



**SECRETARYS' STATEMENT**

RAHU's second quarter 2024 has been an exciting one for our union, with membership hitting record growth, and with that even more opportunities for collective action, community building, and raising the voices of people all over this continent.

Our key campaigns of climate change preparedness, minimum standards, and saving public housing have been highly positive ways for new members to get involved in tangible action and we have gained massive visibility thanks to social media star and RAHU member Purple Pingies AKA Jordie van den Berg.

As a grass roots member led union, I have proudly watched more and more members step up as organisers and grow in confidence and skill. The beginnings of member groups to represent disability, and queer justice, as well as anti-fascist action, mutual aid, and eviction defence.

Our committees and branches that are the heartbeat of the union have started to have more people getting involved, which means we are growing in sustainable and democratic ways.

This quarter had members represent us on panels for the screening of Things Will We Different across different states

In union

Harry Millward, General Secretary

RAHU Q2 REPORT (APRIL - JUNE) 2024

**TREASURERS' REPORT**

<b>Treasurers Q2 Report 2024</b>				
Renters and Housing Union Incorporated				
For the 3 months ended 30 June 2024				
	<b>Account</b>	<b>Q2 Apr-Jun 2024</b>	<b>Q1 Jan-Mar 2024</b>	<b>Q4 Oct-Dec 2023</b>
<b>Trading Income</b>				
	<b>Membership</b>			
	Membership Dues - Unwaged	2,563.58	1,020.75	1,107.75
	Membership Dues - Waged	16,102.41	11,474.09	10,891.81
	Membership Dues - Solidarity	4,977.00	3,026.71	2,655.00
	Membership Dues - Homeowner	1,449.77	930.00	1,407.66
	<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>25,092.76</b>	<b>16,451.55</b>	<b>16,062.22</b>
	<b>Donations &amp; Grants</b>			
	Donations - Individuals	394.14	176.93	331.42
	Donations - non-individuals	0.00	0.00	33.75
	Grants Received	0.00	0.00	10,100.00
	<b>Total Donations &amp; Grants</b>	<b>394.14</b>	<b>176.93</b>	<b>10,465.17</b>
	Merchandise Sales	1,037.89	897.62	819.21
	Event Ticket Sales	60.00	0.00	0.00
	Interest Income	59.38	79.82	58.11
<b>Total Trading Income</b>		<b>26,644.17</b>	<b>17,605.92</b>	<b>27,404.71</b>
<b>Cost of Sales</b>				
	Cost of Goods Sold	(697.43)	(129.85)	(337.38)
	Merchandise Sales Related Postage	31.41	(42.36)	(76.89)
	Other transaction fees	(50.85)	0.00	(28.16)
	Stripe Fees	(1,085.20)	(703.29)	(681.75)
	WooCommerce Transaction Fee	(36.09)	(19.85)	(15.35)
	Paypal Fees	0.38	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>		<b>(1,837.78)</b>	<b>(895.35)</b>	<b>(1,139.53)</b>
	<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>24,806.39</b>	<b>16,710.57</b>	<b>26,265.18</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
	<b>Donations and Organisational Memberships</b>			

## RAHU Q2 REPORT (APRIL - JUNE) 2024

	Donations to other organisations - Pay the Rent	0.00	(7,884.00)	0.00
	Membership of other organisations	(111.01)	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total Donations and Organisational Memberships</b>	<b>(111.01)</b>	<b>(7,884.00)</b>	<b>0.00</b>
	<b>Events</b>			
	Catering	(571.06)	(290.91)	(769.07)
	Events	(824.30)	0.00	(495.58)
	Insurance	0.00	(31.00)	0.00
	Venue Hire	(54.90)	(189.00)	(195.45)
	<b>Total Events</b>	<b>(1,450.26)</b>	<b>(510.91)</b>	<b>(1,460.10)</b>
	<b>Grants</b>			
	North Branch - Event Costs - Other	0.00	0.00	(600.00)
	North Branch - Social Media Expense	0.00	0.00	(114.00)
	Renters Rights Info Nights - Printing	0.00	(1,110.90)	0.00
	Renters Rights Info Nights - Venue Hire	(500.00)	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>(500.00)</b>	<b>(1,110.90)</b>	<b>(714.00)</b>
	<b>Fees &amp; Charges</b>			
	Bank Fees	(24.00)	(24.00)	(24.00)
	Regulatory Fess & Charges	0.00	(413.40)	(63.60)
	<b>Total Fees &amp; Charges</b>	<b>(24.00)</b>	<b>(437.40)</b>	<b>(87.60)</b>
	<b>Media</b>			
	Postage (Non-Merchandise)	0.00	0.00	(89.00)
	Printing & Stationery	0.00	(695.41)	(1,722.62)
	Reports, Publications and Magazine	0.00	(2,684.68)	(2,684.68)
	Social Media	(228.53)	(113.44)	(40.00)
	<b>Total Media</b>	<b>(228.53)</b>	<b>(3,493.53)</b>	<b>(4,536.30)</b>
	<b>Office</b>			
	Office Expenses	0.00	0.00	(137.94)
	Rent	(2,616.99)	(2,616.99)	(2,616.99)
	Telephone & Internet	(441.00)	(441.00)	(441.00)
	<b>Total Office</b>	<b>(3,057.99)</b>	<b>(3,057.99)</b>	<b>(3,195.93)</b>
	<b>Rental Rights &amp; Legal</b>			
	Research	0.00	0.00	(102.78)
	<b>Total Rental Rights &amp; Legal</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(102.78)</b>
	<b>Wages &amp; Stipends</b>			
	Stipends	(9,690.00)	(7,550.00)	(8,300.00)
	<b>Total Wages &amp; Stipends</b>	<b>(9,690.00)</b>	<b>(7,550.00)</b>	<b>(8,300.00)</b>
	General Expenses	(172.03)	(61.70)	(472.64)
	Low-Value Assets	(370.85)	0.00	0.00
	Subscription - Digital Services	(4,451.36)	(3,623.03)	(2,911.06)
	Donations to other organisations - Black Peoples Union	(4,573.45)	0.00	0.00

