



# Rimstone News

Official correspondence of Rimstone Cooperative Ltd

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**Rimstone Cooperative Ltd.**  
*Rimstone Cooperative Ltd.*  
A Community Advancement Society

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## Editorial

In this edition of the Rimstone Co-operative newsletter we have an update from the directors, with some interesting caves updates, and a special report from Daryl Carr on the progress with M3 Cave, including lots of photos. Make sure to see the additional photos at the end. And there's some news about the ASF Conference happening in early 2025.

**Rob Brain – Newsletter editor**

Send feedback to: [directors@rimstone.org.au](mailto:directors@rimstone.org.au).

## Update from your directors

It has been a very big couple of months since the last newsletter and its always encouraging to be able to give lots of new information.

The directors have been busy working on policies for Homeleigh, Shades and Scrubby Creek Caves. In this newsletter I'm happy to introduce the new policy for group bookings at Homeleigh, please read below. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to make contact. However, the policy purpose is to protect the members and ensure that all have the option to stay at Homeleigh should bed space by available.

As for Scrubby and Shades caves those policies are in the final throw and being sent to Daryl and Nick for the big okay before we release them. These policies are to ensure people are able to visit, and making sure the caves stay protected, maintained and documented.

On Homeleigh itself, Bogdan recently used his arborist skills and we completed a very healthy prune on the beautiful gum in the backyard (see photos below), also resulting in some nice firewood. In the rain a handful of us dragged all the heavy branches and towed them to the tip.

The bathroom update is that it is now a functional toilet. The shower (whilst functional) is being put on hold until we put the Silastic around the outside of the shower. The door has a lock, the tap is working and the plugs have all been put in. Only a couple more things to make it fully

## Upcoming Rimstone events

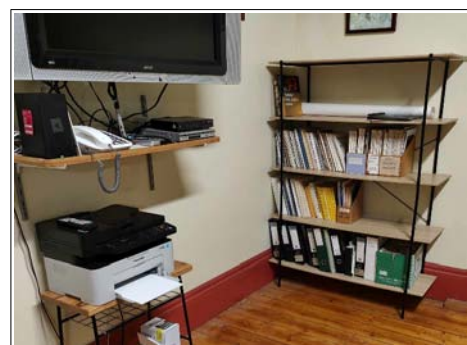
2-5 June 2024 – M3 working bee  
(nearly full, contact: Daryl Carr).

2024 – Rimstone Cooperative's 50th  
birthday – Put that in your calendar now!

functional.

The kitchen has had a lot of new saucepans and fry pans delivered by Peter Rob. Thanks Peter – it has meant we were able to get rid of some not-so-nice older ones. But also just a reminder to everyone, please be like Peter and ask first as we do not need more furniture or kitchen appliances (Homeleigh is not a dumping ground).

We have also replaced the bookshelf in the dining room and stocked it appropriately allowing more easy reading (see the photo herewith). The VSA has had to relocate their library and as such we are now going through it to sift out what to keep. Once that has been decided we will move this extensive library to Homeleigh for all to enjoy.



*New bookshelf in Dining Room*

We are looking for a set of new chairs to go around the dining table. If you have or know of someone who has a collection of them please let me know.

The bungalows have had asbestos testing so we will have a clear answer with what we are dealing with for future renovations.

For now, that will do; but more coming soon.

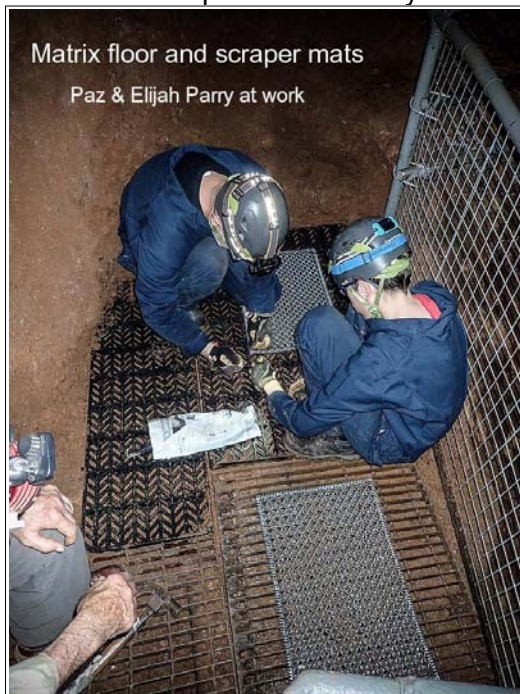
**Nadine Muresan for the Directors**

### M3 – Shades of Death Cave Working Bee 6-7 December 2023

Despite the rain and floods up to the Saturday before the planned working bee, 13 workers signed on for the multiple tasks up at M3 cave. The members who drove to Buchan on the Saturday reckon that it was one of the most difficult of driving conditions in their memory. Never mind by Sunday morning the rain had eased off and the weather forecast for Monday and Tuesday was warm and no rain! By Sunday evening the full Team had arrived and we all went out for a pub evening meal.

