



Voice of the Mountains

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Editorial Committee: Debra Squires, Linda Barraclough and Sue Silvers

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The pressure is on to get the 1993 *Voice of the Mountains* to the printers. It seems no time since last year's issue—and no time since the Get Together was held by the Omeo branch at Gibbo River.

A special thanks to Debbie Squires and Linda Barraclough for their efforts to get the VOM together once again. Your contributions are valued to keep the quantity and quality of the magazine up.

The highlight of the year has been the change of Government. This has not meant an immediate change of direction of Alpine grazing policy, but it has meant we have been able to discuss our problems with our government leaders. The counting of cattle for allocation purposes has been a problem which we felt was resolved for this year with the Minister. However there still seems to be a problem 'on the ground'—indicating that our elected leaders may be having trouble getting their policies implemented by our co-operative bureaucracies.

The present shake-up within the departments is, at last, what has been happening in the private sector for years—just that it has to happen quickly because it has been so long coming.

The MCAV application to graze Wonnangatta Station in the interests of better economic and land management has not been replied to as yet. There seems to be a mind-set in the bureaucracy jungle, that private enterprise should not encroach on public assets.

The only way to get jobs done efficiently is to let the private sector do them under contract.

Thank you to our many supporters and associates during the past year. A special thanks to Ros Andrews, our chief of marketing, for an innovative year.

Our secretary, Sue Silvers has had another year of much paperwork—thanks Sue for a job well done.

Despite the bad news—let's remember, this is the best country in the world. We just need to work at keeping it that way.

Cheers

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Treasure". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D'.

NO BETTER GIFT IN THE WORLD

Walter Ryder Remembered



Jim Commins, Rusty Connley, Bill Hicks and Mick Walsh at Pretty Valley.

After the death of Ben Cooper in 1973, Eric Weston erected a cairn in his memory near the Tawonga hut. He believed that was a fitting memorial in the place where Ben's spirit rested.

In 1988 Wally Ryder died, the man who, for so many, symbolised the Bogong High Plains. On the 12th of December 1992, Walter Ryder's family and friends journeyed to Pretty Valley for the unveiling of a plaque to be added to Ben Cooper's cairn in memory of him.

The plaque was temporarily placed under a large snowgum, covered with an 'oiler', until it was unveiled by Harry, Adam and Phillip Ryder, Walter's son and grandsons.

Alan Brewer then read Don Kneebone's tribute to Wally. "Walter was not only a personal friend," said Alan, "but also a great member of the Association. His advice and the help that he gave us will never be forgotten. He was a cattleman, a

mountain man, and above all he was a gentleman. Wally Ryder's word was his bond, and his handshake was his seal, something that today's society is sadly missing. Whenever I met Wally I always went away feeling better than when I came there." Then he called upon Bill Hicks to speak.

Those of us who were there will not forget the occasion for many years, knowing that Bill had requested the unveiling take place as soon as possible as he knew he was ill, and unlikely to be with us for much longer. That day he gave us a precious gift, the memory of seeing him and his pleasure in being able to pay tribute to Wally Ryder.

Bill Hicks died just over two weeks later, on the 27th December 1992, and this speech is the last memory of him that many of us will have. While he was not one to want our thoughts of the occasion to be of anyone other than Walter, it is fitting that we think of them together.

"I'd like to go back to the dividing of these high plains from the very large runs, there was only about three or four of them, down to smaller runs. The Ryder family, Harry, Will and Wal Ryder, known as the Ryder brothers, they were renowned here. Wally, his cousin Syd, his cousin Jack, they took on from their fathers, the Ryder brothers. I look around, I see at least one here. I also see quite a few students that Wally trained, well from the time before they left school, and I also see just one or two of his old mates. All the Ryder family were renowned in the mountain area for their kindness, for their generosity, and the good deeds they would do for their fellow men. Walter Ryder came to the Bogong High Plains as a nine year old boy, with a chappie by the name of Ben Cooper. I believe it is fitting that over here, looking down to the area of the first Tawonga Hut, where Wally came to with Ben Cooper, we have a little plaque there, and this plaque will reside there with Ben's. The only difference is that Ben's is facing out over the Bogong High Plains, but Wally's will face towards Big Bogong, to which Wally gave a large part of his life, in that particular area. He ran here, on these Bogong High Plains, in this area, until 1939. Then, he had many bush runs, and he shifted his operations onto Big Bogong, and to run his cattle in the bush runs which stretched from Glen Wills spur, right down to Mitta, Granite Flat down to Mitta, and then back through to Tawonga. In those days, there was not one road whatsoever, and Wally Ryder, his knowledge of that area, not only of Big Bogong, but its surrounds, right around, there will be very few men that would have ever, in the history of the mountains, had the knowledge of that particular area. He would go into that area, sometimes accompanied, sometimes he'd be on his own, and he'd turn up at the Walshes, out at the Flat, he'd turn up at Hodgkins in the Mitta. He was completely on his own, his own bush skills, whatever might befall him or not befall him, he had his own Mercy in his own hands.

Walter started, as I said before, as a nine years old boy. His father and mother and brothers and sisters, they were like many others in the Kiewa Valley, they were battlers. Wally had two very good friends, they were the Hollands, Stewart and Tom Hollands, and I could speak here for two or three days, just on the relationship between Wally and the Hollands. But Hollands did have very good hereford cattle. Walter's ambition was to have those cattle. Now, over his

lifetime, he put together one of the most magnificent herds of hereford cattle that could be seen anywhere. Now Wally's calves and cattle sold in Myrtleford, which was the centre in those days, would top the market year after year. And Wally took great pride in producing those cattle, and also supplying them year after year.

I believe that just briefly covers his cattle career. He also put together a magnificent property at Mountain Creek that still exists today, right from nothing, but he did it by running cattle on the Alpine area, bush runs and a very small freehold country.

To supplement his income, he went packing for the SEC before roading came, and he was recognised as, if not the best, one of the best packers that packed to these Bogong High Plains. To give just a small indication. Wally was a 16 year old boy. His brother-in-law, George Hobbs, married to Wally's elder sister, they took the contract to pack the Met house over to Rocky Valley from off Mount Hotham. Now George Hobbs had just started the job, and George Hobbs' wife, Wally's sister Beatrice, she took ill. She was expecting family and Wally had to continue on his own. He packed that house, stove, roofing, everything, from Hotham. And at the end of the summer when he finished, the contract had worked out to seventy-five pounds, which was a fortune in those days, and which would have bought a couple of hundred heifers from the Hollands. Wally arrived home and his mother had just got the account, she'd been through a fairly major operation. Those of us who know the Ryder family and know Ma, words fail me. Really, she was a legend, the same as Wally was, legends in their own lifetimes. Anyhow, the account arrived and Wally's hand never wavered, he handed the amount over to pay for the operation.

That was a feat alone, packing. Walter, he also packed for all the early skiers that came here, before roading came. He would pack at the end of the grazing season. He would be coming back to look for strays, and not have much to carry in his pack. And he was recognised amongst these people, mentioned in their books as one of the unique, and one of Australia's gentlemen. Walter, he was a man that, no matter where he went, he had the ability, the friendship and warmth, to make friends. And if he had enemies they must have been very few and far between and hard to find.

But the cattle families, that extended from the Mitta and right across these Bogong High Plains, one could go right on until you came to the Dargo High Plains. And Wally, in the course of his life, his first meeting with his wife was on the summit of Bogong. Word was sent that there was a party overdue, there'd been unusual snow, and would Walter go to Bogong and just check that something had not befallen this party, and I believe that Freda Treasure was one of this party. Walter eventually married Freda, and it was the combining of two cattle families. The Treasure family, the Ryder family, I suppose you could not get a finer combination.

Today you see Harry and his sons, and it gives me great pleasure, because I saw Harry, he was born at our Yackandandah Bush Nursing Hospital, saw him from a little fellow, grow up. Old chaps, when they get old, it is very essential in their life that they can see a continuation of their lifetime's effort. Who wants to own the best motorcar in the world, or the best house, if you cannot pass it on and see it continue. More so in a mob of cattle, a property. We must have continuation of our younger people. So, I saw Harry come along. And Walter, he had realised the ambition of his life. He had someone to continue in what he had started. Here we see Harry, and his good wife Sue, and these two little fellows sitting here. This is what life is all about. We old fellows, Wally in particular, that bred fine cattle and bred terrific horses, we see that continuation of life. They come and they go and they continue on, and that is a great comfort in old age and a great achievement.

Turning back to horses, I'd just like to say a few words. Wally Ryder had what it took to be a cattleman. And what it takes to be a cattleman, you must be able to judge a beast, but not only judge a beast, but assess how to be able to breed a mob of cattle, and you must be able to handle those cattle. And you must have the equipment to handle them, and the equipment is horses. If you breed those horses and you break those horses, you have the ideal combination.

Having said that, and putting dogs with them, and having the ability to work dogs, this is something that is unique. Some men have the ability to be able to breed horses, some men have the ability to work dogs, but there's very few men have the whole of those abilities. Walter Ryder had them, and he used them to great advantage here on the Bogong High Plains and in the lower



Bill Hicks (Photo by Shayne Medcalf, Courtesy Border Morning Mail)

country. Those that were privileged to travel with him, ride to the Plains, or in New South Wales on many occasions with big mobs of cattle, saw a man and, whatever the conditions, whether it was here on the Bogong High Plains, where the weather was at its worst elements, or at its best, or whether he was crossing flooded rivers, or whether he was crossing the parched plains of New South Wales, out around Jerilderie, or further out, as I've seen him do, he had that ability to know how far he could push his cattle, or his horse, or his dog. He had the unique ability as a bushman to go into the most remote places. I see it in the Billy Hodgkins, Young Billy is here today. A relation of mine, Lenny Pritchard, Wally Ryder, Billy Hodgkin, they went onto Little Bogong after the 1939 fires, which is one of the most inaccessible places, and they were able to bring those cattle out of there, not domesticated cattle, they were wild cattle. No matter what the conditions were, he could accommodate them, and he could accommodate himself in those conditions.

Speaking back to Tom and Stewart Hollands. Wally, he grew up with them, they looked on Wally as a son. Tom Hollands was a great horseman himself. Both he and Stewart were Light Horsemen in the first World War. Tom Hollands took a great pride in the horse he rode and the whip he plaited, and how he could use that whip. He passed those skills down on to Walter, the ability to be able to break a horse, to train a horse, and to use the horse in the most adverse conditions. Also, having said that, he trained Walter not only to go to the Albury show, but also to countless sports meetings at Mitta, Tallangatta, Myrtleford, Bright, with those horses, hunting horses. And Walter rode them for

him, and he would be able to compete and win with some of the best riders in Victoria on the day.

Speaking personally, for myself, I believe that perhaps I have two men, three men that shaped my life. Walter Ryder, Ben Cooper and Tom and Stewart Hollands. And I, as a boy starting out again, or any other boy, if I could produce those men to guide them, to start them on their way through life, and give them advice, I would ask for no better gift in the world.

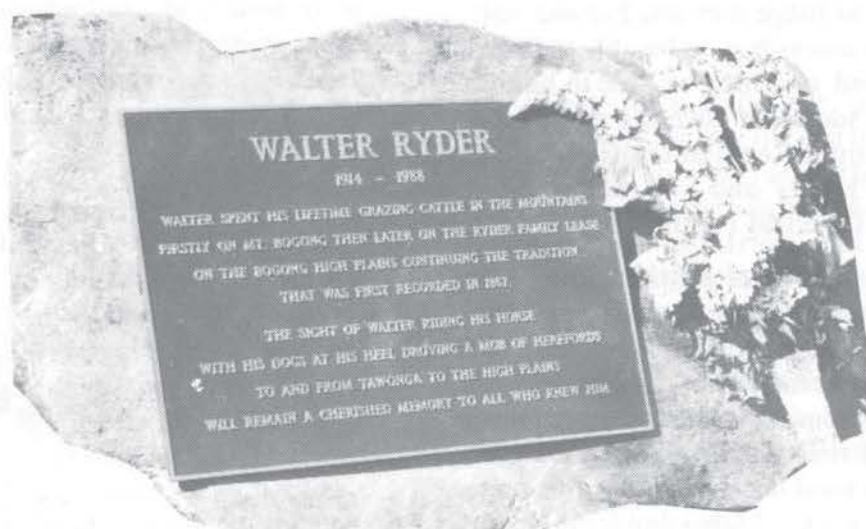
I thank you people for coming here today and listening to me, but as I turn away to let someone else have a few words, I perhaps look in the distance. I see a man coming towards me, with a mob of cattle, and dogs, heading straight and true, and that is how he will be remembered, on the Bogong High Plains, for many, many years to come."

Harry Ryder, in thanking Bill, said that "Over the past three or four years I have turned to Bill for advice, for someone looking over my shoulder. I've appreciated that very much, Bill.

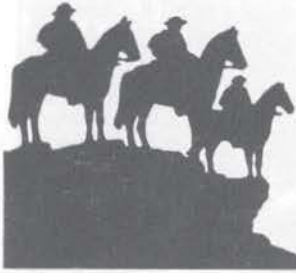
The essence of today is that Walter made such an impression on everyone that four years after his death, so many would turn up today."

After the speeches, everyone just stood around with a cup of tea having a yarn, with Bill always in the middle of the largest group. No-one anticipated the sad footnote to the day would be that we would meet again just two-and-a-half weeks later, when a guard of honour of cattlemen would see Bill Hicks join Wally Ryder and many other cattlemen and their families in the Tawonga cemetery.

That day at Pretty Valley we just enjoyed being there with Bill, while he paid tribute to Walter Ryder.







Bill Hicks

With the death of William John (Bill) Hicks on the 27th December 1992, the Association has lost a man of great wisdom, and a wonderful friend. Bill was born in Albury in 1926, and was nine when his family moved to what was to be his lifetime home, at Glen Creek, Dederang.

The first man to take him to the Bogong High Plains was Tom Arter. When Bill was 15, Tom gave

him the job of droving his cows and calves up to the Plains. Tom started him off with his first cattle, three heifers, in a lifetime that was to see him build up one of the most respected Hereford herds in the area. His cattle were the envy of many.

Bill was a man who always put his family first. In 1944 he was one of the five men who brought a snowbound mob of 1400 cattle off the Plains in a feat that is still remembered today. He and Ben Cooper, who rode at the head with a mob of fifty to blaze the trail through the snowdrifts, thought they

BILL'S REUNION

Allan Brewer

The mob has all been counted
With the leaders stringing out
My dogs at my heels,
Have responded to my shout.
I've saddled up the hack,
One last look around
As I load that final pack.
I'm up here now
On those high plains in the sky
And so my friends and family
I bid you all good-bye.

My friends are up there now
Waiting at the gates,
Wally, Freda and Eric Weston,
And a heap of other mates.
Donny Kneebone and Brenny Fitz
From down at Shannonvale,
And what a night we'll have with Ben,
When we tell our mountain tales.

And here's old Tommy Arter
The man who gave me
Three heifers for a start.
And from them I bred
That fine herd that came
From the kindness of Tommy's heart.

To freedom in the bush
My old horses I've retired,
And next spring from my brown stallion
Another drop of foals will be sired.

They've worked hard for me
Both day and night,
And in years to come for horses
The boys will be all right.

To my darling Rose,
What more can I say.
My family and my friends
Care for her I pray.
She has stood beside me
In good years and in bad,
And although I'm not here now
I never wish her sad.

And I must leave you now
As I ride up Heaven's trail
Put the cattle through the gates,
Tie my horse up to the rail.
For we are tired and weary
As we climb up that last hill,
And so I bid you all farewell —
From Bill.



were not going to survive. They did it because they knew that if they did not get the cattle off the Plains they would all die. The families involved would have been ruined, so Ben, Bill and the other men risked their lives, because they believed there was no other choice.

In his later years it was a source of considerable pride to Bill that his sons Barry, Jack and Stuart joined him on the land, and ran cattle with him on the Bogong High Plains. An oft-repeated story is of the time when, having broken his leg, he went up to the high country with it in plaster 'just to keep an eye on the boys', teenagers at the time. The cast was appropriately covered by a rubber inner tube.

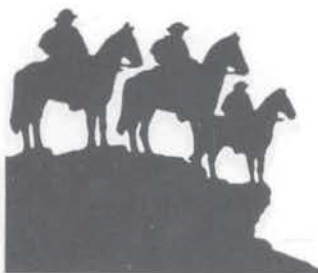
Quiet and unassuming though he was, Bill Hicks had a deep knowledge of the mountains. He

probably understood better than most what had to be done by Mountain Cattlemen to retain their leases, and was active in the Association activities of the 1980s. His retentive memory and clear, incisive reasoning often left those of a more theoretical nature red-faced and floundering during environmental debates. Others remember him more for his quiet sense of humour.

What was even more important, is that Bill was one of the straightest and most honourable man that many knew. He gave unstintingly to the Association and many considered themselves privileged to call him a friend. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, Rose, his children Barry, Jack, Stuart and Brenda, and their families. We are all richer in life's experience from knowing Bill.



Bill Hicks (Photo by Shayne Medcalf, Courtesy Border Morning Mail)



Minnie Higgins

Minnie Higgins, who died on the 13th April 1992, was an active supporter of the MCAV from the time of its formation.

The daughter of Bill and Adele Ayres, Minnie was born in 1922 in Sydney while her family was living at Hillend in New South Wales. She moved to 'Meadowra', north of Glenmaggie, in 1923. Following a short time in Heyfield, her family moved to Hickeys Creek, further up the Macalister valley from 'Meadowra'. They faced the 1939 fire there alone, but Minnie considered her time at Hickeys Creek to be the happiest in her life. During the second World War, the Ayres family moved to Cowwarr, and Minnie later married Kevin Higgins. After a time running the Glenmaggie Post Office, they bought 'Glencourt', where Kevin still lives. They had four children, Michael, Terry, Maureen and Colleen.

Minnie was active in the earliest years of the MCAV, writing submissions, lobbying politicians and, most importantly, providing the hospitality necessary for a succession of official visitors who toured the area at the invitation of local cattlemen. She remained a highly active associate until motor neurone disease made it impossible for her to continue. In her final years, the whip-cracking performances by her Hurley grandchildren at Get Togethers were keenly followed and a source of pride.

Glenmaggie, the Macalister valley and its high country were places that Minnie loved passionately. She had a wonderful ability to recall the early people and events of the area, and was co-author of two books on the history of the valley. In them she drew extensively on her knowledge of early mountain cattlemen, including the Higgins family.



Minnie Higgins



Jesse Morley

Jesse Morley, who died in August 1992, had long links with the high country. When he was 14 he took his first trip to Mount Wellington with Andy Estoppey from Briagolong, and often rode there with the Dunsmuirs and Stewart Hair. On one trip, Jesse brought out Bob Dunsmuir on his horse, seriously ill. Probably one of the last big droving trips in Gippsland had Jesse on the team. He started with a mob of 1200 bullocks at Nimmitabel between Bombala and Cooma and helped deliver them at Monomeith near Lang Lang. Unassuming, and usually in the background, sometimes it was difficult to get Jesse talking. But light a fire, boil the billy, and Jesse would tell yarns for hours—about droving trips, breaking horses, or the high country.

In later years, Jesse drove for Doug Treasure, who comments "Jesse had a knowledge that encompassed all sorts of subjects, and well considered opinions on situations and people—but one had to ask Jesse before he would give his opinion, usually. One exception I do remember vividly though—was when Jesse was nailing a shoe on a horse on a frosty morning on the High Plains, and she kicked him. Jesse, he gave a well considered opinion on the horse's breeding—and without being asked!

The love of Jesse's life was to be in the mountains as a stockman and drover. He was dedicated to the Mountain Cattleman's life. Never a complaint was heard from him despite wet, cold conditions, a second rate horse or an uncomfortable camp, or even my cooking—he took it all as part of the job. If you counted a mob of my cattle through a gate and yelled to Jesse "there's 271 there" because your fingers were too cold to work a pencil on paper, and three weeks later you asked him how many went through the front paddock gate, he would press his mental recall button and give you an instant readout—and it would be correct.



Jesse Morley

If you finished a day's droving when Jesse was on the job, and the count was two short, a fair chance Jesse would say "remember that cow we picked up when mustering below the saddle a fortnight ago, you know, the one whose calf's got that funny tail, well, I haven't seen her in the mob since lunchtime today". Sure enough, you would probably find her and the calf outside the rails in the morning talking to her mates in the yard.

To all of us, Jesse was a good mate, and in the Australian language, that is a very high commendation. Jesse's most memorable qualities to me, will be his generosity and kindness. We are all better off for having known Jesse Morley—and we are all very sad that we have not had the opportunity to know him a lot longer."

THE CALL OF THE HIGH PLAINS

All day spent in the saddle, no time to stop and eat,
Just cold tea from a bottle, no pause for rain or heat.
Another hour to sunset, another mile to ride,
The cattle plodding onward, my mate there by my side.

Another hut to camp in, just one more night away
Before we get the cattle down and get back home to stay.
We'll see the mob all settled, the hobbled horses free,
Then get the fire going to make the billy tea.

Corned beef and bread for supper, clothes steaming while we eat,
We'll smoke a pipe and yarn an hour while soaking up the heat.
I'll stretch out on the bark shelf that duty does for bed
And watch the dancing shadows the flames throw round my head,

And think of home and comfort, of tasty home-cooked fare
And long hot showers and fresh clean clothes and my old fireside chair.
But though the thought of loved ones makes happy memories flow,
Once I've been at home awhile the urge will come—I know.

I'll think about the mountains, the freedom, peace and space,
The beauty of the sunsets, excitement of the chase.
It's things like these I'll yearn for when living down below
And the High Plains call to me again—and I must surely go.

Dorothy B. Watt
Briagolong 1992



HUTS OF THE BOGONG HIGH PLAINS

Ruth E. Lawrence



Dibbins Hut in 1938.

One of the first people to record his impressions of alpine Victoria was a journalist named John Stanley James (who wrote under the pseudonym of 'The Vagabond'). In August 1884 he visited Mount St Bernard, and recorded his visit as follows:

Peaceful and calm, as well as grandly majestic, is this view of the Alps from the top of Mount Bernard [sic.]. Far different is the scene when the winter tempests hold tryst here, when the wind howls and shrieks, and whirls the snowstorms into phantom figures and blinding clouds, and the sky is hid as with a pall. Then it is death to man or beast to be abroad; then the track to the Omeo and Dargo is impassable; then the miners at the Cobungra are cut off from the world for weeks; and then the

mailman on his snowshoes staggers into the Hospice, whose welcome light has saved him from destruction; for in this terrible weather all landmarks as well as tracks are obliterated; the 'snowpoles' planted on the mountain upland to guide the traveller are lost in the mist. As the wayfarer toils fainting onward, the treacherous white covering conceals the dangers beneath. Ravine and precipice are on each side. The storms weaken and blind him. What wonder that life has been lost here, that Mr Ireland a year back was found in a dying state within a short distance of 'Sailor Bill's', and that since then another has died on the Dargo track. The Hospice light is then the emblem of safety against the havoc of the storm.

By so writing, James acknowledged the importance of accommodation venues in the alpine area as a provision for shelter for those caught in inclement weather. Huts have always played an important role in the history of the Australian alpine region, and those in the Bogong High Plains area are no exception. Not only do they provide shelter when the weather is life-threatening, but huts in the alpine area also serve as a destination point to aim for, a base camp for occupational or recreational activities, a warm site in which to dry out after a long day in the bush, a place to swap yarns around the campfire at night, or a spot to bunk for the night.

The majority of huts in the Bogong High Plains area have been built by occasional visitors to the area. In the past, these included graziers, drovers, prospectors, miners, packers, hawkers, botanists, government officials, field naturalists and geologists, and today comprise mainly cattlemen, recreationalists and Government personnel. Permanent residents of the Bogong High Plains have been few, but those who did live in the area for extended periods of time included miners, selectors, operators of accommodation venues and State Electricity Commission (SEC) employees. Until the early 1940s, these people lived in simple one-roomed dwellings, and it is only since the development of the area for hydro-electricity production and downhill skiing purposes that large accommodation structures have been built.