## RAHU Q2 REPORT (APRIL - JUNE) 2024

<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>		<b>(24,629.48)</b>	<b>(27,729.46)</b>	<b>(21,780.41)</b>
	<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>676.91</b>	<b>(9,907.99)</b>	<b>5,198.77</b>

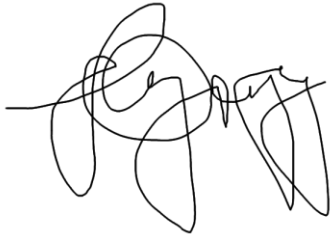
In Q2 the RAHU Finance committee has been focusing on getting our new Assistant Treasurer Owen settled in. Owen has hit the ground running, with a focus on fundraising and applying for grants. Two new grant applications have been submitted (for Copower and Australian Post), which if successful, will provide \$20,000 to the union. Other fundraisers are in the works!

As shown in the report above, membership dues have greatly increased over this quarter, which has intern kept our Net profit in the positive, which is very exciting! This great streak should continue into next Quarter, as our member number and donations are steadily growing.

The focus for the next quarter is growing the Finance Committee and continuing to work on Grants and Fundraisers.

In Solidarity

Summer  
Treasurer



**CAMPAIGNS COMMITTEE**

From April-June the campaigns committee has been focusing on 3 primary campaigns: climate change preparedness, saving public housing, and building squatting skills to fight empties.

After debriefing on Q1s info night on climate change preparedness for rentals, we've been researching, surveying and writing policy to help inform the Vic Government's planned improvements to minimum standards to rentals. We've been working closely with our partner CoPower in this process.

In the face of dwindling supply and rapid destruction of public housing Australia wide, we've been working with the Save Public Housing Collective, to help retain, repair and reinvest. Right now we are focused on creating art, designs, articles and other materials that help inform the public on the importance of public housing. We plan to use this to build the campaign to defend the destruction of public housing towers in Victoria.

In June we helped run a squatting skills workshop in collaboration with HUSK and BPU, kicking off our campaign to fight empty investment properties and build squatting skills.

Make sure to come to a campaigns meeting if you have ideas or are passionate about changing our broken system for the better!

## RENTERS RIGHTS COMMITTEE

We had 113 tickets come in between April 1 and 30 June. Of those only 25 are unresolved, so the team appears to be handling its case-load well. The team discussed the need to recruit more RRST members from outside VIC, particularly NSW and QLD, and developing resources for those jurisdictions.

The team is starting a project to translate some of our current resources into Easy English; benefits would include accessibility for people with disabilities as well as people with limited English for whom we don't yet have resources. The Secretary and I met with the CEO of VCAT, who expects the backlog of bond and compensation cases to be cleared by the end of the year.

Dash, Renters Rights Committee Chair

## COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA COMMITTEE

Google search results and the discord bot tracking "Renters And Housing Union" mentions show that RAHU has been mentioned in media 8 times since April. One article was published on the RAHU website in the same time period.

RAHU has received numerous requests for comment from media organisations, there have been many rejections on RAHU's behalf. RAHU membership has previously voted they will not be working with the ABC until 2025 in response to the handing of activist footage to police. Other rejected enquires put RAHU in a position where the Union's input may have legitimised an article the Union would otherwise not support.

