

Rimstone News

Official Correspondence of Rimstone Cooperative Ltd

ESTABLISHED 1974

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No. 14 November 2012

Rimstone AGM News

Seventeen people attended the AGM held at Susan & Nicholas' place in Parkville on September 28. The retiring directors, Gary Coleman and Paul Brooker were re-elected, and the main discussions related to the acquisition of the Scrubby Creek property and the need to repay the loans and the ongoing renovations at Homeleigh. Everyone was very positive on the directions that Rimstone is going! A very pleasant evening was had by all.

Annual Membership Fees

Annual Membership Fees are now over due and everyone should have received notification in the mail. Please pay immediately by EFT, or cheque in the mail. A hard copy letter should have been sent to those unpaid by the end of September 2012.

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.

Rimstone Calendar 2012

Nov 24-25 Homeleigh Working Bee

Details of this event is in this Newsletter.

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

This Newsletter was put together by Susan White with material provided by the Directors..

Homeleigh Property Management

The Homeleigh Property Manager, Paul Brooker, had a detailed discussion on the directions for on-going renovations at Homeleigh in the last (September) Newsletter. If you have any comments please direct them to Paul.

Homeleigh Working Bee

November 24-25.

The plan is to continue with interior works including painting of the hallways.

Other jobs that need doing (and will depend on numbers) include:

Fix concrete floor in the showers.

Paint trim in room 15.

Carpet floor in room 15.

Replace plastic joiner strips on west wall of toilet block and seal.

Insulate ceiling.

There will also be a push to undertake some ground works in preparation for the upcoming fire season. There are a number of other jobs that will depend on numbers present.

We are planning a Saturday night BBQ. Those wanting to be involved should supply their own meat and Sandra intends to make some salads.

It would be good if those intending to participate could contact me.

Paul Brooker - Homeleigh maintenance manager

paul@pitchblack.com.au; H 5148 0406

M 0418384245.

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 to yourself if there are large numbers of people.

RIMSTONE CELEBRATES SCRUBBY CREEK PURCHASE

After many years with hundreds of cave explorers and speleologists from many countries visiting the Buchan region for a variety of reasons, and a group of them forming the Rimstone Co-operative in the mid-1970s to purchase Homeleigh, the next exciting phase has commenced with the purchase of the Scrubby Creek property.

Saturday 27 October 2012 was a very special day with the property purchase formal celebration and ribbon-cutting, involving many key people and organisations. The official activities got under way on the property with Mount Dawson looming in the background, late morning with a short welcome speech from Rimstone director Gary Coleman, including a thank you to veteran caver Nicholas White for his time and efforts in negotiating the property purchase.

Nicholas then related a very short history of the 50 years of caving on the property with the first recorded trip into Scrubby Creek Cave in 1961. As an aside, it is worth recounting that the real estate agent was concerned with the slow pace of property purchase negotiations, and the slowness with which Nicholas talks (he is renowned for long, slow stories); however the estate agent was assured that Nicholas could do it!

Tim Bull MLA (MP East Gippsland) was on site to officiate and he congratulated Rimstone Cooperative on their efforts and dedication to the region, and on this enormous step for Rimstone on this landmark day with the Cooperative making the property purchase. The significance being that a cave property is now owned by a cooperative of cavers.

Tim commented on the critical importance of The

Buchan Caves region to tourism in East Gippsland, because of the numbers of tourists who tell him about their plans to visit the 90-mile beach, the hills, the rivers and to visit the Buchan Caves. Tim and Nicholas then cut the official pink ribbon to symbolise the opening of this new era for the property.

Some of the property neighbours and a number of people from the local community attended, as well as representatives from the Victorian Speleological Association (VSA), the Victorian Limestone Caving Team (VLCT), the Victorian Scout Caving Team, and the Southern Tasmanian Caverneers.

The official proceedings concluded with sandwiches and refreshments, and a stroll down the hill to the Scrubby Creek Cave entrance to admire the limestone tufa banks below the cave entrance, and to ponder what the future may hold for the property and the cave.

With the official activities out of the way, it was back to Homeleigh for less formal celebrations, but including the presentation of a cheque for \$1,000 from the VSA members to the local football club to assist with remediation of the flood-damaged sporting facilities. Celebrations continued with the renewing of old acquaintances and making new friendships over a fabulous BBQ and late night sing-along, led by old-time VSA caver and guitarist Tom Whitehouse.

Rob Brain

[This is a slightly edited version of what Rob has sent to The Buchan Bulletin]



*Cutting the Ribbon!
Tim Bull and Nicholas
White.*

Photo: Rob Brain

*More photos on the
back page of this
Newsletter.*

Upgraded website

Rimstone Cooperative now has an updated and refreshed website. The content and layout is clean, sharp and easy to navigate and it is "smartphone friendly". The web site structure is simple and easily updated by anyone with basic web site maintenance skills. It includes links to new information about the Scrubby Creek property purchase and to recent Rimstone Newsletters.

New features include the two social networking links at the bottom of the home page. We are now using Facebook because the material can be publicly available and there is unlimited storage space for photos and other materials. People can "like" events and "tag" people in photos which will help with broader publicity for Rimstone and its causes. One of the Facebook links goes to the new Rimstone Facebook page (with information back to 1974) and a second link goes to the new Homeleigh Facebook page and timeline. This includes a history of Homeleigh back to 1885, however we still need more material and photos.

Also on the website home page is the Rimstone Blog with recent blog entries. This makes it easier to get latest news and event details onto the home page without having to update the home page itself.

We are dabbling with Facebook and social networking in order to become more widely known and relevant to the younger generation of cavers. This may be especially useful when seeking funding and support for activities such as property purchase. Is it the right way to go? Feedback is most welcome; contact Rob Brain.

New Members

The directors welcome the following new members: **Ewan & Tania Brooker and Family.**

Scrubby Creek Property Access

The property has been leased and the Directors have retained access rights. Arrangements are being made to have all caving trips to be covered by the ASF Insurance scheme which in practical terms means a listed trip by an ASF Member Club (VSA).

Rimstone members can access the property but should book with the Booking Officer through accomm@rimstone.org.au. This is important because of the agreement.

Access for management purposes, initially weed control but then the Tufa Protection Project will be scheduled in the same way as Homeleigh Working Bees. In particular, there is also a need to identify and map the vegetation on the property. Anyone interested in these projects should let the Directors know.

Donations towards paying off the debt for the Scrubby Creek Property

As Rimstone still has a significant debt as the result of the Scrubby Creek purchase, the Rimstone directors are asking for you and others to continue to make donations. 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 application for 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.

A Collage of Photos from the Launch Weekend



Down at Scrubby Creek
Photo: Rob Brain



Milling about before the ribbon cutting
Photo: Geoff Rebeci



Tufa terraces
Photo: Geoff Rebeci



The ribbon is cut!
Photo: Rob Brain

And a good time was had by all!

The party !
Photo: N. White

BBQ @ Homeleigh
Photo: N.White

