

# Voice of the Mountains

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## COVER

Looking like they have stepped out of an old Australian painting, the cattlemen appeared out of an early morning snow storm pushing the mob back to the Bogong High Plains as they have for generations.  
(*Courtesy of Herald-Sun, photographer: Trevor Pinder*)

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# President's Message 2003

It's summer again, and again we are witnessing another bout of devastating bushfires, this time in New South Wales. Fire, as we are all well aware, is an integral and necessary part of the Australian landscape, but all too often the issue becomes politically too hot to handle.

During the reign of the current Carr Government (1995-2003), there has been a doubling of National Parks and reserves in New South Wales, to more than five million hectares. This is a considerable and rapid increase in land area which requires significant resources to adequately manage these areas to their newly acquired status.

Prior to this increase, 1993-94, almost 47,000 hectares of parks and reserves in New South Wales were burnt as part of the annual fuel reduction burning program. In 1999-2000 the level of reduction burning was only 6,000 hectares, and in 2000-2001 this level had marginally increased to 19,000 hectares and this year, 2001-2002, 40,000 hectares.

So effectively there is now less than half the amount of fuel reduction burning successfully completed within the New South Wales National Parks system when compared to the levels of nine years ago.

As a result there are significant levels of fire fuel building upon the forest floor waiting to culminate in yet another forest inferno, that not only jeopardize flora, fauna and entire ecosystems but also human life and property.

This is a prime example of political grandstanding and vote buying without the resource commitment to on ground management to actually protect and maintain the environmental values contained within the parks system.

There is a real need for the Victorian State Government to demonstrate a commitment to improved land management within our National Parks System now, before we find ourselves in the same predicament as New South Wales. The recent land and water increases to the Victorian parks system must be met with a corresponding level of increased management resource, just to maintain the deficient status quo.

It is also interesting to note that in NSW, areas grazed by cattle under Forest Grazing Leases are counted as hazard reduced areas.

On behalf of the members of the association I would like to thank the vast array of people who have been of great assistance over the past twelve months in our endeavors to maintain grazing leases in the Victorian High Country, without this external support our achievements would not be so successful.

All the best for 2003.

*Simon Turner*

# Changing of the Guard

## Secretary Sue hands the reins over to Tim

**The Annual General Meeting in October saw the resignation of Sue Reynolds, who has been secretary of the Association for seventeen years. Her report (recorded in full in the Minutes in this issue) reads like a condensed history of the MCAV. Sue has ‘handed the reins’ of the Association to new secretary Tim Barker. Tim has been associated with the MCAV at various levels over the past years and we look forward to our mutual ongoing success in the future. Welcome aboard!**

Tim completed a Bachelor Economics and Politics Degree at Monash University in 1969, and later did some further study in agricultural economics at the University of Melbourne.

Tim’s first position was as an economist with the Reserve Bank of Australia where he spent several years working in economic liaison. This involved talking to the leaders of secondary and tertiary industry in Melbourne about future trends in economic activity.

In 1972 Tim joined the Graziers Association of Victoria and began a 15 year association with the farm lobby. For the next 15 years he worked for the farm lobby groups including the Victorian Farmers Federation and the National Farmers Federation.

Major achievements in this part of Tim’s career included the introduction of Income Equalisation Deposits and the establishment of the Primary Industry Bank of Australia. His work on the Income Equalisation Deposits involved several years and included the presentation of academic papers to conferences of the Australian Society of Agricultural Economists. Work on the Primary Industry Bank of Australia commenced with a survey of finances available to Victorian farmers but soon spread to be an Australia-wide campaign

for the establishment of a “farmers” bank. While undoubtedly “*success has a thousand fathers*” these campaigns were commenced as result of Tim’s initiative and his involvement was fundamental to the success of these major projects.

A highlight of this part of his career was co-ordinating the organisation of the rally of 35,000 farmers in Melbourne with a march from Flinders Park to Parliament House where a major submission, prepared by Tim, was presented to the Government.

Working for the farm lobby provided a strong foundation of knowledge about the Parliament and the lobbying processes. This was a particularly dynamic period in the history of Australian farmers which saw mass demonstrations across the country, a renewed interest in the rural sector in the media, and the establishment of a fighting fund to finance work on projects of particular interest to the farm community.

During his career with the farm lobby Tim prepared more than 100 submissions on a wide range of issues from agricultural economics and taxation to environmental issues and the utilisation of public land. In several cases, parts of submissions were used to form the basis of papers which were subsequently published in the academic literature.

Tim, in conjunction with a colleague from Canberra, represented farmers in hearings before the Price Justification Tribunal. One case on the wool and livestock selling charges resulted in a saving to farmers of more than \$10 million (in 1980 values) per annum.

During the disastrous years in the early 1980s which were characterised by extreme drought and the horrific Ash Wednesday bushfires Tim led the farm organisation’s response and was closely involved in the

development of new forms of assistance.

During the latter part of this work with the farm lobby Tim spent several weeks at a time working in Canberra with the National Farmers Federation.

When he left the VFF in 1987 he had held positions as Deputy Executive Director and Director of Policy.

In 1987, Tim established “*The Policy Consultants*” with a colleague who had worked for several years in Parliament House as an adviser to a party leader. Over the past 15 years “*The Policy Consultants*” has worked on a wide range of State Government lobbying campaigns.

Tim has also undertaken some project work for the Coalition and for Victorian Governments

In all these campaigns Tim focuses on clear and professional documentation, effective public relations activities, and a persistent approach to the implementation of his client’s policies.

Tim’s main client base has been mainly focused on organisations that are involved in natural resource and conservation related issues. He has extensive experience in representing a diverse range of organisations and interests. He has assisted in policy development and implementation for many rural and natural resource interests such as farmers, miners, four-wheel-drivers, tour operators, commercial and recreational fishermen, hunters and irrigators. Tim understands the issues surrounding the need to balance the interests of conservationists and those who generate wealth from the land and the sea.

Tim provided the part time Secretariat of the Australian Irrigators Council for two years in the early 1990s. This Council consisted of water delivery agencies, irrigators and suppliers of irrigation equipment. This involved a significant role in the review of irrigation issues by the Council of Australian Governments.



In 1992 Tim Barker wrote a book *Lobbying Politicians - How to lobby politicians, the Parliament and the Government* (ISBN 0 646 13144 3). The book was based on a survey of State Politician’s attitudes to lobbying and 20 years experience in lobbying at the State Government level. The book;

- listed the fundamentals of lobbying techniques,
- provided a layman’s explanation of Parliamentary process and the making of Regulations from the lobbyist’s viewpoint,
- described the reaction of politicians to existing lobbying activities,
- provided a comprehensive review of what impresses politicians the most - and the least,

- provided advice from current politicians on how to lobby successfully,

- contained a complete campaign checklist and initial campaign plan

- reviewed campaigns that have impressed politicians - 40 campaigns were mentioned.

*The Age* reviewed the book and stated,

*“A Melbourne political consultant, Mr Tim Barker, found in a 1992 survey of State parliamentarians that many lobby groups were inept in their approach to people in power. Now, Mr Barker has written a book, “Lobbying Politicians”, on the survey. He hopes it will help groups sharpen their approach. Mr Barker, the founder of The Policy Consultants, an agency that works on lobbying campaigns for a range of groups, said the survey confirmed*

*what he learnt around Spring Street. “Politicians generally do not have a high regard for the standard of lobbying, the survey shows,” he said. “The book offers advice to lobbying groups, based on the survey-” a succinct submission, sensible private meetings with people sincerely concerned about the issue and original letters from their constituents”, the article concluded*

Tim manages three organisations, the Public Land Council of Victoria, which represents public land resource and recreation groups, Fitness Victoria which represents health and fitness centres in Victoria and the Outdoor Advertising Association of Australia.

Tim is 55 years of age, has a Bachelor of Economics from Monash University, and is married with a family of three adult children.

## Change of Address

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# A Submission in Respect of the East Gippsland Regional Vegetation Plan

J.A.Commins

*When Jim Commins died the Association lost one of its most consistent and knowledgeable submission writers. The last submission that he worked on was in relation to the Regional Vegetation Plan while he was hospitalised at Bairnsdale. He wrote it long hand and got it delivered to me (over the road) to be typed up to send it away. I dare say that somewhere in Jim's library is a copy of this submission, but it is only recently that I 'rediscovered' a copy on disc.*

## Personal Introduction

I was co-opted to the steering committee of the above plan early in the year 2000. Unfortunately I was only able to attend two meetings where I learnt to understand the acronyms and the direction of the Regional Vegetation Plan.

I was recently invited to join the review panel to consider private submissions and the final draft of the East Gippsland Regional Vegetation Plan but being at a low health point following surgery, radio-therapy and chemotherapy, I felt I might not do justice to the task and arranged a substitute for me in the person of Mr Barry Newcomen to take my place.

As I am now in recovery I felt compelled to submit the following comments.

## Submission

I have attached Appendix A to this paper entitled *The Original Forest* and I suggest that a reader of this submission should first read this appendix that deals in very descriptive details of how the first European settlers found the vegetation on the land over a wide area of Australia. This land was subsequently occupied for pastoral purposes.

An extract from *The Original Forest* is quoted in a paper entitled *The Eucalyptus of Gippsland* by Alfred Howitt who in his time was

a noted botanist, gold commissioner of the early gold diggings at Omeo and subsequently a magistrate. Howitt presented his paper to the Royal Society in 1890 and it is very revealing in relation to the present farming lands of East Gippsland and the present bushland environment.

It is probably not generally recognised, but in the light of the evidence there had been a vast change in the ground cover of bushland over the past 150 years or so but what probably most people would assume is that what they see in forests today is probably little changed in centuries. However, the reliable reports of explorers, pioneer navigators and graziers indicate that wherever the native Aborigines roamed across the length and breadth of Australia they created a savannah of generally widely spaced trees with a grass under story by their constant fire lighting and burning of grass when it was dry enough to burn. The plains, valleys and uplands of the East Gippsland region were no exception to the Aborigines methods of treatment which can only be supposed to have been continued for long ages in time.

When European pastoralists came with their livestock and built timber dwellings and wooden fences they very soon pushed the Aborigines and their fire sticks well out of the way. There would then have been an annual build-up of dry grass and inevitably fire. This may well have been in a year like 1851 when it is recorded that a huge fire extended over the greater part of Victoria. Given adequate rain after such a fierce fire a germination of eucalyptus seedlings could be expected and this is evidently what changed Gippsland from grassland savannah to eucalyptus forest.

Refer to Appendix A: Howitt A. W. *The Eucalyptus of Gippsland* I have lived close to and observed the natural environment by the upper Tambo Valley and the forests beyond for more than seventy years and have seen many microcosms of the vegetation change as above. I recall when quite young a conversation with an elderly local man who commenced his schooling in the 1870s. He had been

informed by his elders and he described the earlier local scenes of open grassland with just a scattering of trees. It seemed like an imaginative story when one could see nothing but standing dense ring-barked forest covering the hills. I recall that most of those dead trees without bark on them were mostly in the range of about 15 to 25 centimetres in diameter with larger trees much less closely placed. All those younger trees would have been of the age to be the germination of young eucalyptus that Howitt reported on.

As the ring-barked forests were cleared and fertilizer introduced there was much change in the flora and fauna. For example several variations of tree creeper birds have disappeared, there are many less rosella, parrot and other birds to be seen. On the flora list the flowering native bluebells, the small white flowering yams and the yellow flowering treefoil burr that, when maturing, used to punish our bare feet with bunches of prickles are gone.

