



Rimstone News

Official correspondence of Rimstone Cooperative Ltd

Established 1974

ABN: 91 969 795 268

No. 36 – December 2023

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

Contact Rimstone Co-op:

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

Editorial

Here we are, another month has passed and Christmas is getting so very close, and the Rimstone Co-operative directors have gathered up some great information for the co-operative members. This includes an update on the last meeting of directors, and a "position vacant" role in need of a volunteer.



We do hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Rimstone Co-operative newsletter, and may everyone have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and festive season.

Rob Brain
Newsletter editor

Send feedback to: directors@rimstone.org.au.

Nadine's update

Amidst the less-than-ideal weather driving into Buchan this weekend (2-3 December) and the unfortunate cancellation of our Scrubby Creek Cave trip, it was heartening to see Homeleigh perched gracefully on the hill, untouched by rising water levels (see photo next page).

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who shared their emails and positive thoughts in response to our new monthly newsletter updates. I'm eager to hear more about what topics and updates our members would like beyond these regular communications. While we aim to keep everyone informed with monthly updates, our intention is to provide a concise and enjoyable snapshot of Homeleigh life without overwhelming inboxes.

As the festive season approaches and new appliances find their way into our homes, let's all be mindful of our community guidelines. A friendly reminder: please consult with the directors before bringing any old appliances to Homeleigh. This helps us manage costs and ensure that the items align with our community needs.

With this in mind, Peter has taken the lead in organising the testing of all power cords around

Upcoming Rimstone events

3-6 December – M3 Working Bee
(postponed)

15-17 December – Homeleigh Working Bee

2024 – Rimstone Cooperative's 50th birthday – Put that in your calendar now!

Please note: That there are some upcoming weekends where Homeleigh is not available as usual, or is already heavily booked. See more details under the Bookings report below.

Homeleigh. This ongoing effort, while incurring costs per item, is essential to regularly check for potential complications that could lead to fires, safeguarding the well-being of our Homeleigh property.

Additionally, we're well-stocked in the kitchen department with an abundance of plates, bowls, and cups. Your generosity is appreciated, but currently, we don't require more kitchenware. And let's face it, nobody needs a second-hand frying pan, as there's usually a good reason they were replaced.

Since our last newsletter, the septic tank has been cleared, ensuring no unpleasant odours for the upcoming bustling weekends when Homeleigh is fully booked.

Looking ahead, our internal bathroom is set for a working bee during the first week of December, with the goal of completion by Christmas. A special thanks to Gary for his dedicated efforts in making this goal achievable.

As we wrap up another year, surrounded by an awesome community of cavers, I can't wait to see what the next year brings and the progress we can make together. Cheers to more shared experiences and the cosy vibes of Homeleigh on the hill. Wishing you all a fantastic and safe Christmas and New Year!

Nadine Muresan (Chairman)



The Buchan River in flood (early Dec 2023)

Wanted – Homeleigh Supplies (co-opted officer)

After 18 (yes, 18!) years managing supplies at Homeleigh Sandra Brooker is hanging up her Purchasing Manager boots and returning to civilian life. Thank you Sandra for all your hard work!

So, we need to find a replacement.

Are you able to help with Homeleigh Supplies?

The job consists of maintaining a list of consumable items (cleaning products, light bulbs, etc.) to be stocked, and together with a list of preferred sources of supply (did someone say a spreadsheet?) and arranging the purchase of items as required. It is not a requirement that you take the supplies to Buchan yourself, the directors can arrange for them to be picked up from you and they can also advise you of current stock levels as reported to them from time to time by the Members in Charge (the MICs).

This is a highly desirable position and hasn't been on the market since 2005, so please hurry to avoid disappointment. 😊

Peter Stewart

Treasurer's update

Following on from last month's note about MIC (Member in Charge) duties, the next issue for the MIC is documentation.

The booking sheet record needs to be returned to the treasurer within 3 days of the end of the trip. All sections of the form need to be filled out. This includes the contact details for the members or guests making payments. It is important for members to ensure that their financial transaction is correctly recorded on the form and that both the MIC and the payer have signed the form. This is particularly important where a cash transaction is involved. In that instance, it verifies that the payer

has made the payment and the MIC has received it. Members should exercise their right to verify that the form has correctly recorded their transaction and has been signed off by the MIC.

The booking record sheet forms part of the annual audit. It is an official and formal document on which part of the audit is based. It must be accurate and of a presentation standard that allows it to be easily verified using other available records.

I'd like to make a special call out to Rob Brain. His last booking record return (in October) set the standard for how these things should be presented. A very tidy document with all sections filled out and all the information necessary to very easily verify and put in with the audit documents. Very much appreciated by me.

**Nigel Cooke
(Treasurer and Membership)**

Membership update

Annual subscription payments have been trickling in but there are still many co-operative shareholders who are not financial members.

