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OFFICE-BEARER REPORTS

SECRETARY'S REPORT secretary@rahu.org.au

This quarter has been one of growing action from our members, we have seen a growing focus on homelessness, empty homes, and squatting as the rental crisis grows deeper and cuts into more peoples lives.

Momentum on Public Housing, Homelessness Week, and our work with Husk House, and the Black Peoples Union on a workshop on squatting were big strides in the space of public actions, and we ran our first big fundraiser to support our Emergency Rent Assistance Fund.

We have seen growth in all states, and excitingly movements outside of the metro areas starting to get organised. As more members join, we have gained the ability to do more, walk and chew gum at the same time, and show landlords and their agents that together we are not voiceless, we are not powerless.

Fundamentally we are seeing rental costs far outstrip wages and welfare payments, all while Public Housing options shrink per capita and community housing is turning people in need away and more and more of our members are forced to move back with family, skip meals, couch surf, or learn to squat in empties. The difference in standard of living between the rich and poor have always been stark, but those differences are becoming so visible and showing the current for profit housing system as unsustainable.

The work that members are doing through organising, mutual aid, solidarity, and action fills me with hope that we can and will change our collective conditions. Our spirit and resolve are an unwavering light that will guide us to that future.

In Union and solidarity,
Harry Millward



OFFICE-BEARER REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT treasurer@rahu.org.au

For the 3 months ended 30 September 2024

Account	Jul-Sep 2024	Apr-Jun 2024	Jan-Mar 2024
Trading Income			
Membership			
Membership Dues - Low-income	2,032.28	2,603.58	1,020.75
Membership Dues - Waged	17,733.02	16,282.41	11,474.09
Membership Dues - Solidarity	5,979.00	5,007.00	3,026.71
Membership Dues - Homeowner (non-voting)	1,815.00	1,509.77	930.00
Total Membership	27,559.30	25,402.76	16,451.55
Donations & Grants			
Donations - Individuals	946.71	394.14	176.93
Donations - Non-Individuals	3,829.18	0.00	0.00
Grants Recieved	11,400.00	0.00	0.00
Total Donations & Grants	16,175.89	394.14	176.93
Merchandise Sales	1,199.41	1,037.89	897.62
Event Ticket Sales	5,540.00	60.00	0.00
Interest Income	52.31	59.38	79.82
Membership Dues - High-waged Homeowner (non-voting)	60.00	0.00	0.00
Membership Dues - High-Waged	20.00	0.00	0.00
Membership Dues - Low-Waged	945.00	0.00	0.00
Total Trading Income	51,551.91	26,954.17	17,605.92

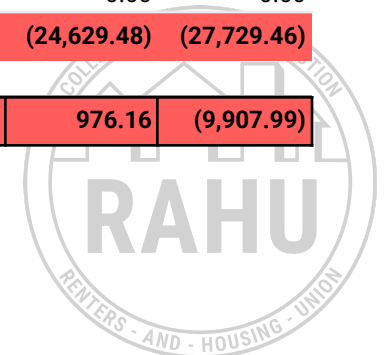
Account	Jul-Sep 2024	Apr-Jun 2024	Jan-Mar 2024
Cost of Sales			
Cost of Goods Sold	(134.13)	(697.43)	(129.85)
Merchandise Sales Related Postage	(81.69)	31.41	(42.36)
Other transaction fees	0.00	(50.85)	0.00
Stripe Fees	(1,225.60)	(1,095.95)	(703.29)
WooCommerce Transaction Fee	372.60	(36.09)	(19.85)
Paypal Fees	0.00	0.38	0.00
Total Cost of Sales	(1,068.82)	(1,848.53)	(895.35)
Gross Profit	50,483.09	25,105.64	16,710.57