The purposes for which huts have been built are many and varied. The miners were the first to require shelter in the area, and several shanties were built to serve their needs. Then after the 1880s the area was opened up for grazing, and many graziers constructed huts at strategic locations leading to or on their runs. Tourists also began to discover the highest parts of the Victorian Alps during the 1890s, and since the 1920s several huts have been built in the area to serve their interests. Road construction authorities, builders of the Kiewa Hydro-Electric Scheme, and forest industries have also added their mark on the landscape by building huts for their workers.

Table 1 documents all the huts known to have existed at one time in the Bogong High Plains area, and their location is shown in Figure 1.² It can be seen that within the borders of the defined area, 166 inhabitable huts have existed of which 58 are still standing. A total of 118 sites have been occupied by huts. These numbers alone draw attention to the historical significance of huts in the Bogong High Plains area. This paper outlines the many purposes

for which huts have been built, and compares the location, number and architectural style of past and present huts.

ACCOMMODATION FOR MINERS

The Bogong High Plains were discovered in 1851 by two drovers from Wangaratta who were looking for a suitable place to graze their stock in the wake of the 1851 bushfires.³ During that same year gold was officially discovered at Omeo and a year later in the Ovens Valley at the site later to be known as Harrierville. News of these gold finds drew many prospectors and alluvial miners to the valleys surrounding the Bogong High Plains and, despite having been discovered by graziers, it was the miners who were the most frequent visitors to the area between the early 1850s and mid 1880s.

During the 1850s, many of the rivers draining the Bogong High Plains were prospected; including the Cobungra River, where about five pounds per week per person was made in 1857; the Big River, where yields were less lucrative; and the Ovens Valley, which has been a centre for gold mining activity ever since.⁴ Then in 1858, reef gold was discovered near Omeo, and two years later in the Upper Ovens Valley at Harrierville. Between those two fields stood the Bogong High Plains, which were not often prospected by miners because they preferred the gentler terrain of the valleys to the rugged nature of the Plains. Only the Mount Fainter area was worked and that in 1862.

In 1863, alluvial gold had also been found in the valley of the Upper Dargo River, and when those gold deposits were traced upslope, deep lead deposits under the basaltic capping of the Dargo High Plains were found. Between 1867 and 1875 sub-basaltic alluvial deposits were discovered and worked at Brandy Creek, Murphey Creek, Boiler Plain, Mount Tabletop and King Spur on the eastern side of the Dargo High Plains. At each of these locations substantial camps were established, as the miners worked to extract the gold by means of a tunnel driven under the basalt along the line of the auriferous gravels.

The main period of gold mining around the Bogong High Plains was later than that for other parts of Victoria. In 1860, the Government appointed a 'Prospecting Board' whose aim was to open up new goldfields and to reward others who did likewise.⁵ Over the next twenty years, a number of local prospecting associations were organised which were variously funded by subscriptions and/or grants

from the Prospecting Vote. A second phase of gold mining in and around the Bogong High Plains area resulted from the prospecting activity of the 1880s. New auriferous areas were discovered, including several reefs along the Razorback and near Mount Hotham, and other areas such as the Mount Fainter diggings were reworked.

Accommodation venues for miners around the Bogong High Plains last century took one of three forms: townships with officially surveyed house blocks, shanties and lodges which may or may not have been built on freehold land, and miners' camps which were usually crude shelters built on Crown land for the duration of the miners' stay in the area. The townships established included Harrietville in 1857; Brocket, Louisville and Mayford during the early 1860s; Cobungra during the mid 1880s; and Sunnyside and Glen Wills during the late 1880s.⁶ Apart from Harrietville and Cobungra, the townships were abandoned after the gold ran out and they are now only names on maps.

The shanties were usually located along the main thoroughfares and were intended to provide accommodation for travelling miners and prospectors. Five shanties are known to have existed in the Bogong High Plains area: Mother Morrells on Mount St Bernard, Mother Johnsons on the Alpine Road near Brandy Creek, Hannekers Hotel at Louisville, Kings store and hotel (later Mayford shanty) at Mayford, and the Alpine Lodge on the Alpine Road near Flourbag Plain. The most famous shanty was Mother Morrells, which was located at the junction of several tracks on Mount St Bernard and was patronised by miners and packers passing between the Ovens, Dargo and Omeo goldfields. Renamed the 'St Bernard Hospice' in 1884, this building did not fall into decline at the end of the gold mining era, but was renovated and used extensively by cattlemen, bushwalkers and ski tourers until it was burnt down in the 1939 fires.

Miners' camps were extremely transient affairs. No doubt there were many small huts and crude shelters inhabited by miners in the Bogong High Plains area last century which have passed unrecorded. For example, Alfred Howitt sketched one such miner's cottage on the Big Spur east of Mount Hotham in 1877, which would not be known if it were not for that sketch. At least twenty miner's huts are listed in Table 1 as having been known to exist between the 1860s and the 1890s.

By the turn of the century, most mining activity in the area had ceased. However, late in 1940, William Spargo discovered the Red Robin and One

Alone reefs north of Mount Loch, and this sparked a minor mining revival in the area. Upon this discovery, Spargo immediately set up camp near the reef and built a living hut nearby. During the mid 1940s he also built a smithy, stable and another hut, and in 1949 constructed a battery. These structures were used by subsequent owners and operators of the mine until 1964, when a second battery was built on the West Kiewa River two kilometres north-east of the mine. Between 1964 and 1978, when the mine was operated by the Livingstone brothers, the new battery site was developed and two sets of accommodation quarters were built over the 1964/65 summer along with several other sheds. After Ken Harris acquired the mine in 1978, a stone house was also constructed at the battery site.

In response to the discovery of the Red Robin reef, several other claims were taken out in the surrounding area. A second mine south-east of the Red Robin mine was established in 1947 called the Quintet Mine. The Quintet reef was not as lucrative as the Red Robin reef, but did return payable gold during the early 1950s. Two huts were built adjacent to the Quintet mine in the late 1940s, and were occupied by the mine operators until about 1958.⁷ Thus, at least 38 huts associated with mining activities have existed, of which only five are still extant. Those huts remaining today are associated with Spargo, the Red Robin mine and the Quintet mine (Table 1).

HUTS BUILT BY GRAZIERs

It is not known when the Bogong High Plains were first grazed by non-native livestock. It is thought that Jim Brown and Jim Wells, the discoverers of the Bogong High Plains, only utilised the Cobungra area, as Ferdinand Mueller did not mention the presence of livestock around Mount Hotham when he visited the area in 1854. Alfred Howitt recorded that the Bogong High Plains were used as summer grazing land for sheep and cattle as early as 1866.⁸ What is known is that large squatting runs covering the Bogong High Plains and adjacent areas were taken up during the late 1850s and early 1860s. Owners of these runs found a market for their stock with the many mining communities which were established at that time, as most miners were dependent on food supplied by squatters and station owners.

The systematic use of the Bogong High Plains for summer grazing dates from the passing of the *Land Act (1884)* when squatting tenure was formally ended. Under the 1884 act, most of Victoria's mountain areas were classified as either 'pastoral',



Wallaces Hut

which entailed a limited opportunity to select a freehold homestead block while utilising adjacent Crown land for grazing, or 'agricultural/grazing', which allowed for the selection of up to 130 acres of freehold land.⁹ Freehold blocks were made available in the Cobungra area, and those families or individuals who took up residence there included the Morgan family, the Petersen family and an Inspector of Mines named Andy Sharpe. Each of these run holders built huts on their land.

After the *Land Act (1884)* was passed, the Lands Department officer at Omeo, James Stirling, established a special land category called the 'Bogong High Plains Green Area', of which he wrote:

*With respect to the Bogong High Plains . it seems to me that it is now necessary to preserve portion of this unique area as Public Park Lands I can confidently assert that there is no area in the whole of the Australian Alps (with the exception of the lower or southern portion of the Snowy Plains) so unique as portions of the former plateau. If this area could be dealt with as summer grazing blocks from 1000 to 5000 acres [400 to 2000 hectares], it would meet the public requirements and prevent any portion from being alienated.*¹⁰

Pastoralists were then invited to apply for an annually renewable grazing licence. There were nineteen initial applications from graziers, so the Department of Crown Lands and Survey subdivided the area into as many grazing blocks and, although the boundaries of the blocks were altered in later years, this division has formed the basis of all grazing activity on the Bogong High Plains and adjacent areas since that time.

From the implementation of the *Land Act (1884)* until the 1940s the attitude of the Crown to the high country graziers was one of apparent disinterest, and this left graziers in virtual control of their own runs.¹¹ Management practices were limited only by the presence of snow for months at a time and the annually renewable basis on which the grazing licences were issued. Within these constraints the Bogong High Plains area grazing industry has developed distinctive management characteristics that have virtually remained unchanged over the last 100 years. The transfer of stock from the lowland properties to the alpine pastures along set tracks, the establishment of huts and yards at strategic locations along these routes and on the Plains, the management of the grazing runs by salting and burning, and the communal mustering of stock at

the end of the summer, are all features of today's high country grazing that were instituted in the late 1880s.

Prior to the 1880s the stockmen would normally camp in canvas tents and provide a 24 hour watch over the stock to prevent them from wandering into the woodlands. Following the 1887 sub-division the graziers who spent long periods of time in the alpine pastures often built huts for shelter and to store equipment. The huts were typically located amongst a stand of snow gums on the edge of the High Plains. Occasionally the huts were used by men who were stationed on the Plains to shepherd stock. The first huts were usually constructed from locally derived timber, often in a chock and log or split paling design, and they usually had a bark or shingle roof, an external chimney, and an earthen floor.

Those graziers who constructed huts on their runs during the 1880s, 1890s and 1900s included the Tawonga cattlemen (Springs Saddle, Bogong Jacks and Tawonga huts), the Campbell brothers, the Dibbins brothers, the Fitzgerald family, Fred Box (Horsehair hut), the Howman family (three huts), Kyram Marum and Jack Platt (Kellys hut), the Lawler family (three huts), James Robinson, the Wallace brothers, the McNamara family (Woolybutt hut) and the Young family. The classic architectural styles of the nineteenth century have been replaced by galvanised iron and pre-fabricated shelters in recent years. From Table 1 it can be seen that a total of 70 huts have been constructed by graziers since 1888, of which 26 are still extant.

HUTS BUILT FOR TOURIST USE

The beginning of tourism in the Bogong High Plains area dates from the formation of the 'Bright Progress Committee and Alpine Club' and the 'Omeo Tourist Association' in 1888 and the 1890s respectively.¹² The underlying motivation behind the formation of the two groups was the desire to promote the north-eastern part of Victoria for tourism once mining activity in the area had declined. Through the efforts of the progress associations, tourism in the Alps was extended when a coach service was instituted between Bright and Omeo in 1897. The trip between Bright and Omeo took two days and involved a lunch stop at Harrietville, an overnight stay at the St Bernard Hospice, and a visit to the Alpine Lodge at Flourbag Plain for lunch on the second day.¹³ The coach service was incorporated into an organised tourist guide of Gippsland and north-eastern Victoria, as

illustrated in *Across the Alps to Omeo*. In 1912, the 'Harrietville Progress Association' built the Mount Feathertop hut west of the Feathertop summit for those visitors who wished to explore the Mounts Hotham and Feathertop area. However, a declining interest in tourism during World War I saw the cessation of the coach service and a decline in the number of tourists visiting the area.

After the first World War, tourism in the area gained some momentum when a car trial, run by the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria in 1921, drew popular attention to the Alpine Road and its environs. Following the car trial it was decided 'to improve the Alpine Road and make it amenable and safe for all travellers, particularly tourists'.¹⁴ The Country Roads Board (CRB) assumed this responsibility and built a series of huts along the route. These huts included the Blowhard, Diamantina, Hotham Heights, Whisky Flat, Dinner Plain and Boggy Creek huts. The most notable of these was the Hotham Heights Chalet which operated as a small guest house between 1928 and 1933.

During the 1920s and '30s, the Victorian Railways had a substantial impact on the development of the Mounts Hotham and Feathertop areas. At that time, long distance holiday travel was virtually synonymous with rail travel and for this reason the Victorian Tourist Bureau originated within the Victorian Railways. In 1925 the 'Feathertop Bungalow' was built, which was a thirteen-room lodge accommodating 32 people, located near the Mount Feathertop hut.¹⁵ The Feathertop Bungalow and Hotham Heights Chalet were purchased by the Victorian Railways in 1928 and 1933 respectively, and during the 1930s and '40s the Victorian Railways operated holiday package tours including a horse-on-snow-shoes and sledge service between Harrietville and the Hotham Heights Chalet.

The 1920s and '30s was characterised by the period of the great hiking boom. Hiking became a worldwide sport during those years, and mushroomed throughout Australia to the extent that in 1934 the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs was formed as an umbrella organisation for the many smaller clubs which had been formed. The State Tourist Committee was also established to promote and extend tourism in Victoria.¹⁶ This committee constructed the Cope, Bon Accord and Razorback huts in 1929, and reconstructed the Bon Accord hut when it succumbed to the 1939 fires. The main

features of the hiking boom were the large number of party members—many walking groups typically contained fifty participants, and some parties numbered in the hundreds or even thousands—and the use of horses.

The recreational base of the area has widened considerably since the 1940s. This was partly due to the passing of the *National Fitness Act* in 1941, when the Australian Government set out to improve the standard of fitness of Australia's youth as a wartime measure.¹⁷ After World War II the fitness movement expanded and over the next five decades new forms of recreational activities became popular. Tangible evidence of the existence of some of the activities can be seen in the area. For example, the MUMC (Melbourne University Mountaineering Club) hut on Mount Feathertop was built to accommodate the increased interest in snow and ice climbing. Some individual ski clubs have also built huts outside the Mount Hotham and Falls Creek areas, including the Australian Women's Ski Club (Brockhoff Hut), the Telemark Ski Club of East Gippsland (Johnstons Hut -2), the Murray Valley Ski Club, the Bogong Ski Club (Red Hut), the Rover Scouts and the Wangaratta Ski Club.

Several huts have been constructed as memorials to skiers who have perished in the area, or in a deliberate effort to avoid further fatalities. These huts include Bivouac Hut, Cleve Cole Hut, Derrick Hut, Mitchell Hut and Summit Hut. Other huts which were originally built for different purposes have also been renovated by tourist organisations. For example, in 1984 an SEC patrol hut was converted into a refuge for horse riding parties, and two sets of holding yards were constructed by the National Parks Service as an acknowledgement of the past and present role of horses in the Bogong High Plains area. Since the 1920s, a total of 35 huts have been constructed to accommodate the needs of tourists, and sixteen of these huts still stand.

ACCOMMODATION FOR SEC AND FORESTRY WORKERS

In addition to huts built for mining, grazing and tourism purposes, other huts have been built to accommodate workers involved in hydro-electricity production and forestry operations. The possibility of utilising the water power of the Kiewa River for the production of electricity was first considered by a private syndicate in 1911, but nothing eventuated until after the formation of the SEC in 1921¹⁸

During the mid 1920s the SEC engaged in exploration work on the Bogong High Plains to determine the feasibility of the proposed hydro scheme. During the late 1920s, three huts were built to accommodate those personnel involved in survey work: the huts were located at Rocky Valley, Pretty Valley and at Youngs Tops south of Mount Jim.

Further feasibility studies were initiated by the SEC in the mid 1930s—this time to examine the features of snow accumulation and melt properties on the Bogong High Plains. To enable an engineer to be in residence to conduct the snow research program, a cottage was built south of Basalt Hill on the Bogong High Plains which became known as the Main Station. The Main Station was regarded as palatial by the cattlemen because it comprised two stories, a nearby tennis court for summer recreation, and a two-metre-high ski jump for winter entertainment.¹⁹ This was one of three huts used by SEC employees during the data collection phase of the 1930s and '40s: the other two being the Falls Creek and Holstens huts.

Construction work on the Kiewa Hydro-Electricity Scheme commenced in 1938, but was not completed until 1961 due to the combined factors of World War II, the 1951 recession, and two major revisions made to the Scheme. One of the last components of the Hydro Scheme to be completed was the construction of aqueducts above the snow line, and a number of huts were constructed in exposed areas and along the course of the aqueducts to provide protection for workers involved in the construction and subsequent patrol of racelines. Some of those huts were later removed when SEC personnel began to patrol the aqueducts on skidoos rather than skis. A total of seventeen sites on the Bogong High Plains have been occupied by huts built by the SEC, and eight of those huts are still extant.

The final purpose for which accommodation has been provided on the Bogong High Plains is for forestry workers. The SEC were the first to utilise the timber resource in the valleys surrounding the Bogong High Plains when they set up three sawmills and two logging camps in the Kiewa Valley. Since the 1950s, three private companies have also logged the alpine ash forests of the area. Logging camps for the forestry operations east of Mount Bogong were located outside the boundary of the Bogong High Plains area, and those workers who obtained timber from the Bundarra River valley camped at Higgins Hut and did not establish their own base camp. By contrast, two logging camps were

FIGURE 1 : LOCATION OF PAST AND PRESENT HUTS
IN THE BOGONG HIGH PLAINS AREA, 1992



established in the West Kiewa Valley during the 1960s, one of which still exists in 1992.

TRENDS IN THE LOCATION, NUMBER AND TYPE OF HUTS

From the map of the distribution of huts in the Bogong High Plains area (Figure 1), it can be seen that there has been and continues to be a concentration of huts in certain areas. In the past (i.e. prior to the 1939 fires) most huts were located in a band tending north-west to south-east from Mount Hotham to Cobungra, centred along the Alpine Road. Today, most huts are concentrated in a band tending south-west to north-east between Mount St Bernard and the Mount Nelse area, centred along the Alpine Walking Track. Also a significant number of huts have been and continue to exist on Mount Bogong. Several areas are noticeable for their absence of huts—namely the valleys of the lower West Kiewa River, the East Kiewa River, the Big River, the Middle Creek and the Bundarra River, as well as the northern Dinner Plain area, the Grey Hills (between Mount Arthur and Spion Kopje), and the northern extension of the Razorback (between Mount Feathertop and Pyramid Hill). Generally speaking, the topography of the land gave rise to the areas of easy access—that is, the spur lines and plateaux areas—and the huts were built on or near to the main access routes across the Bogong High Plains.

The trend in the number of huts known to have existed for each year since 1860 is shown in Figure 2. From that graph several trends are evident. Between the 1860s and 1890s, there were at least 21 huts built by or for miners in the Bogong High Plains area. No doubt there were many more dwellings built during that era, but they have passed unrecorded. Also, it can be seen that most huts existed during the 1880s, a finding which reflects the fact that the main period of mining activity in the Bogong High Plains area was later than that of the rest of Victoria. After 1888, when the Bogong High Plains area was subdivided into leases for the grazing of stock, the number of huts built in the area steadily increased. This trend was apparent between the early 1890s and early 1920s. During the 1920s and '30s, there was a rapid increase in the number of huts built, which was a result of hut construction by both cattlemen and tourist organisations.

The effects of the 1939 bushfire on the number of huts in the area is readily apparent in Figure 2. The 1939 fires burnt a large part of the Bogong High

Plains area, and the most devastating damage occurred in a narrow strip about 25 kilometres wide between Harrietville and Cobungra.²⁰ A total of 27 huts were burnt in 1939, of which only seven were immediately rebuilt. No other fire has had the same impact on built structures in the area—even though the 1926 fire burnt a large portion of the area, only four known huts were destroyed at that time.

The rate of hut construction which was evident before the 1939 fires then continued during the 1940s, '50s and early 1960s. During that time the number of huts built by cattlemen were few, and most of the huts were built either by the SEC or tourist organisations. Since the completion of the Kiewa Hydro-Electric Scheme in the early 1960s, the number of huts has remained fairly static. Several SEC huts were removed during the late 1970s, and only a few other huts were built after that date. This trend is a reflection of the increased Governmental control which had been exercised in alpine Victoria during the last three or four decades.

When comparing the purpose for which huts have been built in the past to that of the present day, the figures in Table 2 tell the story. Table 2 indicates that almost one quarter of the total number of huts built were constructed by and for miners, and yet only nine per cent of the extant huts were built by miners. By contrast, in 1992 there is a higher proportion of huts built by tourist organisations, the CRB and the SEC relative to the number of huts built over the 1860 to 1992 period. There is no doubt that a higher occurrence of tourist, CRB and SEC huts in the Bogong High Plains area in 1992 is due to the fact that most of these huts have been built over the last 50 years, and have not been burnt or otherwise destroyed. Also of interest is the fact that the present number of cattlemen's huts is about the same as it has always been. Equally of note is the fact that the cattlemen have always had, and continue to have, more huts in the Bogong High Plains area than any other user group. Just under half of the extant huts in the Bogong High Plains area have been built by and are primarily used by cattlemen.

Another point of interest to arise out of Table 1 is the large variety of architectural styles evident in the huts. From Table 1 it can be seen that a total of 25 huts have been built in a chock and log style, 22 huts have been built with split timber walls—ten where the timber is vertical and 12 where the timber has been placed horizontally, 42 huts have been built from galvanised iron, 42 huts have walls made of either stone, weatherboard, prefabricated materials,



Johnstons Hut at the head of Hollands Creek, south of Mt Nelse. It was burnt down in 1978.

or some other material, and the building materials of 35 huts is not known.

Figure 3 gives a times series plot of the number of huts of any given architectural style for each ten year period between 1860 and 1990. It can be seen that of the known building materials, most of the huts built before the 1930s were built in either a chock and log or split timber design—i.e. from local timber utilising bushcraft technology. From the 1920s to the 1960s, the majority of huts were built with either galvanised iron, stone, weatherboard or prefabricated materials. Thus the traditional bushcraft technology of the early days has been replaced by imported materials which were easy to assemble.

Of the huts remaining in 1992, the chock and log style hut, the galvanised iron hut and the stone, weatherboard and prefabricated huts are well represented, with seven, twenty and 27 examples respectively. However there is only one extant example of a vertical split timber hut (Wallaces Hut—the walls of which are technically not split timber anyway), and three examples of horizontal split timber huts (Fitzgeralds Hut, Horsehair Hut -2 and Westons Hut).

Regarding the roofing materials of the huts, it seems that the roofs of all huts have been standardised over the last fifty years, since most huts today have a galvanised iron roof. However, where the roofing materials of the huts of the past is known,

it can be seen from Table 1 that at least fifteen huts had shingle roofs and eleven had bark roofs. There are no representative examples of these early roof types left in present day huts of the Bogong High Plains area.

The final comment that needs to be made regarding the huts relates to their heritage value. When it comes to assessing which huts have such historical significance that they should be preserved as part of Victoria's alpine heritage, it is suggested that three main factors should be considered: firstly, the purpose for which the hut was built; secondly, the era to which the hut belonged; and thirdly, the architectural style of the hut. These three factors should be balanced so that each is representative of the total.

For example, if it were desired to select twenty huts as representative of the heritage value of the Bogong High Plains area then the suggestions found in Table 3 may be appropriate. There the number of huts built for mining, grazing, tourism, SEC and forestry purposes approximates the proportion of the total number of huts built for that purpose for the total 1860 to 1992 period (as per Table 2). It will be noted that the lack of extant mining huts precludes an accurate representation of that industry. Of the twenty huts suggested in Table 3, each major era of hut construction and use is represented. This selection also implies that recently constructed huts must be considered for heritage status as well as the very old huts, because age does not equal heritage.

The list in Table 3 also provides a representative spread of the many architectural styles of huts in the Bogong High Plains area: two chock and log huts, one vertical timber hut, two horizontal split timber huts, seven galvanised iron huts, three weatherboard huts, two stone huts, one prefabricated hut, one aluminium cladding hut, and one geodesic dome hut. In this way, the three facets of heritage are satisfied. It should be stressed that this is an example of the way in which heritage judgements can be made, rather than a recommendation as to which huts deserve heritage status.