As well as that enormous environmental disturbance that took place over about one hundred years there came another even mightier force to impact upon the environmental scene. Some fifty odd years after, rabbits were first released in the then Port Phillip colony. They found their way through the mountains to the Omeo district about 1900, and in a very few years the whole region of East Gippsland was over-run with them and in concentrations of numbers that many people of today would find difficult to believe. Great efforts were made to try and control numbers but despite that they ate grass and other edible vegetation down to bare ground and would even eat the roots of favoured plants.

Their presence led to all forms of massive soil erosion and in the forests the destruction of grass and many small shrubs. There was a proliferation of ti-tree and other woody stemmed medium height vegetation that shaded much of the grass out of existence. By this dramatic change to forest under story a much greater risk of over sever forest wildfire was established. About 1950 the disease virus myxomatosis was introduced and after almost half a century the rabbit population was more than decimated within a few weeks.

It was after the collapse of the rabbit population that elderly people that had been familiar with pre-rabbit era vegetation, and thought that some

interesting native plants had been extinguished forever, found that these plants had re-appeared in certain places.

In all the earliest recorded descriptions of Australia and the activities of its indigenous people that were made by navigators, explorers and other very responsible people serve to illustrate that the Aborigines had practiced a routine of environment control by the use of fire and this in all probability remained unchanged for centuries. In the immediate past one and a half centuries since European occupation there have been enormous environmental changes. This leads to the conclusion that the Australian environment is in no way as delicate as some would portray it but rather has in fact great resilience, where environmental vegetation classes can respond to a growth opportunity or recede according to circumstances.

Thus I see the comprehensive tables and percentages as per the East Gippsland report of endangered environmental vegetation classes in East Victoria as purely academic in the larger frame of future land and environment management.

## **Land Retirement**

The proposal to return some of the more difficult to manage and steep land to Crown Lands may relieve landowners of some problems but eventually may prove in many cases to be a costly mistake. The Department of Natural Resources and Environment as the custodian of most land adjoining freehold land has at times heavily pressed landowners to take action against weeds, but it's own record of controlling weeds in Crown Land is extremely poor. In the Ensay and Omeo districts many farms that were considered to have an unviable future as grazing entities were purchased by the Victorian Government with a view to on-selling them, either to adjoining landowners or as aggregated allotments for sale by tender.

Many of the most steep hillsides have been excised for return to Crown Land and it will interest many to wait and see what becomes of the weeds on them. Rather than have them grow wild and unstocked it might have been better to have them with sheep remaining there. Sheep can control weeds and their produce could defray the cost of chemical treatments.



## **No Net Loss**

The claim for no net loss of native vegetation productive area in Victoria to native vegetation appears to me as an ambient claim that would have to be considered excessive by responsible administrators.

It certainly should have a very limited place in East Gippsland where 84% of the region is now uncleared forest and Crown land, while less than 17% of the area is privately held land and of this a significant area is uncleared. Much of the uncleared land would be mid aged regeneration in the fringe between farm and mountainous forest in the Omeo uplands and most of it is eminently suitable for pastoral development but is bound by Planning and Environment Department regulation to remain uncleared. This is a most unsatisfactory state of affairs for the landowners concerned, most of whom have held this land, fenced it, paid municipal rates and put up with the inherent wildlife problems that are endemic to much of East Gippsland. There is an incongruity that much of this land in the Omeo district can be put into a comparably productive condition for little more than half of the cost purchase of the land which, under the State Government buy-back program, is being made available by tender to local landowners who are encouraged to increase production viability of their grazing properties.

Since land management of the region is under review this position for affected freehold landowners should be corrected without delay in East Gippsland where the existing area of native vegetation on the Crown lands so far outweighs that of improved pasture land.

## **Native Vegetation Retention Controls**

Of the presently uncleared freehold land it may be the more than 35% of it may for various reasons remain permanently uncleared but the proposition that a land owner in this region may clear an area then return an equivalent area to native vegetation elsewhere is totally unacceptable.

## **Wildlife Corridors**

These may sound like a good development and be acceptable in some hobby farm situations but would be an anathema to the larger scale dairy

and pastoral properties as they would provide harbour for all manner of weeds and pest animals. One has only to travel anywhere in East Gippsland within one and a half kilometres from bushland on Crown land where weed control has generally been neglected, and see blackberries emerging (or established) along fence lines or where ever else birds have introduced the seeds.

## **Threatening Species**

This Vegetation Committee was given much more space in the first information report before the committee. Amongst other things grazing was comprehensively denigrated and this is not unusual in the writing of 'green' inspired authors who all too often do not rely on facts. I have attempted to illustrate an example with the aid of the accompanying rough sketch. It attempts to portray the scene on a frame of photography in an ABC natural science film where deep concern was expressed about the survival of the River Red Gums in dry land conditions in Western Australia. The scene depicts fairly widespread old growth River Red Gums with an under story of maturing grass and very little intermediate height vegetation, and some very young Red Gum seedlings in the foreground. A cow (in fact several cows) are seen walking and feeding between the trees.

Not a word of explanation was spoken by the commentator who clearly relied upon the subliminal mis-interpretation about grazing that so often appears in print media, that the seedlings survival 'risks' are as follows:

-Dry conditions may continue and the parent/smaller trees would draw on all available soil moisture and the seedlings would die.

- Prolific rain may promote growth of grass that could smother the young seedlings.

- A fire could burn all the grass when old and dry and the seedlings would be destroyed.

The facts of the situation are that cattle will not under any circumstance eat Eucalyptus leaves, they can reduce the competition from grass growth and, therefore are the only allies the seedlings have in that scene in their struggle for survival.

## Algal Bloom

There are numerous contributing factors to this problem and the water run-off from farm land may be one of them, but no-one seems to be able to quantify that contribution. It has become fashionable to exclude creeks from pastoral farm land to prevent nutrients from entering the water. This is a costly nonsense, as it heavily devalues the land if the owners have to resort to daily checks and maintenance of troughs and pumps. Most of the excretion of livestock if on and around the stock camps and in the case of sheep is at the tops of the highest hills available to them. In the event of heavy thunderstorm, and then only if the ground is very bare of grass, will some livestock droppings reach the stream whether it is fenced or not. Many people would say that cow manure was only grass with the milk and meat taken out of it and therefore of no great consequence but I am not qualified to judge that.

I believe that the greatest threat to existing native vegetation in East Gippsland is in the hinterland of the mountains where the increase in fire hazard increases each year.

The Royal Commission Enquiry into Forest Grazing in 1944 should have brought more information to light but did not do so. As you will be aware, the Forest Commission of Victoria was established in 1919 and announced a policy banning all fire in the forests and there were letters of protest that it would foil. Twenty years later the 1939 holocaust took place. In the sawmilling areas east of Melbourne to Erica and Nojee there was a complete wipe out of sawmills, the forest resource and many lives lost.

Further to the east generally grazing licences continued to operate as they always had, there were no watch towers or aerial surveillance and Forest Commission officials were very thin on the ground. The graziers reduced much forest floor litter by fire as the Aborigines had done before them - but I am sure they operated with more judgement. No grazier likes to see a very hot fire that will cause the germination of eucalypt seedling that render the area useless for cattle grazing for many years and they were not into setting fires in a severe drought as there was in January 1939.

The 1939 fire burnt over a vast area of Victorian bushland and into New South Wales beyond Mt Kosiuszko and destroyed many thousands of hectares of the snow gums with thin protective bark. Instead of being destroyed, the vast forests of Alpine Ash survived with only a small percentage of loss and they have sustained many sawmills for the past sixty years and are still yielding a very large supply of logs for the industry. The cattlemen did their work, and I have to admit that I was one of them, with no more equipment than a boxes of wax matches and sometimes an axe or rake.

There is far too much build-up now of old growth and litter for the cattlemen's technique to succeed now without much greater risk but there should be a lesson there to be taken onboard. The timber industry should owe the cattlemen licences of the first half of the twentieth century a debt of gratitude for their fuel reduction burning and for the survival of so much timber resource to work on.

If the roasting hot fires that occurred in parts of the Caledonia fire several years ago are allowed to continue, and they will if there is no change of management, the Gippsland Lakes will become more swamp than lake with shallow warm water with permanent algae.

After the foregoing comments I have to give the Final Report of the Native Vegetation Committee the thumbs down. It deals with what is commonly assumed to be native forest that has been in place for centuries but what is in fact secondary growth and the environmental vegetation classes have proved themselves adaptable to the many environmental changes during the past 150 years. I believe that there are more important issues such as protecting the bushland environment by reducing the woody under-storey and fire from litter in State forests and National Parks by **MILD** fire. In this way the risk of holocaust **WILD** fire and consequential soil loss and ecological damage, as well as public and private property destruction would be minimised.

Finally I submit that proposals of interference from public service employees in the management of private property and talk of covenants is anathema to responsible landowners.

# Images by Oldfield

David Oldfield continues his challenge to photograph all the huts of the high country and has again provided us with another batch of excellent photographs for publication in *Voice* and we thank him once again.

This year we have the 'Silver Brumby' Hut, Swindler's Creek, Mount Hotham.


To quote David ... *Something a bit different this year which may test those who know their huts. In the valley of Swindler's Creek, Mount Hotham, immediately below the bottom station of the Blue Ribbon chair lift is a hut that was built for the 1992 film 'Silver Brumby', based on the books by Elyne Mitchell. Ho hum you may think, another empty facade, but at least this one isn't built on a bare mountain top where no cattleman in his right mind would have put it. The great surprise however is that the interior is 'fully furnished' so perhaps the film was a low budget affair and the interiors were shot on site, the large open windows would be ideal for poking cameras through. I have no idea how 'old and weathered' it looked when it was used for the film, it certainly looks now more than it's ten years.*


*The front deck has collapsed, perhaps aided and abetted by wombats but the inside gives an interesting view of how city based film makers thought high country huts should look.*

From the international best-seller of the same name comes a magnificent tale about the greatest brumby that ever lived, **The Silver Brumby**.


In the unforgiving wilderness of the Australian Alps roams a stallion like no other. Grand in stature, a beauty to behold, he is the King of all of the Cascade Brumbies. Wise in the ways of the bush, courageous and daring in the face of danger, the Silver Brumby is revered by all - including his greatest enemy - Man. For years men have tried to claim the elusive Brumby as their prize - with no success. Now one horseman (Russell Crowe), determined to challenge the might of the wild stallion, sets off on an unforgettable adventure to capture the horse that according to legend, could never be tamed. Also starring: Caroline Goodall and introducing Ami Daemion.

Approximate Running Time: 104 Minutes





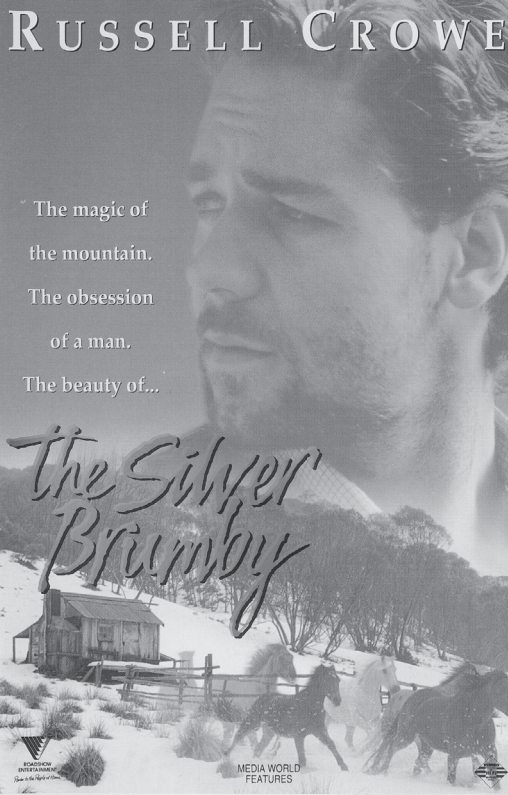
The Silver Brumby



## RUSSELL CROWE


The magic of the mountain.  
The obsession of a man.  
The beauty of...

