



Rimstone Cooperative Ltd.
Rimstone Cooperative Ltd.
A Community Advancement Society

Rimstone News

Official correspondence of Rimstone Cooperative Ltd

Established 1974

ABN: 91 969 795 268

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Contact Rimstone:

Mail: PO Box 2543, Mt. Waverley, Vic, 3149

Treasurer & enquiries: info@rimstone.org.au

Homeleigh Bookings: accomm@rimstone.org.au

Directors: directors@rimstone.org.au

Registered Address:

15 Gelantipy Road, Buchan, Vic, 3885

Homeleigh Phone: 03 5155 9520

Website: www.rimstone.org.au

Welcome

Welcome to the latest issue of the Rimstone Co-operative newsletter. Please note the key items herein including: latest news on M-3 Shades of Death acquisition, the AGM in mid-September (with election of directors), and the Homeleigh Working Bee in late September. Also note the special request from directors for your views on managing Homeleigh.

Rob Brain (newsletter editor)

OFFICIAL NOTICE

2017 AGM — NOTICE of MEETING

Formal notice of the 2017 AGM of the Rimstone Cooperative Ltd is hereby given.

Friday 15 September, 8pm,
at the home of Darryl Pierce
Flat 3 / 18 Fernhurst Grove, Kew.

Please bring a small plate to contribute to snacks/supper. Tea and coffee will be provided.

RSVP: by email to:

directors@rimstone.org.au

AGENDA

The agenda items for this year's AGM will include (but not be limited to) the following:

1. Minutes of AGM 2016 and actions (the minutes are available from the web site www.rimstone.org.au — see the links on left side of home page).
2. Treasurer's Report.
3. Maintenance report (including property, buildings and grounds).
4. Booking Officer's Report.
5. General Business.
6. Election of Directors.
7. Supper.

Any additional items can be raised in advance by email to the directors:

<mailto:directors@rimstone.org.au>

Calendar

Sept 30 - Oct 1 — Homeleigh Working Bee.
Complete the weatherboard replacement activity from the last working bee.

Friday 15 Sept — Rimstone Co-op AGM

M-3 Shades of Death cave — update

Latest News — Rimstone Co-operative Ltd has now completed the acquisition of the Shades of Death Cave property. This is a 0.4 hectare property on the Buchan-Murrindal Road which for many years has included the entrance to the infamous Shades of Death cave.

The last property owners, Geoff Rebecchi and associate Graham Shaw, felt they were having difficulty maintaining the property, and so offered it for sale.

The property purchase cost Rimstone some \$30,000 and some expenses. The Australian Speleological Federation Inc (ASF) and Rimstone Co-operative have common objectives for the better management of Australia's karst and caves.

Special appeal to members and friends for funds

This invaluable property purchase was made possible by the ASF in that it has made the funds available on simple terms. Our agreement is to pay the loan back at \$10,000 per annum.

To assist with this funding we currently have an appeal to members and others for a direct donation to Rimstone, or as a tax deductible donation by donating through the ASF Karst Conservation Fund.

More appeal details and the donation form are all available to download from the Rimstone website: www.rimstone.org.au/m3-cave.html

Daryl Carr has accepted the challenge of being the initial property manager.

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Shades of Death cave (M-3)
Courtesy Liz Rogers

(The full photo is shown on last page below)

Strategy for Managing M-3 Cave and the Property

Managing the property and the cave is a challenging opportunity, and your assistance is welcome.

Daryl Carr and the Directors would like your input and ideas on how to manage the cave for education, for recreation, for research and for other speleological projects. There are initial infrastructure repairs to a rail and steps as well as a review of the electrical wiring and switching which need undertaking.

We need your ideas, initiative and enthusiasm to become exceptional managers of this complex and interesting cave. Please prepare your ideas for discussion at the AGM or send an email in advance to: directors@rimstone.org.au.

Nicholas White

Annual Membership Fees

Members please note that the annual membership fees are now due and payable, and everyone should have received notification by email.

Please pay very soon by EFT, or cheque in the mail, or bring cash to the AGM.

Nigel Cooke (Treasurer)

Managing Homeleigh — Your thoughts and ideas

Over the last year, the directors have been discussing a range of ideas for Homeleigh around the central themes of: connecting to the internet, smart house switching systems and security. Bringing the 21st century to Homeleigh does not come cheap and we feel that the discussion merits the input of the wider Rimstone community.

Your input and feedback on the following will be greatly appreciated in helping to manage Homeleigh.

Managing Homeleigh bookings

There is currently a problem with the Homeleigh booking process — requiring the use of a fax machine.