In conclusion, it can be seen that huts have been an integral part of the Bogong High Plains area since the early 1860s. Aside from their aesthetic values, the huts have provided accommodation for the miner, grazier, tourist, CRB worker, SEC worker, forest worker and many other visitors besides. The location of the huts, the purpose for which the huts have been built, and the architectural style of the huts have varied according to topography, access, economics, politics and other land use factors. In the past, the grazing industry has been dominant in the provision of accommodation in the Bogong High Plains area, and this phenomena continues today. However, an assessment of the heritage value of huts of the Bogong High Plains should accommodate more than just the age and architectural style of a hut, and also needs to incorporate the purpose for which the hut was built.

NOTES

The **Bogong High Plains area** is defined as follows: from Mount Beauty along Mountain Creek to Camp Creek Gap; along Trappers Gap Track to The Hollow; along Wye Creek and Snowy Creek tributaries to the helipad on Mulhauser Spur; along Otto and Mt Wills creeks to the Big River Saddle; along a Big River tributary, the Big River and a Bundarra River tributary to the Bundarra River; along the Callaghan and Mt Battery tracks to the Alpine Road; along Victoria River, Dinner Plain and Craig tracks to Mayford; along the Dargo River to Mt St Bernard; along Mt Smyth Creek and the Ovens River to Smoko; along Ovens River tributaries and Yard Creek to Simmonds Gap; along Simmonds Creek to Mount Beauty.

Huts are defined as built structures which have been used for accommodation purposes. It does not include huts built for storage, accommodation venues associated with ski resorts, SEC camps and worksites, or large homesteads on freehold land.

1. *The Argus*, 30.8.1884, p4

2. Documentation on these huts may be found in Lawrence, R.E. (1990) *The interaction between the environment, land use and hydrology of the Bogong High Plains between 1850 and 1985*. Ph.D thesis, Geography Department, University of Melbourne, Appendix IV.

3. Carr, S.G.M. (1962) 'The discovery of the Bogong High Plains' in *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria* 75:285-289

4. Flett, J. (1970) *The history of gold discovery in Victoria*. Hawthorn Press (Melbourne).

5. Victoria, Legislative Assembly (1861) 'Report of the Prospecting Board'. *Papers presented to both houses of Parliament by command of His Excellency the Governor*. Session 1860-1. Volume III. Paper No. 12, pp343-365.

6. Flett (1970), op.cit.; Lloyd, B.E. (1982) *Gold at Harrierville*. Shoestring Press (Wangaratta); Christie, R.W. & Gray, G.D. (1981) *Victoria's forgotten goldfield*. Enterprise Press (Sale); Fairweather, K.M. (1983) *Brarack: mining at Omeo and Glen Wills*. the author (Bairnsdale).

7. Information on the Red Robin and Quintet mines may be found in Lawrence, R.E. (1990), pp99-107.

8. Howitt, A.W. (1879) 'Report of the Crown Lands Commission of Inquiry on both the agricultural and pastoral occupation of the public lands to be instituted on the expiration of the present Land Act at the close of 1880.' Evidence presented by A.W. Howitt 22.1.1879 at Bairnsdale. *Victorian Parliamentary Paper*, No.73, pp330.

9. Cabena, P.B. (1980) *Grazing in the high country: an historical and political geography of high country grazing in Victoria, 1835 to 1935*. M.A. Thesis, Department of Geography, University of Melbourne.

10. Stirling in Cabena (1980), op.cit., p43

11. Cabena (1980), op.cit., p79

12. Bright Alpine Club (1890) *Illustrated guide to the Australian Alps and Buffalo Ranges*. The Bright Progress Committee and Alpine Club; Marsden, H.G. (Ed.) (1903) *Across the Alps to Omeo*. Max Bridges (facs.) (Toongabbie)

13. Staples as quoted in Holth, T. & Holth, J. (1985) *Challenge of the high country*. Rigby (Adelaide), p55

14. Cabena, P.B. (1979) *Mt Hotham; its history from the 1850s to 1950s*. Paper held at the Department of Conservation and Environment (Melbourne), p47

15. Langridge, G. (1948) 'The chalet at Mt Feathertop'. *Australian Ski Year Book*, 21:105,106

16. Johnson, D. (1974) *The alps at the crossroads*. Victorian National Parks Association (Melbourne)

17. Australian Information Service (1975) *Reference paper: recreation*. Australian Government Publishing Service (Canberra)

18. Williams, H.H.C. (1967) *Kiewa Hydro-Electric Scheme technical history*. State Electricity Commission (Melbourne)

19. Holth & Holth (1985), op.cit., p112

20. Documentation on areas burnt in the 1939 fires may be found in Lawrence, R.E. (1990) pp121-124

Ruth Lawrence compiled this paper during her time with the Geography Department at the University of Melbourne. She is now at the Geography Department at the University of Adelaide. The paper was compiled before Fitzgerald Hut was destroyed by fire, so all appropriate figures should be read accordingly.

The MCAV believes that due to their unique nature and for obvious safety reasons that all huts of the alpine area, and particularly those in National Parks, should be retained.

FIGURE 2: NUMBER OF KNOWN HUTS IN THE BOGONG HIGH PLAINS AREA FROM 1860 TO 1992.

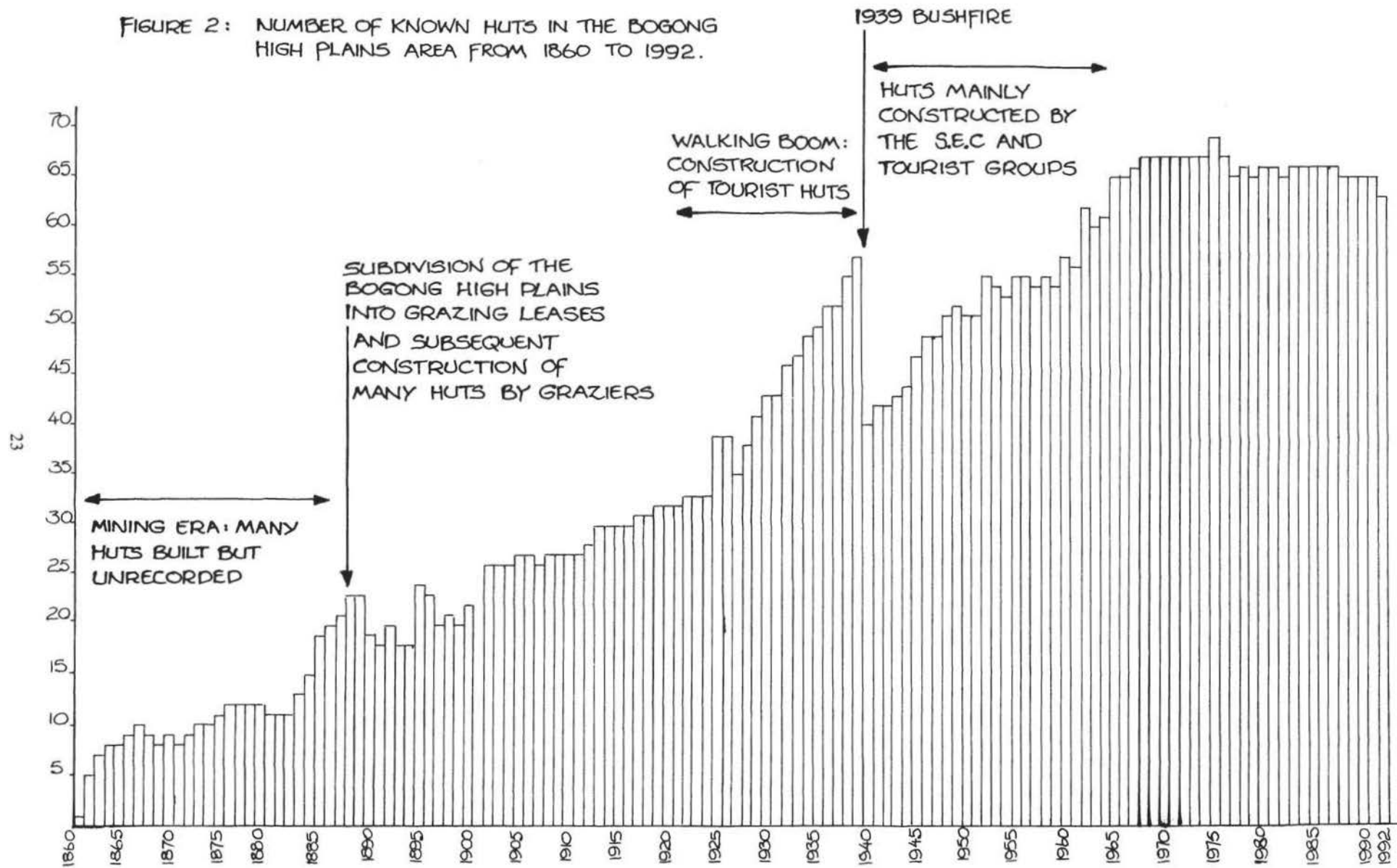


TABLE 1: HUTS IN THE BOGONG HIGH PLAINS AREA

NAME OF HUT	LOCATION OF HUT	DURATION OF HUT	ARCHITECTURAL STYLE OF HUT	PURPOSE FOR WHICH HUT WAS BUILT AND USED
Alpine Lodge #1	On the Alpine Road near Flour Bag Plain	1890s - 1904	Not known	Accommodation quarters for miners
Alpine Lodge #2	On the Alpine Road near Flour Bag Plain	1904 - 1927	Chock and log / split timber walls, galvanised iron roof	Lodge (three huts) used by miners and tourists
Battys Hut	New Country Spur north of Mt Nelse	1930s - 1992	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built by cattlemen, used by cattlemen to 1953
Big River Camp	Along the Big River near Middle Creek	1880s	Not known	Miner's camp
Big Spur Hut	Big Spur east of Mt Hotham	1870s - 1880s	Not known	Miner's camp
Bivouac Hut #1	Staircase Spur north of Mt Bogong	1934 - 1939	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built by Ski Club of Victoria, used by tourists
Bivouac Hut #2	Staircase Spur north of Mt Bogong	1939 - 1978	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built by Ski Club of Victoria, used by tourists
Bivouac Hut #3	Staircase Spur north of Mt Bogong	1978 - 1992	Prefabricated steel walls, galvanised iron roof	Built by National Parks Service, used by tourists
Blairs First Hut	Simmonds Gap north-west Pyramid Hill	1943 - 1992	Chock and log walls, galvanised iron roof	Built by cattlemen, used by cattlemen to 1973
Blairs Hut #1	West Kiewa River west of Mt Jim	1922 - 1931	Chock and log walls with bark overlay, bark roof	Built and used predominantly by cattlemen
Blairs Hut #2	West Kiewa River west of Mt Jim	1931 - 1992	Chock and log walls, bark overlay & roof (later iron)	Built by cattlemen, used by cattlemen and tourists
Blowhard Hut #1	On the Alpine Road south of Mt Hotham	1930s - 1950s	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Refuge hut built by the Country Roads Board
Blowhard Hut #2	On the Alpine Road south of Mt Hotham	1957 - 1992	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Refuge hut built by the Country Roads Board
Boggy Creek Hut	On the Alpine Road near Horsehair Plain	1925 - 1939	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Refuge hut built by the Country Roads Board
Bogong Creek Hut #1	Head of Bogong Creek west of Mt Bogong	1952 - 1992	Weatherboard hut, galvanised iron roof	Remains of an S.E.C. camp, used by cattlemen
Bogong Creek Hut #2	Head of Bogong Creek west of Mt Bogong	1952 - 1992	Weatherboard hut, galvanised iron roof	Remains of an S.E.C. camp, used by cattlemen
Bogong High Plains Camp	On the eastern fall of Mt Nelse	1880s	Not known	Miner's camp
Bogong Jacks Hut #1	Bogong Jack Saddle north of Mt Fainter	1900s - 1914	Vertical split timber walls, bark roof	Built and used by cattlemen
Bogong Jacks Hut #2	Bogong Jack Saddle north of Mt Fainter	1919 - 1962	Horizontal split timber walls, shingle roof	Built and used by cattlemen
Bogong Jacks Hut #3	Bogong Jack Saddle north of Mt Fainter	1965 - 1992	Galvanised iron walls and roof transported to the site	Built and used predominantly by cattlemen
Boiler Plain Hut	Boiler Plain east of Paw Paw Plain	1870s	Not known	Miner's camp
Bon Accord Hut #1	Bon Accord Spur north of Mt Hotham	1929 - 1939	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built by State Tourist Committee, used by tourists
Bon Accord Hut #2	Bon Accord Spur north of Mt Hotham	1939 - 1992	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built by State Tourist Committee, used by tourists
Brandy Creek Hut #1	Brandy Creek east of Mt Hotham	1860s - 1939	Vertical split timber walls	Miner's residence
Brandy Creek Hut #2	Brandy Creek east of Mt Hotham	1860s - 1939	Vertical split timber walls	Miner's residence
Brandy Creek Manager's Hut	Swindlers Creek east of Mt Hotham	1860s	Not known	Miner's residence
Briggs Hut, Snowy Creek	Snowy Creek north-west of Pyramid Hill	1920s - 1939	Rough chock and log shelter, galvanised iron roof	Built and used by cattlemen
Briggs Hut, West Kiewa	West Kiewa River west of Mt Fainter	1983 - 1991	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built and used by cattlemen
Brocket Hut	Dargo River south-east of Mt St Bernard	1860s	Not known	Miner's dwelling
Brockhoff Hut	Machinery Spur east of Mt Hotham	1949 - 1992	Stone walls, galvanised iron roof	Built & used by the Australian Women's Ski Club
Cairn Creek Hut	On the Big River south of Mt Bogong	1952 - 1992	Weatherboard hut, galvanised iron roof	S.E.C. refuge and stream gauging hut
Camp Creek Camp	On Camp Creek south of Mt Bogong	1880s	Not known	Miner's camp
Campbells Hut #1	South of Cope Saddle and west of Mt Cope	1880s - 1890s	Horizontal split timber walls, shingle roof	Built and used by pastoralists
Campbells Hut #2	South of Cope Saddle and west of Mt Cope	1975 - 1992	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built and used predominantly by cattlemen
Campbells Hut #3	South of Cope Saddle and west of Mt Cope	1975 - 1992	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built and used predominantly by cattlemen
Cleve Cole Hut	Camp Valley on Mt Bogong	1936 - 1992	Stone walls, galvanised iron roof	Built in memorial to Cleve Cole, used by tourists
Cobungra River Hut	Cobungra River below Flourbag Plain	1890s - 1939	Not known	Built and used by cattlemen
Cope Hut	Head of Middle Creek north of Mt Cope	1929 - 1992	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built by State Tourist Committee, used by tourists
Cope Saddle Hut	Cope Saddle west of Mt Cope	1960s - 1992	Prefabricated wooden hut, galvanised iron roof	Refuge for S.E.C. patrol personnel and tourists
Damm Hut	Previous site of Howards Hut	1930 - 1992	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built and used by cattlemen to 1958
Darbary Hut	Reedy Creek south of Mt Battery	1860s - 1939	Chock and log hut, bark roof	Residence of graziers: the Petersen family
Derrick Hut	Swindlers Spur south of Mt Loch	1967 - 1992	Weatherboard hut, galvanised iron roof	Built memorial to Charlie Derrick, used by tourists
Diamantina Hut #1	Alpine Road west of Mt Hotham	1927 - 1939	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Refuge hut built by the Country Roads Board
Diamantina Hut #2	Alpine Road west of Mt Hotham	1939 - 1992	Galvanised iron A frame hut	Refuge hut built by the Country Roads Board
Dibbins Hut #1	Cobungra River east of Mt Loch	1900s - 1920s	Chock and log hut, bark roof	Built and used by cattlemen
Dibbins Hut #2	Cobungra River east of Mt Loch	1917 - 1987	Chock and log hut, bark (later iron) roof	Built by cattlemen, used by cattlemen and tourists
Dibbins Hut #3	Cobungra River east of Mt Loch	1988 - 1992	Chock and log hut, galvanised iron roof	Built and used by tourists
Dinner Plain Hut #1	On Alpine Road near south Dinner Plain	1924 - 1939	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Refuge hut built by the Country Roads Board
Dinner Plain Hut #2	On Alpine Road near south Dinner Plain	1939 - 1960s	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Refuge hut built by the Country Roads Board

Duanes Hut	Duanes Spur north of Mt Nelse	1910s - 1926	Not known	Built and used by cattlemen
Edmondsons Hut	Head of Nelse Creek south of Mt Nelse	1933 - 1992	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built by cattlemen, used by cattlemen and tourists
Eric Johnsons Hut	Bon Accord Spur north of Mt Hotham	1944 - 1960s	Not known	Residence of employee of Railways Department
Faithfuls Hut	West side of Buckety Plain	1962 - 1992	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built and used predominantly by cattlemen
Falls Creek Hut	Rocky Valley Stream north-east Mt McKay	1946 - 1948	Not known	Residence of an S.E.C. snow program officer
Feathertop Bungalow	Bungalow Spur west of Mt Feathertop	1925 - 1939	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Accommodation lodge for tourists
Federation Hut	Bungalow Spur west of Mt Feathertop	1968 - 1992	Aluminium cladding for walls and roof	Built Federation Vic.Walk.Clubs, used by tourists
Fitzgeralds Hut	Head Langfords Creek east Marum Point	1903 - 1992	Horizontal split timber walls, shingle (later iron) roof	Built by cattlemen, used by cattlemen and tourists
Hannekers Hotel	Louisville, Dargo River north Mt Blue Rag	1860s - 1880s	Not known	Hostelry used by miners
Holstons Hut	Head of Middle Creek south of Basalt Hill	1935 - 1941	Not known	Residence of an S.E.C. snow research assistant
Horsehair Hut #1	On the Alpine Road at Horsehair Plain	1880s - 1992	Chock and log hut, shingle (later iron) roof	Built and used predominantly by cattlemen
Horsehair Hut #2	On the Alpine Road at Horsehair Plain	1921 - 1992	Horizontal split timber walls, galvanised iron roof	Built and used predominantly by cattlemen
Hotham Heights Chalet #1	On the Alpine Road near Mt Hotham	1925 - 1939	Stone walls, galvanised iron roof	Works depot for C.R.B.& guest house for tourists
Hotham Heights Chalet #2	On the Alpine Road near Mt Hotham	1939 - 1976	Stone basement, molded walls, galvanised iron roof	Works depot for C.R.B.& guest house for tourists
Howards Hut	Below Alpine Road east of Mt St Bernard	1910s - 1926	Hession covering over a pole frame	Built and used by cattlemen
Howmans Hut, Mt Bogong	Head of Beckrath Creek on Mt Bogong	1890s - 1926	Chock and log hut, galvanised iron roof	Built and used by cattlemen
Howmans Hollow Hut #1	Granite Spur north of Mt Bogong	1900s - 1939	Chock and log hut, galvanised iron roof	Built and used by cattlemen
Howmans Hollow Hut #2	Granite Spur north of Mt Bogong	1941 - 1992	Chock and log hut, galvanised iron roof	Built and used predominantly by cattlemen
Howmans Hollow Hut #3	Granite Spur north of Mt Bogong	1970 - 1992	Prefabricated wooden hut, galvanised iron roof	Built and used predominantly by cattlemen
Howmans Shingle Hut	Eskdale Spur north of Mt Bogong	1890s - 1920	Vertical split timber walls, shingle roof	Built and used by cattlemen
Huggins Hut	Buckety Plain south of Middle Creek	1940 - 1965	Chock and log hut, galvanised iron roof	Built by cattlemen, used by cattlemen and foresters
J. B. Plain Hut	J. B. Plain east of Paw Paw Plain	1970s - 1992	Weatherboard hut, galvanised iron roof	Built and used predominantly by cattlemen
Johnstons Hut #1	Head of Hollonds Creek south Mt Nelse	1920s - 1978	Horizontal split timber walls, galvanised iron roof	Built and used by sheep graziers
Johnstons Hut #2	Head of Hollonds Creek south Mt Nelse	1978 - 1992	Weatherboard hut, galvanised iron roof	Built by Telemark Ski Club, used by tourists
Kellys Hut #1	Head Wild Horse Creek east of Marum Point	1890 - 1956	Vertical split timber walls, shingle (later iron) roof	Built and used predominantly by cattlemen
Kellys Hut #2	Head Wild Horse Creek east of Marum Point	1958 - 1992	Weatherboard hut, galvanised iron roof	Built by cattlemen, used by cattlemen and tourists
Kings Store & Hotel	Dargo River south of Mt Tabletop	1860s - 1870s	Not known	Accommodation for miners
Langford East Hut A	On Langfords East Aqueduct east Basalt Hill	1960 - 1970s	Prefabricated wooden hut, galvanised iron roof	Refuge for S.E.C. patrol personnel
Langford East Hut B	On Langfords East Aqueduct east Basalt Hill	1960s - 1970s	Prefabricated wooden hut, galvanised iron roof	Refuge for S.E.C. patrol personnel
Langfords Gap Hut	Langfords Gap near Basalt Hill	1960 - 1992	Prefabricated wooden hut, galvanised iron roof	Refuge for S.E.C. patrol personnel and tourists
Langford West Hut	Langfords West Aqueduct south Basalt Hill	1960 - 1970s	Prefabricated wooden hut, galvanised iron roof	Refuge for S.E.C. patrol personnel
Lawlers Hut, Diamantina River	Head Diamantina River north of Mt Hotham	1890s - 1900s	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built by cattlemen, used by cattlemen and tourists
Lawlers Hut, Mt H'botham #1	Mt Higginbotham south-east of Mt Hotham	1900s - 1939	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built by cattlemen, used by cattlemen and tourists
Lawlers Hut, Mt H'botham #2	Mt Higginbotham south-east of Mt Hotham	1940s - 1962	Treated pine walls, galvanised iron roof	Built and used predominantly by cattlemen
Lawlers Hut, Snowy Creek	Head of Snowy Creek south of Pyramid Hill	1900s - 1939	Chock and log hut, galvanised iron roof	Built and used by cattlemen
Lawlers Hut, West Kiewa	West Kiewa Valley west of Mt Fainter	1940 - 1960s	Chock and log hut, bark (later iron) roof	Built and used predominantly by cattlemen
Loch Glen Camp	Upper Dargo River south of Mt Hotham	1880s	Not known	Miner's camp
Louisville Hut A	Dargo River south-east of Mt St Bernard	1860s	Not known	Miner's dwelling
Louisville Hut B	Dargo River south-east of Mt St Bernard	1860s	Not known	Miner's dwelling
Louisville Hut C	Dargo River south-east of Mt St Bernard	1860s	Not known	Miner's dwelling
Maddisons Hut #1	Camp Valley on Mt Bogong	1928 - 1937	Chock and log hut, galvanised iron roof	Built by cattlemen, used by cattlemen and tourists
Maddisons Hut #2	Camp Valley on Mt Bogong	1930s - 1978	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built by cattlemen, used by cattlemen and tourists
Maddisons Hut #3	Camp Valley on Mt Bogong	1975 - 1978	Timber walls, galvanised iron roof	Built and used by cattlemen and tourists
Main Station / Wilkinsons Lodge	Head of Middle Creek south of Basalt Hill	1933 - 1992	Weatherboard hut, galvanised iron roof	Residence S.E.C. engineer to 1946, now tourists
Marum Point Hut	At the northern base of Marum Point	1950s - 1970s	Prefabricated wooden hut, galvanised iron roof	Refuge for S.E.C. construction personnel
Mayford Shanty	Dargo River south of Mt Tabletop	1880s - 1890s	Not known	Shanty used by miners
McKay Hut	At the southern base of Mt McKay	1950s - 1970s	Prefabricated wooden hut, galvanised iron roof	Refuge for S.E.C. patrol personnel
McNamaras Hut, Buckety Plain	Buckety Plain north of Bundarra River	1940s - 1992	Chock and log hut, paling (later iron) roof	Built by cattlemen, used by cattlemen to 1970s
McNamaras Hut, Dinner Plain	Bundarra River at North Dinner Plain	1917 - 1992	Chock and log hut, bark (later iron) roof	Built by cattlemen, used by cattlemen and tourists
Michell Hut	Eskdale Spur north of Mt Bogong	1966 - 1992	Prefabricated steel walls, galvanised iron roof	Built in memorial to lost skiers, used by tourists
Middle Creek Camp	Northern side of lower Middle Creek	1880s	Not known	Miner's camp
Mother Johnsons #1	On Alpine Road at Paw Paw Plain	1870s	Not known	Shanty used by miners
Mother Johnsons #2	On Alpine Road at Paw Paw Plain	1885 - 1900s	Not known	Shanty used by miners
Mother Morrells	On the northern slopes of Mt St Bernard	1863 - 1884	Log cabin, shingle roof	Shanty used by miners, mailmen and tourists
Mt Fainter Camp A	Pretty Valley Stream east of Mt Fainter	1880s	Not known	Miner's camp