Our previous Communications & Media Committee Chair has stepped down as of the end of June, and a new chair has been elected in a by-election.

With the beginning of the new quarter and the new incoming chair, the next three months will hopefully see an increase in media releases and articles published on the RAHU website.

- Flora
- Media & Communications Committee Chair

## SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE

This quarter, the social media team has grown to 12 members with different activeness who are helping with moderating, posting, and creating graphics. The team has been focused on a support role making graphics and building support for other teams' events and initiatives.

Facebook continues to be useful but we have not had the algorithmic success of the last quarter and it appears political content has been pulled out of the algorithm.

Instagram we get more active engagement from members; both have seen steady growth. Our Instagram reaches 2.5x the people that our Facebook does. According to Facebook benchmarks we post more and get more engagement than most other pages. Our Instagram climbed by 1400 follows in the last quarter. Several people who reached out to volunteer were not members of RAHU, which indicates we need to do more to convert followers to membership.

Our TikTok has been inactive this quarter. We have large plans to develop RAHU's TikTok as a priority, put out explainer videos about the union for use on the website, and to hold an art workshop.

Overall the team has shown good success in increasing membership as shown by the rise in membership numbers and has created a steady flow of content and engagement for our members.

Brandon, Social Media Committee Chair

## OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

This month the Operations Committee is in the process of finalising the database migration from Airtable to CiviCRM. This process began in June of 2022, this is an exciting milestone! Setting up a VoIP phone in the office is ongoing while waiting on an NBN hook up. Many of the tasks for the Operations Committee are centered around upgrading legacy systems, which are essential for growing as a union.

Last quarter also saw some office bearer email account compromised, with two having suspicious login activity. This situation highlights where we can do better as a union to protect our data.

While committee numbers have fluctuated over the last quarter, we have a dedicated team working well together.



## RAHU Q2 REPORT (APRIL - JUNE) 2024

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Right at the beginning of Q2 we had a massive influx of members! The same amount of members joined in three days as they had in the previous past three months. At the end of my section of this report, I've included a table with a more detailed breakdown of where our membership is at and how it's changed over the quarter.

The new approach to members asking to cancel has proven to be more successful this quarter than last quarter, allowing members to change their dues and membership rather than leaving the union. We're still not receiving a lot of feedback on why people are leaving, but we've had less cancellations due to the cost of living crisis, since the new approach to cancellation requests.

Unfortunately, we haven't made a lot of big moves in membership processes this quarter. We're planning to send out some mass emails to streamline our info and get members dues up to date. We also still need more effort put into preventing members in bad standing.

The committee still needs to grow for that to happen, so as always, email [membership@rahu.org.au](mailto:membership@rahu.org.au) to take part. You can also use this email to make sure your dues are up to date, ask for an amnesty or change your membership type.

Thanks for reading again, Hunter (they/them), 2024 Membership Officer

	April	May	June
<b>Date of Report</b>	15/04/24	20/05/24	17/06/24
<b>Membership Data Correct as of</b>	12/4/2024	20/05/24	13/06/24
<b>Report Done By</b>	Hunter	Hunter	Hunter
<b>Membership List Total</b>	1422	1662	1725
<b>Deregister List</b>	66	78	84
<b>Active Membership (Total minus Deregister)</b>	1356	1584	1641
<b>Bad Standing Total</b>	93	127	156
<b>Bad Standing %</b>	6.86%	8.02%	9.51%
<b>Good Standing %</b>	93.14%	91.98%	90.49%
<b>At Risk of Bad Standing</b>	22	10	10

## RAHU Q2 REPORT (APRIL - JUNE) 2024

Report Notes	<p>Completed all March bank transfers but none for April. Although Stripe does it automatically, so this includes Stripe payments which are up to the date this report was put together.</p> <p>Moved all members to deregister list who had been in bad standing for 8+ months. Haven't yet moved them over to another airtable database.</p>	<p>Completed all April bank transfers but none for May. Although Stripe does it automatically, so this includes Stripe payments which are up to the date this report was put together.</p>	<p>Completed all May bank transfers but none for June. Although Stripe does it automatically, so this includes Stripe payments which are up to the date this report was put together.</p>
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### GENERAL MEMBER BRANCH

The GMB held monthly meetings online in 2024, with a significant increase in turnouts due to our increase in membership. We're hearing more from members across the country and getting a good picture of local issues. This has assisted in mobilisation of new and proto branches. We've helped support members in poster and turnouts for community events. We lost two delegates but gained two, one of which was swiftly transferred to the new Gadigal branch! We've also had a lot of help from Kieran, North Branch delegate, in phonebanking. Thanks heaps comrade!

Hunter, Zachary and Josh