



Joining our Community

Ross House is Australia's only self-managed, community-owned not-for-profit building. Since 1987 it's been home to a growing network of social justice, environmental and self-help organisations in the heart of Melbourne.

Ross House generates a strong community alliance within its membership. Whilst all groups retain their autonomy, each individual organisation is like a brick upon which a solid shared community resource is built. Together we are working towards a more understanding and equitable society for all. If your organisation shares these values, we would love for you to join our community! You're also welcome to get in touch and organise a tour of the building at any time.

Our Mission is to work towards a socially just, environmentally sustainable and non-discriminatory society based on the community development principles of inclusion, consultation and collaboration, by supporting and enhancing the contribution of small community organisations towards their communities and the broader society

Our Values

Justice: Challenging discrimination and addressing systemic disadvantages guided by the principles of equity, access, participation, and rights.

Sustainability: Integrating environmental impact into all our decision making processes, recognising our responsibility to protect our planet for future generations.

Collaboration: Fostering shared decision making and meaningful community engagement by applying the community development principles of inclusion, consultation and collaboration.

Community: Strengthening communities through accessible capacity building, ensuring everyone has the right to knowledge and skills that enable positive change.

Integrity: Demonstrating honesty, accountability and respect in all our relationships, ensuring our actions align with our values while creating safe, inclusive environments built on trust and transparency.

Becoming a Member

Membership is the starting point for everyone in the Ross House community.

As a member organisation, you'll get:

- The right to participate in the decision-making process of the Ross House Association and to vote at the Annual General Meeting and any special general meetings.
- The opportunity to participate in governance, on the management committee, subcommittees, or working parties.
- Association with a network of active community and self-help groups.
- Access to meeting rooms and equipment hire at reduced rates*
- Access to the resource area in the Ross House foyer (Including printer, binder, laminator, and shredder*)
- Opportunity to submit articles to the bimonthly Ross House In The House e-Newsletter.
- Opportunity to promote your organisation and upcoming events in the weekly Ross House e-bulletin.
- Promotion of upcoming events on the Ross House social media pages (Facebook and Instagram).
- Bio on the Ross House website.
- Access to free and discounted in house workshops.
- Invitation to all Ross House events, including the mid year luncheon and end of year celebration.
- Option for a postal address and pigeonhole at Ross House (additional cost).
- The chance to display materials in our window on Flinders Lane.

*Prices for room hire and resources can be found on our website at rosshouse.org.au/facilities

Who Can Become a Member?

Membership is open to small not-for-profits and charities working in one or more of these areas: self-help, social justice, umbrella/network groups, and environmental sustainability.

If you don't quite fit the following criteria, get in touch anyway. You may still be eligible as an Associate Member, which comes with all the same benefits except voting rights.

To qualify, your organisation needs to:

- Be a not-for-profit with a values-aligned charitable purpose
- Have more than 5 members
- Hold less than \$3 million in total assets
- Have a constitution covering: your organisation's name, charitable purpose, a not-for-profit clause, a dissolution clause, who can be a member, committee structure, voting procedures and AGM rules, and financial matters

Your organisation must not be:

- A social club (unless it qualifies as a self-help group)
- An individual, a political party or a government entity
- A sporting or recreational organisation, unless its main purpose is charitable
- A professional or trade group, unless its main purpose is charitable
- An organisation that charges a mandatory membership fee for service

What you'll need to apply

If you're interested in becoming a member, get in touch with us and we'll send you a membership form to complete. Contact Ruby at membership@rosshouse.org.au or call 9650 1599.

Along with your application, you will be asked to provide:

- Brief bios for all Committee/Board members
- Your Certificate of Incorporation (or a letter confirming you've applied for one)
- Your constitution or other governing documents
- A current financial report
- Your annual report
- Your strategic plan

Approval Process

The membership approval process takes a few weeks. As a member and tenant, owned and managed organisation, the community has a say in who joins us. First, a summary of your application is shared with current members and tenants for comment. They have two weeks to raise any concerns, and we may ask you for additional information during this time.

Your application then goes to the RHA Committee of Management for final approval. Once approved, we'll let you know and send you an invoice for payment.

Yearly Renewal

The membership renewal process takes place in June each year. As an ongoing member, you'll be asked to complete an Annual Letter template addressed to the RHA Committee outlining how your organisation has contributed to the Ross House community and its networks.

Membership costs

- Annual membership fee: \$95 + GST
- Mail Handling: Postal address and pigeonhole (optional): \$160 + GST

These fees are set annually by member vote at our AGM in November, and are current as of 1 July 2026.



Becoming a Tenant

If you're looking for office space at Ross House, membership is the first step. All tenants must be members, so before you can lease space with us, your organisation needs to go through the membership process outlined above. Once you're a member, you can apply for tenancy, subject to space being available.

Why lease a space at Ross House?

- An accessible building, welcoming to people of all abilities. Despite being an old building, we are always updating and improving accessibility.
- A central location with trams and trains right on the doorstep
- Secure bike storage in the basement
- Shared information and resources with other tenant organisations
- Sustainable work practices in an increasingly sustainable building
- Meeting room access at very low hourly rates
- A diverse, inclusive, and supportive working environment, every day

Tenancy Costs

Rent at Ross House is heavily subsidised to support grassroots organisations, and is calculated per square metre per year, scaled to your organisation's annual income as classified by the ACNC:

- **Small** charities (annual revenue under \$500,000)
- **Medium** charities (annual revenue \$500,000 up to \$3 million)
- **Large** charities (annual revenue \$3 million or more)

We also offer:

- **Incubator rates:** negotiated on a case-by-case basis for organisations with an income of less than \$150,000
- **Associate rates:** for organisations that don't meet all the requirements of full Membership but are still working towards Ross House's goals

Rental Rates (all are plus GST)

Scale	Rent per m ² per annum
Small	\$370
Medium	\$405
Large	\$430
Associate	\$545

A mandatory monthly internet charge of \$30 + GST applies to each tenant, covering unlimited 1000Mbps upload and download. Leases run for 12 months or longer, with fixed annual increases. Utilities, including air-conditioning and electricity are all included. Rent is paid monthly, in advance.

Rates effective from 1 July 2026. There is a waitlist when no suitable space is currently available.

If you think Ross House is the right fit and you'd like to become a tenant, get in touch to book a tour or chat. Contact Ruby at membership@rosshouse.org.au or call 9650 1599.