Mt Fainter Camp B	Below the eastern summit of Mt Fainter	1890s	Not known	Miner's camp
Mt Feathertop Hut	Bungalow Spur west of Mt Feathertop	1912 - 1981	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built by Harrierville Progress Ass, used by tourists
M.U.M.C. Hut	North-west Spur near Mt Feathertop	1966 - 1992	Aluminium geodesic dome	Built Melb Uni Mountaineering Club, used tourists
Murray Valley Hut	Alpine Road west of Mt Hotham	1952 - 1992	Prefabricated steel walls, galvanised iron roof	Built and used by the Murray Valley Ski Club
Paling Flat Hut	Buckety Plain south of Middle Creek	1920s - 1939	Chock and log hut	Residence of graziers: the Morgan family
Petersens Hut	Precipice Plain at the head of Victoria River	1905 - 1939	Chock and log hut, bark roof	Built and used by cattlemen
Pretty Valley Patrol Hut A	Pretty Valley south of Mt McKay	1960s - 1992	Prefabricated wooden hut, galvanised iron roof	Refuge for S.E.C. patrol personnel and tourists
Pretty Valley Patrol Hut B	Pretty Valley south of Mt McKay	1960s - 1992	Prefabricated wooden hut, galvanised iron roof	Refuge for S.E.C. patrol personnel and tourists
Pretty Valley Survey Hut	Pretty Valley Stream north of Mt McKay	1928 - 1950s	Weatherboard hut, galvanised iron roof	Refuge for S.E.C. investigation personnel
Quintet Mine Hut #1	Quintet Mine south of Mt Loch	1940s - 1992	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Used by miners to 1958
Quintet Mine Hut #2	Quintet Mine south of Mt Loch	1940s - 1992	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Used by miners to 1958
Razorback Hut	Razorback Track north of Mt Hotham	1929 - 1939	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built by S.T.C., used by tourists and cattlemen
Red Hut	Rocky Valley Stream south of Spion Kopje	1945 - 1992	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built and used by Bogong Ski Club members
Red Robin Battery Hut #1	West Kiewa River east of Mt Jim	1964 - 1992	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Residence of workmen at the Red Robin Mine
Red Robin Battery Hut #2	West Kiewa River east of Mt Jim	1964 - 1990	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Residence of workmen at the Red Robin Mine
Red Robin Battery Hut #3	West Kiewa River east of Mt Jim	1978 - 1992	Stone walls, galvanised iron roof	Residence of workmen at the Red Robin Mine
Red Robin Mine Hut	Red Robin Mine north of Mt Loch	1941 - 1987	Vertical split timber walls, galvanised iron roof	Residence of workmen at the Red Robin Mine
Redbank Hut	Redbank Plain east of Flourbag Plain	1915 - 1939	Chock and log hut	Built and used by cattlemen
Ridge Hut	Long Spur east of Mt Bogong	1936 - 1960s	Chock and log hut	Built and used by cattlemen
Robinsons Hut	Wildhorse Creek east of Marum Point	1900s - 1920s	Chock and log hut, shingle roof	Built and used by a cattle dealer
Rocky Valley Survey Hut	Rocky Valley east of Mt McKay	1928 - 1958	Weatherboard hut, galvanised iron roof	Refuge for S.E.C. investigation personnel
Ropers Hut, Bogong Creek	Bogong Creek south of Mt Bogong	1930 - 1952	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built and used by cattlemen
Ropers Hut, Duanes Spur	Site of the previous Duanes Hut	1939 - 1992	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built by cattlemen, used by cattlemen and tourists
Ropers Hut, Fryingpan Spur	Fryingpan Spur north of Mt McKay	1913 - 1939	Vertical split timber walls, shingle roof	Built and used by cattlemen
Ropers Hut, Mountain Creek	Mountain Creek north of Mt Bogong	1930s - 1950s	Timber walls, galvanised iron roof	Built and used by cattlemen
Rover Scout Chalet	Head of Middle Creek north of Mt Cope	1940 - 1992	Stone and timber walls, galvanised iron roof	Built and used by Rovers Scout Association
Sharpes Hut	Racecourse Plain south of Horsehair Plain	1920 - 1939	Split timber walls with log extension	Residence of grazier: Andy Sharpe
Spargos Hut	Head of Swindlers Creek east of Mt Hotham	1932 - 1992	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Residence of Spargo to 1940, used by tourists
Springs Saddle Hut #1	Springs Saddle north of Mt Fainter	1900s - 1914	Horizontal split timber walls, bark roof	Built and used by cattlemen
Springs Saddle Hut #2	Springs Saddle north of Mt Fainter	1914 - 1926	Horizontal split timber walls, bark roof	Built and used by cattlemen
Springs Saddle Hut #3	Springs Saddle north of Mt Fainter	1965 - 1992	Prefabricated wooden hut, galvanised iron roof	Built and used predominantly by cattlemen
St Bernards Hospice	Previous site of Mother Morrells	1884 - 1939	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Accommodation for miners, mailmen and tourists
Summit Hut	Adjacent to the Mt Bogong summit	1934 - 1978	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built in memorial of lost skiers, used by tourists
Sydney Plain Hut	Sydney Plain south of Horsehair Plain	1890s - 1939	Not known	Built and used by cattlemen
Tabletop Mine Hut A	On the south side of Mt Tabletop	1890s	Not known	Miner's residence
Tabletop Mine Hut B	On the south side of Mt Tabletop	1890s	Not known	Miner's residence
Tabletop Mine Hut C	On the south side of Mt Tabletop	1890s	Not known	Miner's residence
Tawonga Hut #1	Tawonga Huts Creek south of Mt Fainter	1888 - 1910s	Vertical snow gum walls, shingle roof	Built and used by cattlemen
Tawonga Hut #2	Tawonga Huts Creek south of Mt Fainter	1910 - 1923	Vertical snow gum walls, shingle roof	Built and used by cattlemen
Tawonga Hut #3	Tawonga Huts Creek south of Mt Fainter	1923 - 1955	Horizontal split timber walls, galvanised iron roof	Built by cattlemen, used by cattlemen and tourists
Tawonga Hut #4	Tawonga Huts Creek south of Mt Fainter	1950s - 1992	Weatherboard hut, galvanised iron roof	Built by cattlemen, used by cattlemen and tourists
Tawonga Hut #5	Tawonga Huts Creek south of Mt Fainter	1950s - 1992	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built by cattlemen, used by cattlemen and tourists
Tawonga Hut #6	Tawonga Huts Creek south of Mt Fainter	1950s - 1992	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built by cattlemen, used by cattlemen and tourists
Tin Hut	Adjacent to Horsehair Plain	1890s - 1918	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Built and used by cattlemen
Upper Big River Camp	On Big River south of Mt Bogong	1880s	Not known	Miner's camp
Upper Ovens River Camp A	Adjacent to mine sites in the Ovens Valley	1880s	Not known	Miner's camp
Upper Ovens River Camp B	Adjacent to mine sites in the Ovens Valley	1880s	Not known	Miner's camp
Upper Ovens River Camp C	Adjacent to mine sites in the Ovens Valley	1880s	Not known	Miner's camp
Wallaces Hut	Head of Middle Creek south of Basalt Hill	1889 - 1992	Vertical log walls, shingle (later iron) roof	Built by cattlemen, used by tourists from the 1930s
Wangaratta Ski Club Lodge	Alpine Road near Mt St Bernard	1946 - 1992	Galvanised iron (later prefabricated) walls and roof	Built and used by Wangaratta Ski Club
Ward-Ambler Cabin A	Alpine Road east of Mt St Bernard	1938 - 1939	Log cabin	Private residence of Cyril Ward-Ambler
Ward-Ambler Cabin B	Previous site of the Hospice, Mt St Bernard	1939 - 1940s	Not known	Private residence of Cyril Ward-Ambler
West Kiewa Logging Camp A	West Kiewa Valley west of Mt Fainter	1962 - 1960s	Not known	Logging camp for forestry workers
West Kiewa Logging Camp B #1	West Kiewa Valley west of Mt Jim	1965 - 1991	Covered trailer	Logging camp for forestry workers
West Kiewa Logging Camp B #2	West Kiewa Valley west of Mt Jim	1965 - 1992	Weatherboard hut, galvanised iron roof	Logging camp for forestry workers

Westons Hut	Lake Spur Track west of Mt Jim	1939 - 1992	Horizontal split timber walls, shingle (later iron) roof	Built by cattlemen, used by cattlemen and tourists
Whisky Flat Hut #1	On Alpine Road north of Paw Paw Plain	1925 - 1939	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Central works depot for C.R.B.
Whisky Flat Hut #2	On Alpine Road north of Paw Paw Plain	1939 - 1957	Galvanised iron walls and roof	Central works depot for C.R.B.
Wire Plain Hut	Wire Plain north of Paw Paw Plain	1962 - 1992	Prefabricated wooden hut, galvanised iron roof	Built and used predominantly by cattlemen
Woolllybutt Hut	Rocky Plain south of Bundarra River	1890s - 1939	Chock and log hut, shingle roof	Built and used by cattlemen
Youngs Hut #1	Head of Bundarra River south of Mt Jim	1890s - 1923	Horizontal split timber walls, shingle roof	Built and used by cattlemen
Youngs Hut #2	Head of Bundarra River south of Mt Jim	1928 - 1992	Weatherboard hut, galvanised iron roof	Built for S.E.C. workers, used by cattlemen

FIGURE 3 : NUMBER OF HUTS WITH A GIVEN ARCHITECTURAL STYLE IN THE BOGONG HIGH PLAINS

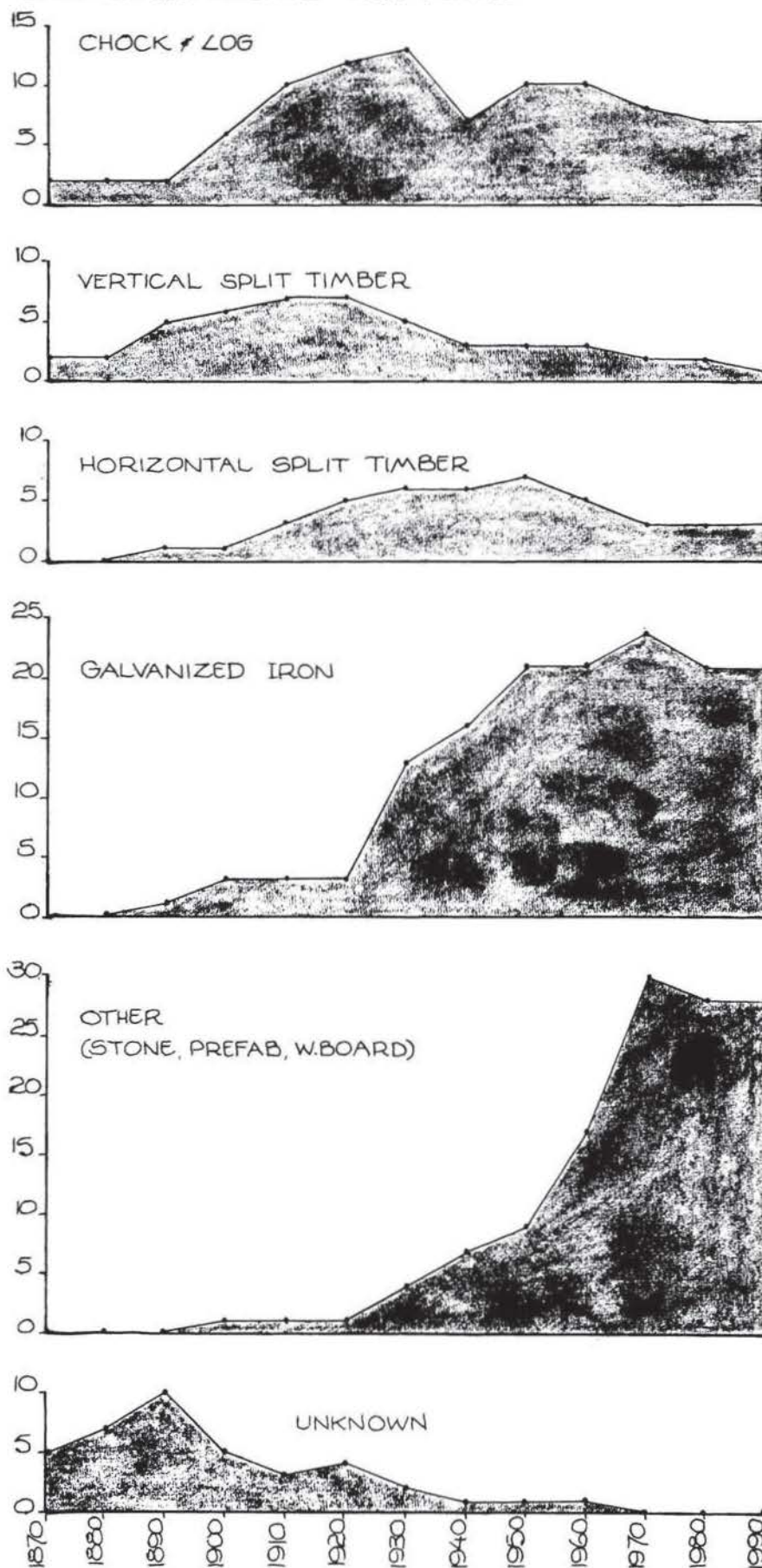


TABLE 2 NUMBERS OF HUTS IN THE BOGONG HIGH PLAINS AREA - PAST AND PRESENT

	1860 - 1992		1999	
	NUMBER OF HUTS	PROPORTION OF TOTAL %	NUMBER OF HUTS	PROPORTION OF TOTAL %
MINING	39	24	5	9
GRAZING	70	42	26	45
TOURISM & C.R.B.	35	21	16	27
S.E.C.	19	11	10	17
FORESTRY	3	2	1	2
TOTAL	166	100	58	100

TABLE 3 AN EXAMPLE OF HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF HUTS IN THE BOGONG HIGH PLAINS AREA

PURPOSE OF HUT CONSTRUCTION	NAME OF HUT	YEAR OF CONSTRUCTION	CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS
Mining	Spargos Hut	1932	Galvanised iron
	Quintet Mine Hut #1	1940s	Galvanised iron
	Red Robin Battery Hut #3	1978	Stone
Grazing	Horsehair Hut #1	1888	Chock and log
	Wallaces Hut	1889	Vertical timber walls
	Fitzgeralds Hut	1903	Horizontal split timber
	McNamaras Hut, Dinner Plain	1917	Chock and log
	Horsehair Hut #2	1921	Horizontal split timber
	Battys Hut	1930s	Galvanised iron
	Kellys Hut #2	1958	Weatherboard
	Bogong Jacks Hut #3	1965	Galvanised iron
Tourism & C.R.B.	Cope Hut	1929	Galvanised iron
	Cleve Cole Hut	1936	Stone
	Diamantina Hut #2	1939	Galvanised iron
	M.U.M.C. Hut	1966	Geodesic dome
	Federation Hut	1968	Aluminuim cladding
S.E.C.	Youngs Hut #2	1928	Weatherboard
	Main Station / Wilkinsons Lodge	1933	Weatherboard
	Cope Saddle Hut	1960s	Prefabricated
Forestry	West Kiewa Logging Camp B #2	1965	Galvanised iron

A MESSAGE FROM MARKETING



MAIL ORDER FORM

Article		Price	Postage
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	Colours - Red, Black, Navy & Electric Blue	\$29.00	\$4.00
*If two windcheaters are ordered together, postage is \$6.00 in total			
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Childrens	sizes 2, 6, 12		
	Colours - Red, Navy & Jade	\$12.00	\$4.00 A
Adults	sizes - S,M,L,XL		
	Colours - Red & Navy	\$13.00	\$4.00 A
Singlets	sizes - S,M,L,XL		
	Colours - Red, Navy, Jade	\$13.00	\$4.00 A
Polo Shirts	White only with green logo		
	Sizes - S,M,L,XL	\$20.00	\$4.00 A

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Stubby Holders	\$6.00	\$4.00	A
Baseball Caps	\$4.90	\$4.00	A
'Fridge' Magnets	\$1.00	\$1.50	B
Key Rings	\$2.50	\$1.50	B
Hat Badges			
a) I support the Mountain Cattlemen	\$5.00	\$1.50	B
b) 'High Country - Australia'	\$4.00	\$1.50	B
Stickers	\$1.00	\$1.50	B

Notes Concerning Postage

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A - If this item is ordered with a windcheater, then total postage is \$4.00

B - If this item is ordered with either a poster or a windcheater then postage is \$4.00

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	()	()	\$
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Hat Badge -a)	Number ()	\$
-b)	Number ()	\$
Stubby Holder	Number ()	\$
Sticker	Number ()	\$
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Key Ring	Number ()	\$
Fridge Magnet	Number ()	\$

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HIGH COUNTRY SCRAPBOOK

This year *Voice of the Mountains* takes pleasure in bringing you a 'High Country Scrapbook' from files our staff have compiled. We are interested in obtaining photocopies of any articles that you believe could add to the records about Mountain Cattlemen that we hold. Photocopies should be sent to us at P.O. Box 86, Bairnsdale 3875, or drop by the photo archives tent at a Get Together.

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FRIDAY AND SATURDAY,
APRIL 12 and 13

1000 Outstanding 1000 Mountain Bred Hereford Cattle

Comprising

- 800 HEREFORD BULLOCKS, 3 and
4 years.
- 150 HEREFORD COWS.
- 60 HEREFORD HEIFERS, 1½ years,
1 mark, account Cobungra Sta-
tion.

This will be the outstanding yarding of bullocks to be in Eastern Gippsland for many years, and all the cattle are direct from the High Plains. Some of the outstanding drafts will come from Cobungra Station, Omeo Station, W. J. C. Pendergast, Estate T. J. McNamara, Kimberley Park, Batty Bros., W. C. Greenwood, S. Glew, F. Soutter, W. J. Soutter, W. Parkes, Chas. Petersen, M. J. Pendergast, P. Riley.

The cattle account Cobungra Station will be sold in conjunction with The Australian Mercantile Land and Finance Co. Ltd., Melbourne.

Intending buyers please contact the agents so that the necessary transport and accommodation can be arranged.

A. McLEAN & CO.
Bairnsdale.

MR. HENRY SMITH

The death occurred on Tuesday of Mr. Henry (Harry) Smith, aged 98 years, of Talbotville. The late Mr. Smith was well known throughout the Stratford-Dargo district for many years and was one of the veterans of the district. He was a popular personality and his passing removes another of the early settlers.

OBITUARY

MR. ALBERT HAROLD DYER

News of the death of Mr. Albert Harold Dyer, which took place recently at his Wy Yung home, caused deep regret to his many friends.

Mr. Dyer, who was seventy-four years old, was a native of the Omeo Valley and, until he retired a few years ago, he had followed the occupation of a grazier in the Benambra district.

Mr. Dyer, who was twice married, is survived by his second wife and their young son, Stephen.

His first wife, formerly Miss Flora Sutherland, of Melbourne, had served during World War I as a sister of the Australian Army Nursing Service. She predeceased her husband some years ago.

The funeral, which took place to the Bairnsdale cemetery, was conducted by Captain R. Bennett, of the Salvation Army, and was preceded by a service at the funeral parlors of Messrs. Williams and Lee.

3/9/57

DRAMATIC MOUNTAIN RESCUE

Injured Cattleman Brought Out by Aeroplane

At this time of the year and until the snow begins to fall, stockmen are out on Mount Wellington and neighbouring mounts and hills, mustering cattle to bring them to the lower country for the winter months. It is a big undertaking, requiring the services of many experienced cattlemen, who, of necessity, must be good horsemen. Most of them are residents of Heyfield or Upper Maffra.

On Wednesday, Mr. John Kelly, a grazier of Glenmaggie, was assisting in the muster on Mount Tamboritha, which is near Mount Wellington. His horse fell with him and he sustained severe head injuries and a possible fracture of the skull.

The scene of the accident was about the 5,000 feet altitude, and the only ingress and egress by land was by horse tracks. Those with the injured man were confronted with the problem of taking him to receive medical attention. Aeroplanes were suggested and so a Forestry Commission's radio stationed in the mountain as a precaution against forest fires, was sought.

The R.A.A.F. decided a rescue attempt must be made, and a Tiger Moth rescue plane took off at 3.10 p.m. The pilot took as a guide a photographic mosaic map of the area which was rushed to Point Cook by a Forestry Commission officer. The map had been prepared by the R.A.A.F. for bush fire patrols.

As the Moth had to fly almost 100 miles over some of the roughest country in the State, the R.A.A.F. sent along a Dakota to act as escort and to keep Point Cook advised as to what was happening.

The location of the injured man was found and the Tiger Moth landed on a small open but rough plain at 4.55 p.m. The larger machine, it was evident, could not land, but the pilot remained in the air.

A short while afterwards another Tiger Moth owned and piloted by Mr. Neil McInnes, of Tinamba, who was previously in the R.A.A.F., arrived with Dr. Atkinson, of Maffra. They had flown up the Macallister Valley. There Dr. Atkinson met Wing Commander Charles Lelue, senior medical officer of Point Cook, who had been taken there by the Point Cook Tiger Moth.

It was decided to fly the patient to the Gippsland Hospital at Sale. Six o'clock approached and it was

found that the R.A.A.F. Tiger Moth would not start. Nightfall was approaching and the journey in a small plane had to be made over mountain country. Mr. McInnes's aeroplane was called into service and at seven o'clock it took off for Sale with Mr. Kelly aboard. The Dakota accompanied it to assist if necessary.

On arrival at Sale Mr. Kelly was taken to hospital, where he is a patient in the Intermediate Ward.

This condition of affairs left Dr. Atkinson and Wing Commander Lelue on the mountain with the crew of the R.A.A.F. Tiger Moth. There is no doubt the pilot of the small Tiger Moths had done a great job getting them to the spot and in landing them there.

On Thursday, Mr. McInnes made another trip to the area. He landed and found that the adjustments which had been made to the R.A.A.F. machine would enable it to take off. After it took off with Wing Commander Le Leu to return to Point Cook, he took off with Dr. Atkinson and returned to Heyfield.

Mr. Kelly is a head stockman in the employ of Mr. Bob Gilder and, with Mr. Gilder, was mustering cattle on Mr. Gilder's property at Mt. Tamboritha. In an effort to report the accident and obtain help in getting Mr. Kelly to hospital, Mr. Gilder

LAST OF THE OMEO PIONEERS.

1946/24-
DEATH OF MR. JAMES
PENDERGAST. 1944

The death of Mr. James Pendergast, of "Kimberley Park," at the age of 87 years, removes the last of the Omeo early pioneers of Omeo Plains. Mr. Pendergast was the son of John Pendergast, who in 1837 took up the country across the Morass Creek from the Omeo Station, having followed across the border Macfarlane, the discoverer of the Omeo Plains. In 1853 the late Mr. James Pendergast, then a young man, came to the Omeo Plains to join his father, eventually settling down at Mount Leinster in 1859 and later on at "Kimberley Park."

