

Rimstone News

Official Correspondence of Rimstone Cooperative Ltd

ESTABLISHED 1974

Registered Address: 15 Gelantipy Rd Buchan VIC 3885

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We apologise for the lack of Newsletters over the last year but everyone has been extremely busy. This Newsletter has several items of news.

Susan White, Newsletter Production.

Editorial

There has been a lot of work going on by Directors and by members since the last Newsletter which was now nearly a year ago.

The Lounge Room Project is substantively complete with only a couple of things yet to be done. The associated Bathroom and Toilet work is being held over. See the photos over the page. There is a general working bee scheduled for 19-20 May (see below).

Scrubby Creek Cave is “open” and we can look forward to more discoveries and projects based on the cave.

However the most exciting news is a big new project. This is that the Co-operative is purchasing M-3, Shades-of-Death Cave from Geoff Rebbechi. See the attached fundraising brochure. This provides the Co-operative with lots of new and challenging opportunities, BUT we need donations!

Nicholas White (Secretary)

Co-operative News

New Director Mark Tregellas

Mark comes to us from a career first in the military and many of us know him as a caver in the 1990s when he was a policeman in Portland. Since then he was posted to Mallacoota and has recently retired. He comes as a Director with a range of new skills, experience and initiative.

Tufa News

Fencing has been initiated and Paul Brooker has improved on the start made at the first working bee. A new alignment of the fence has been decided on as a result of studies by Latrobe University botanists. Dr John Morgan advises that on the slope above the tufa terraces there is probably the largest patch of the rare native grass, Wild Sorghum in Victoria. The new fence alignment will now enclose these slopes.

The Latrobe University combined Geology-Botany Course will be run again in December 2017. Students

will conduct more work on investigating the tufa terraces coupled with mapping them, hopefully using a drone. The students will also attack the blackberries.

Scrubby Creek Cave News

For some years the water levels in the sump have been too high for access to the main part of the cave. In November last year Neil Wilson and several others including Nigel Cooke worked at removing the sediment buildup at the sump outlet. In March Neil Wilson and Daryl Carr went through the sump with a generous air gap and went up the stream passage. The stream was covered in sediment and there was evidence of high flood levels. The opening of the cave will allow new investigative projects to be initiated.

March Long Weekend Working Bee

A number of members were present. The big blue gum tree on the fence boundary has been a risk for some time. Paul Brooker cut the large branches facing the veranda. These generated a lot of firewood plus two large trailer loads of green waste to the tip. A trailer load of broken bricks from the front chimney were taken and put into the ruts on the wet patch of Slippery Pinch Road.

Homeleigh Communications

The directors are investigating the upgrading of the phone, booking system, a monitoring and security system for Homeleigh. We are interested members' views on this (contact Darryl or Mark or use the directors@rimstone.org.au).

Lounge Room Project

Peter Robertson conceived and managed this project in removing walls and chimney to open out the front of Homeleigh to give us a large lounge room in the front part of Homeleigh. This is now mostly finished with the last job being the carpeting. There is some work yet to be done on windows and fitting of blinds. The internal toilet and shower will be done once several other projects have been completed.

Need to contact a director?

Nigel Cooke: M 0409967084

Gary Coleman: H 9808 3716 M 0418108274

Darryl Pierce M 0428746139

Mark Tregellas 0417 840 692

Nicholas White: H 93863970 M 0427110143

or directors@rimstone.org.au.

Homeleigh Accommodation Fees

The current accommodation rates are:

Rimstone Members

Adults \$12.50 AUD per night
Family \$25.00 AUD per night

Rimstone Non-Members

Adults \$25.00 AUD per night
Family \$50.00 AUD per night
Full-Time Students \$17.50 AUD per night
Free accommodation at advertised Working Bees

Bookings.

All Homeleigh bookings should be made to Homeleigh Booking <accomm@rimstone.org.au>. This is important as periodically the booking officer is away and arrangements are made to cover his absence through the accommodation email. Please **DO NOT** leave messages on the booking officer's landline; if you must use a phone message use his mobile number.

