

Rimstone News

Official Correspondence of Rimstone Cooperative Ltd

ESTABLISHED 1974

Registered Address: 15 Gelantipy Rd Buchan VIC 3885

August 2012

Contact Rimstone:

Mail - PO Box 2543

Mt Waverley, Victoria 3149

Homeleigh Phone – 03 5155 9520

Treasurer & Enquiries - info@rimstone.org.au

Homeleigh Bookings – accomm@rimstone.org.au

Directors – directors@rimstone.org.au

Rimstone Acquires Scrubby Creek Cave Property.

On May 10 this year, Rimstone settled the contract to acquire Allotment 18C, Parish of Buchan, on which the Scrubby Creek Cave (M 49) entrance is located.

This project would not have happened without the generous support and encouragement of members and other members of the caving community. It was completely supported by the ASF's Karst Conservation Fund (KCF) through which members, cavers and supporters across Australia donated. The Karst Conservation Fund Scrubby Creek Appeal has provided some \$55,000 from donations made for the purpose. The Rimstone directors made available some \$15,000 from the cooperative's funds on the basis that this did not jeopardise the operations of Rimstone nor the funds for the continuing renovations at Homeleigh. The remainder of the purchase price was borrowed.

A number of individuals and organisations donated directly to Rimstone Cooperative Ltd. The directors also resolved that all money received from new membership applications go towards the acquisition. We have a number of new members as a result and we welcome them. This project is the first such acquisition of cave property by a non-profit Community Service Society associated with the caving community. The challenge is now to pay off the loans and to manage the property sustainably whilst conserving the caves, the tufa terraces and the remnant rainforest along the creek. Eventually we anticipate an interpreted walk of the karst, the tufa terraces and the creek rainforest area. The directors are seeking to agist stock or a lessee to graze the land.

The directors are preparing our strategic plan for the management and use of the property. We will need your energy and skills for this.

The appeal for funds is still open as a number of members and friends have loaned money to enable us to settle the contract. Please consider donating in this new financial year (details below). Contact a director for information. Forms for donating through the ASF KCF are also available from www.caves.org.au.

Homeleigh Working Bee.

The next working bee held at Homeleigh to carry on with the major renovation works on **August 25-26 2012**. There are also many small jobs to be done along with the major re-plastering works. Please come along and do your bit (see item on next page regarding details). Notify Paul Brooker paul@pitchblack.com.au by email or phone as below.

Can't make the August working bee?

How about the **November working bee**
24-25/11/2012.

Put these dates in your diary now and come to both!!
Homeleigh still needs your help!

Rimstone Calendar 2012

Aug 24-26	Homeleigh Working Bee
Sept 2-4	Cave Guides Gathering @ Buchan
Sept 28	Annual General Meeting (details & official notice on page 2).
Oct 27-28	Scrubby Property Launch & BBQ (more details to come soon)
Nov 24-25	Homeleigh Working Bee

Details of some of these events are over the page

Need to contact a director?

Nicholas White:	H 9328 4154 M 0427110143
Paul Brooker:	H 5148 0406 M 0418384245
Nigel Cooke:	M 0409967084
Peter Robertson:	H 5663 2276 M 0430728836
Gary Coleman:	H 9808 3716 M 0418108274

or directors@rimstone.org.au

Rimstone AGM

Official Notice of the Rimstone Cooperative Ltd 2012 Annual General Meeting

This is to advise that the 2012 AGM will be held: on **Friday September 28, commencing at 8 pm.**

Venue: 123 Manningham St Parkville (the Secretary's place)

Please bring a small plate of munchies to contribute to the snacks and supper

New Members

The directors welcome the following new members:

Cath Hemley Email cfhemley@gmail.com, Mobile 0431 02 3350. Cath is a VSA committee member who has been also editing the VSA Newsletter. Originally from NSW she has enthusiastically taken to caving in Victoria.

Roy Furness Email roy@sandpipersolutions.com.au Phone 03 98948756. Roy and his family have been visiting Homeleigh for some years with member friends. It is great that they have now joined up and are members.

Stephen Fordyce A new member who visits Buchan and is interested in caving. Email stephen.fordyce@gmail.com

Homeleigh Working Bee. 25-26 August.

Work will continue with the ongoing restoration of Homeleigh. Of particular importance this working bee will involve some spring cleaning. Some may be aware that Homeleigh suffered an invasion of rats over the winter months and as such we need to focus our attention on bringing the kitchen back to a hygienic standard. We need to scrub the walls from ceiling to floor, behind the stoves and fridges, in the ovens and cupboards and clean the ceiling fans. While in the cupboards we need to fix a leaking tap under the kitchen sink. The usual spider web clean up inside and out needs to take place.

If you have been to Homeleigh lately you will notice our wonderful hedge is taking over the driveway and needs to have a gentle trim!