In 1861, Mr. Pendergast discovered marble at Limestone Creek, which experts declare to be the finest in the world, but many efforts to persuade the Government to open the quarries proved futile. The forest country in those early days was very open and well grassed, carrying quite a number of cattle. Mr. Pendergast was a breeder of cattle, and a great judge of Hereford cattle, having bred during his lifetime some very fine stock. He had always been a strong advocate for a railway to Omeo and for the opening up of the road to Corryong, so as to bring Omeo Plains in touch with other districts; but like the rest of the old pioneers, after a strenuous life in helping to settle one of the finest outposts in Eastern Gippsland, he passed away without seeing his dreams realised. Thus it is that the Government leave these grand old pioneers to go to their graves disappointed.

Mr. Pendergast could tell many interesting stories of the early digging days around Omeo and of the trouble of packing in provisions across the mountains. He was possessed of a very kindly nature and everybody was sure of a warm welcome to his hospitable homestead. He leaves a family of five sons and one daughter, his wife having predeceased him two months ago. The remains were buried in the Benambra cemetery, being followed by a large number of people who attended to pay their last respects to this fine old pioneer.—"Standard."

BUCHAN

TOMORROW (TUESDAY)

600 Hereford Cattle
Mustered from Nuninyong and Snowy River Ruhs.

rode about seven miles to a Fore Commission post.

Kelly was removed from Gippsland Hospital to Maffra, where he is a patient at St. David's. progress is satisfactory.

MARCH 24, 1947

CORRESPONDENCE.

MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN.

The Editor, Gippsland Times.)

Editor:—Occasionally one comes across letters stained with the patina of years, which have garnered to themselves great interest with the passing of time. I came across such a letter the other day, some of the contents of which, I feel sure, will interest local Gippslanders. My correspondent was down at the Melbourne show. "Watching the grand parade," he writes, "I saw E. S. Whittakers, J. Wallace, and Churchill Rodgers, now of Tallangatta, but formerly of Black Mountain, his son still being there. Two station bred shorthorns Whittakers have been prize winners in the fat cattle class."

My correspondent, who knew many of the old Gippsland cattlemen, then goes on to say, "I was talking to Tom Riggall, now of Leongatha, but formerly of Glen Falloch. I happened to mention the Whittakers to him, and he recalled what fine horsemen James and Ned were, and said he saw the latter win a mounted rifleman's competition at Maffra once. Amongst the fat cattle men I also saw Pendergast, Mount Leinster, Benambra, and G. Fitzgerald from Glen Wills. The latter is down in the mouth a bit because his fat hereford missed a prize, and if you saw the beast you'd wonder why it was. The next Gippslander I came across was T. J. McNamara, from Bairnsdale." It is a long letter and many names are mentioned.

What strikes one is that the mountain cattle industry runs in families, an art, and an art it certainly is, rather than a science. One is struck by the number of fathers and sons who work together, and the still greater number of brothers. Commencing near the hand here are a few names—Pumpff Bros. (Mt. Skene), the Molphy Bros., the Higgins Bros. (Mt. Tamborine), the Estoppey Bros. (under Mt. Wellington), the Dunsmuir Bros. (Mt. Kent), further east the Green Bros., and the Morgan Bros., and eastwards still those who muster cold country cattle are the Telfer Bros., the Dally Bros., and the Betty Bros. Amongst



the better-known father and son combinations are H. L. Treasure and Sons (Dargo High Plains), Alex Guy and Sons (Wonangatta) and H. Sellars and Sons (Bendoc Park.)

It is particularly interesting to look at one or two of the men who are mentioned in the letter more closely: The Mount Wellington Run, of course, interests us locally, and Mr. Riggall was the man who brought it to its peak as cattle country. From the standpoint of beef-cattle it has degenerated from the time the Riggalls left it until today it can only be considered as rough agistment country for rough stock. It is notable, however, on account of one of Gippsland's best-known mountain stockmen, Dinny Connolly, who rode its leaseholds for twenty years. Dinny is an old man today, but still in the mountains, and until quite recently he managed the Wonangatta Station for his brother-in-law, Mr. Alex Guy.

Mr. Whittakers came into Gippsland from the NSW. side, his father holding Tombong, in the Monaro country in the early days of Queen Victoria's reign. After occupying two other properties, the family came down into lower Gippsland in 1872, when they purchased the Loy Yang station, subsequently taking up the adjoining property of Fernhill. Always drawn towards the ranges, they have owned such stations as Tanjil Hills, Mitchell-

dale, and Mount Angus, and at various times part of such well-known stations as Traralgon Park, Nambrock, and Heyfield. Mr. E. S. Whittakers married a daughter of Mr. E. W. Howitt, one of the pioneers of the province, and, outside of Gippsland, one of its best-known citizens.

All the men mentioned were wonderful mountain pastoralists, and, naturally, great horsemen. I think for a moment of T. J. McNamara, the bearer of a name that is almost synonymous with outstanding horsemanship in the upper regions of Gippsland. There are a lot of them scattered around the ranges. Perce Nuttall, of Myrtleford, once said, "I was camped in a hut in the hills and there were eleven McNamaras with me, so I told them they had better call me Mc, too!" Many of the horses sold today in Gippsland are drafted from the estate of T. J. McNamara, and P. McNamara is also to the front with horseflesh. I recall Dinny McNamara, a mere youth when I made his acquaintance, he was riding in a buck-jump show under the auspices of one of the Morrisons, another horsey family, "Bogong" Morrison, a recent mounted constable in Stratford being one of the breed. Dinny McNamara was killed some years back riding in a show at Bairnsdale.—Yours etc.,

JOHN WILSON.

I DIDN'T actually see the boot thrown at the kookaburra at first light yesterday morning, although I think I heard it land.

The currawongs and magpies had already been singing for an hour. But the confounded kookaburras, beside themselves at our plight, were too much.

The boot, from R. M. Williams, did its job. Heads withdrew into swags and sleeping bags and we luxuriated in another hour's sleep in our mountainside camp.

Cattlemen are not usually such tardy risers. Piccaninny dawn, at latest, for most of them, in best and worst of times.

But this weekend has been the annual get-together of mountain beefmen on the green and lovely fringes of Mt. Buller National Park. Even the kookaburras will tell you that Saturday night's barbecue has set us back on our heels.

If I remember right, it was a terrific affair, beginning with a few beers at the Merrigig pub. Weather-tested men of few words and great charm, settling the dust after arrival from the Dargo, the Bogong, Ensay, Omeo, Broad hats, broad smiles.

These are the fellows who drive their cattle up to the summer pastures of the Great Divide's alpine plains in an annual pageant of historic character and beauty. It is not beheld as such, however, by many conservationists.

They say the unique and fragile character of the high plains is being destroyed by the summer cattle. Generally, they are seeking reclamation of thou-



sands of hectares of this grazing land as alpine national park.

"CONSERVATIONISTS?" The gnarled cow cocky, tweed coat cord trousers, police-and-fireman braces, scratches his head. "They'd have to be common, wouldn't they?" He's met neither, he

agrees; he is just worried about his cows.

The real action, however, is about 15 km up the road from Merrigig's Hunt Club Hotel. We city folk have joined the cattlemen for a couple of days, and our K-mart tents blossom under creek-side eucalypts like so many loadstools.

Two lovely beacon bonfires of mountain ash (ah, King Woollybutt rides again) beckon us towards a little valley where steaks and snags sizzle, yarns are swapped like shares in the mining boom.

Beer, wine. Sunset's salmon pink clouds give way to a couple of spots of rain, but the cattlemen sniff a southerly and throw their raincoats away. Soft, black Saturday night rolls down from Buller, and in our smoky, fragrant little valley, almost all is right with the world.

"IN 1969, Jack Treasure realised we would all be tossed off the high plains unless the blokes got together and did something about it," says Lyell McCready.

The result was the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria, representing more than 100 graziers in the area more or less between Mansfield, Myrtleford, Omeo and Dargo.

It organised, sought advice, hired specialists to present its views to Victorian Land Conservation Council hearings on use of Crown land. It has done extremely well,

Above: At the annual barbecue of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria on the slopes of Mt. Buller on Saturday night—enjoying the campfire are, from left, association vice-president Mr. Lyell McCready, the Minister for Lands, Mr. Borthwick, and the association's president, Mr. Jim Commins.

though it knows the battle is far from over.

A guest of honor at the barbecue is Bill Borthwick, State Minister of both Lands and Conservation. He admits he is not sure which hat he should be wearing on such an occasion.

He praises the association for the information it has provided the study on future use of the high plains. And he puts his finger on something I have been feeling ever since we left Merrigig.

"Really," the minister says as we drink in more than the mountain air. "I am impressed by two things."

"The first is the innate warmth of personal friendship which comes out of the people here, and the second is the magnificent sense of identification they have with their land."

"They were talking of caring and conserving long before the universities discovered these terms. These people have a feeling for the beauty of this region which other people don't understand or appreciate."

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1957.

transmission by post

OBITUARY

MRS. ALICE ROGERS

The death occurred in the Bairnsdale District Hospital on Saturday, February 9, of Mrs. Alice Rogers, who was ninety-four years of age and a member of one of Gippsland's earliest pioneering families.

Mrs. Rogers was born in Warwickshire, England, in 1862 and was the eldest of a family of two sons and four daughters, who came to Victoria with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gamble in the year 1893.

Mr. Gamble soon took up land in the Buln Buln district near Warragul, where their daughter Alice married John Churchill Rogers, whose father was one of the first pioneers of that locality.

After a few years in West Gippsland, where their family was born, they moved to the well-known grazing property of Black Mountain in East Gippsland in 1902.

When their sons took over the property in 1920 Mr. and Mrs. Rogers lived for some years in Melbourne before taking up their residence in Bairnsdale, where Mrs. Rogers lived until the time of her death. She is survived by three sons—Keith, Lionel and Clyde. Her husband predeceased her by fifteen years.

Mrs. Rogers' brother, the Rev. A. Gamble, now aged 90 years, is living in retirement in Bairnsdale, while her three sisters also reside in Victoria.

During her lifetime Mrs. Rogers was a devoted member of the Church of England and a keen supporter of its missionary activities, both at home and abroad. As an active member of St. John's Church of England, Bairnsdale, and a member of the Church Guild, Mrs. Rogers also took a great interest in the work of the Mothers' Union and the promotion of christian education among young people.

The representative attendance at the funeral, which took place at the Bairnsdale cemetery this morning, following a service at St. John's Church of England, bore testimony to the esteem and respect in which Mrs. Rogers was held by all who knew her.

Services at the church and graveside were conducted by the rector, Rev. Canon G. F. D. Smith.

Funeral arrangements were by Messrs. Williams & I.

COUNTRY OBITUARY

The death has occurred at Bairnsdale of Mrs. Emily Ives, aged 89 years. She was born in England and came to Australia with her parents when she was aged 15 years. At the Blue Mountains (N.S.W.) in 1869 she married George Treasure, and a little later came to Victoria. In 1889 Mr. and Mrs. Treasure acquired portion of the Dargo High Plains station, which at present is owned by her son, Mr. Harry Treasure. In 1911, some years after the death of her husband, she married Henry Giles Browne, who a few years later also died. In 1933 she married Mr. Walter Ives, of Lindenow, who is now aged 92 years. By the first marriage there were 11 children, seven of whom survive.

MOUNTAIN CATTLE SALE

BRIAGOLONG

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

1 o'clock

500 Good Quality 500
Mountain Cattle

GOLDSBROUGH MORT & CO.

LOVICK'S Mountain Trail Safaris



A scene from Lovick's mountain cattle round up where guests participate in this annual event.

We Ride The Great Divide

Throughout the summer months, 8-day tours leave Merrijig, travel up the Howqua River, beyond Mt. Buller to the mountains of the Great Divide and on to the High Plains of Mt. Howitt and Snowy to some of the most beautiful and inaccessible parts of Victoria's High Country — areas that cannot be visited except on horseback or on foot. Shorter tours also available.

The Safari is serviced by four wheel drives that meet up with the riders in camp each night and are licenced to carry passengers.

All fresh food carried under refrigeration.

The Lovicks will make sure you have the holiday of your life in the mountains.

Write . . . Jack Lovick, Merrijig or Phone (057) 77 5510

SUPPORT THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN — BECOME AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER.

Application for Membership and Registration Form

Associate Member, Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria Inc.

PLEASE PRINT

Name

Address

Phone Number

Occupation

Please list the ways you feel you can be of help to the Cattlemen, e.g. Marketing, Research, Lobbying, Typing, Assisting with Promotion, Legal.

Associate Membership is \$20 per year (Single), \$30 per year (Family) .

PLEASE RETURN TO:

Mrs. Sue Silvers,
MCAV
P.O. Box 294,
Mansfield, Vic. 3722

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249 BOUNDARY ROAD, BRAESIDE VIC. 3195

THE BURNSIDE TRACK

This track was used by the Kellys to move their stock to the Mt Nelse run. As this run is now National Park the Kellys have been allocated another run and no longer use the track.

It's no use taking him along
He'll be no bloody good
My father told the Kelly boys.
T'was in my young manhood,
I was droving with Pat and Kevin
Down the Mitta River way,
And I still recall those problems
On that sultry summers day.

The cows and calves were mustered
And we weren't turning back,
It was around about lunchtime
When we hit the Burnside Track.
Six hundred head were in the mob
A big part we had to play
To keep those critters moving
On that sultry summer's day.

The dogs barked their lungs out
Their tongues lathered in foam
For they hadn't any water
Since leaving the river at home.
Pat and Kev cussed loudly
As they let their stockwhips crack
Upon the hides of stragglers
Along that Burnside Track.

The gullies were all waterless
In that year of fifty-nine,
No rain had fallen in the hills
To quench their thirst or mine.
The sun was blazing fiercely
As the mob refused to go,
We burst our guts and spirit
As tempers started to flow.

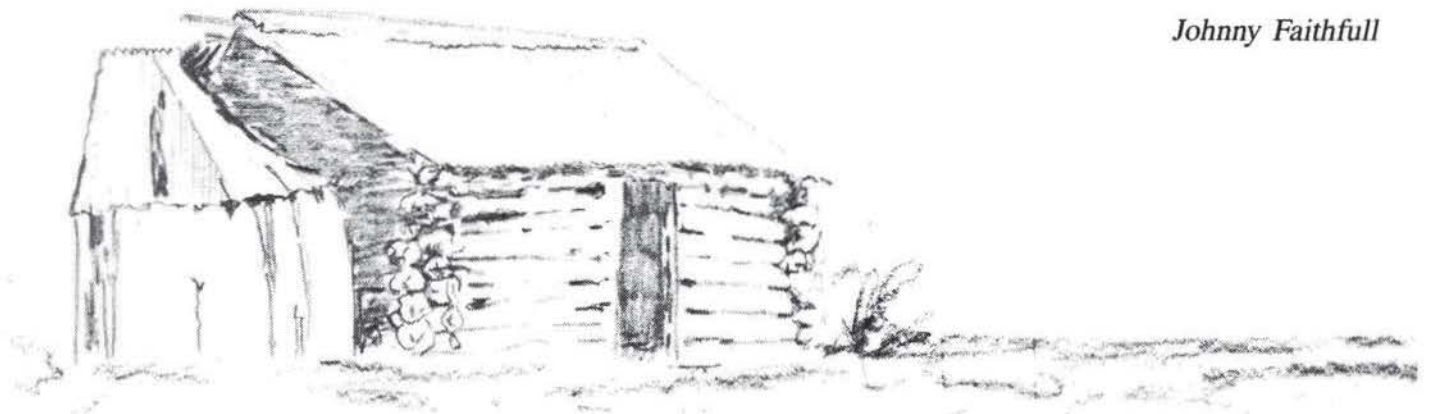
We finally got them rolling
Through gums and stringybark
The dust it started rising,
Must make the yards by dark.
And when the slope is conquered
The downhill run begins
There's water on the otherside
To fill our pannikins.

We finally made the Burnside hut,
That day had no delight,
With aches, pains and bruises
We settled for the night.
Pat's little mare called Dotty
Seemed to have a heart attack,
As she collapsed inside the horseyard
Along the Burnside Track.

Next morning she was better
As Pat threw over the reins
And we kept the herd a-moving,
Up to the Bogong Plains.
As we turned our horses homeward
After all the jobs were done,
I'll never forget the battle
To get to Kelly's run.

So we rode along the dusty trail
Where we'd been the day before,
Playing gumleaves and singing
Tho' our backsides felt so raw.
So I pencilled moments on the trees
With crayons red and black,
But now they all have faded
Along that Burnside Track.

Johnny Faithfull



1992 GET TOGETHER

The 1992 Get Together held at Guys, 'Killbride' property on the Wonnangatta River near Dargo was an outstanding success. The magnificent site, green grass, no dust and wonderful family atmosphere meant that many people will remember for years to come events as different as the inaugural 'Don Kneebone Mountain Heritage Award', tugs-of-war, the Stoney quinella in the Cup and, not the least, 'Angus' trying to win the dog high jump.

A great vote of Thanks goes to the Guy family, for allowing us to enjoy the site, all the sponsors who made it possible, and the Gippsland Branch for arranging the event.

The results from the weekend were:

Juvenile (Under 10 years) Whipcracking

1st Russell Adcock; 2nd Tommy Thorburn; 3rd Simmone Kelly

Junior (15 and under) Whipcracking

1st Danny Young; equal 2nd Diana Hurley and Justin Blair

Ladies Australian Whipcracking Championship

1st Tanith Blair; 2nd Diana Hurley; 3rd E. Thorburn

Open Whipcracking

1st Mick Tschirpigg; 2nd Sam Selwood; 3rd Greg Charlson

Cattlemens Cup

1st Chris Stoney; 2nd Kate Stoney; 3rd Ken Connely; 4th Peter Faithfull

Junior Cattlemens Cup

We regret we are unable to provide you with results.

Associate Dash

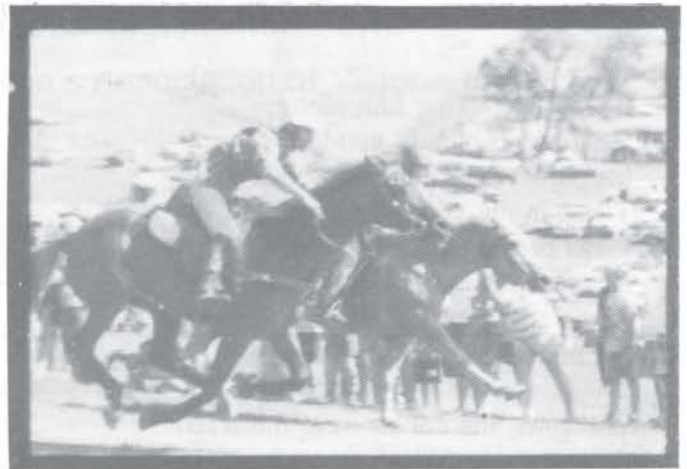
1st David Kelly; 2nd Brad Kelly; 3rd Stacey Oakley

Australian Packhorse Championship Race

1st Neville Wright and 'Ringer'/'Jake'; 2nd Wayne Dyer and 'Fireking'/'Bundaberg'; 3rd Peter Sandy and 'Spook'/'George'

Open Race

1st Dev Carmen; 2nd Neil Waite; 3rd Frankie Bolton



Open Sprint

1st Frank Bolton; 2nd Julian Welsh; 3rd Sharon Pendergast

Heavyweight Race

1st Ian Webb; 2nd Peter Sandy; 3rd Paul Whelan

Runamuck Cup

1st Rossaloo; 2nd 'B' Rossaloo

Relay Race

1st Buchan Team: John 'Grub' Woodgate, Frank Bolton, Michael Kelly and Leigh Woodgate; 2nd Morass Creek Team: Malcolm Allen, Wayne Dyer, Sharon Pendergast and Rusty Connely; 3rd Pops Team: Ann Stoney, Kate Wilson, David Stoney and Andy Baker.

Shoeing

1st Ricky Morgan; 2nd Neville Wright

Dog High Jump

1st Craig Woodgate and 'Bog'; 2nd Glen Chalwell; 3rd Jenny Bird; 4th 'Angus'

Hat Throw

1st Chris Williams

Oiler Race

1st Louise Trewin

Swag Race

1st Kevin Hurley

Tug of War

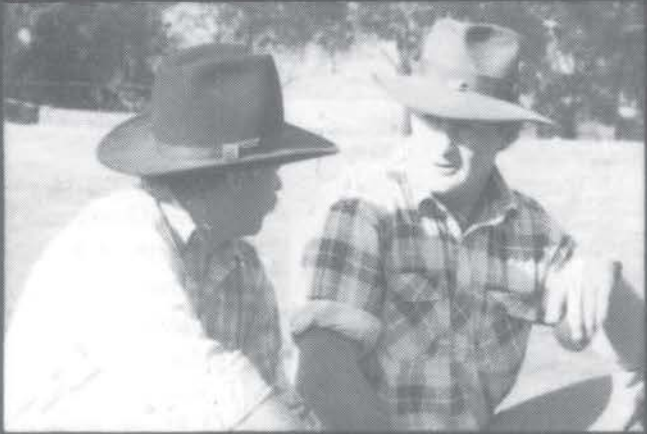
1st Benambra Team

Running Race

1st Rhonda Neilson

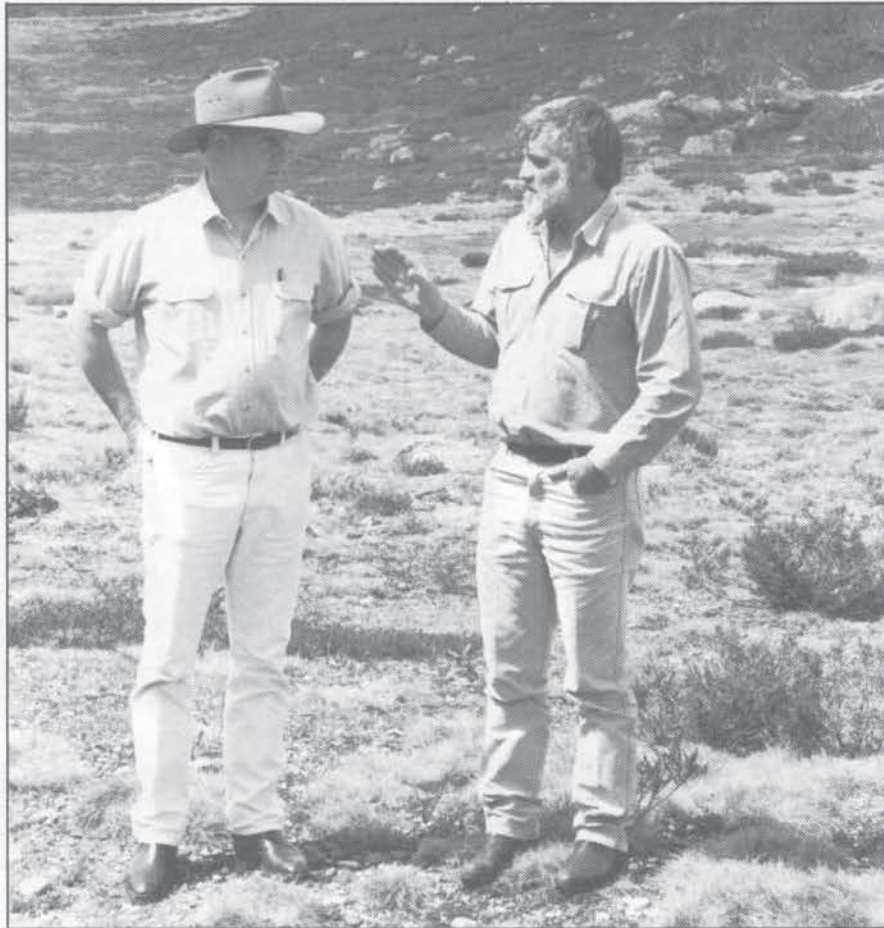
Don Kneebone Heritage Award

1st Peter Ayres



THE NEXT STEP

Cattlemen in Parliament



David Treasure and Graeme Stoney in discussion at Pretty Valley

On 3 October 1992 two of the Association's outstanding leaders were elected to seats in the Victorian Parliament. David Treasure from Castleburn, a foundation member and former President of the MCAV, was elected to the Legislative Assembly seat of Gippsland East with 56 percent of the final vote. As a member of the National Party, he replaced Bruce Evans, a long time friend of the MCAV from the time of its formation almost 25 years ago. David, due to the greater number of new members in the Lower House, is yet to make his maiden speech.

