



## Rimstone News

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

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### Editorial

In this edition of the *Rimstone News* there are details about the upcoming working bee on November 10-11, just a couple of weeks away. Your assistance at the working bee will be greatly appreciated, even if you don't have any specific skills. We can find a good job for you — every little bit will help (more information below).

Also below there are some informative updates on both the Scrubby Creek and Shades of Death caves and property (carried over from the August newsletter). This includes information about a university Geology and Plant Life Course field trip last December to Scrubby Creek. Make sure to see this, with photos, in the following pages.

**Rob Brain, Newsletter editor**

Feel free to send feedback or suggestions, comments, etc. to the Rimstone Co-operative directors: [directors@rimstone.org.au](mailto:directors@rimstone.org.au).

### Homeleigh working bee 10-11 November, 2018

Our beloved accommodation facility needs some loving care and attention from time to time, and it's now that time of the year to do the spring-clean and summer preparation. Apparently the whole Buchan area is very dry, but with bursts of undergrowth after brief rain periods. So the summer preparation will be vital.

#### So your help is really needed!

At this working bee, happening very soon, we will be doing a few things including: applying paint to the new upper weatherboards (that we installed May 2017 — [see Facebook photos here](#)), mowing the lawn (again) and tidying the garden ready for summer. As well as many little things that need doing around the place — eg. whipper snipping, dusting, cob webbing, odd paint jobs, etc..

Gary Coleman and Paul Brooker are coordinating the activities, so feel free to contact them for more details. And you will need to book your accommodation with the Booking Officer.

### Rimstone Co-op Calendar

November 10-11 Homeleigh Working Bee

December 9-15 Latrobe University Geology and Plant Life Field Course at Buchan, based at Homeleigh.

### Booking accommodation at Homeleigh

To book accommodation, please make sure to use the email address: [accomm@rimstone.org.au](mailto:accomm@rimstone.org.au) so that the on-duty person can reply promptly. (Else your request might get lost.)

### Annual Membership Fees reminder

Some members would have received their invoice for this year's annual subs. Many thanks to those who have acted on that invoice and paid already.

I am having an issue with the MYOB software that I am using that is preventing me from completing the issue of invoices. If you have not yet received your invoice — it isn't you it's me. Please pay your annual subs (\$50) even though you don't yet have your invoice. I will get statements out as soon as I have resolved the issue. See relevant bank details at the end of this newsletter.

Remember that only financial members are eligible for the members' accommodation rates at Homeleigh (and its free at working bees!).

**Nigel Cooke (Treasurer)**

### Scrubby Creek property update

Since the last newsletter back in August, the Scrubby Creek property (Tufa Fencing project) working bee took place with a large crowd in attendance, and the much anticipated fencing project is now completed.

You can see a few photos in the public space of our [Rimstone Co-op Facebook pages](#).

One outstanding task is to install a water trough outside the fence, but filled from the spring water.

### Child safe policy

Many of our members might be well aware of the recent legislation regarding child safety, and the resulting implementation of child safe policies by many organisations.

The Rimstone directors discussed this at length and have adopted a Child Safe Policy. We do not have members under 18 and therefore, as members, we do not need to have Working With Children checks. The policy requires reporting to the police if you suspect problems. The policy is displayed together with "Child Safe Toolkit" in the foyer at Homeleigh.

You can also see the [full policy on our website](#).

### AGM 2018 minutes

In case you missed it, we had our AGM a few weeks ago. The draft minutes of that meeting are now [on the website](#) for you to peruse.

### Scrubby Creek Cave and Property (August 2018 update)

Buchan and Murrindal are experiencing an extremely severe drought. Some local farmers are experiencing stock deaths. The soak that fills the top dam next to Slippery Pinch Rd is virtually dry as is the second dam and the water trough. The Scrubby Creek spring from the cave has nearly stopped flowing and has the lowest flow anyone can remember; and is the only source of water on the property.

The original unused Scrubby Creek Cave gate was removed and the lock on the newer gate has been replaced. Removing the gate has made access easier. This was done in February.



