

Rimstone News

Official Correspondence of Rimstone Cooperative Ltd

ESTABLISHED 1974

Registered Address: 15 Gelantipy Rd Buchan VIC 3885

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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 to purchase property.

What a grand way for Rimstone to kick off a new year. It's not everyday our cooperative launches into property acquisition but not resting on our laurels, the directors (led by Nick White) have been busy putting in place final arrangements for settlement on allotment 18C at Buchan. That's right – for those that may have been hiding in a cave for the last month or so, Rimstone has purchased the 105 acre allotment that contains Scrubby Creek cave...among others.

Settlement will take place early May. The easy part has been done. We have signed the contracts. Now the hard work begins. Rimstone needs to secure \$130 000 plus, to pay for the property and associated expenses. There has been collaboration with the ASF and its environmental fund (Karst Conservation Fund) that allows for donations to be channelled through the fund for the purchase of the property. This means that anyone wishing to donate to this fantastic cause can use the donation as a tax-deductible expense – just like donating to most other charities.

This will be a first for caving in Australia. Several cave properties are privately owned with covenants to protect the caves but this will be the first owned by a group dedicated to providing for caving first with accommodation facilities and secondly with its own caves and karst to manage.

Although there have been steady donations to date, we have a long way to go. The response to the initial expressions of interest convinced the Directors to proceed we now need your promises of support to be converted to actual donations before Easter. Information on how to make donations is in this newsletter with the Karst Conservation Fund form.

If you know others outside of the caving/Rimstone circles that you feel would see this project as a worthy cause please encourage them to get involved. We are looking for more donations. The long-term strategies of Rimstone for the property will include rehabilitation of the tufa banks on the Scrubby resurgence, weed control, agistment and income options and looking at opportunities to protect the property long term through a protective covenant. It is anticipated that an interpreted walk will be developed of the karst, the tufa banks and the residual rain forest along Scrubby Creek.

Homeleigh Working Bee.

We can't forget about Homeleigh.

There will be a working bee held at Homeleigh to carry on with the major renovation works on **March 24-25 2012**. There are many small jobs to be done along with the major re-plastering works. Please come along and do your bit. Notify Paul Brooker paul@pitchblack.com.au by email or phone as below.

Can't make the March working bee? How about the August working bee... **25-26/8/2012**

or/and the November working bee **24-25/11/2012**.

Put these dates in your diary now and come to all three!!

Homeleigh needs your help!

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

New Smoke Alarm System.

After installing the updated smoke alarm system we found a few gremlins. There was an intermittent fault causing the alarm to sound. This may not be an issue while Homeleigh is occupied but after hours it caused significant distress to our neighbours. With no one on site to reset the system the alarm would sound for days. So...a timer has been added to the alarm sounders, which mutes the alarm sound after 10 minutes.

What does this mean for you? When first arriving at Homeleigh you should check the smoke alarm system. If the alarm has been activated and the sounders are muted a blue light will appear on the control panel along with an audible buzzer that can be heard inside Homeleigh only. If found in this condition you should follow the resetting instruction located above the alarm control panel. You should also make a note of this on the accommodation sheet and send back to the treasurer following your stay.

Annual Subscriptions.

According to our records there are about 12 people who have yet to pay their annual Rimstone Subscriptions for this financial year (2011/12). That equates to approximately \$600. This is enough income to cover the cost of Grounds Maintenance for a whole year or could fund the replacement of one of the dilapidated bedroom windows.

Particularly with the imminent property purchase, our income is as crucial as ever, so please do your bit and send your subs off to the treasurer ASAP.

Not sure if this effects you? – Contact the treasurer to find out.

This Newsletter was put together by Susan White with material from Paul Brooker and Nicholas White.

***Is this door
locked?***

***Please ensure that upon
vacating Homeleigh all
doors and windows are
locked correctly – in-
cluding the toolshed.***

***Probably the best of
intentions but not actu-
ally locked!***



Scrubby Creek Cave Property Launch

Spring 2012, date to be decided, Weekend to celebrate Rimstone's new ownership of the Scrubby Creek Cave property with activities at the property and at Homeleigh.
(Organising Volunteers needed).

New Members

We need to welcome our new members, some of them joining as part of the Scrubby Creek Cave Appeal:

Neil Wilson Email: neil_mobile@yahoo.com or Mobile 0433 817 113 Neil is a VSA committee member who comes with a long record of UK caving.