# The Silver Brumby




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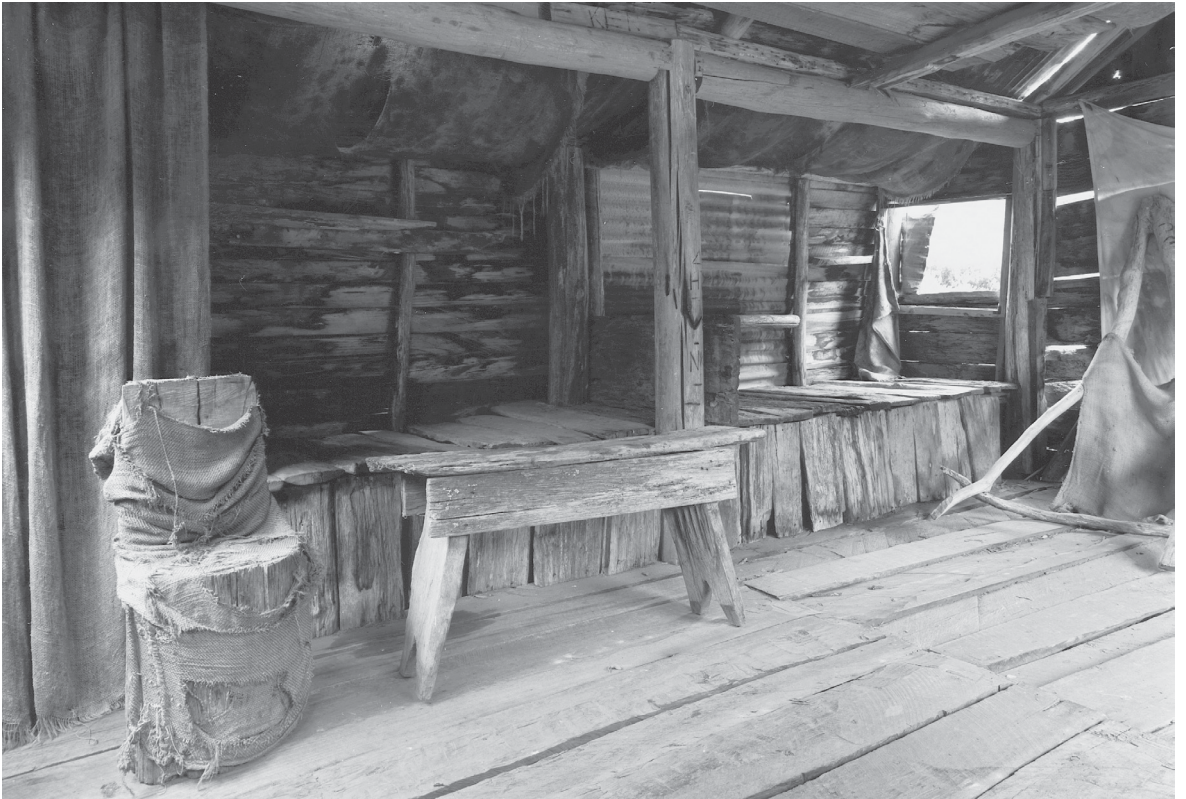
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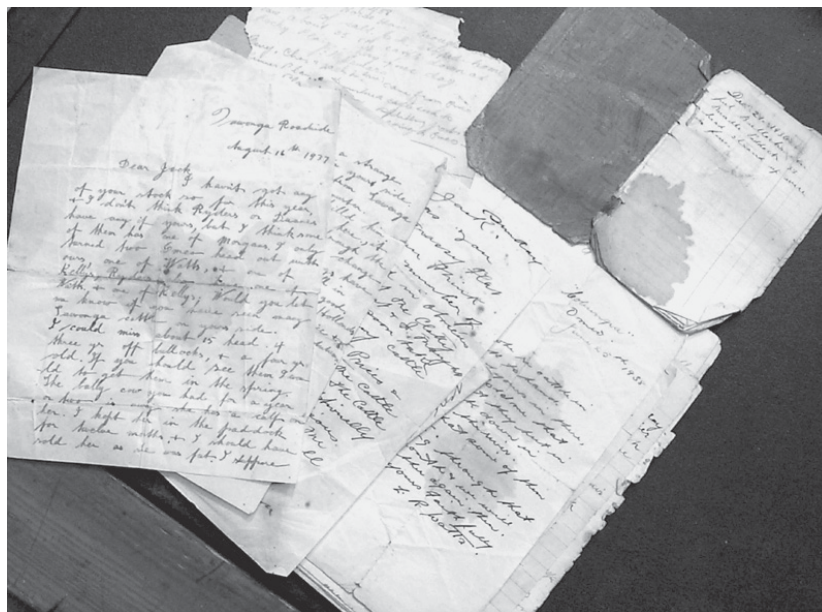






# McNamara Memories

## The Hut Log Book



*The following is a transcript of the log book located at Charlie Mac's hut and comes courtesy of the Omeo Historical Society. We are indebted to Coral Kracke who has spent hours transcribing the original documents. Thanks Coral. As far as possible all original spellings have been retained. This is not the complete transcript and the second part will be included in next year's Voice of the Mountains.*

Towonga Roadside  
August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1937

Dear Jack

I haven't got any of your stock so far this year, & I don't think Ryders or Duanes have any of yours, but I think some of them has one of Morgans. I only turned two Omeo head out with ours, one of Watts, & one of Kellys, Ryders also have one of Watts & one of Kellys. Would you let me know if you have seen many Towonga cattle on your side. I could miss about 15 head. Four three yr old bullocks & a four yr old. If you should see them I would [like] to get them in the spring. The baldy cow you had for a year or two is away she has a calf on her. I kept her in the paddock for twelve months, & I should have sold her as she was fat. I suppose you never heard of a strange black & tan dog on your side. My dog disappeared from Towonga hut in the second muster. I think the dingoes killed him. It is still keeping dry here, it has helped the stock through the winter, but will want to change next month, as the springs have not risen. P. Duane is still in town, I

I see an old spotted cow that was bulled in Omeo Bundara side of Dinner Plain she wants getting for to get rid of. T.J.M.

I brought a bit more meat to Bundar if you should be short

Later The spotted cow came along & I put her & a cow with one year vealer in paddock.

don't think he is too good. We havn't got any calves yet. Hollonds cows are finished calving nice & early, should be good calves in Autumn. Jack Ryder was married to the Hore girl last week. There has been quite a few weddings here this winter. I will close. Hoping to see you again this season, & trusting this finds you in good health.

I am  
Your sincere friend  
C.B.J. Cooper

---

Sunday

Dear Jack  
Take notice as you come through grassy flat country see if you think it will run what number of cattle. .... called in O'Brien's yesday & he says that the Clotty paddock us eat out & I thought we may be able to soon take some of those young cattle out there.

I was down to Prices & Wilsons today salting the cattle & having a look at them. The cattle in Prices has done exceptionally good. The bullock in Wilsons is doing good now but the grass is too dear we will soon have to shift them.

Yours sincerely  
T.J. McNamara

---

"Cobungra"  
Omeo  
June 25<sup>th</sup>, 1938

Dear Jack,  
Your note re cattle in tin hut paddock to hand. We left 32 head of yours in there, but E. Richards told me that he saw some that they put in the paddock, back down in the blocks along the river. So I take it that some of them must of got out.

We will be going through that country next month & we will get them together again then.

Yours faithfully,  
L.R. Watts

---

To Jack senn  
I have reconsidered sending Gorden in & put in letter for Jack to keep Gorden & go on with branding. Get & come in with pack horses sports time  
T.J.M.  
bring any ..... bags from dinner plains

look out lucerne don't fire, stack it out in paddock

for while & put bags over it. Put Arnold thinning turnips while you go to dinner plain  
T.J.M.

---

Wilsons Creek

Dear Jack

If it rains I may not go out. If I do not go out Sunday you could bring 8 or ten of the best Fatty cows & some of the poorest not much for many cattle but if it rains it will soon come on if you muster the cattle you are likely to bring in on Sunday morning I will have a look through them if it rains a decent rain we could bring in 80 to 100 head. I hope you lit a lot of fire Trails it has been very good weather this last week for lighting fire breaks it wants a fire trail right up bundara near river also a Trail along behind C. Condon & Campbell & Dans block be sure & bring in the ..... thing - one of D. O'Connells sheep died I think its black leg but don't say any thing to any one about it.

Yours faithfully  
T.J. McNamara

If I go out Sunday I will try to go early.  
T.J.M.

Tell Syd Lewis that I want him to come in here while we are at show may get him to work in here for a week.

---

Wilsons Creek  
Omeo Wednesday

By the look at the weather here it wont be good enough to go out for Horses for some few days, I heard it was snowing at Flower [Flour] bag & I suppose there will be a fair few inches at Rundle Paddock if there is much snow better not go out for a few days until it breaks down a bit after clearing up, I may get young Jack to go out the beginning of the week to help get them in if it rained enough & broken weather not fit to go away from Hut you may sink a few holes so fence off frontage I think we will put Posts 16 feet apart & a dropper between if ground fairly hard could sink holes down 8 inches to foot (2) start with mattock & leave for more rain to soften could start on this end next Callaghan's that line joining Callaghan's wants a prop hear & there to keep it from falling down.

You could mark off 22yds wide & 10 chain long up from gate coming in to Callaghans in black flat

Paddock & sow one of those butts of manure. What a difference it makes in country. it has rained in here a nice soft rain & I think will make a little growth where manure is, so any fat cows or heifers you can hold when going through cattle or any poor cows could have cows taken off them, when it fines up. The first thing to do would be ride out to dinner Plain & turn all stock out if snow there Cattle wants to be out of there wether snow or not. I would like to hang on to the best sorts of horses about two or three head of the best riding sorts to break in coming spring could put a lump of rock salt down from Rocky Plain on spur in dinner Plain creek or near where cross dinner Plain ck on sunnyside for Horses

Yours faithfully  
T.J. McNamara  
Wilsons Ck  
Omeo

---

**1937** Jan 27<sup>th</sup> Branded calves at Dinner plain 49 head. 30 Bulls. 19 Heifers.

Feb 9<sup>th</sup> Came out from Omeo with cattle

Feb 10<sup>th</sup> Jack McJunr came out here with chaff. Went back to Bundara

Feb 11<sup>th</sup> Brought cattle & horses out from Bundara

Feb 12<sup>th</sup> Turned cattle out along top Bulls out 4 Head - mustered yearling heifers to take to Buckley took them to Andy's yards. C. Rowe & P. Mc arrived High Plain with sheep 2250 head -

Feb 13<sup>th</sup> took cattle to Buckley 30 head including 6 cows with yearlings on them. Saw C. Rowe & C. Davis salted cattle & horses - took shoes off Brown horse to turn him out.

Feb 14<sup>th</sup> Jack Senr went to Rundell paddock to salt cattle took two horses Brownie & Black filly salted 45 bullocks 10 away. Jack Junr salted cattle along top -

Feb 15<sup>th</sup> salted cattle took strangers to Youngs had dinner went on plain salted horses 13 head.

Feb 16<sup>th</sup> Cleared track to Telegraph going into Bundara to get ready to go to Buckety saw fire on Burnside top looks like rain Jack Junr & Senr.