OFFICE-BEARER REPORTS

Account	Jul-Sep 2024	Apr-Jun 2024	Jan-Mar 2024
Operating Expenses			
Donations and Organisational Memberships			
Donations to other organisations - Pay the Rent	0.00	0.00	(7,884.00)
Membership of other organisations	0.00	(111.01)	0.00
Total Donations and Organisational Memberships	0.00	(111.01)	(7,884.00)
Events			
Catering	(1,565.41)	(571.06)	(290.91)
Events	(613.91)	(824.30)	0.00
Insurance	(2,050.13)	0.00	(31.00)
Venue Hire	(648.80)	(54.90)	(189.00)
Total Events	(4,878.25)	(1,450.26)	(510.91)
Grants			
RRIN - Catering	(510.30)	0.00	0.00
RRIN - Printing	(431.28)	0.00	(1,110.90)
RRIN - Stipends	(3,185.00)	0.00	0.00
RRIN - Venue Hire	(564.28)	(500.00)	0.00
Total Grants	(4,690.86)	(500.00)	(1,110.90)
Fees & Charges			
Bank Fees	(24.00)	(24.00)	(24.00)
Regulatory Fess & Charges	(182.20)	0.00	(413.40)
Total Fees & Charges	(206.20)	(24.00)	(437.40)

Operating Expenses cont	Jul-Sep 2024	Apr-Jun 2024	Jan-Mar 2024
Media			
Postage (Non-Merchandise)	(37.00)	0.00	0.00
Printing & Stationery	(137.23)	0.00	(695.41)
Reports, Publications and Magazine	0.00	0.00	(2,684.68)
Social Media	(162.12)	(228.53)	(113.44)
Total Media	(336.35)	(228.53)	(3,493.53)
Office			
Rent	(2,616.99)	(2,616.99)	(2,616.99)
Telephone & Internet	(444.00)	(441.00)	(441.00)
Total Office	(3,060.99)	(3,057.99)	(3,057.99)
Rental Rights & Legal			
Research	(16.81)	0.00	0.00
Total Rental Rights & Legal	(16.81)	0.00	0.00
Wages & Stipends			
Stipends	(12,930.00)	(9,690.00)	(7,550.00)
Total Wages & Stipends	(12,930.00)	(9,690.00)	(7,550.00)
General Expenses	(666.40)	(172.03)	(61.70)
Low-Value Assets	0.00	(370.85)	0.00
Subscription - Digital Services	(4,407.73)	(4,451.36)	(3,623.03)
Donations to other organisations - Black Peoples Union	(3,684.37)	(4,573.45)	0.00
Volunteer Incentive	(404.00)	0.00	0.00
Total Operating Expenses	(35,281.96)	(24,629.48)	(27,729.46)
Net Profit	19,891.99	976.16	(9,907.99)



OFFICE-BEARER REPORTS

MEDIA & COMMS OFFICER'S REPORT

media@rahu.org.au

This quarter saw a new Communications Officer elected, as the previous officer had resigned. We hit the ground running, slowly trying to build up the capacity for the committee. It was not an easy task, there were a lot of loose ends to follow up.

Between July and September we published 4 press releases, with a lot of help from plenty of comrades who aren't necessarily involved with the committee. Thank you to all comrades who assisted with this work during the transition, and onwards.

The Communications Committee took on some of the work for social media after the office bearers resignation in September.

This Bulletin is several months late, and some of the previous committee members were not able to provide a report. Sections for their reports have not been included in this document. There are however longer reports in the committee reports section.

Committee reports have been taken largely unaltered from monthly Governing Committee meeting minutes.



OFFICE-BEARER REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER'S REPORT

membership@rahu.org.au

The first committee meeting was held in 2024 3rd Quarter and went well. Members were followed up regarding completing tasks they agreed to. The new committee has really strong team members.

The first email to get all members tagged as 'temporary visa holder / international student' to start paying their dues was sent out in september. This is a task which is expected to be completed in 2024, because this membership level was removed from the constitution in a previous AGM.



OFFICE-BEARER REPORTS

CAMPAIGNS OFFICER'S REPORT

campaigns@rahu.org.au

The Campaigns folks have done heaps of work the past quarter on our Public Housing, Climate Change Preparedness, and Squatting campaigns.

We secured a grant from CoPower to run climate change related campaigns including our "Renters Survival Guide to the Climate Apocalypse"

To support the Save Public Housing campaign we created resources, art and propaganda to help inform people on public housing..

We also ran fundraiser events for our emergency rent support fund, to help fight evictions.