In order to simplify our yard maintenance it is intended to remove a number of old boundary fence posts that have been long abandoned. This will reduce the effort required to mow the grass. Speaking of mowing...we need to get into the bottom corners of the garden with our newly modified and improved brushcutter and knock down the weeds and grass.

The plastering program is ongoing with works continuing in the passageways. Room 15 has been slowly transformed into a fine abode with some finishing touches required in the painting department.

So there is plenty of work for all skill levels. If you have not been to Homeleigh for a while this is a great chance to come

along and check out the amazing transformation that is taking place. For those new on the Rimstone scene you may be surprised at how social these working bee's can be. It is a great atmosphere to be able to pick the brains of some of those old time cavers in a relaxed environment. You never know what you may learn! Of course the objective is to tick off a few jobs but there is no need to bust one's boiler. If you haven't been to a working bee for a while maybe this is your chance to catch up on what you have missed out on!

If you intend to join the working party could you please notify Paul Brooker (paul@pitchblack.com.au or phone 0418384245) and don't forget to book some accommodation (accomm@rimstone.or.au)

See you all there.

Paul Brooker

Property Manager - Homeleigh

Rimstone Cooperative Ltd.

Bookings.

All Homeleigh bookings should be made to Homeleigh Booking <accomm@rimstone.org.au>. This is important as periodically the booking officer is away and arrangements are made to cover his absence through the accommodation email. Please remember that although bookings are not mandatory, you cannot be assured of a bed if you have not booked. Also bookings are for a bed, not necessarily a room.

Annual Subscriptions.

Annual Subscriptions are due at the AGM. Accounts will be sent out by the Treasurer. There may be people who are in arrears with their annual subscriptions. If you think this might apply to you please contact the Treasurer, Nigel Cooke for details. If your subs are not up to date you cannot use Homeleigh at members' rates, nor can you be a Member in Charge.

In the light of our ongoing renovations and the Scrubby Creek Property purchase, all income is important.

Scrubby Creek Property Launch: October 27 - 28 2012

The official celebration of the acquisition of the property.

Activities will include Saturday morning visits to Scrubby Creek Cave [restricted trip as far as the sump] and walks on the property to include the tufa terraces and downstream creek, followed by a celebratory BBQ at Homeleigh from 3 pm onwards.

Offers of assistance welcome; contact Nicholas White.

Fundraising for Scrubby Creek

The not insignificant debt currently carried by Rimstone needs to be paid as soon as possible. The directors are looking at a number of avenues but all of this takes time. A fundraising Charity Dinner is being planned and Rimstone will be asked to fill 20 tables. This would require at least 20 members to fill a table of 10 people each. It would cost \$150 per head which would include headline act entertainment and meals at a top of town venue. This is being completely organised by a member's corporate contact at no expense to Rimstone, with all profits to help fund the debt incurred by the Cooperative with the purchase of the Scrubby Creek property. Please contact the directors for details, although this is in the early stages of planning.

If other members have some ideas for fundraising please contact the Directors.

Donations for the purchase of the Scrubby Creek Property

Rimstone directors are asking for you and others to make donations. There are two main ways in which people can donate. We are also looking for people who are able to loan money; please contact Nicholas White. Donations can be made in the following way:

1. **Directly to Rimstone Cooperative Ltd.** Anyone who is not a current Rimstone member, who donates \$300 or more DIRECTLY to Rimstone, will be given membership of the Cooperative. The total donation will be put to the Scrubby Creek Project. Membership details will be organised as quickly as possible and membership forms are available from Nicholas White (nicholaswhite@netspace.net.au).

Cheques to be made to *Rimstone Cooperative Ltd* and mailed to the Treasurer, Nigel Cooke PO Box 155 Boronia 3155 (this has slightly less delay than the Rimstone PO Box 2543 Mt Waverley 3149).

Direct payment to account: Rimstone Cooperative Ltd BSB 063011 Account No: 10086510

2. **Via the ASF Karst Conservation Fund.** If you wish to donate through the KCF please use the form downloaded from the ASF website (www.caves.org.au) and follow the instructions. These donations will be tax deductible.

ALL donations are welcome and are urgently needed. For any further details contact the Rimstone Secretary, Nicholas White (nicholaswhite@netspace.net.au) or 03 93284154.

Ongoing renovations at Homeleigh

The Homeleigh property manager, Paul Brooker, needs some feedback and ideas regarding the renovations. After this next working bee it is hoped that the renovation of all but one room of the south wing of bedrooms will be completed. The replacement of the windows and replastering, painting etc of the west wing bedrooms is envisioned as the next task as well as the refurbishment of that last room on the south side. After that we will need to think through ideas on the front living room and the ex caretakers areas and then perhaps the bungalows.

If anyone has any ideas regarding the front living room please let Paul know. This will not happen soon but the planning always takes some time to work through.

There is still plenty to do!