Feb 17<sup>th</sup> Took cattle to Buckety 22 head strange - 12 Fat cows. 2 cows & calves. 1 old blind eye cow - 5 yearlings - old cow went back to Bundara -

Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Salted cattle Buckety. Rained 2 inches in Half Hour. Went to Youngs camped.

Feb 19<sup>th</sup> went back to Bundara fixed fence down river. rained.

Feb 20<sup>th</sup> Went to Omeo.

Mar 4<sup>th</sup> Brought cattle from Bundara branded 1 heifer calf took cattle to round Plain.

1937 Mar 5<sup>th</sup> Went out top to salt cattle

Mar 25<sup>th</sup> Came from Bundara went to camp at Andy's yards caught fish for Good Friday

Mar 26<sup>th</sup> Went to Mt. Nelse mustered horses. Branded 4 foals, 1 4 yrs colt at Andy's yards came back to Dinner plain.

Mar 27<sup>th</sup> Went to Rundell Pdk. For bullocks. Brought 48 of the Best ones away left 7 bullocks 13 others in paddock one unbranded calf

Mar 28<sup>th</sup> Taking bullocks to Bundara 40 head. Snowed at Dinner Pln two inch first snow for the year cold as Buggery.

April 2<sup>nd</sup> Muster started on High Plains

April 6<sup>th</sup> Took 31 Bullocks to Rundell Pdk 1 cow picked up on track - left 13 head Cobungra cattle in Flour Bag. Left 21 T.M. Bullock Dinner Plain saw Sharps pack Horses making home Flour bag spur.

April 7<sup>th</sup> Went to Bundara for salt met T.J. McNamara about 200 yards from rails coming to Dinner Plain. Branded 2 Heifer calves before leaving - very cold & foggy coming back to D. Plain.

April 13<sup>th</sup> 37

To Jack & Jack Junr

I came out here today with a bit of Tucker.

I will have to go back to Omeo Wednesday to attend to the work & business there. I want to get the super spread while wether is good & the winters wood carted over the creek. I will have to go to Benambra Friday to see to those cattle that are out there I forgot the papers there was 2000 cattle at ensay sale & sold cheape.

I will come to Dinner plains next Monday to cut cattle out to bring in keep putting any strange cattle away Watts or Sharp or Morgans could be taken over to their Paddocks & Tawonga better drive out to Tawonga paddock you can bring Bullocks from Rundle Sunday or Monday. The sale in Omeo is on Sat 24<sup>th</sup> we will want cattle in a day clear before. That would be Thursday in here on Tuesday. Pity we could not get those Horses that is out at Mt. Nels [Nelse] way before you come in if you can get round 10 good wealers that could be trucked & 10 to 20 good fat cows we may be able to get rid of Them.

Yours faithfully  
T.J. McNamara



You better cut the TM .... yrs Bull & bring the others in, any cows with Heifer vealers on them wants getting that has been running with Bulls.

---

13-4/37

T.J.M. came here  
bring biscuit Tins in for putting stuff in for ..... Out again & all emty bags.

---

If you get a chance ..... enough wood to do for we will want mare and coller to plough.

---

19-4-37

I came here to cut out cattle for McLeans sale foggy fine day.

---

May 5<sup>th</sup> Mustered horses.

May 6<sup>th</sup> Took horses to Rundell pdk. 95 head 40.

55TM Horses in Rundell paddock

May 6<sup>th</sup> 77 Head

May 7<sup>th</sup> Went to Bundara.

May 13<sup>th</sup> I came out from Bundara to get cattle from Rundell Paddock & salt cattle.

May 14<sup>th</sup> Snowed at Dinner Pl. & H plain went to Rundell got 18 head cattle turned over Cobungra got ..... filly -

May 15<sup>th</sup> Went to Round Plain got piebald horse salted cattle going into Bundara J.M. & J. Mc

Sept 26<sup>th</sup> Came to Dinner Plain to look for horses & salt cattle saw about 150 Head of cattle in paddock Jack Mc Junr & senr

Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 1937 Brought cattle to Dinner Plain - J.M & G. Moon

Dec 21<sup>st</sup> Took 23 cows - 2 steers & Bull to Rundell pdk. Left 1 cow & Bullock in pdk brought 2 cows & calves 1 dry cow 1 two year old steer out of Paddock.

---

**1938 J. McNamara A.G. Whitley**

Jan 9<sup>th</sup> 1938

Calves Branded Dinner Plain

Bulls Heifers

Feb 5<sup>th</sup>

Feb 15<sup>th</sup> 3026 1 Heifer C. Callaghan

May 16<sup>th</sup> 12 Bulls 12) Mar 5<sup>th</sup> got married  
3 Heifers

16/5/38 8 Heifers

June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2 Bulls June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1 Heifers

Oct 15<sup>th</sup> 5 Bulls Oct 15<sup>th</sup> 7 Heifers

1938 Feb 8<sup>th</sup> Took 17 cows & 2 Bulls to Rundell paddock salted 52 T.M's turned 13 Naughtons out of paddock. 70 Head in paddock.

Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> Took 16 Bullocks to Rundell brought 20 cows away. Total cattle in paddock - 42 Bullock - 3 Bull & 4 or 5 cows.

Mar 5<sup>th</sup> Cattle in Dinner Plain 10 Bullocks - 5 cows & calves - Brindle steer. 1 yearling heifer.

April 22<sup>nd</sup> Mustered horses from Mt. Nelse with G. Toland & G. Faithfull.

April 23<sup>rd</sup> Took horses to Rundell Pdk 49 head - 15 no 5. 4 Jack Mcs - 1 G. Toland 29 T.M's

April 24<sup>th</sup> Came from Andy's yards to Dinner plain went to Rocky Plain for saddle horses.

April 25<sup>th</sup> Brought cattle from Rundell Paddock 54 bullocks Windy wet day started to snow about dark.

April 26<sup>th</sup> 6 inches snow at Dinner pl. going into Bundara with Bullocks Jack Jnr & senr

May 11<sup>th</sup> Took 29 horses to Rundell Paddock 59 head all sold

June 27<sup>th</sup> Went to Rundell paddock for horses snowy day about 4 inches snow in paddock. Got 51 head horses 11 or 12 away - Turned 32 head to Rocky Plain. taking 19 head to Bundara. Jack senr & Junr.

Oct 18<sup>th</sup>

Brought about 140 head cattle out from Bundara all sorts. Jack Jnr. Jack snr & G. Moon

Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 1938 Took 44 Bullocks to Rundell Paddock Neil Jones

Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 1938 Turned out 9 Collen steers

Horses taken to Rundell paddock 17 m. horses 2 strangers

---

19 April 19

May 12<sup>th</sup> took 42 horses over 42

May 12<sup>th</sup> **1940** Total 61

G. Lightfoot J. McNamara & ..... McNamara

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Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 1940 J.M. McNamara sen & Mick McNamara came here from Bundara had dinner here got one dingo coming out a long the track. M.Mc & J.Mc

---

Calves branded at Dinner Plain **1941**

Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 18 heifers 21 bulls Total 39

Jan 30<sup>th</sup> 9 heifers 19 bulls Total 28

Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 10 heifers 20 bulls Total 30

37 heifers 60 bulls Total 97



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# MAZDA

February

Feb 1941 Calves Branded			
Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>	5 heifers	3 bulls	Total 8
Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>	19 heifers	19 bulls	Total 38
Feb 8 <sup>th</sup>	<u>5 heifers</u>	<u>5 bulls</u>	<u>Total 10</u>
	66 heifers	87 bulls	<u>Total 56</u>
	<u>Grand Total</u>		153

3<sup>rd</sup> Oct **1943** Came out from Bundara saw 54 head cattle 20 horses - arrived 11 pm had dinner started to rain at 12.30. J. M. McNamara

30 Nov 1943 Mick, Uncle Jack & I brought 126 head dry cattle to ..... flat. J.P. McNamara  
2 Dec 1943 Came out from Bundara brought 50 cows & calves. Had dinner here & going back saw seven unbranded calves, & about 25 head cattle & some horses. J.P. & J.M. McNamara

October 3<sup>rd</sup> **1944** Cattle brought out from Bundar 140 head mxd cattle. Strangers 3 Cooper 2 Naughtons 1 Fletcher 1 Weston 1 Lawler(132 TM) J & McNamara

Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 1944 Brought out 63 head of cattle from Bundar (13) strangers 3 Fletcher  
3 Hardys 2 Coopers  
2 Blair 1 Matterson's  
1 Weston 1 Naughton  
50 TM  
J & M McNamara

Oct 24<sup>th</sup> 1944  
Brought 63 head of cattle out 61 TM's 1 Cooper 1 bullock of Pat McNamara.  
J. & M. McNamara

Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 1944  
Brought 48 head of cattle out from Wilson's Creek & got a cow with unbranded Bull with her & put them into Dinner Plain paddock with cow & branded calf.

Nov 1944 brought 40 head dry cattle out & 62 another day

Nov 29 1944 Brought out 40 cows & calves 8 dry ones. One cow & calf of Ben Coopers. Total 49 big cattle

Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 1944 brought 107 head of cattle out 71 branded calves

Calves Branded at Dinner Plain March **1945**  
Bulls 14 Heifers 17

August 17<sup>th</sup> 1945  
Jack & I came here to get horses & salt cattle seen 26 on the way out & 43 at Dinner Plain seen 11 strangers.  
2 Ben C. 1 McConnell 5 Naughtons 1 Smith 1 Kellys 1 Fletcher. Jack & Mick McNamara

came out to Dinner Plain 8 Oct 1945 got horses Branded 3 foals 1 two year old colt cut two caught Jack Junr filly and learnt her to lead.  
J. & J. & J. McNamara

Dry Cattle  
Dec 5 **1947** J. & M McNamara brought 87 head of cattle out one bullock Pat McNamara

August 27<sup>th</sup> **1948** M. F. McM  
M.F. McNamara visited here came up over rocky plain seen about 70 head of cattle & 12 head of horses

Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 1948 Two days after Melb Cup Rimfire 1<sup>st</sup> Dark Marnie 2<sup>nd</sup> Saxony 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Jack and Mick came here up by rocky plain. Killed dingo in Harry Jagoe's trap seen nineteen head of cattle & two calves 20 head at salt log one yearling heifer of young Jack Macks.

Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 1948  
Brought 90 head of cattle out from Bundara & turned them out the other side of the paddock  
J.M. & M. McNamara

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 1948  
Brought out from Bundara (88) head of cattle  
1 Weston steer 1 Kellys steer 86 of McNamara's  
J.M. McNamara & Mick McN  
Feb 5<sup>th</sup> **1949** brought out 55 head of cows & calves  
J.M. & McNamara  
windy day

June 1<sup>st</sup> 1949  
Finished up leaving for Bundara was out to Mt Jim on May 30<sup>th</sup> for 5 head of horses & turned them in down Flour Bag some very nice days heavy frosts at night. J. & M. McNamara

Oct 7<sup>th</sup> 1949

Brought 80 head of cattle out from Bundara. Nice day - Bill Pow left for Glen Wills via Blue Duck J. & J. Mack

---

Feb 1/2/1950 J. Mc snr & J. Thomas brought 78 head of mixed cattle mainly cows & calves from Wilsons Crk to Bundara, 2 Callaghan & 1 Fletcher also 1 bull.

2<sup>nd</sup> fixed up business in Omeo.

J.P. T.K. J. M. snr and C. Mc

3<sup>rd</sup> T.K. & C.Mc looked for Bulls misty day.