Commenting on his background, and his current thoughts on the position of the Mountain Cattlemen for VOM, David said, "My great grandfather, George Treasure was an unsuccessful miner on the Dargo River diggings. After some years he began to accumulate a small herd of cattle. This is how the family began its long association with grazing in the high country.

The threat to abolish high country cattle grazing was a contributing factor to my involvement in politics and was the primary reason for the creation of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association. For years this small beleaguered group has been fighting for its survival with its membership constantly depleted by a process of attrition.

These families are not just statistics. These are real people—families who represent generations of commitment to this country. It is the cattlemen who are the true conservationists of the high country.

The battle for the retention of alpine grazing will continue in the future as it has in the past. Those who are determined to see the cattlemen out of the mountains will not stop their relentless thrust.

What has changed is that we now have a Government that is keen to see private enterprise prosper again so that the economy in general can revive, therefore creating a much needed lift. We can all look forward to this.

Those industries that utilise naturally renewable resources and are sustainable over the longer period must be of importance to the whole community.

The mountain cattlemen have an excellent record of environmental management but now they need to sell their ideas and promote themselves more than ever.

The next few months will, to a large extent, determine the industry's future as the new administration sets its priorities in place for the coming years. I look forward to a continuing close relationship with the Association and its executive."

Graeme Stoney from Mansfield, our former Executive Officer, was elected to the Upper House seat of Central Highlands for the Liberal Party. Many may remember that, during the aftermath of the Nunawading by-election, Graeme almost made history by making it to the Bar of the Upper House to make a speech. That was not to be (see *VOM* no. 10), but on 28 October 1992, the Hon. Graeme Stoney made his maiden speech there. Edited excerpts appear below.

"It is with pride and humility that I rise in this place for the first time to represent Central Highlands Province. ...

When I was a boy I was very close to both my grandfathers. My maternal grandfather was very Irish and very proper. He taught me good table manners, how to fish, and to always vote conservative. My paternal grandfather was also Irish, but he had a terrible temper. He sheared sheep with Jacky Howe; had seven children; he worked extremely hard; and he carved a farm out of the bush. He taught me to work hard and he taught me to swear. Because of the great shearers strike he said, 'My boy, you always vote Labor'. It may come as a disappointment to some honourable members to hear that my grandfather changed his vote because he, like many other Australians, came to respect Sir Robert Gordon Menzies, the founder of the Liberal Party, which made Australia prosperous.

One of the reasons Bob Menzies was supported was that he instigated the ethic that the harder you worked the more you got to save. These days, no matter how hard you work the money just goes in taxes or in keeping afloat. ...

Today I wish to make special mention of those in a section of the work force who contribute greatly to this state and this nation. I refer to the people who actually get their hands dirty to produce wealth we desperately need. I am speaking about the truckies, the builders, the mechanics, the farmers, the farmhands, and the people behind the scenes in our tourism industry. I recognise and support their valuable contribution to this nation. ...

My family has lived in the Central Highlands for five generations. The land and the mountains have been good to us. We have worked hard and we have prospered. It was time to put something back. With the encouragement of my wife, Helen, my children, Chris, Ann—who is affectionately known as 'Pop'—David, and Kate, and Gran Hermiston and all our friends, I ran for office and proudly stand before you today representing the most stunning area of Victoria. Central Highlands is the green jewel of the Victorian provinces. It runs from the Great Divide at Mount Hotham to the outskirts of Melbourne. The Honourable Barry Bishop claimed Manangatang. I mention and claim that Upotipotpon is placed firmly within Central Highlands! ...

On a light note, Mr Deputy President, the senior members and staff of this place have been most helpful and constructive in their suggestions as to where I may put my horse out the back, near the bowling green. However, I have assured them all that my horse will not be coming back to Melbourne again in anger. To slightly misquote Banjo Paterson, my horse is 'wandering fat and sleek by the Minto Park Creek'.

While I am on the subject of horses and Parliamentary staff and history—and I emphasise history—I point out that it is seven years almost to the day that Clerk Wayne Tunnecliffe knocked on my door. Nothing untoward about that! However, it was the middle of the day and he was dressed in full Windsor Court ceremonial gear! He certainly was the focus of attention of our neighbours.

I was summoned to the bar of this place to defend and explain the role of the mountain cattlemen in the Nunawading Province by-election. I learnt later that since 1851 only two or three other people have been summoned and have appeared at the bar. However, because of what could loosely be termed a small technical hitch at the last hour, I was left pacing up and down outside the door.

I have always subscribed to the philosophy that nothing in this world can take the place of persistence, so at last, seven years later, I am privileged to speak in this place. That particular occasion in 1985 was a very emotional time for the cattlemen, who believed they had acted correctly, and they had appointed me to be advocate on their behalf. However, as I said earlier, that is now all history and we have all moved on from that stormy time.

The reason behind the mountain cattlemen's protest about the loss of their grazing leases has to be seen as part of a larger fundamental question that is still facing us: do we use renewable resources on public land on a sustainable basis or do we gradually phase down all commercial use and lock it up? The answer to that question vitally affects the people of Central Highlands and vitally affects the people of Australia.

I believe we have an obligation both to the environment and to the community to instigate much more impartially the research and study that is needed on this very important question, and I emphasise that this research needs to be impartial. It appears to me that the people who have undertaken the massive studies and research and who have produced many management plans have not had a charter to consider the big picture. The big picture requires the consideration of the environmental, social and economic effects of decisions and consideration of what the long-term benefits are for the greatest number of people. The big picture should also include the unavoidable fact that eventually the world will be forced to learn how to use its renewable resources at a sustainable level. ...

We need to discover and rectify the enormous damage being done to our environment by feral animals and feral plants and to come to terms with the stark fact that changes to the land must occur because people are using it. Change does not necessarily mean damage and devastation, but we must monitor the situation carefully.

Here in Victoria tourism, timber and grazing on public land are three industries which can operate on a sustainable basis if they are encouraged to do so, and again I emphasise: if they are strictly managed by government authorities.

A point that is often overlooked, or perhaps ignored, is that sustainability can be achieved if regular maintenance is done. It is a fact that roads, tracks, camping spots and picnic areas reflect use by people; they show fair wear and tear and if maintenance is not done regularly this fair wear and tear does deteriorate into damage. ...

On my wall I keep a very large photo of a mountain peak. That mountain is called Mount Eadley Stoney after my late father who was a well-respected bushman, cattleman and Mansfield shire councillor. I just keep it there to remind me of where I came from and the issues I have been speaking about today. I look forward to being part of the new government that takes Victoria from today onwards out of a financial and social situation that history, I believe, will judge as the worst ever experienced in Victoria.

I look forward to being part of a new government that will practise some sound financial management and some old fashioned honesty and integrity."



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OLD PYE

We often read of the passing of our friends from this Association. However, being involved with the running of cattle in the high country we are totally reliant upon our horses and dogs in our everyday work. Unfortunately they pass on too, and this poem is about a horse that worked on Tom Groggin Station for some twenty plus years. Pye died in the winter of '91, aged 26 years, and was still used for stockwork until the last year of his life.

He was foaled at Doctor's Point
On the Murray River flats
And grazed beside his mother
Where he grew sleek and fat.
Run in as a yearling —
Cut and branded too
When he grew his new spring coat
He turned a pretty white and blue.

His dam, a hunter
Bluebell was her name,
His sire a stock horse
Who really knew the game.
To yard a cow or bullock
He was a pleasure to behold,
And like most good horses
He would buck on mornings cold.

Billy Weidner broke Pye in,
And rode him in the town.
He rode him in the Hunt Club
And Pye never let him down.
He used him at the saleyards
And on the stock routes too.
Then Sandy up at Groggin said,
'I like the look of you'.

So Pye, he went to Groggin
On the Kosciusko side
And from the station's horseyards
He's left on many rides.
From the gullies to the ridges
The snow plains up on high
Yes, he's seen them all,
The old grey horse called Pye.

He'll yard the mountain cattle
And he'll yard the station hacks,
Pye knows their tricks and habits,
And all their short cut tracks.
So let the stockwhips crack
You'll hear the echoes up on high
But you can yard them safe and easy
If you're riding on old Pye.

You can go and run a brumby
Pye knows their wicked ways
For he's caught so many
And he's really earnt his pay.
Go and yard the milkers
Or go and yard the bulls,
But watch him when he's coming home
'Cos by hell he pulls.

I rode him up on Davies Plains
Then on to Limestone Flats
And camped that night beside a creek
Up near Native Cat.
The season from Groggin cattle
Can take you near and far,
But old Pye he'll get you home
No matter where you are.

Oh, we've shared many journeys,
And we've shared many laughs,
But now old Pye's left us,
I hope St Peter has a good supply of chaff.
For if ever horse has earnt it,
That green paddock in the sky,
It's the old grey horse from Groggin
The old grey horse called Pye.

Alan Brewer

AROUND THE TRAPS

Conference on Historians and the Environment

On Sunday 18th October the History Institute of Victoria held a conference at the University of Melbourne on the role of historians researching environmental issues. Sue Hodges, the Field Historian from the State Library of Victoria spoke on the mountain cattlemen, emphasising views that they had in common with environmentalists, such as a strong sense of concern for the future of the high country. Sue has made one trip through Gippsland to collect material on the mountain cattlemen for copying at the State Library. She aims to establish a larger collection of material for study by anyone interested. All papers given at the conference will be published in book form in March 1993. For further details contact: The History Institute of Victoria, 258 Faraday St, Carlton 3053, phone 03-344 6209.

Fitzgeralds Hut

One of the last acts by the Minister of Conservation and Environment in the out-going Labor Government was to grant permission for the Fitzgerald family to replace their hut, which was destroyed by fire. The family intends rebuilding as exact a replica as possible in the near future, and would like to thank all who forwarded photographs, messages of support and donations towards the hut's replacement. They have not heard anything further from the school that admitted liability for the fire.

Welcome

The Association welcomes the appointment of Mark Birrell as the new Minister of the new Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and looks forward to discussing many issues regarding the future of the High Country with him.

Singing on a Sunday

Did you hear Rick Hodge on 'A Country Sunday' ABC Radio Sundays 10am to 12.30pm, singing the song that took him into the finals in last year's 'Don Kneebone Mountain Heritage Award'? His song 'Incinerator Bin' voices his thoughts and concerns on the lack of control burning, and sounded bloody beaut!

Good Luck Clive!

You may have heard that Clive and Marion Hodge have sold their Valencia Creek property, and are moving to the Tumberumba district in NSW. Their son Christopher and his wife Clelia will be continuing Alpine Trail Rides and can be contacted on (051) 99 2625. We look forward to continuing to see Clive at Get Togethers.

On a Musical Note

Ken Robertson of Pioneer Country Sounds, Studio One Productions, 1 Ford Street, Swan Hill 3585 issues cassettes of his music at \$12 each. Two that he has brought to our attention are **Songs of the High Country** and **Ride to Glory: Dedicated to Horseriders of Australia**



Wendy Stewart, from 314 Jells Road, Wheelers Hill 3150 03-560 0550 specialises in painting High Country scenes. All her recent works have gone to America.

BOOKNOTES

The best news in the past year is that Dana Kneebone has published *Where the Giant Eucalyptus Grow and other Verse*, making available for the first time all poems written by her husband. Don, who died in 1991, was a mountain cattlemen involved with the MCAV from the time of its formation until his death. He was a highly respected bush poet whose works brought great pleasure to many. He had previously recorded an album of some of his poems, but this is the first time that a full collection of his work has been made available. Well known poems include 'Mustering in the Snow', 'The Old Tawonga Hut', 'The Cattlemen's Cup', 'Another Stockman Crossed the Divide' and 27 others. In the book, one of the many schoolchildren who Don had contact with through his poetry writes: "It is easy to think he could be a guardian of life in the bush. Mr Kneebone isn't a person but a wisp of happiness which he expresses simply".

Where the Giant Eucalyptus Grow and other Verses, 96 pages, is available from Dana Kneebone, RMB 1100, Milawa 3678 at \$12 posted.

Dr Philippe Grenier of the Laboratoire de la Montagne at the University of Grenoble has prepared a full volume of the department's Journal *Revue de Géographie* on management issues in the Australian alps. The issue is titled *Les Alpes Australiennes: The Australian Alps*, and is in both French and English. Chapter 17, prepared by the MCAV, is 'Cattle grazing in the Victorian Alpine Area 1835-1991 and onward'. The Journal is distributed to subscribers, academics, scientists and resource managers as well as university and research libraries in some 50 countries. Enquires regarding copies should be directed to: Roger Good, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 733, Queanbeyan NSW.

Ian Stapleton, formerly of 'Mittagundi' and now of 'Wollangarra', near Licola, has written *Jim and Molly: Two Special Australians*. The majority of the book deals with the lives of Molly Lanigan nee Kingwill, who spent her early childhood at Crooked River, and her brother Jim. The book also includes photographs of, and tributes to a number of 'senior citizens' who have influenced the author. They include Wally Ryder, Arthur Guy, Jack Klingsporn, Brennie Fitzgerald, Minnie Higgins, Esme and Jack Batty, Jack Roper, Cec Cooper, Charlie Macnamara and Hazel Gell. It concludes with a significant pictorial tribute to the people who lived in the only

towns truly above the winter snowline—Sunnyside, Grant, Matlock and Aberfeldy. The book is hardcover, 210 pages, lavishly illustrated and available only from 'Wollangarra', Licola, 3858. It costs \$20 plus \$3 package and post, with all profits going towards the operation of 'Wollangarra', a camp that attempts to educate young people in genuine bush ways.

Mountain Cattlemen and their Driza-Bone coats are familiar sights. A new book by Catherine Retter, *Legends, Lore & Lies: Australians and their Driza-Bones* (published by Watermark Press, \$24.95, 144 pages) examines the history of this piece of essential rainy-weather wear. However the book restricts itself only to those coats made by the Driza-Bone firm, and does not consider the Evans 'oiler', very much favoured by earlier cattlemen (and even some of our senior members, we find).

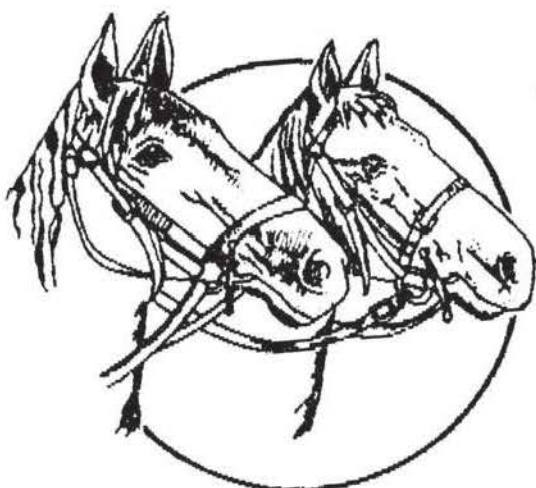
In 1991 a symposium on the cultural heritage of the Australian alps was held at Jindabyne NSW. The papers presented have now been published under the title *Cultural Heritage of the Australian Alps*. Papers include 'Some glimpses of pastoral settlement in the Victorian alps' by Tor Holth and 'The significance of Australian alpine architecture' by Gatis Gregors. The book is 357 pages and costs \$20 plus \$8 postage. It is available from P.O. Box 351, Jamieson ACT 2614.



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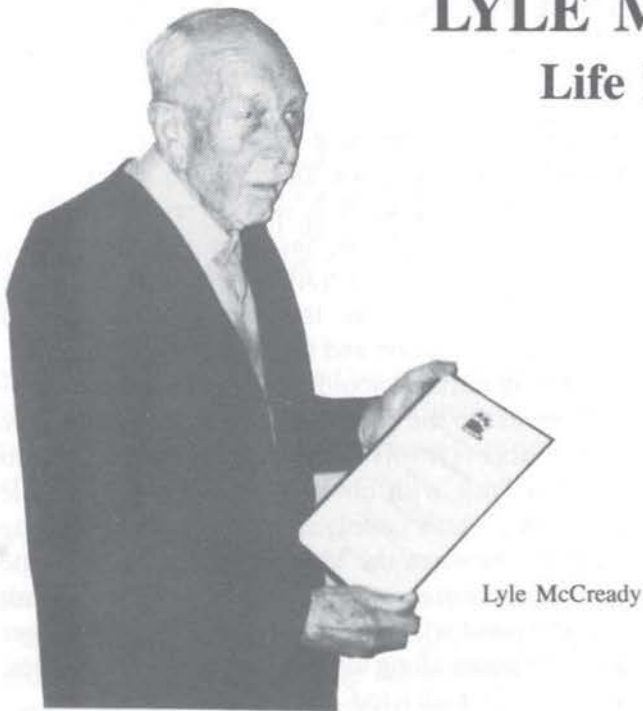
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LYLE McCREADY

Life Member



Lyle McCready

On Saturday 3rd October 1991, members of the North-Eastern branch of the MCAV gathered at the home of Max and Leanne Blair, 'Murmungee', to honour Lyle McCready with life membership of the MCAV.

Lyle, who is now 85 years of age, was a foundation member of the association and has made a great contribution to the organisation. He served as Vice President in the early years of the MCAV and his final position was that of Special Projects Officer. His work and interest has been, and still is, an incentive to younger members to keep going as our older members hand over the reins.

Both Alan Brewer and Bill Hicks paid tribute to Lyle on behalf of the MCAV.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

At Dargo in 1971



Pictured at a meeting at Treasures on the Dargo High Plains in early March 1971 were: (front) Jack Purcell, Brennie Fitzgerald, Eric Weston, Terry Weston, Brian Weston, Jim Treasure and dogs, Tom Purcell, Jack Lovick, Jack Treasure, Tom Phillipson, -?-, (rear) Norma Commins, Rita Treasure, Ken Terry, Betty Fitzgerald, Jim Commins, Mrs Treasure, Pam Treasure, Eric Cumming, Bill Officer, Jim Treasure (Jr.), Lyle McCready and Clive Hodge. (This photograph has been treasured for many years by Betty Fitzgerald, and is produced with the permission of the Bairnsdale Advertiser)

WHAT FUTURE FOR WONNANGATTA?

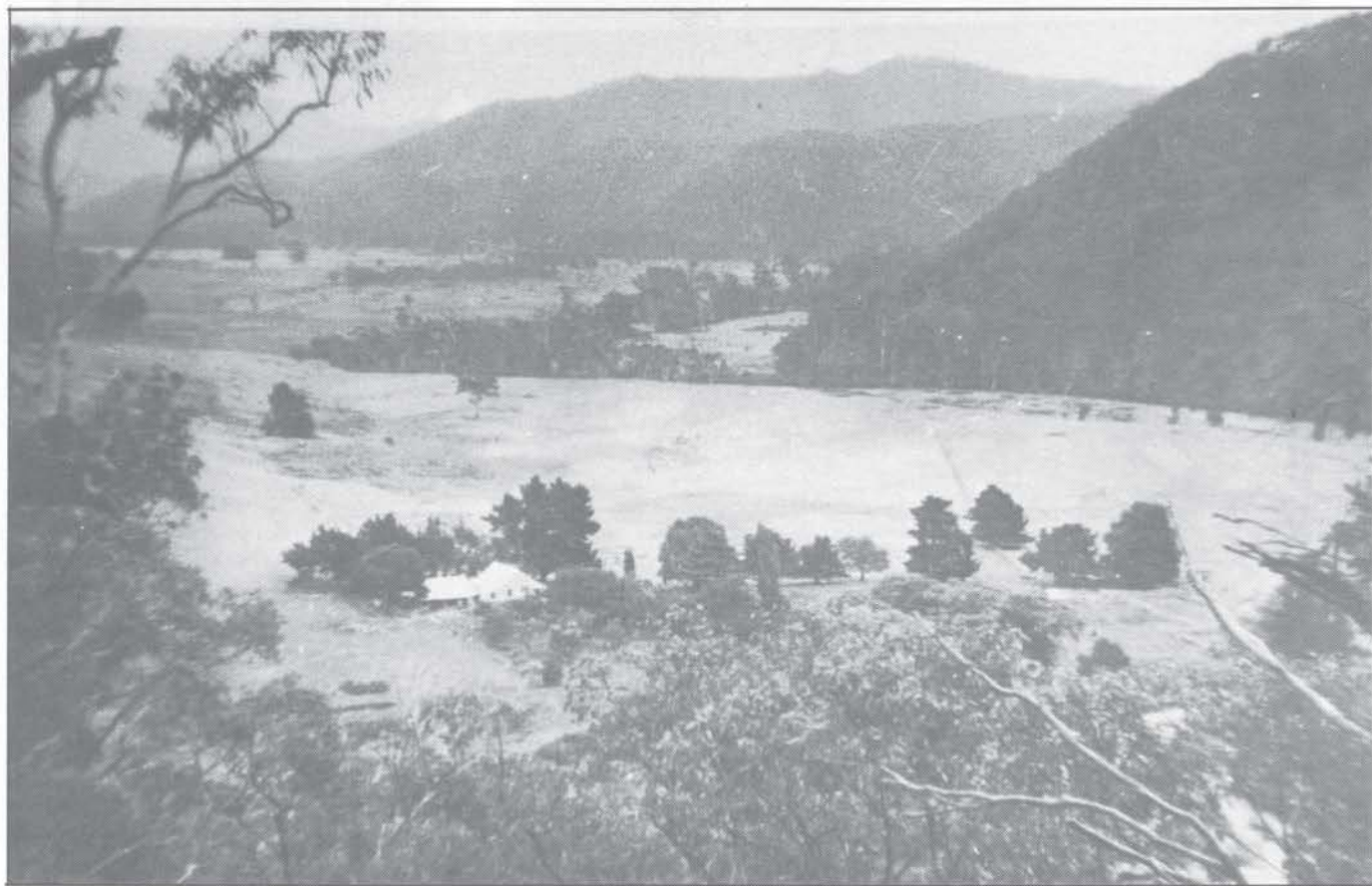
John Andrews

In our submission to resume grazing in the Wonnangatta valley, the MCAV undertook to identify projects which would utilise the funds generated by grazing to enhance the Alpine National Park and provide work opportunities, especially for young people. We have identified several projects which meet these criteria.

For example, we recommend "Harry Smith's Track" be constructed. For more complete historical data refer to *The Saga of Harry Smith* by Geoffrey H. Mewton and *The History of Wonnangatta Station* by Wallace M. Mortimer. Harry Smith went to Wonnangatta Station in 1863 with the first permanent residents and died in 1945 at the age of 98, 25 kilometres downstream at Eaglevale. In the intervening 82 years, Harry Smith was a quiet but compelling link in the colourful history of Wonnangatta Station. A superb horseman and bushman, Harry regularly rode up the Wonnangatta River from Eaglevale to Wonnangatta Station. The

track was along the west bank, after crossing the Moroka River, and was originally a government-made mining track. It is now overgrown. Harry Smith's Hut at Eaglevale has recently been restored and reopening his old trail up the river would be a fitting addition to the historical values of Wonnangatta Station and the Alpine National Park. Equally important would be the addition of a low-level access to the park for walkers and riders. The present access involves climbing 1,200 metres onto Wombat Spur with obvious physical and climatic limitations. As it is only about 9 kilometres along the river, between the Moroka junction and Herne Spur, to connect existing tracks, it is perhaps difficult to understand why this obvious access is no longer used. Altitudes along the river are below 400 metres, so access is restricted only by river levels.

"Harry Smith's Track" would also be important for stock movement purposes if the Wonnangatta valley is grazed. The MCAV will undertake, through



View of Wonnangatta Station from Mount Darling Spur, looking upstream over homestead and Cemetery Flat, 1939. (Courtesy Don Porter, MCAV Archives)

its members, to maintain the track as a positive contribution to park access for all.

Another suggestion is to reopen the old pack-horse trail around the north side of Mt Magdala.

The Management Plan expressed concern that the bridle trail over Mt Magdala to Mt Howitt may deteriorate from over-use. We also note that bushwalkers are reluctant to share the bridle track with horses.