As usual, an optimistic work schedule was circulated well before the due time so workers can apply their talents to an appropriate task. This pre-notice works like this, because what the working bee “Boss” reckons is the best way to do a job is mostly nonsense. The “Boss” then happily accepts feedback for much better suggested methods.

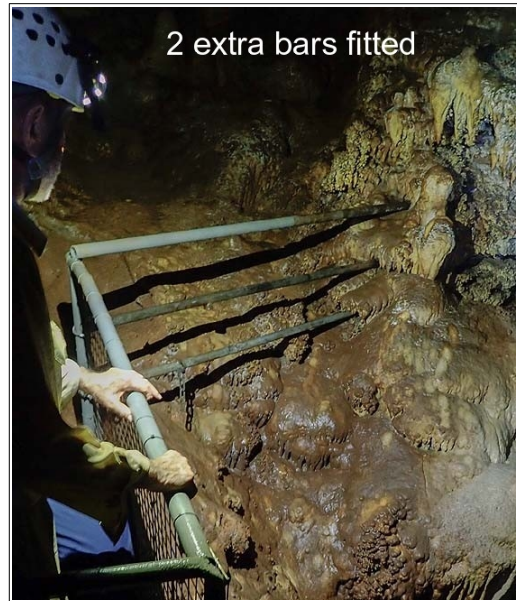
The interior of M3 was very wet. Nothing we could do about that, except just try to minimise the spread of mud, and plan another cleanup which was done over the weekend of December 16-17. Also being so wet it is not suitable to continue on with the hand rail restorations, i.e. the rust treatments and paints do not dry.



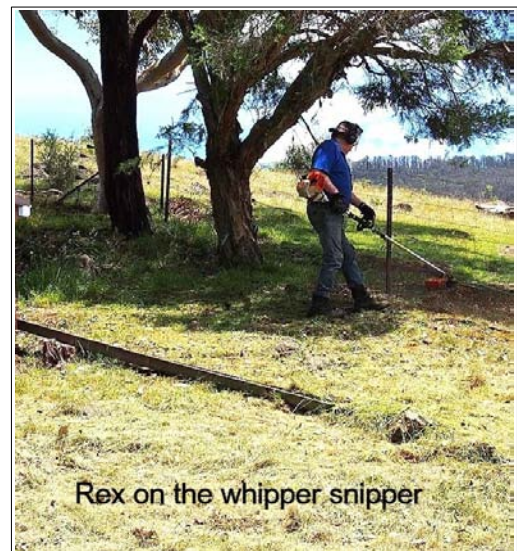
What we achieved – A primary task was to clean and improve the viewing area at the end of the “Skywalk”. After removing all the old muddy bags and rubber mat the muddy floor was made more level. Then three matrix fast floor modules were laid down and the existing steel grate repositioned to suit. Later Bayliss coil scraper

mats were attached over a section of the new matrix floor. The scraper mats are a boot cleaning trial, they can be unattached from the flooring then cleaned and refitted.

The next task was the installation of two extra pipe rails below the single existing rail above the drop at the end of the “Skywalk”. This provides extra safety in case of a slip when negotiating the slope above.



Outside the M3 grounds the fire prevention Team were busy with whipper snippers and the mower cutting long grass and cleaning away stacks of leaf and tree litter.



#### Rimstone Co-op directors

Nadine Muresan, Nigel Cooke,  
Peter Stewart, Paul Brooker, Tom Elms.

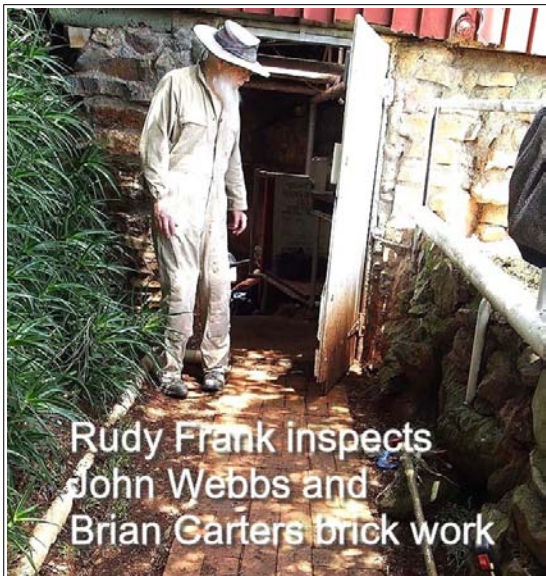
Contact by email: [directors@rimstone.org.au](mailto:directors@rimstone.org.au)

All of the leaf and tree litter was collected and taken to the tip on Wednesday.