5<sup>th</sup> Sun T.K. & C.Mc looked got Bull up in D. O'Connells

6<sup>th</sup> T.K. & C. Mc came to Bundara brought 2 Manning Bulls & 2 cows & calves. J. Mc snr & J. Thomas also came & brought horses. James Mc brought tucker in car.

7<sup>th</sup> rained like Buggary all day done nothing let men freshen up a bit.

8<sup>th</sup> misty day built yard to feed horses in. J Mc snr went over to Higgins paddock in afternoon.

9<sup>th</sup> Feb 1950

came out here to Dinner Plain from Bundara brought 90 cattle (grown) mainly cows & calves from Higgins Pdk. T.K. & C. Mc left cattle to J. Mc snr & J. Thomas to be brought along but they knocked up at elbow & had to leave cattle. T.K. & C. Mc came on ahead from Milling Flat with pack horses had dinner went out as far as Nigger Head salt camp saw no M cattle past round plain cattle badly neglected want salting & looking after in general & putting out along top. J. Mc snr went back to Bundara.

10<sup>th</sup> Went into elbow got a few cattle mustered around Dinner Plain & took cattle out to Nigger Head collected 280 strangers & took out to Andys yards left some M cattle with unbranded ones in Youngs yards. J. Thomas went to Omeo. J. Mcsnr came out from Bundara C. Mc & T.K. Mc arrived back at Hut 7.30pm nice fine day fog at night.

11<sup>th</sup> T.Mc & C. Mc went Rocky plain got a few head of cattle & took out along top to Nigger Head salt camp cut out strangers & took same & unbranded calves onto Andys yards branded 6 yearling 3 heifers 3 bulls also 12 calves & 1 calf of P Mc's salted cattle along top very few strangers sunny day bit cold breeze didn't arrive back at hut until dark. 8pm left Youngs hut at 6.10pm.

T.Mc C.Mc & J. Mc snr

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday Mustering cattle around Dinner Plain got about 40 head in past hut put in yard. Jack snr with Tom Chas. John Thomas arrived at hut 1pm after record trip from Omeo. J. Mc snr & J. Thomas went into Bundara in afternoon to collect cattle & bring out here. T.K. & C.F. got two Manning bulls in afternoon also went around sides as far as Flour Bag spur picked up about 5 unbranded calves have got cattle in yard tonight.

13<sup>th</sup> Monday Took cattle to Nigger Head salt camp 4 bulls in mob saw 4 yearlings unbranded 2 bulls 2 heifers also about 6 unbranded calves went down into Youngs branch of Bundara river rained at dark thunderstorm. C.Mc & T.Mc

14<sup>th</sup> Tues C.Mc & T.K Mc went down to Rocky Plain saw a few head of cattle very wild came back to hut. Keith Greenwood at hut. J Mc snr & J Thomas arrived with cattle from Bundara 83 grown cattle mainly cows & calves out of Black Flat C. Mc T.Mc J.T. & K.G. took cattle to Telegraph plain in afternoon also branded 1 heifer 1 bull calf J. Mc snr went back to Bundara for chaff.

15<sup>th</sup> C. Mc T Mc & J Thomas went across to Rundell paddock salted bullocks & put 13 head of cattle & 1 bull out belonging to Cobungra Station went to JB hut & had dinner came home via Brandy Crk spur & up Paling Spur. Got F. Manning bull & stag also cow & two steers well down spur brought them up to Nigger Head salt camp salted cattle there saw 4 unbranded calves also saw 4 head of cattle very wild on way down Flour Bag spur.

16<sup>th</sup> C Mc T.Mc & J Thomas took pack horse load salt out along top salted cattle picked up two unbranded yearling 1 bull 1 heifer also 2 unbranded heifer calves took them to Andys yards & branded them mustered about 300 head of strangers & took out onto plain. C Mc & T Mc came home around Cobungra side from Nigger Head saw a few cattle well down side. J Thomas came along track & brought packhorse (Trip) J. Mc snr came out from Bundara with load of chaff.

17<sup>th</sup> Feb Went across Bucketty from here very rough trip went to Cope Hut & had lunch came home via Pretty Valley caught 5 fish rained from Mt Jim to Here saw horses at round plain also 2 big bullocks C.Mc J Mc T.Mc and J Thomas

18<sup>th</sup> all hands going to Omeo, put in 3 days in Bundara salting work before coming out here

3<sup>rd</sup> Mar Chas Mc Jack Mc & J Thomas came out here from Bundarah brought 4 packhorses left



Bundarah 2.30 pm arrived Dinner Plain 5.25 pm nice day

4<sup>th</sup> Mar Mustered cattle at Hut branded 2 bull calves 1 heifer calf also 1 yearling heifer took cattle out to Telegraph Plain went into Nigger Head salt camp saw very few cattle picked up Bindi Bull on way out saw 25 bull at Telegraph Plain Jack & Chas Mc went down below hut to look at timber for new hut windy day but fine C. Mc., J. Mc & J. Thomas

4<sup>th</sup> Mar saw 1 unbranded yearling bull also two unbranded calves full moon

5<sup>th</sup> Mar Sun J Thomas & C Mc went down Rocky Plain J Mc snr pulled wood in afternoon went around fence & down Cobungra side & onto Flour Bag spur seen a few cattle windy day.

6<sup>th</sup> Mar went down to Rundell Pdk salted 44 head of bullocks in paddock picked up 3 head of cattle on river. brought up to wombat flat nice day J.Mc, C. Mc & J.T.

7<sup>th</sup> Mar Tues started to fix up fence around Dinner Plain paddock J Mc snr went into Bundarah for tucker. C Mc & J Thomas on fence.

Wed 8<sup>th</sup> topping up fence Keith Greenwood arrived at lunchtime gave us a hand in afternoon.

9<sup>th</sup> Thurs K.G. left this morning for J.B., J. Mc going into Bundarah for tucker C Mc & J Thomas working on fence.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Mar Chas Mc & J Thomas went to Rocky Plain got about 30 head of cattle took about 200 head out to Telegraph salted them came back around side on Cobungra fall to round plain went down R. Plain spur saw horses saw 3 unbranded yearling bulls also 3 unbranded calves J Mc snr came put from Bundara with tucker & went back again to Bundarah very hot day

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> J Thomas & Chas Mc fixing up fence around the paddock J Mc snr came from Bundarah with tucker.

Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Mar little rain in morning shod old colt also put two shoes on Brown filly went for a ride around in afternoon C Mc J Mc & JT  
Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Went to Bundarah for chaff & salt 4 pack horses Jessie bucked pack off twice once at hut & then again this side of milling flat split half bag of salt arrived back here at dark. J Mc snr came to Bundarah while we were there. Chas Mc, J Mc & J Thomas  
Tues 14<sup>th</sup> frost in morning topping up fence around paddock Chas Mc, Jack Mc & J Thomas  
Wed 15<sup>th</sup> topping up fence frost in morning  
Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> topping up fence finished to wire, shod brown filly hind feet.  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Mar very wet day stayed in hut Carl Fletcher & Ross Blair called & had dinner on way to Omeo.  
Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Mar rained all day very heavy windy, sat in hut again today 8.50pm going to bed but beginning to leak. Chas Mc, J Mc snr & J. Thomas  
Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Clearing out very wet night floor of hut as boggy as a mossbed going into Omeo C.Mc, J Mc J Thomas time 9.30am  
Mon 29<sup>th</sup> In Omeo help Mcs with rams & posts put 3 rams in ..... paddock.  
Mar 21 went to Cobungra stayed at Bill Tolands on way to Rundell pdk for bullocks sale J.Thomas & Chas McNamara Jack Mc snr bought 30 fat ewes to Bundarah for Killers.  
Mar 22 Chas Mc & J Thomas went to Rundell pdk mustered 34 bullocks & brought to 40 acre saw R. Lewis & K Greenwood big thunderstorm on way down big hill.  
23 Mar got 2 bullocks at Cobungra Station on way to Omeo total 36 head.  
24<sup>th</sup> at Wilsons Crk getting cattle ready for sale  
25<sup>th</sup> took cattle to Omeo for sale sold 46 head of bullocks  
26<sup>th</sup> took big bullocks back to Wilsons Creek Jack snr went to Bundarah in afternoon.  
27<sup>th</sup> J. Thomas & Chas Mc came to Bundarah.  
28<sup>th</sup> Went to Dinner Plain Harry Jagoe & Harold Hawks at hut to muster 25 cattle.  
Wed 29<sup>th</sup> went out to Nigger Head creek mustered cattle back K. Greenwood arrived at hut went down to Rocky Plain in afternoon got 20 M steers & 3 head of 2 S cattle & put in paddock.  
30/3/50 station men left for Cobungra very wet day too wet to do anything.  
Mar 31<sup>st</sup> J. Mc snr birthday 80 yrs took 36 steers &

bullocks & 1 motherless calf to Bundarah & put in Higgins Pdk stay at Bundarah wet day.  
Sat 1<sup>st</sup> April went to Kings Flat got 1 steer 1 heifer yearling & 1 bullock 1 yearling 25 steer got into Black Flat K. Greenwood went to Omeo. Went supervisor this afternoon & around fence J. Mc went around Higgins fence. He also went to Blue Duck in morning for tucker.  
2<sup>nd</sup> April Sun Chas Mc & J Thomas came out to Dinner Plain from Bundarah Jack stayed in Bundarah wet day  
3<sup>rd</sup> April sat in hut all day very wet still raining 9.30 pm  
4<sup>th</sup> leaving for Bundarah still raining C. Mc & J.T. arrived Bundarah fixed shoes on Silver & Huggins mare met Jack on way in near C Rows sheep yard Bundarah river very high  
5<sup>th</sup> went to Omeo via Blue Duck rained like hell from Bingo to Omeo  
8<sup>th</sup> Easter Saturday J Mc C Mc & Peter Mc came from Omeo to Bundarah via Blue Duck Jack went around fence Higgins Pdk.  
9<sup>th</sup> Came to Dinner Plain Jack & Chas Mc pulled wood in afternoon  
10<sup>th</sup> Mon Chas Jack & Peter Mc went onto Cobungra river via paling spur & down to lead of falls saw 1 red eyed cow & 1 yearling on river came back up nigger head spur picked up cattle mostly Westons & put over onto Nigger Head got Scott bull at Telegraph plain Peter & C Mc came around Cobungra side to Round Plain met Jack with bull J Thomas came from Omeo mice day.  
Tues 11<sup>th</sup> went out to big muster picked up strangers on way out to head & Bundarah left 15 head of 2 S & M cattle also 2 Manning Bulls in Andys yards.  
12<sup>th</sup> went over to Tawonga yards for cattle Watts took charge of cattle at Dibbins turnoff on way back 3 M heifers & 2 steers in mob we came in & picked up cattle at Andys yards & brought on into Dinner plains picked up M bullock hut side of round plain put 16 head of 2 S & M cattle in paddock also two Manning bulls Chas Mc J Mc snr Peter Mc & J Thomas frost in morning nice fine day  
April 13<sup>th</sup> Thursday went out to telegraph plain to muster bullocks in morning got 8 big bullocks & 6 steers went down Rocky Plain spur in afternoon got 1 big bullock & 7 steers total 22 head 1PM steer in paddock J. Mc went to Bundarah for meat