Cathy Brown Email: cathyeb@netspeed.com.au or Mobile 0415-155-887 Cathy is the ASF Librarian, a Canberra caver of long standing, a Scrubby Creek donor who has now joined as a Rimstone member.

Claire D'Alterio Email: claire.dalterio@defence.gov.au or Mobile 0477 440 050. Our new RAAF Sale member who organizes the RAAF usage of Homeleigh during their Officer training camps.

Amy Robertson Email: amyware@yahoo.com or Mobile 0407 651 200. Amy has had a long association with Gippsland, VSA and is now in Geeveston, Tasmania.

Re introduction of the Rimstone Bursary Scheme.

Many years ago Rimstone awarded small bursaries to students needing accommodation for studies in the Buchan area. This support resulted in significant work being undertaken in the area. After some years break, the directors are pleased to announce that this has now been reintroduced.

The first recipient is Helen Green, a Geology PhD student at the University of Melbourne who is undertaking a project on the palaeoclimatic potential of Victorian speleothems using Buchan as one of her sites. A short article in Caves Australia 187 explains the project. Helen can be contacted via email: helengreen4@hotmail.com

Donations for the purchase of the Scrubby Creek Property

Rimstone directors are now 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 on the next page of this newsletter and follow those 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.

Support the Scrubby Creek Cave Acquisition Project with a direct donation!



Australian Speleological Federation Inc
ABN: 15 169 919 964
www.caves.org.au

Yes, I would like to support the Scrubby Creek Cave Appeal! All donations over \$2 are tax deductible!

Complete the details below. Receipts will be issued for all donations. To facilitate this and for accurate accounting it is essential that you mail or fax the completed form to:

Scrubby Creek Acquisition Appeal C/- Mrs Grace Matts 176 William Street, Bankstown, NSW, 2200

Fax: Grace Matts (02) 9708 4594

My details

Mr/Ms/Miss/Mrs/Dr.....

Address.....

State.....Postcode.....Daytime phone.....

Mobile.....Email.....

DONATION AMOUNT (please indicate):

\$500 () \$200 () \$100 () \$50 () \$25 () other amount (\$)

I wish my donation to be applied to the Scrubby Creek Cave Acquisition Appeal

Payment Methods

Cheque/Money order Enclosed is my cheque/money order for \$.....

(Payable to Karst Conservation Fund) Mail to Mrs G. Matts at address above.

Credit Card Charge my: Visa Mastercard

Cardholder's name:.....

Card no: _____ Card expiry date: /

Cardholder's signature:..... (Note: donation received this way is via T Culberg's facility. Tony Culberg is a Director and Trustee of the ASF Karst Conservation Fund and has made his merchant facility available)

Direct Transfer Account name ASF Karst Conservation Fund at the CBA in Quirindi, NSW

BSB 062 594 Account No. 2800 2528

When making payment, please make reference of your payment for easy payment identification eg: ScrubbySmith, ScrubbyJones etc

DONATION AMOUNT \$.....

For accurate accounting and for sending of receipts please mail or fax this completed form to:

Scrubby Creek Cave Acquisition Appeal

C/- G. Matts 176 William St, Bankstown, NSW, 2200

or FAX to; **G. Matts (02) 97084594**

KARST CONSERVATION FUND

ASF Inc. is an Environmental Organisation registered by the Department of Environment & Heritage and the Australian Taxation Office. ASF's Karst Conservation Fund (ASF Gift Fund) receives tax-deductible donations in support of projects relating to ASF's conservation and environmental objectives.

Directors of the Fund are:

Peter Berrill (Rockhampton), Mara Comino LLB (Brisbane), Tony Culberg BCom, DipEd, TTC (Hobart), John Dunkley MEd, BEc, DipEd (Canberra), Kevin Kiernan PhD (Hobart)

Fund Management Commission:

The ASF has established a Commission to provide the Directors with advice on projects and to manage matters such as fund raising and reporting. The current members are: Peter Berrill (Fund), John Dunkley (Fund), Nicholas White (ASF Executive), Grace Matts (ASF Executive).

For further information:

karstfundinfo@caves.org.au Or write to ASF Secretary, C/- G. Matts 176 William Street Bankstown NSW 2200