

M-3 SHADES of DEATH CAVE, MURRINDAL, VICTORIA

Nicholas White

Many members will know this cave possibly as Murrindal Moon Cave. It was developed by cavers from the late 1960's. Dennis Rebeci (ACKMA treasurer) and his wife Carol operated it as a Show Cave in the 1990s to early 2000s Graham Shaw and Geoff Rebeci were amongst the original developers and decided managing the cave had become too difficult for them. They offered the property to Rimstone Co-operative Ltd which is a Community Advancement Society.

After careful consideration the Co-operative has now purchased the cave for which it needs funds to pay off a loan provided by ASF. This will be a valuable addition to the existing Homeleigh members guesthouse at Buchan and the Scrubby Creek Cave property also at Buchan.

At this stage Rimstone is initially preparing a Strategy Plan for the cave. This plan will embrace a new survey and assessment of needs such as zoning areas, cleaning in places and track marking. Some of the infrastructure in the cave needs repair to provide safe access. We intend providing recreational access for accredited caving groups as well as Open Days for the public once we have appropriate insurance cover.

This whole project takes the Co-operative into challenging new areas with many opportunities for interacting with the public.

There is a targeted fundraising campaign to support this purchase. Details of how to donate directly or via the ASF Karst Conservation Fund (tax deductible) are at <http://www.rimstone.org.au/>



Looking down entrance chamber of cave with Geoff Rebeci (left) and Graham Shaw on landing

Photo: Daryl Carr