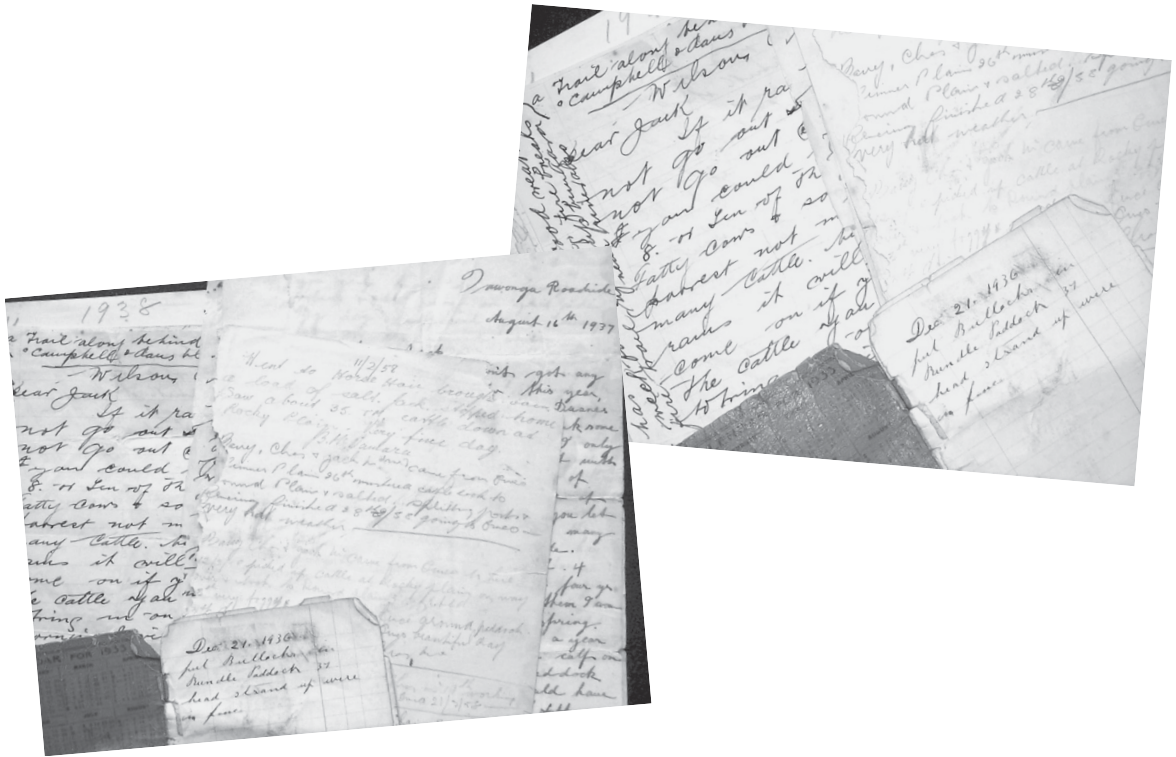
& bread C. Mc J.T & Peter Mc.  
 14<sup>th</sup> went out along cobungra side to Round Plain went down R Spur got bullock & steer also bullock at Wombat Flat went down Rocky Plain in afternoon J Mc came out from Bundarah.  
 15<sup>th</sup> Sat went into Bundarah & took cattle bullocks & steers also 20 head of 2S including (2S) 5 bullocks to cattle to Higgins Pdk went over to morass & got TK cow with unbranded calf also 8 M head of steers to Higgins brought 16 head of cattle back & turned up river drafted 2S cattle out & J Thomas & Peter Mc took to old station also 1 heifer of J Mc's jnr to be dropped in his paddock Chas Mc came to dinner plain from ..... flat via Millings flat & Rocky plain saw two bullocks in Millings Creek J Mc brought pack horse with salt to Dinner Plain  
 17<sup>th</sup> Mon John Thomas & Peter McNamara arrived at hut at 7 am after being out all night lost their way coming from Millings Flat to Dinner Plain. J Mc snr & J Thomas went to Rundell & got 13 head of bullock picked up 5 bullocks around dinner Plains put shoes on horses nice day.  
 Chas Mc J.Mc J.T. & Peter Mc

---

**Names of people recorded in the log-book of Charles Franklin McNamara, mountain cattleman, of Omeo.**

Arnold	Probably a Christian name
Blair, Ross	Mountain cattleman of Freeburgh
Callaghan, Carmel	Only child of James Joseph & Tessa Elizabeth Callaghan, grazier, of Bundara.
Callaghans	James Joseph (1876-1945) & Tessa Elizabeth Callaghan (1869-1967), graziers, of Bundara. Both are interred in the Omeo Pioneer Cemetery.
Campbell	
Clotty	Probably an incorrect spelling of Clottu, grazier, of Hinnumunjie
Condon, C	
Connelly, A	Probably a stockman
Cooper, Ben	Mountain cattleman of Tawonga
Cooper, C.B.T.	Could be Ben Cooper or a member of the family

Cooper, Ray	Mountain cattleman and cousin of Ben Cooper
Davis, Claude	Stockman
Duane, P.	Mountain cattleman of Tawonga
Duanes	Mountain cattleman of Tawonga
Faithfull, G.	George John William Faithfull (1917-1972), grazier, of Bingo.
Fletcher, Carl	
Gorden	Probably a misspelt Christian name & the person could be Gordon Toland.
Greenwood, K	Keith Robert Greenwood (1901-1972), of Omeo, occasionally gave the McNamara's a hand. He is interred in the C. of E. section of the Omeo Pioneer Cemetery
Hardie	
Hardys	
Hawke, Harold	
Higgins	
Hollonds	A family of mountain cattlemen, probably based in Tawonga.
Hore	The maiden name of a young lady who, in 1937, married Jack Ryder, mountain cattleman of Tawonga.
Huggins, Mrs	Georgina Huggins, grazier, of Tawonga.
Ison, Doug	Stockman
Jago, Harry	Probably a stockman
Jones, Neil	Grazier, of Omeo
Kellys	Patrick Kelly (1874-1956) and his sons, mountain cattlemen of Omeo Valley. Patrick, his wife and other members of this family are interred in the catholic section of the Omeo Pioneer cemetery.
Lack, Ray	
Lewis, Bob	
Lightfoot, G.	School Teacher. He later became a grazier at Tongio West.
Maddison	A family of mountain cattlemen.
Manning F.	
Mattersons	Probably a misspelling of Maddison.



Moon, G.	Probably a stockman	Smith	Probably Harry Smith, grazier of Innisfail
Moon, I.M.	Probably a stockman	Thomas,	John John Thomas, born 1933 stockman employed by T.J. and J.M. McNamara.
Morgans	Thomas and Henry Morgan, cattlemen, of Cobungra.	Toland, Bill	William John Toland (1913 - 1989), grazier, Cobungra. He is interred in the catholic section of the Omeo Pioneer Cemetery.
McKay, Ian	Probably a stockman	Toland, Gordon	Grazier, of Omeo
McMahon, A.	Cattleman, Ovens Valley	Weston	Mountain cattleman
Naughtons	Naughton Bros, owners of Cobungra Station.	Weston, E.	Eric Weston, Mountain cattleman
O'Connell, Dan	Grazier of Cobungra	Watts L.R.	Leslie Roy Watts (1900-1971), manager of Cobungra Station.
Pow, William		Whitley A.G.	Possibly a casual employee of the McNamaras
Richards, E.James	Ernest Richards, stockman on Cobungra Station. Ernie, as he was known, together with his faithful horse and dog, perished in the bushfires of 13 January 1939. He is interred in the Presbyterian section of the Omeo Pioneer Cemetery.	Willis A.	Probably a stockman
Rowe, C.	Charles Rowe, grazier		
Ryder, Jack	Mountain cattleman of Tawonga		
Ryders	Mountain cattleman of Tawonga		
Scott			
Sharps			





### ***Thomas Leslie Austin, MLA***

Tom Austin, former Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Forests, and friend of the MCAV died on 1 June 2002. Graeme Stoney, former executive officer of the Association, now Member of Parliament for Central Highlands paid tribute to him during the 8 October session.

.... Tom Austin made an enormous contribution to the cause of the mountain cattlemen. Tom understood the bush, and he understood how rural people think. He certainly had an affinity with country people that shone through. He was certainly a great hit with the mountain cattlemen.

The first time many of us had met Tom was at the annual mountain cattlemen get-together. I have to explain what that is. Thousands of people from all over Victoria go to a remote location in the mountains. There are a lot of horse events, a lot of music and a lot of dancing. There are a few speeches and a few tall stories, and everyone wakes up with a headache, rides horses around again and eventually goes home on about Tuesday.

In the late 1980s we had the call from Parliament House that Tom Austin wanted to come to the get-together, he was going to bring his wife and he wanted to camp on site. All of us said, 'What does this mean? What do we do?' The cattlemen's get-together in that particular year was in a very remote spot. We did not know whether Tom Austin had ever camped - but we soon found out that he had. We did not know anything about him or quite what to do.

The minute Tom Austin arrived with his wife everything was all right. He bounded out of the car, introduced himself around, got himself a tent and got himself set up. Everybody then relaxed a bit. I designated an old cattleman to look after him. I said, 'You

have to look after Tom Austin; if he feels a bit uncomfortable in these surroundings you have to look after him'. This old fellow said, 'I don't know, what happens if he doesn't drink?' I could not answer that, but we got over that.

I had other duties and later that night I ran into this old cattleman. I said, 'Where's Tom?' and he said, 'He doesn't need looking after, he found the bar and I think he's going to be the last to bed'. Next day I found out that not only was Tom last to bed but he was first up and was tramping around the camp looking for a cup of tea while muttering loudly, 'Where the hell is everybody?'.

That demonstrates how Tom Austin fitted in anywhere. As one speaker said today, he certainly understood both country and city ways of life. In his life he made an enormous contribution to rural Victoria. He brought rural issues, like the cattlemen's one, to Spring Street. He had a lot of friends on all sides of politics.

The story I really like about Tom is the one where he had developed a very good relationship with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to the point where the RSPCA used to ring him regularly. This rep would ring Tom at home and Tom's wife had great delight in telling him that he was not available because he had gone duck shooting.

Tom opened the eyes of many city politicians. He explained very clearly what rural Victoria is all about, and I publicly acknowledge what he did for mountain cattlemen since the time we first met. His efforts assisted greatly in the cause of the mountain cattlemen over many years.

*Graeme Stoney*

## ***Neville John (Johnny) Lorimer***

The Bright district and mountain cattlemen in particular were saddened in early October with the passing of Johnny Lorimer.

He was born in Bright on 30 June 1938 and attended Bright Higher Elementary School until he was fourteen. He then became an apprentice at the Bright Pine Mills until he joined the Forestry Commission. Johnny then became a valued staff member of W.F. Miller and Co. Transport as a driver on the Bright-Melbourne route, a job he held for eighteen years until Miller's transport closed. Johnny then worked at D. & J. Roberts hardware store for a further eighteen years until its closure in 1992.

Johnny and Ivy then began their own business - Lorimer's Livestock Transport and Gas Supplies, which they managed together successfully for ten years.

As daughter Gail said in the eulogy to her father,

*Nothing made Dad happier than being on his horse in his place, he loved the high country and this place to the deepest depths of his soul. It was what made him tick.*

Mary Goldsworthy added further thoughts on Johnny's life.