We've been trying to build a squatting committee, with the goal to prepare for the occupation of an empty property and support squatters long-term. We've run squatting skills nights, held an open forum on squatting, taught people their rights, and future planned our support networks.



KEY EVENTS

July

Homelessness week action in Darebin involving a tent city, and more actions against Trimson Partners

Accepted the Riverina Branch as an official branch of RAHU at the July Governing Committee meeting

August

Document for Bylaws made public for discord (still needs filling out) but includes Safer Spaces.

RAHU received a Co Power Grant of \$3500

RAHU's fundraiser for the Emergency Rent Assistance Fund raised almost \$7,000

September

RAHU Secretary travelled to Newcastle on September 11th to speak at a local housing forum.

Accept the Bush Workers Collective as an org member - September

Accept the Western Australia Branch as a Local Branch of RAHU at the September Governing Committee meeting

September South Australia Branch dissolved at September Governing Committee meeting

Adopted a proposal to add a Mediation Budget of \$1000 per year to be used in instances where free mediation is not agreed upon by all parties involved.

Accept Research and Policy as its own Committee separate from Campaigns at sep gov meeting 2

Adopted proxy voting into RAHU bylaws in preparation for RAHU annual general meeting



MEDIA RELEASES

August

Homelessness Week 2024 – Homelessness Action Now! - 5 August 2024

<https://rahu.org.au/homelessness-week-2024-homelessness-action-now/>

This week, as we crawl out of the coldest winter recorded in so-called Australia for more than 5 years, Homelessness Australia launches its annual Homelessness Week (August 5th – August 12th)

RAHU “Evict The Evictors” Emergency Fundraiser a roaring success! - 28 August 2024

<https://rahu.org.au/rahu-evict-the-evictors-fundraiser-a-success/>

On Saturday August 24th, The Renters and Housing Union hosted the “Evict The Evictors” fundraiser at Thornbury Bowls Club.

September

RENT ASSISTANCE HANDS WEALTH DIRECTLY TO LANDLORDS - RAHU - 4 September 2024

<https://rahu.org.au/rent-assistance-hands-wealth-directly-to-landlords/>

This week, the media is awash with glowing reports on the federal Labor government’s latest “measures” attempting to “ease pressures during the cost-of-living crisis”. A 10% increase for those receiving rent assistance, while rents claw ahead further, by 11% on average.

‘BUILD TO RENT’ SCHEME DEMOLISHES COMMUNITIES - 18 September 2024

<https://rahu.org.au/build-to-rent-scheme-demolishes-communities/>

While the government’s Build To Rent bill proposes to put more money in the hands of speculative housing investors and building conglomerates, governments across the country continue their plans to tear down and sell off public housing.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE treasurer@rahu.org.au

JULY

	This year to July
Gross Value of Assets	\$677.00 (Computer Equipment)
Gross Value of Liabilities	\$955.57
Gross Value of Revenue	\$86,449.98
Gross Value of Expenditure	\$92,734.27
Mortgages/Securities/charges	\$0

[CAV reporting](#)

Grants Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) increased the amount they are giving to RAHU

Multiple comrades put their hands up to help with organising the fundraising event

Assistant Treasurer [Q2 report](#)

[Budget Proposal 2024/2025](#)

August

[Financial Report for AGM](#)

RAHU's insurance was paid this month

September

Fundraising - MUDRAT Gig held on the the 24th September - raised 7500\$ for the Emergency Rent Assistance Fund
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/msmg2m-emergency-rent-assistance-fund>

Social media budget went over, but that was discussed beforehand for the fundraiser with Mudrat.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

media@rahu.org.au

July

New office bearer held first meeting - talked about what we'd been doing, set up signal group

August

Wanted to reschedule monthly meeting - few people attending meetings, committee still finding its feet after office bearer by-elections

September

This month the Media and Communications committee published the newsletter, and several people worked together to release a media statement in response to the increase in rental assistance.