The process presently relies on the booking officer having access to a fax machine (an item not common in the modern world). This makes it difficult for others to manage bookings in a relief capacity and curtails our long term goal of making the booking system electronic. Implementing an internet connection might help to address this.

Hot water system left on

There have been too many occasions where the hot water system has been left switched on when Homeleigh is vacated after a trip. This has resulted in higher energy consumption costs.

A 'Smart connection' between the hot water system and mains supply if connected to the internet could be set up to remotely alert the directors and be switched off from Melbourne if booking records show that nobody is using Homeleigh at the time. Similarly fridges or indeed the whole mains could be remotely controllable, especially if used in conjunction with a visual system.

Unexplained Homeleigh visitors

There have been occasions where Homeleigh has been unexpectedly visited by various people and without any paperwork or accommodation fees lodged. So it could be advantageous to implement some way of checking on this.

A method of remote viewing, if coupled with a recording capacity, would provide increased security for Homeleigh which for many years has not had a caretaker.

Options for security could range from a full security package with cameras located in all communal areas; cameras located only on the veranda corners; or simply monitoring just the car parks and rear lawn access.

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Homeleigh internet connection??

The initial findings are that connecting the internet alone more than doubles our current costs of having just a telephone connection.

Unfortunately, the cost of connecting to the internet only to remove the booking issues is hard to justify, so we have been looking at value adding options. One area of continued frustration, coupled with potential for large financial loss is the Hot Water System which relies on the last guest to leave Homeleigh remembering to physically switch it off, something which consistently doesn't occur.

The potential of value adding to further justify connection to the internet is broad. However there is also argument that the booking system functions and 'if it's not broke don't fix it'. For these reasons we request that members please let us know in writing their thoughts prior to the coming AGM so that we may discuss the matter further at that time. Any additional suggestions as to using the internet would similarly be appreciated.

The directors look forward to receiving your feedback and ideas on the above items. Please send thoughts by email to the directors using the group email address: directors@rimstone.org.au.

Darryl Pierce (for the directors)

Homeleigh working bee 30 Sept – 1 Oct "plus"

Another of our all-important working bees will be held in a few weeks time, not long after the AGM.

Over the weekend of Saturday 30th September and Sunday 1st October, the focus will be to continue on the weatherboard replacement activity that was under way at the last working bee in May.

You can see photos of that activity on the [Homeleigh Facebook pages](#).

As usual, there will also be other maintenance activities under way, including the regular gardening, weeding and lawn mowing, and possibly some painting.

Please note that some people will probably be there a couple of days before the weekend, and a couple of days after the weekend, so it will be a great opportunity for you to spend some time assisting with the working bee, and squeezing in a bit of a holiday break in Buchan. Don't forget the new [Buchan Caves Hotel](#) has been open a



while now, and is often busy.

For working bee enquiries, or to RSVP (very important for planning the workload), please contact Paul Brooker or Gary Coleman closer to the day.

Rimstone website + Facebook

As most members will know, the Rimstone Co-op website is a useful resource containing some key highlights over time, including some good information about the co-op and its activities, as well as an archive of newsletters, and recent AGM minutes. Anyone can visit it here: www.rimstone.org.au

On the [Rimstone Co-op website home page](#), the right hand column shows the recent entries from our very own Wordpress blog. Any posts that are put into the Wordpress blog will show on the website within a few hours. This is how we are currently showing "Latest News" items on the website (it actually uses RSS).

In addition to the website in recent years we have established two Facebook pages — one for the [Rimstone Co-operative](#), and a second one just for [Homeleigh](#).

The Rimstone Facebook page is a basic page to give the co-op a presence on the web in Facebook. We can invite our Facebook friends to "like" the page, to increase the awareness of the co-op, and we can use it to announce events (such as the AGM, and Working Bees).

The Homeleigh Facebook page contains information relevant specifically to Homeleigh, including photos from progressive working bees over the years. Contributions of more photos from missing working bees, especially many years ago, will be very gratefully received.

Rob Brain

Election of directors

Mark Tregellas was appointed as a director during the year to fill a vacancy. Gary Coleman's term expires at this AGM. Both offer themselves for re-election at the AGM.

Contacting directors

Nigel Cooke	M 0409 967 084
Gary Coleman ...H	9808 3716 M 0418 108 274
Darryl Pierce	M 042 8746 139
Mark Tregellas	M 0417 840 692
Nicholas White . .H	9386 3970 M 0427 110 143
or email: directors@rimstone.org.au	



Shades of Death cave (M-3) - Courtesy Liz Rogers



Shades of Death cave (M-3) - Courtesy Liz Rogers

More photos of M-3 cave [are in a Facebook Album](#).