*Johnny Lorimer was indeed a man of the mountains, whether he was mustering cattle on the Bogong High Plains or enjoying a horse trip into the Wonnangatta.*

*Johnny started mustering as a lad of thirteen with Arty Dibbin, a practice he continued to enjoy for over fifty years. His friendship and help to the Weston and Briggs families lasted his lifetime. His last muster being earlier this year with the Goldsworthys.*

*He was a fine horseman and his knowledge of the Bogong High Plains was unsurpassed, he travelled into many areas most of us have never ventured. He often rode tirelessly in search of stray cattle in trying weather conditions and never complained.*

*He was a pack horse expert who handled his horses with knowledge, patience and care. The carting of the snow poles by packhorse, which now forms the pole line from Mount Hotham to Falls*



*Creek, was a monumental task Johnny undertook with great pride and perseverance.*

*When packing, he always instead that the last item into the bags be the beer, to ensure easy access. In order to maintain balanced packs, it meant that when he stopped for a drink it was necessary to have two stubbies, one from each pack.*

*During musters Johnny became a gifted storyteller. He entertained us all with colourful tales and amusing escapades of previous musters and trips, some repeatable and some not.*

Johnny was fittingly farewelled in true cattlemen's style on Friday 11 October at the Harrietville cemetery in view of his beloved mountains, where a large gathering offered support and comfort to Ivy, Jean and Dave Roberts, Gail and Robert Clarke and daughters Daisy and Bridget.

*Mary Goldsworthy*

*Johnny appeared on the front cover of the 1996 edition of Voice of the Mountains mustering Goldsworthy stock in the snow.*

### *Phyllis Edna Faithfull*

Phyllis was born on 20 August 1925 at the Bush Nursing Centre at Benambra and died on 29 June 1002. She married George William Faithfull in 1943. The marriage produced six children - John, Anne, Richard, Alan, Peter and Des. She spent most of her years at Bingo, their property just out of Omeo, and worked sheep and cattle with her husband until he died in 1972. Quite often she rode to the Bogongs salting cattle and using the old camp ovens and billies for cooking.

She was well respected throughout the community, always being immaculately dressed, and always having a pleasant nature and smile. Phyllis always loved the Cattlemen's Get-Together to watch Peter and his sons Tim and Derek ride plus the spectacle of other participants as well. She will sadly be missed at these events.

Sadly, Phyllis did not know of the birth of her great granddaughter, Katherine Phyllis, who was born on Christmas Eve to Tim and Rosemary (nee Hurley). Katherine is sixth generation 'high country'.



### *'Phyllis Pip'*

It was nearly seven years ago,  
when I sang a song for you.  
Regarding the age of seventy,  
and how we loved you to.  
Those have gone so quickly,  
yes! It's just like yesterday -  
and today we're all together here,  
in a sad and different way.

All those times we had together  
we were the apple's in your eye,  
and all who were around you,  
will have a little cry.  
Sadly we will miss you 'Pip'  
as the greatest Mum to love,  
but now you are at Peace dear  
in the care of God above.

How all the family loved you,  
and many friends as well,  
know the heartaches you suffered  
plus the good old times do dwell.  
How you helped throughout around you  
as those years just rolled along,  
but done your own thing daily -  
on occasions sang a song.

So we say goodbye to 'Phyllis Pip',  
an inspiration to us all,  
and may we all remember her  
as a lady who stood tall.  
And now she leaves for one above,  
to be a star in Heaven,  
Good bye to our mother dear,  
just short of seventy seven.

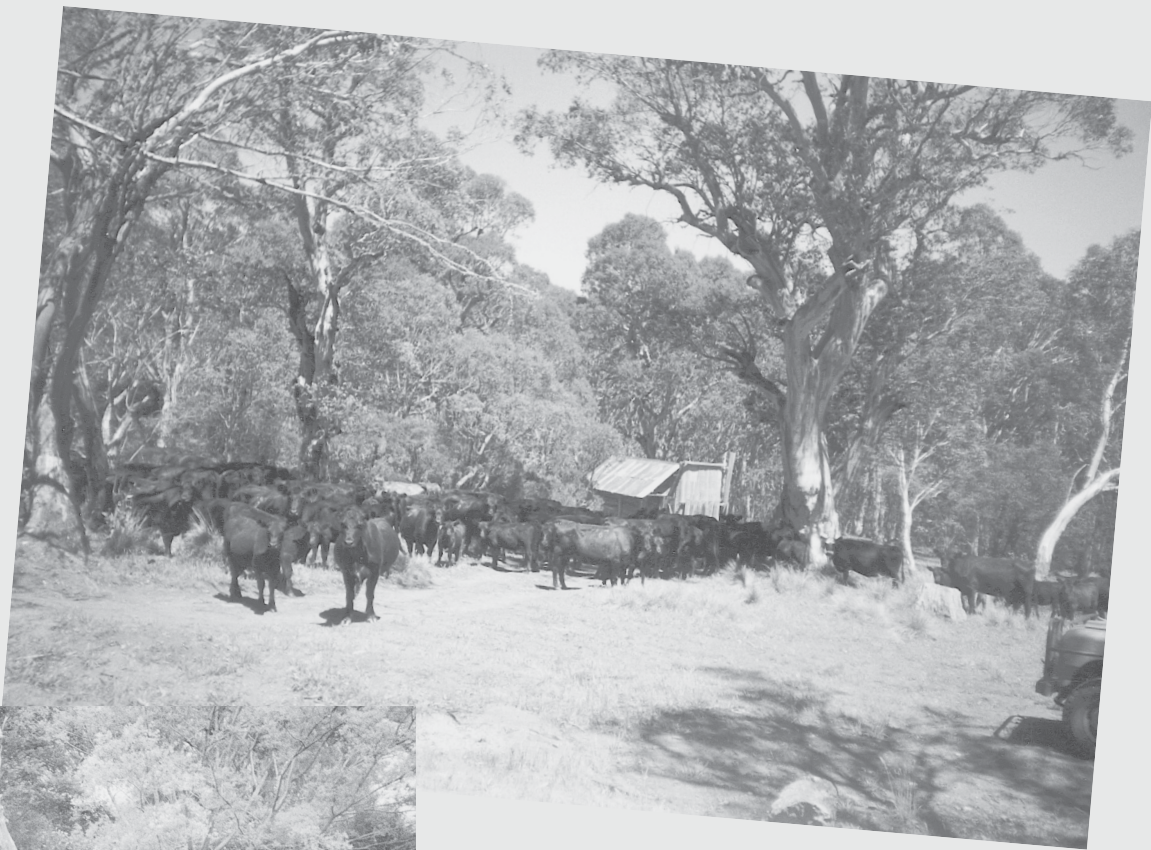
*Johnny Faithfull*

# Cattle Return



**Brian, Anthony and Michael Higgins and their families would like to thank all the MCAV members for helping them regain the right to graze cattle on the high country lease. It truly was a hard decision. The Higgins' all have young families to carry on the tradition of cattle grazing in the high country. Sue Reynolds, Ken Norris and Central Council, the Higgins' have returned the favor. It gave them a great sense of pride to have their three children drive cattle.**

# to Caledonia



members for their support and encouragement in this long, tedious and expensive project of  
on for some families, not knowing 'whether to' or 'not to' take the Parks payout package offered.  
so it was not a hard decision for them. With the help of the MCAV and particularly Simon Turner,  
their cattle to their summer grazing for the first time since the Caledonia fire.  
tle along with them for the first time - some things money just can't buy.

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THE LAND OUR FAMILY HAS HELD FOR OVER 130 YEARS.

# MCAV Photograph Competition 2002

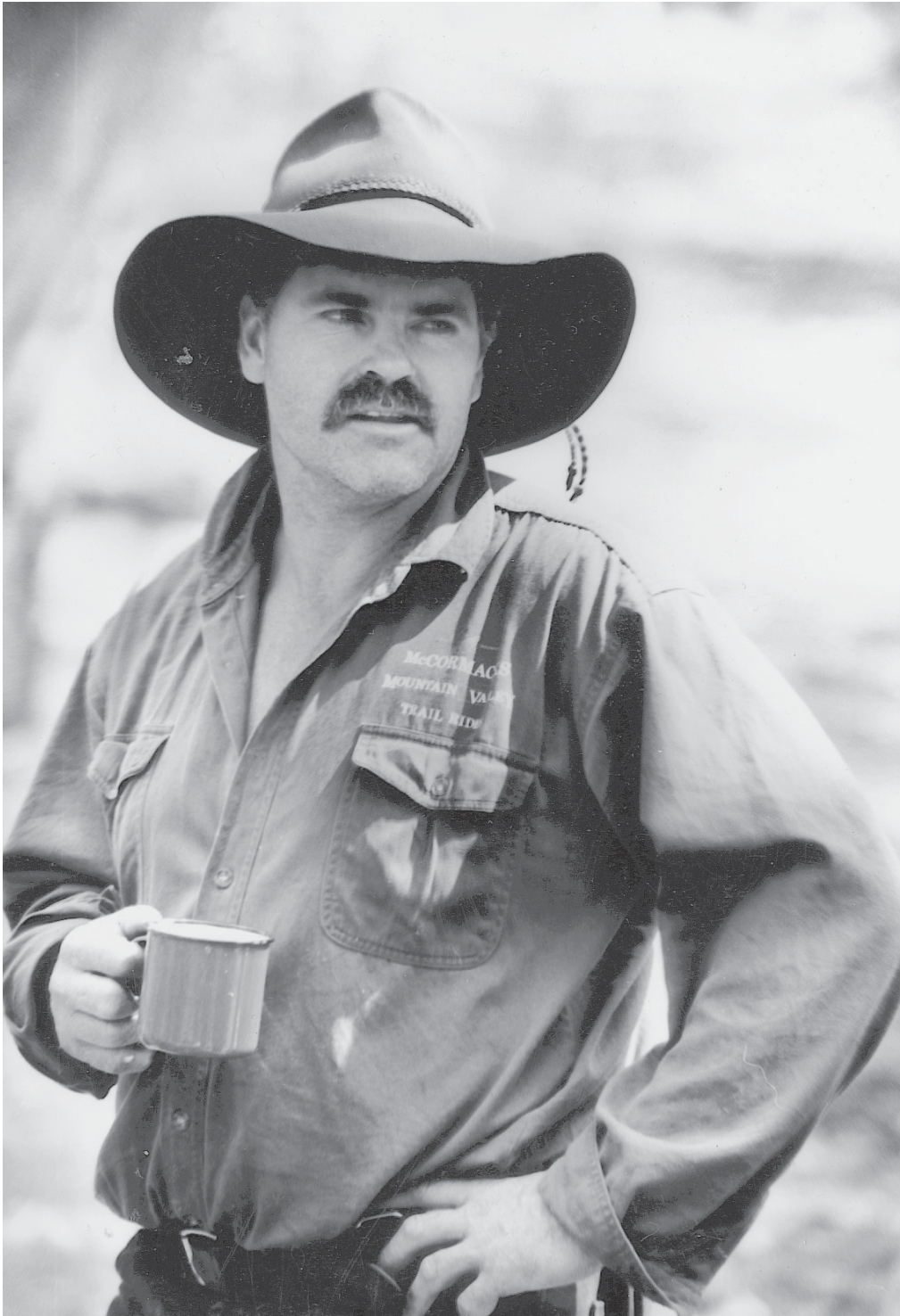
A very successful photograph competition was held in 2002 with thirty two entries that generated a lot of interest over the weekend. Thanks go to Bob Helyer for organizing and running the competition and to John Duncan Firth for judging the winners. Congrats to all!



**Equal 1st  
Junior Section  
Trent Monar-Venn**



**Equal 1st  
Junior Section  
Phillip Ryder**



**First  
Portrait Section  
Francis Westbury**





**First  
Illustrative Section  
Pauline Venn**

**First  
Landscape Section  
Julie Marland**





**First  
Group of Three Photographs  
Jessica Allen**

## A Statement

With the harvest in and cows up top  
heat and flies appear  
We fossick around in the back of the shed  
and resurrect the camping gear.

January has come again  
as we make for the common place.  
To have a beer, spin a yarn  
and catch up with seldom seen mates.

