

RIMSTONE CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED

Information for prospective members – March 2020

Members and friends of the Victorian Speleological Association formed the Rimstone Co-operative in 1974. Cavers had been active around Buchan for about 20 years and had stayed at a variety of locations throughout the area but never with a secure tenure. In 1974 it appeared that the owner of the building that was then being used by cavers for accommodation, the 'Top Hut' was about to reclaim the land to erect a new house. Many members of the VSA were prepared to put money into the purchase of a place to stay, but were unwilling to channel this money through the VSA which at the time was not legal entity. As a direct result, Rimstone Co-operative was formed to be the legal entity required to support the idea.

Later that year the Co-operative commenced the purchase of 'Homeleigh', a former guesthouse and the original Buchan Pub. The final payment was made about five years later and funds are now being channelled into the maintenance and major renovation projects aimed at improving facilities for both Rimstone members and their guests, as well as purchasing and managing some cave properties.

Homeleigh was originally a hotel and later a guesthouse. The building is one of the largest in Buchan. There are twelve bedrooms of various sizes, a lounge room, a dining room and a double kitchen in the main building. Two bungalows provide extra accommodation. The large kitchen has five fridges, three gas stoves / ovens, three microwave ovens and all the necessary cooking and eating utensils. The modern amenities block contains six hot showers, four toilets connected to a septic system and a washing machine and laundry facilities.

In May 2012 Rimstone Co-operative acquired a 105-Acre property at Murrindal Victoria. This property contains a number of significant karst features including the Scrubby Creek Cave (M 49) system. In 2017 a second cave property was purchased at Murrindal, the private tourist cave Shades of Death (M3) from the owners and developers. The purchase of these properties was only made possible through the generous financial assistance of many members and friends of the co-operative and the Australian Speleological Federation (ASF) Karst Conservation Fund. The latest acquisition has also been assisted by an interest free loan from the ASF which is still being paid off.

Besides making you a part owner of Homeleigh, the 105 Acre 'Scrubby' property and the Shades of Death cave, membership entitles you to cheaper accommodation rates at Homeleigh for you and your family, and you can book accommodation in advance which is very useful in holiday times.

The Rimstone Co-operative is a Community Advancement Society registered under the Victorian Co-operative Act 1958. The co-operative aims to foster cave research, conservation and exploration in the Buchan region. The co-operative is run by a board of five directors, elected for two years (in two groups) at the annual general meeting, usually held in September each year.

New members must purchase a minimum of 100 shares fully paid up to \$1.00 each. There is also provision to purchase additional shares over and above the minimum requirement. There is also an annual subscription (\$50.00) charged to members that covers the cost of administering the Co-op.

If you wish to join Rimstone Co-operative Ltd, fill out the application form overleaf and return with the appropriate payment to either the **postal address** (PO Box 2543, Mt Waverley, Victoria, 3149 or scanned and emailed to <directors@rimstone.org.au>. A current list of charges is available by contacting directors.

RIMSTONE CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED

Registered Office: 15 Gelantipy Road, Buchan, Victoria, 3885.
Postal Address: PO Box 2543, Mt Waverley, Victoria, 3149
Treasurer: Nigel Cooke. PO Box 155, Boronia, Victoria, 3155
Directors email: <directors@rimstone.org.au>

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OR ADDITIONAL SHARES

Surname of applicant:..... Other names:.....

Residential Address:.....

.....Postcode:.....

Postal Address:.....Postcode:.....

E-mail Address:.....

Phone Number:.....

1. I hereby apply –

- To be admitted as a member of Rimstone Co-operative Limited, and to be allotted Shares @ \$1.00 each. (Note that the minimum shareholding for membership is 100 shares.)
- To be allotted.....additional shares @ \$1.00 each in the Rimstone Co-operative Limited. (Shares are only available in multiples of 50 shares.)

2. I am over the age of eighteen years. Date of Birth:.....(Applicants must be aged 18 years or over.)

3. If this application is accepted and the shares allotted to me, I agree to pay all the charges required by the society, a list of which has been supplied to me and I agree to be bound by the rules of the society and by any amendments to them, properly registered in accordance with the Act named above.

4. I enclose payment for the amount shown below and made up as follows:

Shares (minimum 100 @ \$1.00 each) \$.....

Annual Subscription (\$50.00) \$.....

TOTAL \$.....

Rimstone Co-operative Ltd BSB: 633000 Acct No: 170026181

Signature of applicant:.....

Signature of Witness:.....

Date:.....

OFFICE USE ONLY

Application received:.....Receipt No:.....

Shares allotted:.....Share Numbers:.....to.....

Notice of allotment sent:.....

Allotment entered in share register:.....Allotment No:.....

Share Certificate No:.....Issued on:.....

Sent on:.....

Secretary's Initials:.....

*Strike out any, which are not applicable.