We have always believed there is room in the mountains for everyone, and we believe that sharing is a way of life in the mountains. However, we will continue to seek practical solutions where problems are perceived.

By providing an alternative route traffic loads on the existing track will be reduced and the perception (not ours) of conflict will be overcome.

Again, the MCAV is ready to provide guidance and assistance in developing these projects when agreement in principle is reached, and it seems likely that tour operators would also want to assist.

1. Relevant Facts

Wonnangatta Station is within the Alpine National Park but it is not alpine country. The valley is low-altitude and relatively flat, rising from an elevation of 400 metres above sea level near Humffray River junction to 560 metres above sea level at the north-west end of the valley some 16 kilometres away.¹ The valley floor varies in width from about 100 metres to more than 1,000 metres.

The Wonnangatta valley is not cleared land. It is natural open grassland. When Alfred Howitt discovered the valley in 1860 on a government expedition searching for gold in Gippsland, he recorded in his notes that, "Down in the valley you see glimpses of a river ... large flats scattered with trees."²

Wonnangatta Station is not environmentally sensitive. The valley should not be confused with Guys Paddock (Bryces Plain) which was part of the Wonnangatta freehold. Although it was on the same Certificate of Title, Guys Paddock is some 11 kilometres south-west of the Station and 1,500 metres above sea level. Guys Paddock is clearly alpine in character and has important botanic values. To illustrate this point, the following is part of a National Parks Service Memorandum dated 7th November 1984 from Project Officer P.R. Boadle to the Assistant Director, Resources.

I would like to stress the importance of purchasing Guys Paddock as it is this block,

not the Wonnangatta Station, that could be used in such a way as to compromise park values. The Wonnangatta Valley is a very disturbed environment that is partly dependent on the contrast between cleared land and forest for its appeal. If new owners use the land for agricultural pursuits then there will be virtually no change in the area and hence no need to purchase the land. Guys Paddock is different.

Wonnangatta Station was grazed continuously from 1865 until 1989. Since cattle were removed, the growth of vegetation (predominantly grass) has become a management problem, not only because of the risk of fire but also because long dry grass is a visual and physical deterrent to visitors. This has been recognised by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and steps have been taken to overcome the problem. Prior to 1865 the valley was burned by Aborigines in their traditional regeneration cycle to attract game. Fire has apparently been ruled out as a solution to the current problem because it is too risky. More recently selected areas have been slashed under contract, at a cost believed to be \$23,000. Slashing the whole valley would be prohibitively expensive, but selective slashing is likely to be an annual expense.

Cattle grazing in the Wonnangatta valley is compatible with government policy and with the Management Plan for the Wonnangatta-Moroka unit of the Alpine National Park. The *Department of Conservation Forest and Lands News* dated 11 April 1988, in discussing the purchase of Wonnangatta Station states: "Ms. Kirner said all existing recreational uses will be maintained but grazing, except if required for management purposes, would be phased out." Both the Alpine National Park Bill and the Management Plan specify that grazing will continue within the park. We submit that grazing is required in Wonnangatta valley for management purposes.

2. Advantages of Grazing

Compared with slashing, grazing will be more effective and more economic.

At the present time slashing is carried out along the verges of tracks and in popular camping areas. However this can only be done when the necessary equipment can be brought into the valley. That is, when the track conditions permit. Because access tracks traverse higher altitudes, slashing can only

commence when the growing season is well underway in the valley. People who visited the valley in December or January when it was still being grazed would verify that it was green and trim over a wide area after winter and spring grazing. It was the clean, green appearance of the valley that visitors found so attractive. This cannot be achieved currently, because slashing can only commence later in the growing season and then only over a restricted area. If the valley is grazed it will be much more attractive and much safer for visitors.

Grazing is certainly more economic. Slashing is expensive and capital intensive, whereas grazing is cash-positive and labour intensive. From a management point of view there is a saving of \$20,000 in the contract process, plus the income from grazing fees. This would provide a positive cash turnaround of some \$30,000 which management can use for other purposes. Add to that amount the value of beef production and the total economic benefit is likely to be more than \$50,000 per annum.

The direct cash saving to park management could be well-used for vital work within the park, such as track clearing, track maintenance, noxious weed control, vermin bounties, rubbish collection, visitor education etc.

Grazing also provides employment opportunities in two ways. As mentioned previously, grazing is more labour-intensive than slashing and therefore provides greater employment opportunities. In addition, the money saved/generated by replacing slashing with grazing can be directed to useful labour-intensive projects thereby, creating further work opportunities. We realise that in the black and white world of economics and politics the number of jobs created is of paramount importance, and we are creating work rather than jobs. We realise that the amount of many involved does not employ a great number of people and the work is seasonal, but we must make a start on providing some work for young people, especially in rural areas. The present lack of work is a tragic waste of people resources. We

believe ten young people could be gainfully employed for ten weeks in a healthy environment, and we consider that worthwhile. There are many suitable projects which would provide benefits far in excess of the cost in dollars or manpower. The MCAV and its members will assist by identifying projects and by providing resources and guidance wherever possible.

Grazing will not restrict or inhibit visitor access. Traditional grazing in the Wonnangatta valley has relied on the natural topography for containment of stock, therefore no fencing is required. The limited fencing which was in the valley was solely for husbandry purposes and the protection of crops and gardens which were an essential feature of family life in the valley. The restoration of traditional family life in the valley is not contemplated (unfortunately), but the occasional presence of stockmen is likely to be of comfort and assistance to less experienced visitors and will provide a valuable link with the historical and cultural values of Wonnangatta Station.

3. Summary

Resumption of grazing in Wonnangatta valley will:

- * maintain present environmental values
- * be consistent with current policy
- * maintain (and probably enhance) visitor access
- * enhance visitor safety
- * enhance visual appeal
- * partly restore historical and cultural values
- * be more effective than slashing
- * provide economic benefits
- * produce positive cash flow
- * provide work
- * provide opportunities to carry out projects which will assist park management.

NOTES

1. Sheet 8223, Edition 1, National Topographic Map Series produced by the Division of National Mapping.
2. Walker, Mary Howitt. *Come Wind, Come Weather*

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED HELD AT FARRER HOUSE, 24 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE ON FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 1992.

PRESENT: S. Silvers, A. Brewer, R. Andrews, D. Treasure, T. Barker, J. Commins, A. Trahair, L. Haywood, P. Maguire, W.J. Hicks, J. Lovick, M. Allard, M. Blair, J.K. Rogers, R. Hollis, L. Treasure, R. Treasure, M. Goldsworthy, K. Kelly, J. Andrews, R.F. Kelly, C. Stoney, W. Symons, J. Marrow, P. McCormack, H. Ryder, F. Hill.

APOLOGIES were received from: J. Cook, D. Evans, I. Roper, A. and K. Whittam, B. Sandman, B. Crump, B. McCormack, T. Murphy, C. Lovick, David Treasure, G. Stoney, H. Mitchell, L. McCready, C. Hodge, R. Brown, K. Heywood, R. Connley, David Guy.

MINUTES of the previous Annual General Meeting of the Association as printed in the *Voice of the Mountains* No. 15 of 1992 and circulated to all members and associate members be confirmed. Moved J. Rogers/seconded D. Treasure. Carried.

The Chairman, Mr A. Brewer welcomed the members and associate members to the meeting and introduced Doug Treasure, President. The Chairman thanked Mr Treasure for his year's work for the Association.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS:

The past year has been a lot of heavy, behind the scenes, work, as can be seen by the Secretary's report. So much paperwork has been done—a special thanks to Sue Silvers for carrying most of the load again on this side of the Association's activities. Most of us know we are blessed to have Sue as our Secretary—but most of us don't really appreciate the volume of work involved.

Our Association needs a bit of lift in profile. We need a bit more input from the members to encourage a lot of willing and eager associates and supporters. Finding the right project is one of the problems. There is not much point in holding a rally outside the Supreme Court.

A good start may be a management plan for the Wonnangatta valley, put together by the MCAV and the other user groups of the area.

The Public Land Council is strongly supportive of public input to such a plan, and sees the use of a specific resource such as Wonnangatta as a positive move.

Wonnangatta Station is a resource crying out for good management. A resource effectively locked up, costing the taxpayer money, and going to ruin for want of effective management. John Andrews, who has had a long time interest in the Station, has put forward a proposal which the Association could well develop.

We need to take an 'up-front' role in the bush areas, so any ideas should be aired and built on. In the past our Executive Officer was the mover and shaker in these areas. I know we are all busy, but a constant input keeps the Association in the forefront of the community. An Association is only as good as the members make it.

The bush dance on the 22nd August was a great success, but not a lot of cattlemen were to be seen.

It would not be correct to think that it hasn't been a good year—it has! The highlights were the Longreach bus tour, the Get Together, the Bush Dance and a contingent in the Melbourne Show Grand Parade.

The downside being the legal battles we have waged and the associated cost—but due to great community support, we have taken the costs in our stride.

Whilst I believe the future for our members is good, it is acknowledged that the whole grazing issue is a mess, a mess capable, however, of being sorted out. The problems are largely due to a hostile bureaucracy, and under a new Government, I believe the situation can only improve. I believe hope for a new Government will soon become a reality.

I believe we can only go forward if we work at it—but it won't be plain sailing. Due to the unsatisfactory situation on the Bogong High Plains there is a very good case for the re-opening of the northern end of the Plains, and we should work towards that goal.

Our best wishes to Graeme Stoney and David Treasure for their big day, only eight days away. We look forward to working with them after the election in what we are all sure will be their new vocations.

This nation needs a bit of direction.

Thank you for another interesting year as President of this Association—one made up of such great people.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT: It is my pleasure to present to you my seventh Annual Report. The Association is comprised of 85 full members and some 1,600 Associate members (including family memberships which cover 2 adults and 2 children). Of the full members, there has been one new member in the Gippsland Branch, and one has dropped out of the North East Branch, having relinquished his run, and the other from the Omeo Branch, by personal choice.

The Central Council has met formally twice this year, and once informally. I consider this to be an unsatisfactory state of affairs as it leads to long meetings with complicated agenda and never enough time to thoroughly discuss matters of concern, and secondly members receive less information from the Branch delegates on the development of various

issues. Association members can well complain that they do not hear about what is going on, and I believe there should be much more contact during the year. Despite this, the workload has not diminished.

In March 1992, Management Plans for the Alpine National Park were tabled in Parliament by the Government. The MCAV among other Park user groups viewed these Plans—in four large volumes—with despair. Throughout the Plans grazing is described as a damaging and exploitive use of public land, and it quickly became apparent that many of the resolutions put forward by the Alpine Advisory Committee had been ignored and left out of the Plans altogether. The Alpine Advisory Committee had made 112 recommendations to the Minister, who then set up a panel to review the recommendations and advise him. The panel consisted of present and past staff of the Department of Conservation and Environment, and it came as no surprise that this panel would attempt to water down any positive recommendations relating to grazing. The Association drew this matter to the attention of the Coalition, and questions were asked of the Minister in the Legislative Council. The Association provided the Coalition with a lengthy list of concerns. Other



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groups also strongly lobbied to have the Plans altered, the outcome being that the Coalition has promised to act to change the controversial Alpine Park Management Plans when it comes to Government.

This will be a matter needing attention in the coming twelve months.

Members of the Association should continue to feel threatened by the Flora and Fauna Guarantee legislation. In April 1992 cattle grazing was listed as a 'potentially threatening process'. Despite urgent efforts to have this listing withdrawn as vexatious, since grazing does not occur or has been withdrawn from vast areas of the Alps, the Scientific Advisory Committee has rejected this proposition, and Action Statements will, no doubt, be prepared shortly.

We believe that the Flora and Fauna Guarantee legislation needs a thorough review, and will be pressing for this to take place during the coming year.

This year the Association has been involved in three Supreme Court hearings, and one panel hearing.

The first case came before Mr Justice Marks in December 1991, and concerned the issue of a seven year licence to Mrs Mary McNamara. The Association had always claimed that Mrs McNamara was entitled to a seven year licence, and that this was a matter between her, and the Department of Conservation and Environment. Mrs McNamara's solicitors, in taking action against the Department, also joined Kevin and Patrick Kelly as Co-Defendants. Mr Justice Marks dismissed the claim that the Kellys should be prevented from grazing the area licenced to them (being the same area previously licenced to Mrs McNamara's late husband). Mrs McNamara indicated her consent to the Order made by the Court, and costs were awarded to Kellys against both Mrs McNamara, and against the Department for Conservation and Environment. The outcome of this case, was that the Department had to find an extra area for this licence, putting further pressure on the cattlemen on the southern end of the Bogong High Plains. (** see Footnote)

No sooner was this case concluded, when the Minister for Conservation and Environment convened an independent panel to resolve the dispute on licence allocation numbers, which now included a calf as equal to an adult beast. The panel was convened at Wodonga on December 16, 17 and 18, 1991. The Association had a mere three working days

in which to prepare its submission. It was represented by its solicitor, Mr Martin Hunt. From the outset it was obvious that the Department, on the other hand, had been preparing for some three to four months, and had obtained a report from Dr Williams which came to the same conclusion as the Department, that 3,000 should be the ceiling number for all cattle on the Bogong High Plains. Dr Williams was even flown down from the Northern Territory to give evidence before the Panel. The Government was represented by its barrister, Mr Collis of Counsel.

The Panel consisted of three—Dr Peter McInnes, Professor Peter Cullen and Dr P. Opas, Q.C. who was chairman. The MCAV opposed the appointment of Professor Cullen to the Panel, as he was a member of the Namadgi National Park Advisory Committee, and as such the Association believed that he would have a strong bias against grazing on public land. The Government rejected our objection.

The question the Panel had to resolve was whether calves should be counted in the stock allocation on the licences.

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The Association put its case to the Panel in a very strong manner, but despite this, the Panel became bogged down in conservation issues, as its resolution of the dispute showed.

Whilst it sympathised with the position into which the cattlemen had been placed by the Department, it was concerned with preserving conservation values, and then, with an extraordinary lack of logic found that the Plains had remained in a stable condition for ten years under the current grazing allocation regime, and then decreed that from the 1992 season onwards, calves should be counted on the allocation, at the rate of two calves being equal to one cow, to reduce the numbers of cattle to as near the Department's ceiling of 3,000 as possible.

It was decided by the Association to challenge this decision in the Supreme Court. The action was heard on 28 July 1992 before Mr Justice Vincent, and judgment was handed down on 31 August 1992. His Honour dismissed the Application by the Association and found that the decisions reached by the Panel were within its scope of power to resolve, and that he could see no basis for interfering with them. He awarded costs against the Association.

In early May 1992 the Supreme Court of Victoria was again the battle arena between mountain cattlemen and the Minister of Conservation and Environment. This time Tom Groggin Station challenged the Minister to show why he would not issue it with its full entitlement to a licence under the 1989 legislation. The judgment handed down on 8 May by Justice Nathan was a landmark victory for the Station and the Association. Whilst the Association was not a party to the action, it supported the Station with advice, consultation and scientific evidence. The judgment set a strong precedent in law for the mountain cattlemen, and confirmed the 1989 legislation and agreement concerning the entitlement of mountain cattlemen to graze the traditional licence areas in the High Country. Details of the judgment were printed in the July newsletter, and it will be fully reproduced in the next issue of *Voice of the Mountains*.

The cost to the Association in legal fees has been in excess of \$18,300, of which some \$6,000 is recoverable in costs. The Association should be concerned that it has had to set aside this money in order to test legislation which was enacted, in the first place, in an endeavour to maintain grazing at the 1989 level. Had the Department of Conservation and Environment been less hostile to alpine grazing, this money need not have been spent.

Another major concern to the Association over the past year has been the outcome of the Land Conservation Council's Wilderness proposals. The Land Conservation Council proposed wilderness areas under the National Parks Act, which would have had severe impact on seven licencees, since grazing would have been banned in these areas. Once again the Association was involved in meetings with the Land Conservation Council, the Coalition shadow Minister for Conservation, lobbying various other members of Parliament and members of the Coalition Conservation Committee, and the preparation and presentation of a comprehensive and detailed Submission. The Association was, and is, opposed to the provisions for Wilderness on principle, and it is MCAV policy that the provisions of the National Parks Act adequately provide for the protection of genuine Wilderness areas within the State.

The MCAV argued that the boundaries for wilderness areas should be re-drawn to eliminate any impact on grazing licence areas, or that grazing should be allowed to continue within wilderness areas. The reason for this argument was that the members of Parliament debating the Wilderness Bill which would have reduced grazing further, were the same people who had enacted the legislation to give grazing security of tenure in the 1989 legislation.

The Wilderness Bill was passed in the Legislative Council on 4 June 1992 after extensive debate and following a number of amendments forced through by the Coalition. The MCAV position was accepted by the Parliament and grazing licences will continue, and continue to be renewable and transferrable within Wilderness areas. The Association is very thankful to Tim Barker of the Policy Consultants and the Public Land Council of Victoria for assistance in maintaining our position.

In spite of the problems expressed regarding the VCE and its future, the mountain cattlemen's heritage, and the issue of alpine grazing are still topics chosen for study amongst many Year 11 and 12 students, and increasingly among students in tertiary education. Consequently the requests for information have not decreased, but rather increased over the past year, with many school librarians contacting the Association for material which can go into the school libraries. It is hoped that this continuing spread of information will increase awareness of the mountain cattlemen within the wider community, and the benefits of mountain grazing and the heritage of the cattlemen will reach a larger audience.

The Association has also been contacted by a rural magazine in the United States, and contributed an article with the promise of more follow-up to come. We have also contributed a chapter on the history, heritage and problems confronting the mountain cattlemen to a book being produced by the University of Grenoble in France. This is a scientific publication which reaches some 60 countries around the world and is translated into the appropriate languages. I am indebted to Linda Barraclough and Debbie Squires for assistance with this important and lengthy project.

It is important to have some light and shade, and having addressed you on the heavier side of the years activities, I must now tell you about the lighter moments.

The Get Together was organised by the Gippsland Branch in January this year at Guys property Kilbride at Waterford near Dargo, and it was the most wonderful success both socially and financially. Activities were sited along the Wonnangatta River, and what a pleasure it was to see green grass in January, instead of dry grass and dust! A very large crowd attended, and everybody thoroughly enjoyed a weekend of renewing social contacts, eating, singing and dancing as well as the

serious business of the Mountain Cattlemens Cup, sprint races, dog jumps and tugs-of-war. Congratulations to Chris Stoney on his win in the Cup and congratulations and thanks to the team from Gippsland Branch who made the weekend such a success.

The Get Together was chosen as the occasion to launch the Don Kneebone Mountain Heritage Award. This Award will be an annual event at the Get Togethers, and is designed for amateur authors and performers of poetry, story telling and music. The idea for this Award was suggested on the coach on the way home from Longreach, and is based on the National Outback Performing Arts Festival, at which, incidentally, the Mountain Cattlemen performed and received the highest marks from the Judges. The Don Kneebone Mountain Heritage Award is an appropriate way to honour Don and his own unique talents. The inaugural Award was organised by Debra Squires and was won by Peter Ayres, a singer from Traralgon.

A special highlight of the year for the 38 participants, was a trip by coach to Longreach in Queensland for the Ringers' Muster, and the National Outback Performing Arts Festival in November 1991. The coach collected its passengers from Gippsland, Melbourne, Mansfield and



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Wodonga on Sunday 10 November, and by mid-afternoon we were well on the way. It was a wonderful trip, great fun, great food, great company, and wonderful things to see and do. It was such a success, that another trip is planned for next February to Tasmania for the Tasmanian Get Together. Information about this tour will be available in the next newsletter.

On Saturday 22 August, 1992, cattlemen and associates joined each other for a night of music and dancing at the MCAV Bush Dance which was held at Gumbaya Park near Tynong. Great music was provided by the Cobbers and a spit roast dinner was served to 400 people determined, despite cold and windy conditions, to have a marvellous time. This was a very happy night, and we hope to have many more of them. Thanks to Ros and John Andrews and the marketing team for organising this event for us.

The Association, with the assistance of associate member Don Porter, is organising an art and photographic exhibition and competition. This is proposed to be a very large project with two distinct aims—one to display the cultural heritage of the Mountain Cattlemen in other than a bush-riding way, and to find material which can be used in the future for posters, etc. There will be more in the future

about this in the forthcoming newsletters, and the display should be ready in September 1993, and a showing at the 1994 Get Together.

Also on the production line is a coffee-table book, as yet unnamed, which is being produced by Kapana Press, another disguise for Linda Barraclough and Debbie Squires. The text is being written by Roger Penny who is a former producer with Radio National. The book will consist of full interviews with Mountain Cattlemen, both young and old, and selected family histories. It will be illustrated by portrait photographs—both historical and modern. We are hoping that this book will be available before Christmas, and if not, it will certainly be ready for the 1993 Get Together. More details in future newsletters.

After nearly five years, the logo of the Association has been protected by Certificate of Registration of Trade Mark, and is now exclusively the property of the Association. I am sure that this registration could have been pushed through more quickly, but we have allowed it to take its time, working on the theory that 'everything comes to those who wait'.

Finally the Association has been paddling hard to keep its nose out of the water, supported by the life raft of a very successful Get Together, and a

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boost in marketing. If the Association had to rely solely on its subscriptions and donations, it would not survive at its current level of activity. In fact it would long ago have sunk.

This year it has paid out over \$18,000 in legal fees, and whilst some \$6,000 is recoverable, this figure does not show up in this year's statements. We have still to pay costs for the Supreme Court Application for Review and DCE's costs were awarded against MCAV in this action. Hopefully we are at the end of our needing recourse to the Courts for justice.

The battle against Wilderness further eroding licences was also expensive, as was the scientific support needed for the Bogong Panel hearing, Tom Groggin Station and to prove to DCE that cattle grazing was not inhibiting a re-seeding programme near Buchan.

These were all one-off projects and the reports commissioned will be valuable assets for the future. We will need, however, continued assistance with the Flora and Fauna Guarantee legislation.

Despite all of this the net assets of the Association have increased and form a firm base for

the next 12 months, however we need another good Get Together result, an increase in marketing and a slow down of costs before we can in anyway relax the enormous pressure on the reins.

I recommend that funds held by Branches be reduced to \$600 each, and all surplus paid into the Central Account with no increase in subscriptions for the next financial year. In concluding I would like to thank Doug Treasure and the members of the Central Council for their affectionate support over the past 12 months, and especially to Bruce McCormack who ran the office for me in May and June, rather nervously, but extremely well.

Footnote

Members present at the Annual General Meeting would be aware of a heated exchange between the Secretary and Mr Phillip Maguire, and the meeting adopted the Secretary's Report subject to her checking the facts relating to the paragraph regarding the Supreme Court action taken by Mrs Mary McNamara against the Department of Conservation and Environment and Patrick and Kevin Kelly as Defendants, and allowing her to make any alterations or additions as required. The report printed is substantially the same as that presented to the Meeting with a small addition suggested by the Association's Solicitor, Mr Martin Hunt.

The policy of the Association is quite clear on two main points:

1. On the subject of entitlement to a seven year grazing licence the Policy of the Association is identical with the legislation, i.e. any person who held a grazing licence prior to 1989, and applied to the Director in writing pursuant to the legislation is entitled to a seven year grazing licence under the National Parks (Alpine National Park) Act, 1989.

2. The Association policy on transfer of licences when coupled with the sale of freehold property is that where a run has been traditionally used in conjunction with a freehold property the Association supports the transfer of the run to the purchaser of the freehold in order to keep the property as a viable unit.

Subsequently there was clear evidence presented to the Central Council that on these two priorities of the MCAV, the Association had supported Mary McNamara's bid to have the licence issued to her, despite the fact that she was never a member of the Association, and there was clear evidence that the Association had supported Mr Maguire's application for transfer.

It should also be made clear that despite the recommendation of the Alpine Advisory Committee (of which the MCAV is a member), that the licences be transferred to Maguire, the Minister chose not to accept the AAC's recommendation, and that this had nothing to do with the MCAV.