Stacking tree rubbish for take away

The brick path leading up to the M3 shed entry door was finished, and the toilet modesty screen and water tank for hand washing were repaired. (The hand washing tank is currently empty, if needed manually pre-fill).



Rudy Frank inspects John Webbs and Brian Carters brick work

A BBQ for 20 was organised on the Monday evening. Great! As we could also celebrate the legendary Peter Robertson's birthday (with a lot of candles! – see the photo).



Birthday Cake arrives

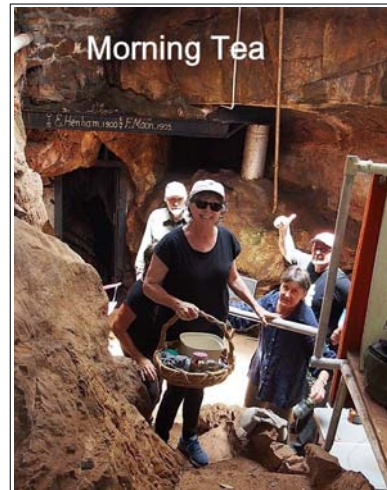
Tuesday evening was another great BBQ (the photo shows Marg and Anne preparing the BBQ).



Marg Robertson and Anne Carter

Thanks to all who helped with the working bee and catering, the catering was truly exceptional, as was the enthusiasm for hard work.

Also, thanks for the home-made scones and jam with genuine whipped cream delivered for morning tea on site at M3 by the local crew.



Morning Tea

The next M3 working bee, mooted for early June 2024, is in the planning stage; but that large ugly earth bank in the entry shed is overdue for a fix.

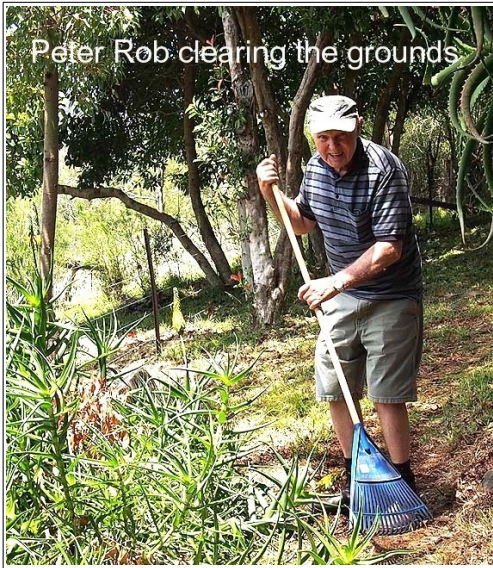
And Rudy Frank has donated some hand-crafted bench seats, now installed at the M3 cave entry path.



RUDY FRANK has cobbled up some rustic bench seats now installed at Shades cave entry path

Daryl Carr

PS: to the M3 report:- Peter Rob might have had another birthday, but he demonstrated he is not too old to rake up the leaf litter in the M3 yard.



Scrubby Creek Cave  
installing the phone line

### Scrubby Creek Cave Update

With the new phones provided by Peter Rob, a team of Nadine, Bo, Edmund, Josh, Nigel and Laura went in to Scrubby over the weekend of the 25-28 April and worked on putting the phone line in. It was a fun weekend with all working hard and or hardly working 😊

We were able to put the line through on the upstream and tape it in comfortably through the sump ensuring that the line cannot be grabbed or taken whilst passing. It was hilarious with one eye and ear in the water, and me pushing on Josh's back we were able to put it far out of reach.

With my desire to climb up all the muddy ridiculous parts we could also put it up and over a rock fall keeping it out of the way; but this also meant that Tom and Josh had to catch me every time I slid down.

We tested the phones and whilst a little quiet they were clear which was great. With some more line we will continue it next time to the dry side of the waterfall so there is a comfortable location for communication should we ever need it.

**Nadine Muresan**

Make sure to see the three photos from the Scrubby Creek Cave phone line installation herein (one above right, and two more near the end of this newsletter).

### Tom's Meeting Updates Rimstone Directors Meeting Summary 8 April 2024

The Rimstone directors meeting held on the 8th of April was attended by all directors.

Current Rimstone shareholder numbers are up to 124 (97 financial) with the addition of one new member since the previous meeting.