Two posts / press releases on the website were published, one covering the statement, and another covering the evict the evictors fundraiser.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

membership@rahu.org.au

	Jul	Aug	Sep
Date of Report	15/07/24	19/08/24	16/09/24
Membership List Total	1815	1810	1883
Deregister List	92	7	14
Active Membership (Total minus Deregister)	1723	1803	1869
Bad Standing Total	190	215	230
Bad Standing %	11.03%	11.92%	12.31%
Good Standing %	88.97%	88.08%	87.69%
At Risk of Bad Standing	22	16	12
Report Notes	Completed all June bank transfers but none for July. Although Stripe does it automatically.	Moved deregistered members to 'removed' airtable database.	Completed all Aug bank transfers but none for Sep. Although Stripe does it automatically.

September

First committee meeting went well! Members were followed up regarding completing tasks they agreed to. The new committee has really strong team members. The first email to get all members tagged as 'temporary visa holder / international student' to start paying their dues was sent out this month. This is a task which is expected to be completed in 2024, because this membership level was removed from the constitution in a previous AGM.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

RENTERS RIGHTS SUPPORT TEAM (RRST)

rentersrights@rahu.org.au

&

organise@rahu.org.au

support@rahu.org.au

August

- The Renters Rights committee endorsed the following proposal:
 - *Renters Rights support will not be prioritized or expected for those who have been a member for less than 3 months.*
 - The RRST wished to note that we don't want to discourage newer members, and that a new member who receives support from the Union can become an active member and asset to the organisation.
 - The above proposal provides flexibility for RRST members to provide support to newer members if they wish to, but prioritises longer standing members.

- A member from Gadigal expressed interest in setting up a NSW branch of the RRST.
 - In terms of governance structure, we are not sure how this would work, but as more NSW members get on board we may need separate "teams".
- We discussed the idea of collecting and posting case studies (de-identified) for wins the RRST is proud of, to post it on the website.

September

- RRST had a new member onboarded, thanks!
- South Branch Delegate kindly connected us with a referral form for SEM legal service, which is interested in helping members dealing with climate and health related tenancy issues (e.g. mould)
- Our next meeting on 18/9 will be a brainstorm about the inquiries we expect to get more of during Summer, so we can get on a front foot with responses. This includes things like safety in high temperatures esp. for vulnerable people, tenant modifications, thunderstorm damage.
- If anyone wants to contribute to the



- brainstorm please send your ideas to rentersrights@rahu.org.au

CAMPAIGNS COMMITTEE

campaigns@rahu.org.au

July

Squatting info night went well ~40 in person, ~10 online
Interest in more info nights and the squat campaign
Public housing campaign has been receiving art

Renters Rights info nights has hit a dead end

Squatting campaign is building momentum - currently picking a target and planning a public open meeting

Emergency rent support fundraiser happening

Public housing propaganda campaign chugging along

Policy working group being built

Attendance 5-10 at campaign meetings

5-10 involved in squatting campaign planning

Attendance at policy group is about 5

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Renters Rights info nights has hit a dead end

Squatting campaign is building momentum - currently picking a target and planning a public open meeting

Emergency rent support fundraiser happening

Public housing propaganda campaign chugging along

Policy working group being built

Attendance 5-10 at campaign meetings

5-10 involved in squatting campaign planning

Attendance at policy group is about 5

September

Squatting public forum coming up! Squatting working group is skilling up and growing.

Public housing working group started.

Policy working group doing heaps of stuff: minimum standards, climate change preparedness.

A small group of RAHU members helped disrupt land forces



OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

operations@rahu.org.au

July

The key project of migrating the membership database from Airtable to CiviCRM is still a work in progress, but we are undoubtedly closer than ever, and I certainly won't be writing this same statement for Q3. It was only some personal capacity issues that set operations back, otherwise I'd be telling you that this migration was completed before the end of Q2. Most devastatingly I found in the archives that the process to migrate to CiviCRM was commenced as far back as June 2022, so we missed completing it before the second anniversary of RAHU's adventures in configuring an instance of CiviCRM. We are absolutely in the home stretch though.

The operations committee has fluctuated a little in the past few months. The faces have changed here and there as personal commitments and abusive REAs take their toll, but there's been some fantastic progress happening.