One of Mr Maguire's main complaints was that he was left on the steps of the Court without legal representation through some deliberate action of the Secretary of the Association. This is incorrect. Dr Buchanan Q.C. had declined to accept Mr Maguire's Solicitor's brief on 17/9/91, the MCAV's Solicitors advised the Association of this by letter dated 20/9/91, and the Summons was not issued until the 3/12/91. Mrs McNamara's Solicitors had some 2 months, ample time, to brief other Counsel, and they did. Maguire was not represented by Counsel on the 6/12/91 when the case came up for hearing because he was not, at that time, a party to the action.

The Secretary apologises to Mr Maguire for not returning his cheque for membership immediately it was received and for holding it until the next Council meeting, but the Secretary, in so doing, was merely following standard procedure, and acting in keeping with the practice of the Association.

MARKETING OFFICER'S REPORT: The 1991/92 year for marketing has been a very interesting one for me, and a profitable one for the Association. Turn-over for the year was \$39,911.11, and net profit for the year was \$10,506.91.

We decided to test the waters again by attending some of the country shows before Christmas. I would like to thank the various members of the Treasure and Coleman families and their friends who assisted with this. It was not a particularly profitable venture, but our presence was well received and it was worthwhile from a public relations point of view.

At the invitation of the Forest Protection Society, we attended their 'Mini-Expo' at Maryvale. We did not sell a lot of stock, but almost every piece of literature we had relating to the Association was taken by an interested public.

Attending these functions made us aware that, in the current economic climate, not everyone wishes to spend \$30.00 on a windcheater, so we introduced a variety of lower priced goods in time for the Get Together, e.g. key rings, fridge magnets, enamel mugs and the poster. They have all proved to be very successful.

As we are all aware, the Get Together was a huge success with marketing exceeding all our expectations. Thanks to Annie and Keith, the Colemans, Frank, Bruce, Don and the others who helped us. Through Doug Treasure we made contact with 'Remlap' in South Australia, makers of swags and clothing. They set up with us at The Get Together with the possibility of developing an association for the production of coats, etc. Our profit from 'Remlap' sales was very good, but we have not pursued the idea since then. We would need to do some research with local manufacturers first.

We had mail-order forms printed and distributed—many of these at the Get Together, and wherever else possible. The orders continue to dribble in.

I have also attempted to extend the wholesale side of marketing by visiting retail outlets such as Horseland, which may be interested in selling our goods. The reaction has been very positive, and these extra sales have helped to increase the profit. Time is my problem.

The two other functions in which marketing has been involved during the past 12 months are the Dargo Walnut Festival at Easter, and the Bush Dance a few weeks ago. Both proved to be quite profitable.

You may have noticed that there has been a change in style of T shirts which people are wearing these days. As a result we have changed to a pure cotton 'surf shirt'. We have also introduced a polo shirt for dressier occasions, and we hope these both sell well.

We have re-negotiated our past agreement with Thomas Cook regarding windcheaters. Thomas Cook will now manufacture all the windcheaters which will feature our label, and we will be paid \$2.00 per garment. They have also bought a variety of our other goods to retail through their many outlets.

A highlight of our year was the speed and thoroughness with which the marketing van was repainted. Our thanks again to Ross Harvey and the Far Canal Syndicate, and the Indoc Paint Co.

Over the past year it has become apparent to me that marketing as the Association knows it, is really two separate functions. They are:

1. Sale of goods at a profit to supplement funds.
2. On-going public presence to maintain awareness of the MCAV.

Sometimes these functions merge and at other times they conflict. From an organisational point of view—in the future—I think that the distinction needs to be looked at more clearly as both functions are important.

The MCAV stickers are a good example. We sell stickers as a fund-raiser, but they are also a very important 'flag-waver' for maintaining public awareness. It is just too expensive to make all stickers free, but at the same time we need as many stickers as possible out in the community.

At present marketing charges for most stickers and this occasionally causes some problems, so I feel there is a need for some clarification.

I would like to make a recommendation that we budget for an annual allocation of stickers to be given away for awareness purposes.

I believe that a sticker should be given to every new member, everyone attending a school visit or talk by a mountain cattleman, everyone writing to the MCAV office seeking information about mountain grazing, and every vehicle that attends a Get Together.

I suggest we allocate something in the order of 600 stickers to the MCAV office, 200 to each Branch, and 1,500 to the Get Together committee each year. Total cost would be about \$1,000 and that could be paid out of marketing or the central accounts as promotional expenses. The Branches could buy additional stickers for fund-raising purposes at wholesale price. A review of the numbers allocated could be carried out after the first twelve months.

Finally I would like to thank one person who was particularly helpful with art work for the new products this year. Thank you Don Porter, you have been really wonderful.

Jim Commins moved a vote of confidence and thanks for the Marketing Officers work over the past year.

Moved Jim Commins seconded Doug Treasure that the Association accept the recommendation of the Marketing Officer that 1,500 stickers be forwarded to the MCAV Central Office, 200 to each Branch, and 1,500 to the Get Together committee. Carried.

Moved Harry Ryder seconded Mary Goldsworthy that the report of the Marketing Officer be received. Carried.

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Moved John Andrews seconded Chris Stoney that the financial report and accounts be accepted. Carried.

Tim Barker gave a brief report on the progress of listing of grazing as a potential threatening process under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee legislation. At the present time action statements have not been prepared, and Mr Barker had informed the Department that the MCAV required to be involved in the drawing of action statements and management plans from the start.

SETTING OF FEES: Moved Doug Treasure seconded Jack Lovick that subscription fees for full and associate membership for the MCAV remain the same as the previous year, but that members who join the Association after Christmas in each year should pay half the fee to carry forward to the next fee period, i.e. December to 31st July, therefore creating a half-yearly membership. Carried.

FIXING HONORARIUMS: The Association resolved the following Honorariums for the year 1992/1993:

President — \$3,000 plus expenses

Chairman — \$1,000 plus expenses

Secretary/Treasurer — \$12,000 plus expenses

Special Projects Officer — \$1,000 plus expenses

Marketing Officer — \$1,000 plus expenses

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS: After discussion regarding the need to broaden the base of the membership, and at the same time have the opportunity to appoint specific people to undertake specific tasks it was agreed that the Secretary already had the power to co-opt people to assist the Central Council, and that Vice Presidents be given a focus. Moved Doug Treasure seconded John Andrews that the senior Vice President be responsible as an Associate members liaison officer and to encourage membership.

The Chairman then declared all positions to be vacant.

President—Doug Treasure nominated by John Rogers elected.

Senior Vice President—Allan Brewer nominated by Mary Goldsworthy was elected.

2nd Vice President—Mary Goldsworthy nominated by Doug Treasure was elected.

Marketing Officer—Ros Andrews nominated by Rhonda Treasure was elected.

Special Projects Officer—Jim Commins nominated by Kevin Kelly was elected.

Secretary/Treasurer—Sue Silvers nominated by Doug Treasure was elected.

Auditor—Mr W. Crump was appointed as Auditor to the Association for the coming year.

OTHER BUSINESS: 1. Information kit for schools, handout sheets etc.

There was lengthy discussion on the need for various types of hand-out material containing information about the Association. It was agreed that a double sided sheet setting out basic information was required, that the original brown sheet needed to be updated, and that a brochure (folded into three) should be produced. It was also agreed that the school information kit needed to be updated.

Moved Doug Treasure seconded John Andrews that Harry Ryder and Lynette Treasure should work on this project, liaise with the Secretary and President, and present a proposal at the Council meeting to be held at the Get Together in January. Carried.

2. It was agreed that Get Together prices for admission should be displayed on the road approaching the site, and at the gate. It was agreed that this would speed up admission through the gate.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.05pm.

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TOM GROGGIN STATION JUDGEMENT

On 6 May 1992 in the Supreme Court of Victoria at Melbourne, His Honour Judge Nathan gave his reasons for his finding in favour of the plaintiffs in the case *Tom Groggin Station Pty Ltd and Colour Plates Pty Ltd v. Minister for Conservation and Environment*. The full text of his judgement was as follows:

Tom Groggin, and the other plaintiff who is the successor in title to Tom Groggin, is a cattle station on the upper reaches of the Australian Alps. Its mode of operation is peculiar to that area of our country insofar as the cattle are driven up from the lowlands to the High Plains during the summer to depasture. As autumn falls and the snow comes, the cattle are returned to the home property (in this case I shall refer to Tom Groggin and Colour Plate generatively as "Tom Groggin"), where, being snow-free, they are able to pasture during the winter months. This style of cattle grazing has been common to the area, it would appear, for about a century and it certainly finds its place in Australian literature:

I brought a run a while ago
On country rough and ridgy,
Where wallaroos and wombats grow,
The upper Murrumbidgee.
The grass is rather scant, it's true,
But this a fair exchange is.
The cows can see a lovely view
By climbing up the ranges"

Well, unfortunately, scenic value or otherwise, the matter before me has commercial connotations which arise in the following way.

In 1958, the State Government introduced a system of licensing cattlemen who grazed their beasts on the High Plains and in 1975, the National Parks Act was introduced which further elaborated this system of licensing.

In 1989, the National Parks (Amendment) Act to the original 1975 Act was enacted and by its s.32A(d), reads as follows:

"The Minister may grant licences in respect of the alpine and bush grazing licence areas in accordance with the agreement on provision for alpine and bush grazing licences endorsed by the Minister on 25 May 1989."

Sub-section (2):

"A person who immediately before the commencement of the National Parks Alpine National Park Act 1989 was the holder of a cattle grazing licence in respect of any part

of the alpine and bush grazing licence areas and applies to the Director is entitled to be granted a licence under s.1."

The legislation has some peculiarity insofar as it incorporates by necessary reference an agreement entitled "On Provisions for Grazing Licences in the Alpine National Park". It is not contested here that the licensed areas which attached to Tom Groggin are areas within what will be, or now is, an Alpine National Park. Although there are four licences involved, I can treat them in the aggregate and the main licence relates to Davies Plains, one might think an appropriate title for cattle grazing. In any event, the agreement to which I have referred and which is part of the legislation recites so far as is relevant,

"A person who immediately before the commencement of s.7 of the National Parks Alpine National Park Act 1989 was the holder of a cattle grazing licence in respect of any part of the alpine and bush grazing licence areas is entitled to be granted a cattle grazing licence in the park."

Clause 3:

The Minister may grant to an applicant under this part subject to adequate protection of conservation values a cattle grazing licence in respect of a part or parts of the alpine and bush grazing licence areas for a term of seven (7) years or less if the Minister and the holder agree to a shorter time."

It is conceded by the Minister, in this case, that Tom Groggin is "a person who immediately before the commencement of the National Park Alpine National Parks Act was the holder of the grazing licences" to the areas of which I have referred and in fact is a person entitled to a cattle grazing licence in respect of those areas which are referred to as "cattle grazing licence areas".

And now I must depart from this examination of the agreement to a narration of the facts in the following context. This is an application for relief in the way on mandamus which is a legal way of

saying "requiring the Minister to do what he is obliged to do under an Act of Parliament". The orders sought by Tom Groggin are that the Minister perform his statutory duty, by issuing to it, the appropriate grazing licences in respect of Dinner Plains and the other areas; and that the Minister perform his statutory duty in accordance with s.32 of the Act to which I have already referred. By issuing it, that is, Tom Groggin, a licence which is commensurate in area to the licences previously held. The short issue before me is this. The Minister in granting to Tom Groggin a licence to graze cattle within the park has very severely curtailed that area by reducing it from some 31,000 hectares to 6,000. Tom Groggin says that if they cannot depasture its cattle during the summer months on the High Plains, it cannot carry them through the winter. By virtue of having a licensed area very substantially reduced, they cannot run the number of cattle they previously did and, as with many other rural enterprises, ruin faces them. They say that this is sad, in view of their history and again have recourse to "The Banjo". Their submissions are properly paraphrased,

They came of bold and roving stock
That would not fixed abide.
They were the sons of field and flock
Since e'er they learned to ride.
We may not hope to see such men
In these degenerate years,
As those explorers of the bush —
those brave old pioneers.
'Twas they who rode the trackless bush
In heat and storm and drought,
'Twas they that heard the master word
That called them further out.
'Twas they that followed up the trail
The mountain cattle made
And pressed across the mountain range,
Where now their bones are laid."

Dr Buchanan, with only marginally less floridity than that, put his submissions in, in effect, the same terms.

And so I return to the relief sought by Tom Groggin to a necessary narrative of the events. At the appropriate time, Tom Groggin was the holder and entitled to in law graze cattle in part of the alpine and bush grazing licence areas as defined in s.32A(d) of the National Parks Act 1975 of Victoria. On 9 January 1990, the Minister through his Department wrote to the first-named plaintiff as follows:

"With the proclamation of the park on 2 December 1989, the agreement as it relates to grazing is now in effect. As a person who

immediately before the proclamation of the Park was a licence holder which is fully or partly affected by the legislation, you are entitled to apply for a 7-year licence."

Tom Groggin did. Tom Groggin asserts that in breach of the duties to which I will refer, and have referred, that between January 1991 the Minister refused to grant Tom Groggin the licences in respect of the bush grazing areas. In July of 1990, Tom Groggin sold to Colour Plate, but that is immaterial as far as this judgement is concerned. Section 32 of the Act does provide that the Minister may grant licences in respect of alpine bush grazing licence areas in accordance with the agreement to which I have referred. The second-named plaintiff, Colour Plate, pursued the interests under its contract of sale that Tom Groggin formerly had and it, too, was rejected by the Minister. It must be said that in October of 1990, the Minister decided that Colour Plate was an "approved person" for the purposes of the transfer of the licence under the Act and no point can be taken by the Minister as to the quality or character of the applicants for the licence.

On 8 April 1991, the Minister did issue the licence to Colour Plate but did so in the truncated terms to which I refer, and they were not commensurate with the area previously covered by the licences.

I have had material put before me in relation to the National Parks (Amendment) Act 1989, Division 1A, Part II, which creates wilderness parks or enables the Minister to create wilderness parks and it would be churlish if I say that I did not note the reference in this morning's press to the fact that legislation to effect the enlargement of the wilderness areas under that Act has been introduced into Parliament apparently this day. However, I must decide this case on the legislation as it is before me and not what might be the legislation in a couple of days' time or what might be perceived to be the commercial interests of Tom Groggin or what might be, more importantly the value or the demerits of wilderness areas. Suffice it to say that the area of Davies Plains has received the attention of the Land Conservation Council which has designated it very substantially to be "a wilderness zone or area of almost pristine value". It is to be noted that the wilderness park preservation is reserved for those areas which are largely devoid of the influences of European settlement and, as such, are to be distinguished from national parks, which may have that quality but which have other recreational and inspirational values.

The social consequences of all that, are issues divorced from the question before me. The question before me turns very much upon the terms of s.32A(d). Under that section of the National Parks Alpine National Park Act 1989, which is now and presently in force, the Minister has the power to grant licences in respect of areas such as Davies Plains in accordance with the agreement. The section goes on to recite, "the person who qualifies"—and as I have said, there is no question about Tom Groggin qualifying—"is entitled to be granted a licence" and hence the nub of the issue is exposed. Is the entitlement to a licence one which the Minister must statutorily recognise, and deliver a licence which is in effect in the same terms, or very largely so, of the licences previously pertaining. In this case, the Minister contends that by granting a licence of the truncated area, it has complied with the terms of the Act. In my view that is not correct. The agreement delivers to the previous licence holders an entitlement to a licence in the bush grazing areas. It is predicated upon the assumption that the licence previously granted is the licence to which it will be entitled under the terms of this Act and not something less. In my view, it flies in the face of commonsense and logic to suggest to a suburban landholder that, at the one time, he is entitled to a licence to occupy his suburban home block and then issue a licence which covers that area of the garage only and say it is the same thing. That, in effect, is the submission of the Minister, or the arguments of the Minister. In my view, it is manifestly incorrect. The entitlement under s.32A(d) is to a licence to a person who immediately before the proclamation of s.7 had a licence, it assumes that the licence will be for the same area, or substantially the same area.

Although the agreement refers to "the grant by the Minister of a licence subject to adequate protection of conservation values", that term does not relate to the area of the licence, and it does not entitle the Minister to exclude from the area of the licence the greater part of it. He is entitled to impose such conditions relating to the use of fire, fertiliser, the erection of huts for doggers, or whatever, as may be, which would protect conservation values. The text does not offer an avenue to the Minister, under the pretext of preserving or protecting conservation values, to fundamentally alter and disparage the nature of the licence originally granted.

By way of completeness, it is necessary to deal with the creation of the wilderness areas and wilderness zones to which the Act relates and which

it is said the Davies Plains area forms part. Under s.12 of the Act (that is the National Parks (Amendment) Act 1989), the declaration of such areas is subject to certain thresholds being overcome relating for example to plant and animal community, to be of sufficient size, and appropriate opportunities for solitude and self-reliant recreation. It is to be noted, however, that the declaration of these areas is not at the behest of the Minister, or by way of the regulations-making power, which so commonly accompanies legislation of this kind. In this case, the power of proclamation of wilderness areas resides with the Parliament and with no other authority. It is not at the Minister's option to declare the Davies Plain area a wilderness zone; that is an option which resides with the Parliament alone.

It would seem that the Minister has been enticed into attempting to protect the Davies Plains area as a wilderness area by using the provisions of s.32 of the Act. That is by truncating the licences in wholly inappropriate and, as I have found, illegal way. It therefore follows that the declaration sought by Tom Groggin will be granted. I propose, subject to any further discussion from counsel, to make those declarations in the terms of a Notice of Motion, but I will hear counsel as to that and before I conclude, I shall just examine my notes to see that I have said everything I intended to.

Yes, I wish to add this. In my view the Minister appears to have confused two issues, firstly his power to protect conservation values under the Agreement Clause 3, and the viability or desirability of declaring wilderness areas under the National Parks Alpine Parks (Amendment) Act. Conservation values are no more than the words impute—conserving, or preserving, a particular set of values. Now for most of Victoria, conservation is in a state which has been affected by 150 years of European settlement whereby the native bush has been transplanted into some ersatz form of Wiltshire or Hereford or the Home Counties. Wilderness areas are those areas pristine or free from European settlement, or the influences of European settlement. The Minister cannot purport under the guise of preserving conservation values to proceed by refusing licences to preserve or create wilderness areas. It is simply using this Act for the wrong purpose. If the area of Davies Plains is to become a wilderness area, and I say nothing of the social value of that or its economic consequences, but if that is to be done it must be done under the terms of the Act by declaration of the Parliament and not by administrative fiat in refusing the grant the

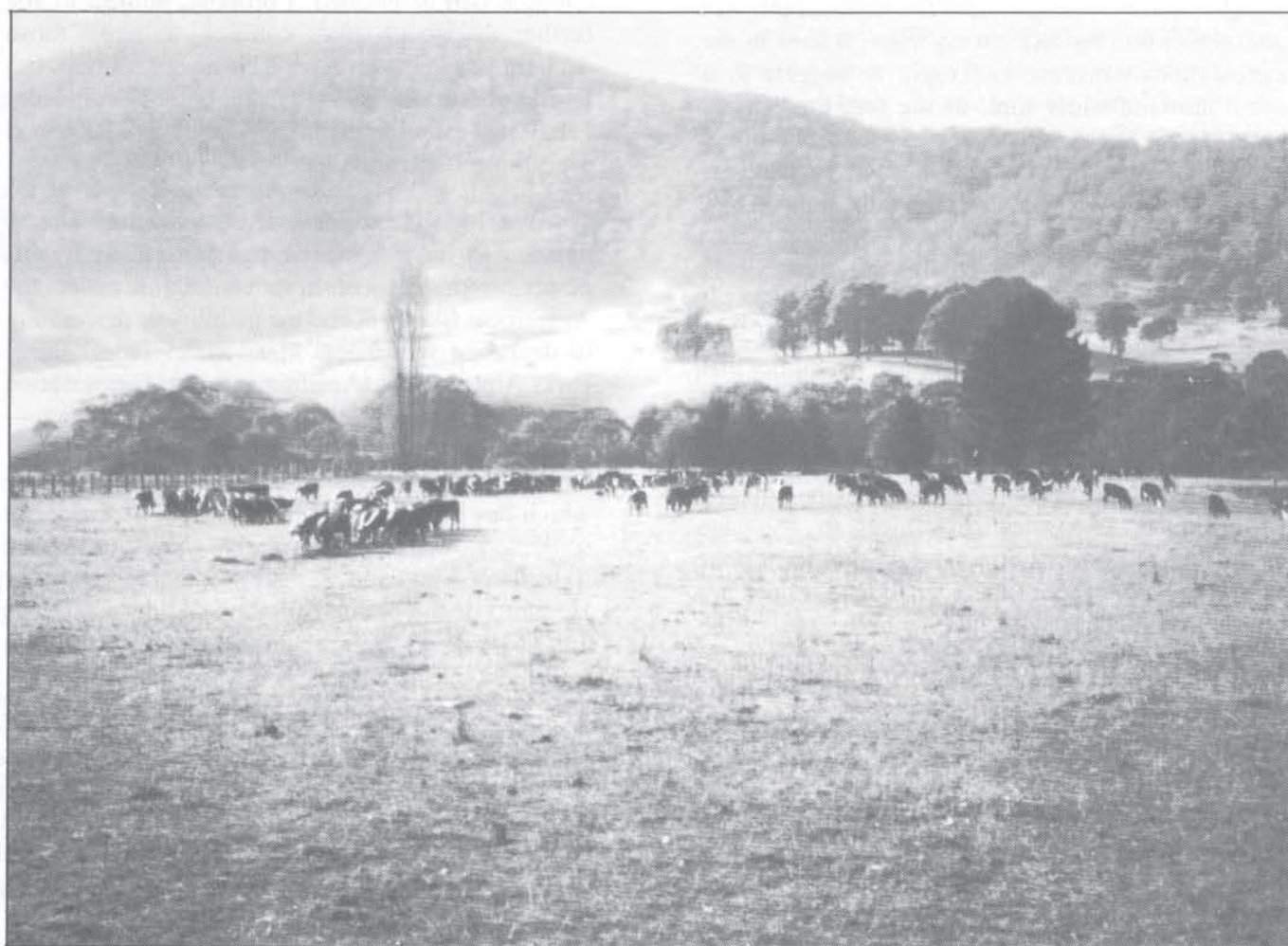
appropriate licences to which the legislation entitles Tom Groggin.

I should add this—I am sorry this is being done in bits and pieces—I did intend to amplify the meaning of the word “entitle”, and I now do so.

The entitlement referred to in the Act is again a word which is plain in meaning and it is “to give title”. “Entitlement” means exactly that. It is a right, not a privilege. It is an obligation upon which the Minister must act, and although the section commences with “the Minister may grant”, he is bound by the subsequent term “the entitlement”. That is the source of the obligation and that is the source of Tom Groggin’s remedy.




Tucker time at Groggin.



Weaners in the holding paddock at Tom Groggin. (Photo courtesy Jim Nankervis, former owner of Tom Groggin 1937-1972)

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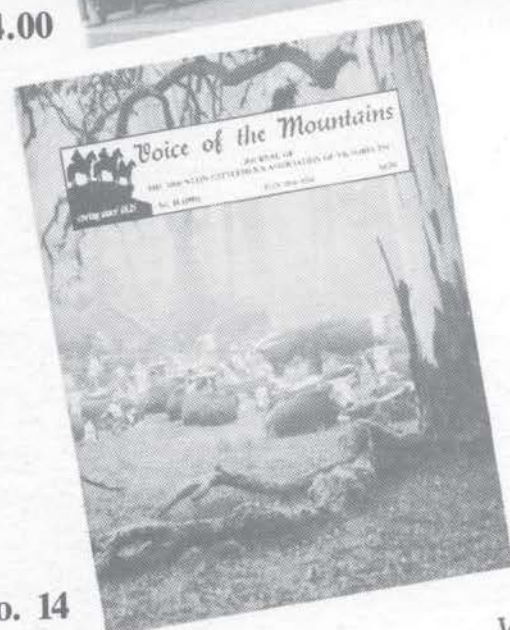
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