Please remember that although bookings are not mandatory, you cannot be assured of a bed, even as a member, if you have not booked. There have been several overbooked periods, particularly in holiday times. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

Also bookings are for a **bed**, not necessarily a room to yourself especially if there are large numbers of people using the facility at that time. As we have been experiencing good usage of Homeleigh, please be aware that this can occur. If you have specific needs you should notify the booking officer when booking.

There are also some periodic large bookings e.g. the RAAF. Long weekends and holiday periods need advance bookings.

Lounge room,
Homeleigh
Photo: Peter Robertson



Calendar

May 19 - 20 Homeleigh Working Bee

The weatherboards above all the verandas are in very poor condition. The main task for the working bee is to replace these boards with cement sheet boards which should last much longer than the timber ones.. A good turnout will ensure most of this work gets completed. Contact Gary Coleman or Paul Brooker.

New Members

Welcome to these new members.

Both of these have been caving previously with other Australian clubs: Lawrence Aldridge RAAF Base Sale and Mick Sander, 138 Signals Unit, Macleod. Also Peter Guest, Heathmont who is from the Scout Caving Team.

Annual Service Fees

Annual Membership Fees Invoice will be sent out in July

The treasurer Nigel Cooke, will send invoices for the Annual fees of \$50 per member in July. If your annual fees are not up to date you cannot use Homeleigh at member's rates, nor can you be a Member-in-Charge.

Direct payment to account can be made to:
Rimstone Cooperative Ltd

BSB 063011 Account No: 10086510

This newsletter has been put together by Susan White with information provided by the Directors.

M-3 Shades-of-Death Cave Appeal

Purchase of the M-3 Shades-of-Death Cave Property, Murrindal, Victoria by Rimstone Cooperative Ltd

Rimstone Cooperative has just initiated a contract to acquire this property (April 2017). We are appealing for donations to pay for it. Details of how to donate are given below. Our target is \$30,000, which is the contract price and Rimstone is able to cover the on costs.

History

The cave is situated 15 km North of Buchan just north of the Murrindal School House on the Buchan-Gelantipy Road. It is also known as Murrindal Moon Cave but the Shades-of-Death name goes back to Henham and Moon who first explored the cave in 1906.

Shades-of-Death was developed as a Show Cave from the 1960's. It was initially developed by Jack McMahon, an Orbost engineer, and three cavers (Graham Shaw, Geoff Rebbechi and Warren Kennedy). Geoff Rebbechi and Graham Shaw operated the cave for tourist visits during school holidays for many years. In the 1990s it was operated by Geoff's brother Dennis Rebbechi and his wife Carol and Kim and John Van Dyk kept it open for visitors after Denis and Carol moved to Queensland.

The cave has an entrance gate, built stairways and a lighting system. Geoff Rebbechi now solely owns the cave. The entrance is on an allotment of 0.4 ha, fenced with several sheds.

Geoff Rebbechi is concerned that the cave and property is well looked after in the future, which is why Rimstone Cooperative is purchasing the cave and property.

Acquisition by Rimstone Cooperative Ltd

The purchase of the property provides both a challenge and opportunity for the Cooperative.

- It needs careful and sensitive management.
- It has exploration potential as it has unexplored sections in the upper levels. The lower levels can be wet and muddy
- It could be used as a training cave and has SRT training potential
- It is a very good cave for educational purposes
- It may be important scientifically as it is one of the "older" caves in the Buchan area being high in the landscape.
- It has potential for Open Day visits for the community

Rimstone Cooperative Ltd is a Community Advancement Society with speleological aims and experience in owning and managing property. Our success in purchasing the Scrubby Creek property has meant that the Karst Conservation Fund is again prepared to give its support. We are therefore asking for your support in acquiring this property. We propose that the purchase be funded by donations either directly or via the ASF Karst Conservation Fund that enables your donation to be tax deductible.

