



Rimstone Newsletter

No. 9 — May 2011

Rimstone Cooperative Ltd.
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A Community Advancement Society

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WORKING BEE! July 2011 **Working Bee! Working BEE!!**

At the recent directors' meeting we decided to have a Working Bee very soon — **9-10 July!!** We are avoiding long weekends this time, and hoping for some more helpers.

The plastering works in the two hallways will be progressed and hopefully lots of painting. Also some of the more regular maintenance tasks. Please book your accomm asap!



original photo:
Glenn Baddeley

Local Relationships published

Some members might have seen two articles published in the *Buchan Bulletin* in late 2010 regarding Rimstone and Homeleigh — see copies included with this newsletter.

These articles were written and submitted to further strengthen the relationships that we have with the local population.

At the last directors' meeting, the team agreed that there currently seems to be no problem with relationships between Rimstone Cooperative and the local folks. Perhaps the collaboration with the *Buchan Bulletin* staff (Rhonda Coates) and published articles are helping in this regard, along with other activities.

Easter 2011 at Buchan

Even though the Easter period is a very busy time in Buchan, Homeleigh is often fairly quiet with just a couple of families enjoying the country atmosphere — except for this year.

The 2011 Easter period saw some excitement and some really good local PR. See the *Buchan Bulletin* news story for details.

AGM 2011 — Venue??

The 2011 Rimstone AGM is being planned for a Friday night, probably in September. After using a Scout hall in Wantirna South for a couple of years, we feel it is time to once again have the

AGM in the comfort of someone's home.

So, we are keenly on the lookout for a suitable venue. If you know of a home that might be available, please drop a line to the Directors (see email address below).

www.buchan.vic.au

The Buchan community now has their own web site up and running, with their own domain name. We are in the process of reviewing the content to see how best Rimstone can assist, and make some contribution to the web site content.

Please visit the web site and explore it, and consider any options.

Directors changing?

At the upcoming 2011 AGM later this year, Rob Brain will be retiring as a director. Paul Brooker has advised that he is interested in staying on as a director, but looking for someone else to take over the role of Treasurer. So it is hoped that the resulting board of directors will have someone on board with an interest in things financial (Treasurer "tuition" can be provided).

New beds and mattresses

A new bed has been purchased (for Room 10) with a matching mattress, and new mattresses throughout. These replace the ageing mattresses that have been around for a rather long time.

Please note that these furnishings are NOT to be moved from room to room. It was noticed in February that someone had moved the new double-bed mattress that matches a specific bed in Room 10 out to the Bungalow. Please note that this is not to happen — the mattress could be damaged in transit, and the bungalow is renowned for possums leaving "messages" on beds.

If you notice a guest rearranging the furniture, please be sure to advise them not to. The MIC is always expected to monitor this.

Women on Farms

The Women On Farms organisation is planning a large function in Buchan in March of 2012, and

they have requested that we make some beds available for the period March 16-18, 2012.

Members' reimbursement?

There are occasions when members might spend some money and then expect reimbursement from the Cooperative.

Minor expenses might be able to be readily reimbursed (eg. rubbish disposal, cleaning consumables or minor breakdown repair costs); but all other expenses require the prior approval of the directors. Without prior approval, the expense will NOT be reimbursed.

In the case of small and minor expenses that are necessary, please make sure to submit the relevant Tax Invoice with the words "Tax Invoice" clearly shown, as well as the supplier's name, date and amount. The auditors insist on proper record keeping in the interests of all members. Without the proper records, we might need to deny reimbursement.

For not-small expenses, it is best to consult a director before incurring the expense.

Bank account deposits?

Sometimes we see various amounts of money deposited into the Coop bank account with out useful information explaining the deposit — what it is for, or who has paid it.

If it is members' fees, than a note like "FEES" and the person's name will be clear. If for accommodation, then the person's surname and date of stay is required.

Many people are doing the right thing, but occasionally someone makes it difficult to reconcile the accounts. So please make sure to always include these details.

Last working bee (Nov 2010)

A lot of great progress was made at the last working bee on the Cup Weekend last November. This was despite a very low attendance, with basically the same few members carrying the load for the whole Coop.

Many thanks to all those who did attend. The replacing of the faulty smoke alarm system was completed with new smoke alarms in all rooms, as well as the new panel in the front entry.

We also managed to complete the new plastering works down the hallway to the back, and along the back passage — up to the stage where all plaster sheets are up. On a subsequent trip, Gary has managed to finish off the cornice

along both passages. The next task is to stop up this plaster in preparation for sealing and painting very soon.

This plaster work required the installation of a false ceiling down both hallways in order to give a level ceiling height all the way through. This new ceiling is sitting a little lower than the original (about a foot lower); but still very high.

If you haven't seen the works lately, you will be surprised at the difference. You can see some of Rob's photos from the last two working bees in the public section of the Facebook site here: www.tinyurl.com/rimstone-nov2010

Mower gone :-)

If anyone has been looking keenly for the lawn mower to mow the Homeleigh lawns, we need to advise that the small mower has died and gone to heaven. And with a young local contractor maintaining the lawns when we are not around, there is less use for that mower now.

Maintenance activities

Once enough progress is made with the plastering works, we will be replacing the old, deteriorating windows along the west wall. This will be a little expensive, but with reasonable usage we do have the funds to cover it.

Homeleigh — RECENT PROBLEMS

Sadly we need to report that in late March or early April, some of the people staying at Homeleigh left without due care and responsibility.

On a subsequent visit a few weeks later it was noticed that a couple of bedroom windows were left wide open — posing a severe security risk which would enable anyone to easily gain entry. And the stench from rotting cooked meat in one oven took 3 days to flush out!!

And the fridges were left inappropriately — one was left running, consuming electricity unnecessarily, while the other fridges were all closed with the power off, resulting in a growth of mould requiring some elbow grease to remove.

In April we also observed an excess number of mice around the town, with a couple seen scampering around the kitchen at Homeleigh. Once the oven stodge was removed, and 14 mice trapped, this immediate problem seems to have passed.

Please note that the kitchen area should always be cleaned at the start and end of each visit to ensure appropriate hygienic conditions.

Rimstone Directors — Rob Brain (Newsletter, Web), Nick White (Secretary and Bookings), Paul Brooker (Treasurer), Gary Coleman (maint. ph: 9808-3716), Greg Leeder (maintenance).

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