*Tufa Terraces in drought  
(Dec 2017) (see in FB)*

Last December (2017) the Latrobe University Geology and Plant Life Field Course students worked on identifying plant life in the tufa ponds and down the creek. As a part of their course they were involved in practical conservation management which involved cutting back the blackberries around the tufa terraces and applying herbicide to the cut ends.

Paul Brooker followed this up with some blackberry spray in March. This will need to be



*Blackberry clearing (Dec 2017) (see in FB)*

done systematically until we have the blackberries contained. This field course is being run again this December (2018) when more practical conservation work will be undertaken (blackberry control).



*Applying herbicide to blackberries  
(Dec 2017) (see in FB)*

The Geology and Plant Life Course students and staff have identified the major trees along Scrubby Creek as well as the Australian Wild Sorghum which is on the rocky surrounds overlooking the tufa terraces. In time we will try to protect this with some fencing.

Dr John Morgan is keen to re-establish the Austral Coneflower (*Rhaponticum austral*) in Victoria. It was recorded in 1854 by Ferdinand von Mueller but has not been recorded in Victoria since (F. Mueller; East Gippsland, by the Murrindal River, north of Buchan).



*Rhaponticum australe  
(rhaus01-bri) (see in FB)*

John Morgan has seed from Queensland where it still occurs and has propagated some. We have encouraged him to do some trial planting on the amphitheatre

overlooking the tufa terraces. This will be done this spring with some protective barriers.

 See more [Scrubby Creek property photos](#) on Facebook.

### Scrubby discussion at AGM

In response to the Rimstone directors' circulation of Rhys Maddern-Wellington's criticism of the time taken in the fencing of the Scrubby Creek tufa terraces, we have received several written responses and one verbal communication acknowledging the reasons, and supportive of the directors efforts.

As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, the fencing work has now been completed.

### Shades of Death Cave and Property (August 2018 update)

Daryl Carr has been busy managing the cleaning up of the surface property that was a bit over grown and in need of tidying up. It is planned to replace the corrugated iron on the entrance roof. Local supporter Greg Brick has offered us materials for this – which is much appreciated.

Miles Pierce has investigated the generator and lighting system and has recommended some changes to the voltage regulator and venting the exhaust outside the shed. For the present, the lighting system in the cave will not be modified beyond electrical safety checking.

The infrastructure in the cave is getting an overhaul. The steps on the top flight of wooden steps have been replaced with a plastic composite board as they were rotted out. Other steps and rails have been rust-treated. This work is still in progress.

For the present, it is proposed once things are tidied up to have both a celebration opening of the cave and then to have open days on occasion. We do not wish to run a Show Cave but we believe open days will allow the community and friends to enjoy the cave and to obtain an understanding of the cave and associated landscape.

John and Kim Van Dyk have provided us with their map of the cave. This is allowing us to prepare projects to clean parts of the cave and track-mark other areas so that we can provide sustainable recreational caving opportunities in the cave.

It may be we will have a simple gate into the upper reaches of the cave. For the present all trips beyond the "developed part of the cave" will need to be part of designated projects associated

with surveying, assessment, cleaning and track marking.



*John Engel speleothem sampling trip,  
Lillypilly Cave entrance (NW)*

Rimstone has encouraged research into the Shades of Death Cave. Prof Jon Woodhead of Melbourne University with his PhD student John Engel have taken speleothem samples from the cave and from the nearby associated Murrindal Cave and Lillypilly Cave as part of a study of past climates revealed in the area caves. During earlier studies the methods were not sensitive enough to provide dates earlier than about 500,000 years old. Newer methods with uranium lead dating should overcome this and provide answers to when the speleothems formed.

### Paying your member subs

Following are the details for making your annual member fee payments.

Bank details:

Account name: Rimstone Cooperative  
Commonwealth Bank

BSB: 063 011

Account number: 1008 6510

Reference: **Your Surname "Subs"**

It is important to use your surname and the word subs in the reference for the deposit so that we can reconcile it against your account.

### Contacting directors

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