Donations can be made in the following way:

1. **Directly to Rimstone Cooperative Ltd.** Anyone who is not a current Rimstone member, who donates \$150 or more DIRECTLY to Rimstone, will be given membership of the Cooperative. The total donation will be put to the M-3 Shades-of-Death Cave Purchase Appeal. Membership details will be organised as quickly as possible and membership forms are available from the Secretary (nicholaswhite@netspace.net.au).

Cheques to be made to Rimstone Cooperative Ltd and mailed to the Treasurer, Nigel Cooke PO Box 155, Boronia Victoria, 3155 or by direct debit to the Rimstone Cooperative Ltd bank Account BSB 063011 Account No: 1008 6510.

2. **Via the ASF Karst Conservation Fund.** If you wish to donate through the KCF please use the form on the next page and follow those instructions. These donations will be tax deductible.

ALL donations are welcome and are urgently needed. For any further details contact the Rimstone Secretary, Nicholas White. The opportunity to buy suitable cave property does not come often. We would all regret it if the opportunity was lost.

THE SUPPORT OF ALL AUSTRALIAN CAVERS AND FRIENDS OF KARST IS NEEDED NOW!

For further information contact Nicholas White, Secretary, Rimstone Cooperative Ltd (phone 03 9386 3970 or nicholaswhite@netspace.net.au).

M-3 Shades-of-Death Cave Acquisition Project

ASF Karst Conservation Fund Donation Form

Australian Speleological Federation Inc ABN: 15 169 919 964 www.caves.org.au

Yes, I would like to support the M-3 Shades-of-Death Cave Appeal! All donations over \$2 are tax deductible! Complete the details below. Receipts will be issued for all donations.

To facilitate this and for accurate accounting it is essential that you mail the completed form to:
M-3 Shades- of-Death Cave Acquisition Appeal C/- Mrs Grace Matts 176 William Street, Bankstown, NSW, 2200.

My details

Mr/Ms/Miss/Mrs/Dr.....

Address.....

City State..... Postcode.....

Phone..... Mobile.....

Email.....

DONATION AMOUNT (please indicate):I wish my donation to be applied to the M-3 Shades-of-Death Cave Acquisition Appeal

Payment Methods

Cheque/Money order Enclosed is my cheque/money order for \$.....

(Payable to ASF Karst Conservation Fund) Mail to Mrs G. Matts at address above.

Direct Transfer Account name ASF Karst Conservation Fund at the CBA in Quirindi, NSW BSB 062 594 Account No. 2800 2528

PayPal: The ASF Website www.caves.org.au has a PayPal facility for donations direct to the ASF Karst Conservation Fund. This is the only credit card facility.

You need to indicate purpose of the donation, and identify yourself with a name and address, so that a receipt can be sent. When making payment, please make reference of your payment for easy payment identification e.g: M-3 Cave, Smith, M-3 Cave Jones etc.

DONATION AMOUNT \$..... For accurate accounting and for sending of receipts please mail this completed form to:

M-3 Shades-of-Death Cave Acquisition Appeal C/- G. Matts 176 William St, Bankstown, NSW, 2200

KARST CONSERVATION FUND

ASF Inc. is an Environmental Organisation registered by the Department of Environment & Heritage and the Australian Taxation Office. ASF's Karst Conservation Fund (ASF Gift Fund) receives tax-deductible donations in support of projects relating to ASF's conservation and environmental objectives.

Directors of the Fund are:

Maria Comino LLB (Brisbane), Tony Culberg BCom, OAM DipEd, TTC (Hobart), John Dunkley AO MEd, BEc, DipEd (Canberra), Kevin Kiernan PhD (Hobart), Phil Maynard PhD (Sydney).

Fund Management Commission:

The ASF has established a Commission to provide the Directors with advice on projects and to manage matters such as fund raising and reporting. The convenor is Nicholas White. For further information: karstfundinfo@caves.org.au or write to ASF Secretary, C/- G. Matts 176 William Street Bankstown NSW 2200.