



Rimstone Newsletter

No. 4 — February 2009

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

ABN: 91 969 795 268

New Postal Address:

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Homeleigh bursts at the seams!!

Well, not really; but we have grabbed your attention.

Over recent months there have been many people staying at Homeleigh, including some rather large groups. This included the post-ASF conference trip in early January.

All this activity has resulted in the Coop being just a little flush with funds (or perhaps, not so tight for funds). This is a really good position for us to be in.

Wildlife and snakes!

The odd snake has been spotted around the Homeleigh bungalows, so please take care when tramping around. Please be alert; but don't be alarmed.

Fire hazard generally

With the hot summer now upon us, it is important to be always vigilant, and make sure there are no fire hazards around the building. Please keep an eye on this potential issue, both inside and outside Homeleigh.

Homeleigh is clean and tidy

On a recent visit (December 2008), the Rimstone directors did notice the general state of tidiness and cleanliness with Homeleigh.

This must be due to the recent visitors and the directors are very pleased with the very good and thorough job of cleaning. Well done and thank you to all those who continue to do the right thing.

Rubbish disposal

This is now a problem at Homeleigh because of local tip fees, and the limited tip opening hours.

Please NOTE: The MIC needs to do a rubbish run on the Sunday morning whilst the tip is open, and make sure to empty the wheely bin. The current tip fee is \$4. The MIC can take this out of the accommodation fees, PROVIDED the receipt is included with the accommodation sheet and monies when submitted. Normally, any money spent by the MIC on supplies, etc. are NOT to be deducted from the submitted monies; but the \$4 tip fee is now an exception to this.

NOTE: Recyclables go to the tip for free, so please continue to separate these from general rubbish.

Unfinancial members

It is that time of year where we try to catch up with those people who have not renewed their Rimstone membership recently (or for a year or two). Those members who have outstanding fees as at end December 2008 (and the amount outstanding) are listed below. If you are one of those, please contact the Treasurer to arrange payment asap (details above).

Jonathon Aujard	\$100
Donald Barnard	\$250
Anthony Culberg	\$100
Mark Ellaway	\$250
Brendan Ferrari	\$100
Rudy Frank	\$50
Eric Lenser	\$150
Thomas Maggs	\$150
Lindsay McKay	\$150
Gerhard Noss	\$50
Thomas Porritt	\$50
Jennifer Sandbach	\$350
Dave Smith	\$100
Phillip Steel	\$100
Peter Stewart	\$50
Alfons Vandenberg	\$200

It is highly possible that some of the people on this list are currently out of contact, having moved on and not given us forwarding details. If you know of anyone on the list in this situation, please contact them on our behalf.

Rimstone Web site

Yes, the Rimstone web site www.rimstone.org.au was not accessible for a few weeks in 2008, due to a technical hardware disruption at the data centre that hosts the service at very reasonable rates. This should not happen again.

Also, we are updating the web site from time to time, and our last AGM meeting minutes and Rimstone newsletters are now available there.

Plastering project and refurbished bedrooms

As some members are aware, a major replastering project was planned and commenced quite some time ago. The goal is to re-line the Homeleigh interior walls.

You might have noticed during late 2008 that

some of the Homeleigh bedrooms are now being refurbished. Two have had new plaster walls and ceiling installed, to make them a lot more liveable, and more appealing to some of our less-casual clientele.

This refurbishment program will continue in 2009 (and in later years if required). Please be understanding during this time whilst the works are still in progress.

NO Electric Heaters please!!

Please note that electric heaters are **NOT TO BE USED** at Homeleigh at all!!

In a recent incident, someone left one running unattended in a bedroom at Homeleigh, and it overheated and severely singed the carpet (it actually burned the carpet). Please see the photo here.



This was so close to starting a fire which could have destroyed the entire building. And the heaters push the electricity bill up enormously. We can actually manage without these heaters if we come prepared and have the right clothing.

Please help us in this regard.

New Plaster

We have taken delivery of a truck load of plaster to be used in our plastering project (free freight charge for the quantity ordered). It is being stored in the caretakers quarters, so if you need to go in there, please be careful not to damage it.

We now need the services of a few people who are handy with plaster to help work through this large project as quickly as possible. Please See next item.

Working Bee Hit Squads

The directors are planning a number of small focussed working bees using special hit squads of about 4 people.

The goal of the hit squads will be to hit Buchan for a couple of days (a weekend or mid-week), and work with a local professional plasterer to complete the re-plastering of one bedroom. If successful, this approach will be repeated, and will allow us to make a lot of progress in 2009.

Anybody who can help with these hit squads can call Gary (9808-3716) or Greg (9752-5288) asap to discuss the possibilities, and make plans for a date (or email:- <mailto:directors@rimstone.org.au>).

Regular Working bees

There was a very fruitful working bee in June 2008. Many thanks to all those who attended.

Fantastic progress was made with more than 20 maintenance tasks; plus the plastering in two bedrooms.