The other task mentioned in Q1, a VoIP phone for the office, is also sadly still incomplete. This one is a delay created by the ISP and/or the NBN though. The phone is there, ready to go, but getting the NBN hookup has proved to be a minefield of setbacks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

In the past quarter we suffered something of a cyber attack on some of our office bearer's emails. Nothing targeted, it was indiscriminate spam, but at least one account had their account compromised, and two others had suspicious activity. This situation exposed some places where we can do a lot better, so we've begun preliminary stages on improving processes and systems for operations in general. This is going to be a very long-term project, so there's not much to report on at this stage. It's become clear that we need to level-up some of our processes and build a more ordered and robust system on which the RAHU of the future can grow. Some of our systems are legacy items built on top of legacy items, and we're going to need to clean up these systems and shore up the foundations so we don't end up stacking another legacy system on and find the whole thing crumbling.

August

Away for most of July and start of August - treading water.

Reading for beta testing of CiviCRM.

Following up with NBN



COMMITTEE REPORTS

September

Operations Committee is in a strange position at the moment. Relevant to the recent discussions around the capacity building role of office bearers, I think I can undeniably say that Operations has very much struggled in that regard. Between the time that Jackson had off in July, and insufficient followup since, I believe the Operations Committee hasn't held an official meeting now for three months. While I intend to improve that, projects the committee has been working on have been making progress.

CiviCRM

The migration of the membership database from Airtable to CiviCRM is closer than ever. CiviCRM is deployed, and configuration is well underway. I am not sure I can give an ETA, but the outstanding elements to be configured are:

- New member signup form has been built, and tested, but is missing functionality for some automated and prefilled values, as well as styling to be suitable for public use.
- Delegate reports from the existing membership database can be replicated in Civi. This may require assistance from relevant delegates.
- The membership data needs to be copied over and have regular synchronisations between Airtable and Civi to allow for a transition period.

- This functionality is about 80% built, but has a bug that's holding it back.
- Delegate/OB platform access and training is lacking a fixed plan of action.
- All of the above needs more user testing to identify issues before deploying.

Password Management

After the followup to the abuse of the mailing list, all RAHU social media platforms had their passwords updated. An intermediary partial rebuild of the existing inadequate password storage solution has been enacted, but we will likely have a dedicated and secure password management system deployed before the next Governing Committee meeting.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

User Management

The number of people requiring access to shared inboxes has grown significantly this year, and given that both of the above platforms (among others) will require creation of name@rahu.org.au logins for people to access, there is likely to be exponential growth of RAHU users created in the Microsoft admin portal very soon. As MS administration is distributed across a variety of dashboards and collections, with dozens of menus and settings, preliminary work has begun on a CMS (separate to Civi) to make creating new users, and assigning relevant access and permissions for all users, much simpler. This will also involve automated follow ups with office bearers and delegates to ensure that any users with paid licences are kept up to date, and the minimum required number of paid licences are active at all times. This is on track to be deployed by the end of the year at latest.

Trades Hall office internet/VoIP phone

Getting internet to the Trades Hall office was started in April, and has somehow become a term-defining saga. As far as I can tell, everything is now addressed correctly with the NBN, and the ports in the office are now connected properly, but it needs the ISP to send a technician to plug one into the other, and getting them to understand and deliver this has been ongoing now for over a month.

So despite the poor committee organising, there are a few highly skilled members who have been helping all these projects tick along, and progress continues.



SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE

socials@rahu.org.au

July

There's not much to report for social media, things are going well and at a steady pace. We always need more help with posting, moderating, making graphics and videos, if anyone knows anyone they can send over. We have a group chat on discord and Instagram for the team.

August

Social media team is fairly large now with people willing to help out with art and graphics adhoc, but not for mundane roles or video still

Given we occasionally have posts blow up should we look into monetising?

If you've noticed bad comments, the filters we've set up block over half of them immediately. Of what's left there's very few hateful comments, just people malding.

Steady growth, almost 6000 followers on Facebook now and 6.7k Instagram

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Instagram reels perform well, please share to TikTok.

Alt text rolled out, make sure to use it.

September

Committee Inactive after Office Bearer resignation



BRANCH REPORTS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BRANCH

Email: contact@rahu.org.au

July

New GMB delegate elected!