Numerous shareholders have been caught out recently when they have booked in to Homeleigh and been charged guest rates instead of member's rates. They have quickly paid their subs and reverted back to member's rates.

This is one way to get members to pay their subs; but not one I enjoy doing. It causes considerable angst for me and the member concerned. It would be much better for all concerned if members would simply pay their subs without further prompting.

I thank all of our members who have paid their subs on time. I greatly appreciate your diligence.

As of the last directors' meeting, there were 10 share holders who were facing forfeiture of their shares for long term unpaid subs. Of those, I have had correspondence from 7 to either confirm they are resigning from the co-operative or that they have paid their arrears. I will continue to chase the remaining three until the next directors' meeting. At which time their shares will be officially forfeited if they still haven't paid.

**Nigel Cooke
(Treasurer and Membership)**

Rimstone Co-op directors

Nadine Muresan, Nigel Cooke,
Peter Stewart, Paul Brooker, Tom Elms.
Contact by email: directors@rimstone.org.au

Homeleigh Bookings

Last weekend (late November) saw a very large VSA beginners trip being hosted from Homeleigh. The 33 beds in the main house were all spoken for. [VSA = Victorian Speleological Association].

Its great to see VSA putting on big trips like that. There are more large bookings coming up in the coming months.

The weekend of 1-3 December is busy with a VSA trip and a VSCT (Victorian Scout Caving Team) in residence.

One of our members is having a big family gathering from 23-28 December and all beds have been booked over that time.

VSCT are back during the period 3-7 January and again over 16-18 February.

Many of the weekends in between have smaller bookings of fewer than 10 people.

Daryl Carr is running an M3 working bee over 3-6 December (since postponed) and Nadine Muresan is running a Homeleigh working bee over 9-10 December. Both working bees will be well attended.

Those busy dates in summary:-

1-3 December – VSA and VSCT
23-28 December – Family gathering
3-7 January – VSCT
16-18 February – VSCT

The working bee dates:-

3-6 December – M3 Working Bee
15-17 December – Homeleigh Working Bee

As a reminder, only members can book accommodation at Homeleigh and the correct email address to request accom bookings is:

accomm@rimstone.org.au

If members are running a trip and have invited guests, then the member must book on behalf of their guests and take responsibility for the conduct of their guests for the duration of their stay.

Nigel Cooke
(Treasurer and Membership)

Rimstone Directors' Meeting summary 13 November 2023

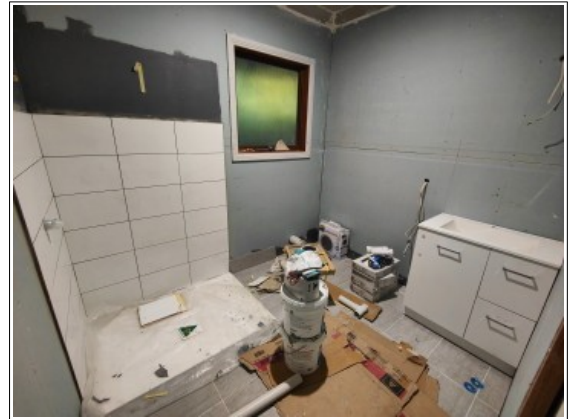
The Rimstone Directors Meeting held on November 13 saw the participation of: Paul Brooker, Nigel Cooke, Tom Elms, Nadine Muresan, and Peter Stewart.

Nigel, in his role as the Membership Secretary, delivered insights into the three new membership applications. Further deliberations ensued on the issue of unfinancial members, wherein Nigel

revealed that out of 122 members, only 82 were currently financial. To address this, efforts were directed towards reaching out to the 10 members who had been unfinancial for three or more years.

The agenda unfolded with discussions on Homeleigh-related matters.

Noteworthy discussions revolved around the replacement of a faulty sensor in the fire alarm by Daryl Carr, the solar system's progress, ongoing work in the internal bathroom (see photo), and



The latest on the (new) internal bathroom

inspections of the large bungalow. Practical considerations regarding building materials and potential solutions were explored. The session also touched upon essential safety measures, including a quote to test and tag appliances around Homeleigh. For this reason it is important to mention to members that Homeleigh should not be used as a dumping place for members unwanted electrical goods.

Additionally, the meeting addressed future working bees and the resignation of Sandra Brooker as Homeleigh Supplies manager.

Moving beyond Homeleigh matters, the directors engaged in discussions related to M-49 Scrubby Creek, encompassing a cave rescue intercom and a detailed analysis of weed control.

The meeting concluded with a motion to engage East Gippsland Building Permits for the preparation of Essential Safety Measures documentation for Homeleigh.

The next Directors' Meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 11, 2023.

Tom Elms (director)

Booking accommodation at Homeleigh

Please remember to request accommodation using the proper email address so that your request is received promptly. Then our on-duty accommodation officer can reply promptly. (Else your request might get lost.)

Homeleigh Booking Officer
email to: accomm@rimstone.org.au