The directors were informed of the progress on the internal bathroom, which still has a number of small items to be completed. The remaining tasks remaining to be completed include installing the architraves, which are currently being prepared for installation, and finishing the tiles. The shower and sink will not be usable until final caulking has been completed, with the toilet also needing caulking around the edges. A final coat of paint will also likely be included.

Storage racks are being sought to put into the Directors' Room in order to better manage the collection of bed linen and other miscellaneous items that are being stored there. Finally, the metal shelving unit at St Francis has been transported to Homeleigh to be repurposed.

The VSA Library has been temporarily moved from St Francis to Bo and Nadine's house where it is being sorted to identify which VSA/Rimstone items are duplicates. It was agreed that the journals and books from the VSA Library that remain would be a useful resource for visitors to Homeleigh and that this would be preferable to selling them or otherwise disposing of them.

**Tom Elms**

## ASF 2025 CONFERENCE BOOKINGS

The conference is coming up around the corner and the directors have come up with a fair way to allocate beds. Its called 'first in best dressed'.

So, with that in mind there are a number of beds currently available and they can be booked by bed allocation, not by room. This means sharing rooms where appropriate to fill up all available beds.

Bookings will open on Friday 24th May at 9am. No bookings will be accepted before that time. Please make your booking by email to:

<mailto:accomm@rimstone.org.au>

Be specific with the number of beds and the names for each bed required.

Payment will be expected 3 months in advance. Payment is not refundable if cancellation is less than 1 month from the start of the event. A minimum of 4 nights is required.

**Nadine Muresan**

## Update from the Treasurer

Payment of annual subs has progressed somewhat since last the newsletter and most of the long term outstanding payments have been resolved.

However, there are still many members who

have not paid subs for this year. I would appreciate those members paying their subs in the next few days so that I can get that job off my plate.

We are fast approaching the end of the financial year and I will have to carry over unpaid subs as a debt into next financial year if they are not paid soon.

Please check to verify your Rimstone financial status and pay your subs if you can't find a payment for this year. If in doubt, please email me to help you verify your status.

**Nigel Cooke**  
**Rimstone Treasurer**

## Booking accommodation at Homeleigh

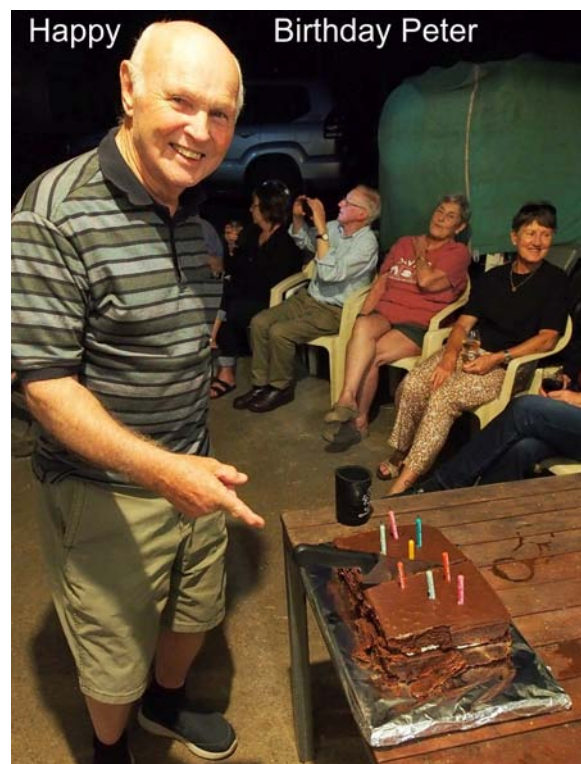
Please remember to request accommodation using the proper email address so that your request is received promptly. Then our on-duty accommodation officer can reply promptly. (Else your request might get lost.)

Also, you should state your club status (eg. Rimstone member, or VSA member), so as to avoid follow-up questions regarding your eligibility to stay at Homeleigh without a Rimstone Member in Charge present.

**Homeleigh Booking Officer**  
email to: [accomm@rimstone.org.au](mailto:accomm@rimstone.org.au)

Here's a closer look at that birthday cake.

ps: Whose Big birthday is next on the list?



**Photos from Scrubby Creek Cave M-49  
installing the phone line**



**Additional photos (referred to in the text above)**



*That fabulous tree at the back of Homeleigh, before and after sensitive pruning.*



*Two snapshots of the (new) inside bathroom almost completed.*

More tree photos next page...

**More tree photos (back of Homeleigh), in case you would like to see more**



*Before and after photos of the tree - left side*



*Before and after photos of the tree - right side*