Working to build Eora (Sydney) branch

GMB is getting bigger and bigger

August

5 GMB delegates now, with some focussing on starting local branches.

High members in GMB meeting



VICTORIA

NORTH BRANCH

(Merri-Bek, Darebin, Banyule)

Email: north@rahu.org.au

July

Branch meeting 16 attendees

New Delegate elected in July

A RAHU member and Merri-bek councillor attended the branch meeting to chat about proposal for increasing council rates for landlords.

Plan in the works to have a special branch meeting to discuss further and vote as to whether the branch will support the proposal.

EVENTS

volunteer day (Sat 27th Jul, Black Spark), stipends for participating (covered by last of Merri-bek grant). Activities include postering, door knocking, phone banking and stall.

BRANCH REPORTS

For the most part things have been pretty good. Last time I checked we'd sold 60 out of 200 tickets for the Evict the evictors fundraiser and I've spoken to Mudrat and he reckons he can get more sales and that for him the majority of sales happen in the last week before the show which is really good.

Our rahu volunteer day went really smoothly. Delegates did wonderful with the food catering. Our north branch meeting at Catalyst went really well, as did the rahu casual meeting we had in Carlton. We also collaborated with some housing activists in Preston while they protested in tents for a week to spread awareness about homelessness and the growing housing crisis in Australia. There was an incident at said event that I assume we will be speaking about in this meeting.

We elected a new North Branch delegate. There were 23 members in attendance at the branch meeting.

September

Artemis working with Owen to acquit the Merri-Bek grant.

Branch meeting had good attendance and engagement with North Branch members also making appearances at many local and statewide events.



INNER SOUTH

(Port Phillip, Stonnington, Glen Eira, and Bayside)

Email: southmelb@rahu.org.au

July

we had a strategy/planning meeting which was well attended because the delos did a whole lot of outreach! We mainly talked about doing a branch bulletin as proposed by a branch member and we had a lot of interest in that

August

7 new members on airtable since July's governing committee

July was a strategy meeting and this was our first follow-up meeting with 6 in attendance and 1 apology. Delegate capacity quite low.

New meeting time to be the third tuesday of the month meaning we will be a meeting behind on report-backs at the gov committee

Deadlines set for contributions to the branch bulletin (30/8/24)

Port Phillip Council seeking suggestions for their (belated) update of the renters' info webpage - contacting southside justice and

BRANCH REPORTS

A delegate was actioned to create actioned to create a callout for submissions

PECAN (a local org) prompted to liaise with RAHU Secretary to become a friend of RAHU

Planning to doorknock their neighbours and liaising with SEQR for advice given their experience

Council elections - potential weaponised red tape re:booking council venues if we take stances

September

4 members phonebanked as of August 26, 16 new members (to be phonebanked) as of September 16

5 members had a bulletin meeting today where we elected the editor and formed a publishing committee

Branch meetings will be on the third Tuesday of the month from now on.



BRANCH REPORTS

NEW SOUTH WALES

RIVERINA

(Wagga Wagga, Leeton, Griffith and Albury)

Email: riverina@rahu.org.au

July

Accepted Riverina as an official branch of the Renters and Housing Union July governing Committee meeting



BRANCH REPORTS

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

(State Wide)

Email: wa@rahu.org.au

September

Accepted the Western Australia Branch as a Local Branch of RAHU at the September Governing Committee meeting



BRANCH REPORTS

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

(State Wide)

Email: sa@rahu.org.au

July

On leave for 3 months

September

September South Australia Branch dissolved at September Governing Committee meeting.



COMMITMENT TO DECOLONISATION

The Renters and Housing Union is a member-run union of renters and people in precarious housing, formed out of the rent strike as a response to the COVID-19 crisis.

We collectively organise for the right to safe and secure housing through self-advocacy, education, and frontline eviction defence.

The Renters And Housing Union operates and advocates on stolen land, and supports the continued struggle for Land Back and true political and material power in the hands of the many Indigenous nations across so called "Australia".

As a Union we acknowledge the Elders and Warriors from across these nations and their unceded sovereignty and right to self determination.

Sovereignty was never ceded.

<https://rahu.org.au/commitment-to-decolonisation/>