The next regular working bee is now being planned to tackle regular maintenance tasks, for execution very soon. Stay tuned for details.

NOTE: Please, no more donations of pre-loved items for Homeleigh.

We have noticed that people are disposing of various pre-loved items from time to time by donating them to Rimstone and leaving them at Homeleigh.

In as much as Rimstone is very grateful, many of these items are actually surplus to requirements, and in some cases electrically unsafe or costly to install and commission, or costly to dispose of.

This includes: various appliances and kitchen cutlery and crockery. We already have enough of this stuff. In some cases, we have too much and it will require disposal, maybe to an Opp Shop.

So, please, no more donations of items without first discussing this with a current director (see list of names below). If we are missing anything, we will let you know.

Easy fire lighting — hazard in the Dining Room

Please make sure that paper, cardboard and other combustible materials are NOT left close to the wood heater in the Dining Room (for obvious reasons).

This is just in case someone lights the fire without first dealing with the same. In fact we don't need this stuff because firelighters are available for lighting the heater. They work much better than paper and cardboard.



Homeleigh lawns and gardens.

Over many recent months there seems to have been little opportunity for Homeleigh guests (members) to run the lawn mower around and tidy up the garden, and the grass has become very long on some occasions.

This is easily understandable as many of us visit with the intention of caving, or relaxing, or something other than home maintenance and gardening.

One alternative is to have more frequent working bees. But we know from experience that the same die-hard dedicated few members turn up for working bees, and many other members almost never attend. This is not fair for the dedicated few. So, the only alternative for garden care is to pay someone to do it. We tried this in the past, and got ripped off.

We are now trying another local contact for periodic garden care; and costing us something like \$100 per month on average. The good news is that going forward, the lawns/garden should look better most of the time. The bad news is that it is costing us money. Any other suggestions on how to tackle this are most welcome.

Shed door

After accessing the shed, please make sure to properly lock and secure the shed door to prevent unauthorised access.

After a recent trip, someone recently left the shed door padlocked in the “unlocked” position (see photo). After a trip, the departing MIC needs to double-check that the padlock is correctly applied to the door bolt.



Homeleigh accommodation payments

Accommodation payments are preferred as cash.

However, we will continue to accept credit card payments where a Homeleigh guest needs to use it; but we will have to charge an administration fee of 5% (assuming that there is no legal issue regarding this amount — currently being researched). This is because the bank is charging us about 4+% of the transaction amount. On a large sum of money, these fees add up to lost revenue (it goes to the bank).

New Fridge — operating capacity now restored and modernised

As many members know, fridge number 4 at Homeleigh (the smaller one that was holding up the phone) had been making horrible grinding-like noises

for a while, and refused to keep its door shut.

So late in 2008 the directors found a bargain buy — a second hand fridge in very good condition for only fifty bucks (a liquidated estate). The sad news is that this newish fridge sat in Mt.Waverley for several months waiting to hitch a ride to Buchan, but there were no takers.

So, between Christmas and New Year we hired a small trailer with tall mesh sides (cost \$106), and made a special overnight trip to Buchan to deliver the fridge, plus a filing cabinet for the local storage of files, plus 8 chairs that you might notice around Homeleigh, plus 2 mops and a good mop bucket. These were delivered just in time for the deluge of visitors that were expected after the ASF Conference.

Maintenance snippets

Current plans include: new shower tap spindles and fittings, and new toilet cisterns (they come complete with bowl as a set, so we are doing the package). The poor old tumble dryer carked it, so it is now gone, and will not be replaced.

Homeleigh mowers

We are considering buying a new 4-stroke mower (using standard unleaded petrol) to make it easier for people to run a mower around the grounds. The existing mower(s) is 2-stroke requiring a special mix of fuel and oil, and is/are rather old.

Dahlsen's Hardware Bairnsdale

As agreed at the 2008 AGM, the account at Dahlsen's Hardware store in Bairnsdale is now terminated (see AGM minutes). So, please don't try to charge anything to our non-existent account.

Post-Christmas crowds!

Many thanks to Rhonwen Pierce during the recent large-group stay at Homeleigh (post-ASF conference), acting as the MIC and keeping everyone in line. Good job.

Homeleigh entrance foyer

The notice boards in the entrance foyer at Homeleigh have been tidied up, with some older materials taken away, and more current materials posted. And the contents have been rearranged to make it easier to find things. More important materials are towards the middle of the main notice board and at eye level, and other materials posted around them.

2009 AGM.

A date and venue are under consideration for this event in September/October. BUT, are there any volunteers or suggestions for a venue please? If so, please email the idea to the directors (see address below).

Rimstone Directors — Gary Coleman, Paul Brooker, Greg Leeder, Lou Williams, Rob Brain.

Newsletter feedback, or send changed email address details to: brain@hotkey.net.au

And you can email to all directors: <mailto:directors@rimstone.org.au>