st August - International Day for People of African Descent

SEPTEMBER 2026

Saturday 5th September - International Day of Charity

Thursday 10th September - World Suicide Prevention Day

Thursday 10th September - RUOK? Day

Monday 21st September - International Day of Peace

Monday 21st - Sunday 27th - September - National Week of Deaf People

Wednesday 23rd September - Bi+ Visibility Day

Wednesday 23rd September - International Day of Sign Languages

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



2026 Window Displays

BY RHA

As the weather cools off the warmth of the Ross House windows still spills out.

The month of May saw Disability Discrimination Legal Service and TreeProject in the window and we had great feedback on how eye-catching the display was. Big thanks to both organisations for putting in the effort.

In June we've had great displays from Deaf Blind Victoria coinciding with Deaf Blind Awareness week which ran from the 22nd of the month to the 28th. ABRISA's bright and colourful display filled the other half of the window.



[ID: A colourful banner from DDLS promoting their work. To the right of the banner is a colourful display from TreeProject. A cuddly wombat toy sits underneath posters celebrating the great tree planting work they do.]



[ID left: A yellow banner promoting ABRISA sit in the left-hand side of the window display. DeafBlind Victoria celebrate Deafblind Awareness month with various promotional material.]

Looking Ahead:

The month of July will see Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG) and the National Council of Women VIC setting up displays which we will look forward to!

Thank you to everyone for their enthusiasm with filling our window! Most of the months are now booked with some great displays to go in, but there are still a couple of months available - November, December & January 2027 if you would like to get involved.

For any queries about our window displays, please get in touch with Carol at rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au.

ROSS HOUSE ASSOCIATION STAFF THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



MICHAEL GRIFFITHS

CEO

michael.griffiths@rosshouse.org.au



NAZZARENO MARCHIONDA

Facilities Manager

n.marchionda@rosshouse.org.au



RUBY JAMES-STRAWHAN

Membership & Engagement Officer

r.jamesstrawhan@rosshouse.org.au



KATIE STADTFELD CUNNANE

Communications & Administration Officer

rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au



JUNXIA XU

Finance Officer

junxia.xu@rosshouse.org.au



CAROL FRANKLIN

Administration Support Assistant

rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au

Casual Staff: Patti Gerkens, Olivia Muscat & Nia Giddings

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!

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

If you would like to contribute an article, promote an event or share some exciting news about your organisation, keep your eye out for an email from us, advising of submission deadlines.

Please send submissions to: rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au



247 - 251 Flinders Lane
Melbourne VIC 3000

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