Cattlemen Get Together.  
An event with a well known name,  
a gathering of folk from far and wide,  
who all have a common aim.

The striving to maintain our heritage  
begun generations past.  
The forging of hilltop pastures,  
for a source of summer grass.

But as Grandad first grazed these  
mountains, there's a challenge we know will  
not last,  
the threat to our method of farming,  
grazing that sweet alpine grass.

It appears that our biggest hurdle,  
is not in technology,  
it's the unknown face in the office  
with a collar, tie and degree.

As the Pollies recite in their speeches,  
this land belongs to us all.  
But don't ever lose sight of the fact  
they're not our words that they call.

But as cattlemen have done over time,  
they face their challenge head-on,  
and work together as always,  
in order to get the job done.

So let us do what we do best,  
and manage this land they call ours,  
and if they've got no faith in our doing  
then let them go talk to the cows.

So every year when we all get together,  
we must all bear this in mind.  
It's the hard work and vision of our forefathers,  
that we've all been entrusted to mind.

*'Macca', from Greta*





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# A Plea

And the wild horses are running free  
but how long will that be  
For an animal that paved the way  
for you and me of today  
In the rough tough environment of yesterday  
And would Clancy have got his letter  
when droving far from home.

And would the Geebung Polo Club come undone  
if it wasn't for the mountain ponies  
allowing them to have fun  
and would Dargo have received it's mail  
if the mailman and his pony  
hadn't followed the rugged trail.

And we talk of Reilly's ride and the mountain pony  
that went fearlessly down the mountain side.  
A legacy left by those of yesteryear and today  
so let's ensure that it never fades away.

Banjo would roll over in his grave  
if he knew how people have behaved  
As most of us know this country prospered  
on a horses' back.

So when you head up the track  
in your air-conditioned four wheel drive  
Thinking that you have been on an epic trip  
you don't know your'e alive.

And now people who reckon they know it all  
who are hardly there for the long haul  
Protect the environment they say  
Then they don't say a word when  
they build ski lodges up Kosy way  
Hypocrisy I would say.

So take your time when you go through the Great  
Divide  
And I believe you will appreciate what has been  
achieved  
And I'm sure you will agree  
that the brumbies should forever  
be allowed to run free.

*Greg Hocking*



# The Mountain Cattlemen's Get-Together

There's a mumbling, and a grumbling each year by the members,  
As they sit around their campfires, and stare into the embers.  
To loose the cattle from the high country, the topics always the same.  
When will reason win over, and stop all the shame?  
The misunderstandings make an on-going battle,  
To help care for the high country, and keep the cattle.

A build up of undergrowth, weeds and briar,  
Tempting disaster, without controlled grazing, and fire.  
I just don't think it's anything great,  
To see country locked away, and get in this state.

And it makes me wonder, what the 'pollies' really see,  
When they look into the eyes of you and me.  
I don't think the depth is there, to understand,  
Just how much love and compassion, these dear hills demand.  
There is something which runs in the blood of you and me,  
A belonging to a place, and to respect it carefully.

And as Banjo told of Clancy's - 'vision splendid',  
So much in these words was to be commended.  
And - 'A drovers life has pleasures, the towns folk never know',  
Well I really do believe - this will always be so.



But the opportunities to discover a cattleman's commitment to the land are ample,  
And the stockmen's rides and rallies, are such a great example.  
However as 'progress' pushes on, some think it's fantastic,  
I look at it with despair, as the world becomes more plastic.

To sustain we must live in harmony, and not live 'grand',  
Basic concepts must be grasped, and taken in hand.  
So what is required? - I think more on-going education,  
To mend this city, and country relation.

And where will it take us, in these next few years?  
I bet it's another round of more heartache, sweat and tears.  
Also now, these mountains require a new sort of tutor,  
That is, - to be one who excels on the computer,  
And can find the words - to go on each submission,  
Something very persuasive, - to seek leasing permission.  
So I hope and I pray, - there are those here beside you,  
Who know all the ropes, and will be there to guide you.

But the association is strong, - it won't give up!  
So settle right in, - and fill up your cup.  
For tonight we will drink, and sing quite hearty, -  
We've shown them what where made of, - now we'll show them how to party!

*Rosey Bennett*

Rosey recited this poem for the Don Kneebone competition  
at Rose River where she won first place.



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HIGH PLAINS DROVING

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# 2002 Get Together 'Rose River'

In 2002 the Get Together returned to Rose River and a great time was held by all.

North East Branch excelled themselves with a great Get Together and few of us probably realised that this may prove to be the last Get Together that featured horse events. Facilities were terrific and activities were fast and furious! And young Stephanie Griffiths, just 12 years old, blew them away with the poem she wrote for the Kneebone competition.

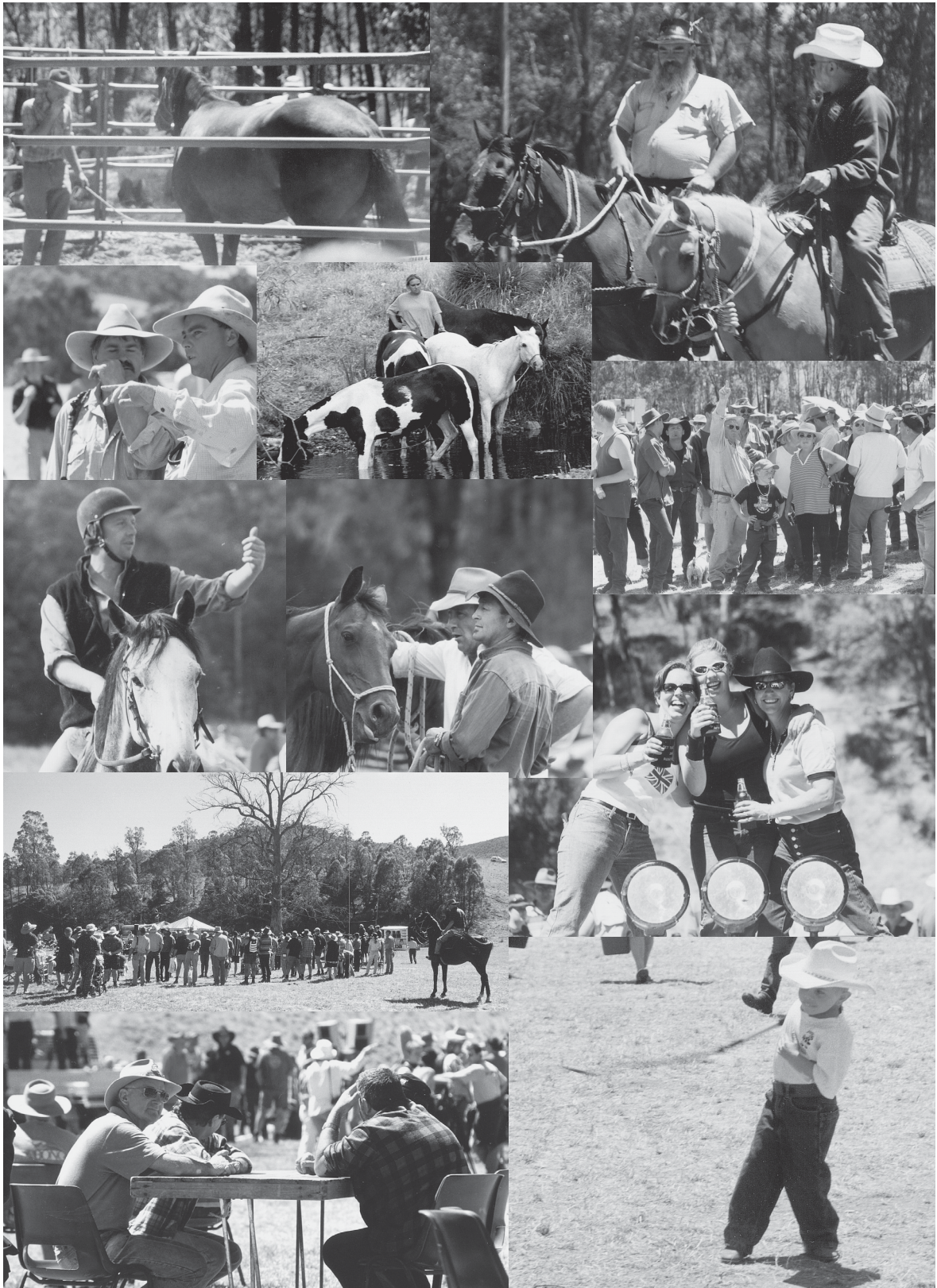
We would like to say 'Thank You' to all of our sponsors for their continued support of the Association. Particular thanks go to Mazda (Vic), who are exceedingly generous to the Association with the provision of vehicles and the winners rostrum and QBE for the Association secretary facilities.

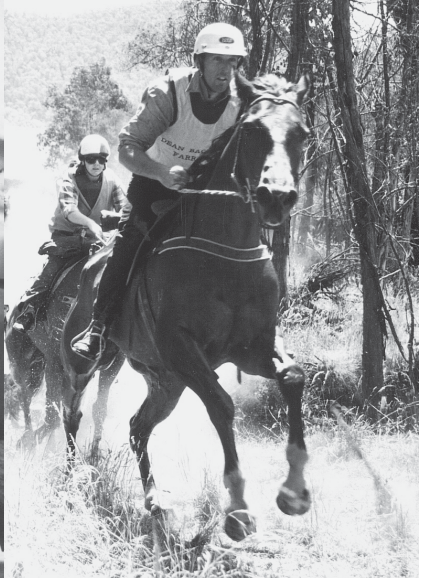
Congratulations to everyone on a great weekend. The following photographs come from the cameras of Frances Westbury, C. Gruer, Jimmy Piazza and Julie Marland. Thanks for helping us out and sending them in.

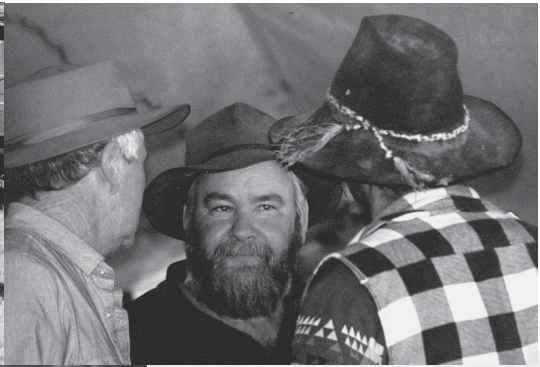












# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED HELD AT FARRER HOUSE, 24 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE IN THE VICTORIAN FARMERS' FEDERATION BUILDING ON THURSDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2002

## PRESENT:

Sue Reynolds, Colin Reynolds, Bill Crump, Stuart Hicks, Annie Whittam, Ron Briggs, Frank Ryan, John Ryan, Noel Levin, Brian Higgins, Peter McCormack, Rosemary Hurley, Ross Brown, Bruce McCormack, Steve Ware, Bill Cumming, Pauline Venn, Harry Ryder, Graeme Stoney, Simon Turner, Tim Barker, Graeme Connley, Ros Andrews and John Andrews.

The President of the Association, Simon Turner took the chair and welcomed everybody to the Annual General Meeting. He declared the meeting open at 11.05am and called for apologies.

**APOLOGIES** were received from Linda Barraclough, Debbie Squires, Clive Hodge, Keith Whittam, Charlie Lovick, Buff Rogers, Bruce Commins, Chris Commins, Tim Faithfull and Barry Fitzgerald.

**MINUTES** of the last Annual General Meeting of the Association as printed in the *Voice of the Mountains* Edition No. 25 of 2002 and circulated to all members and associate members were confirmed on the motion of Harry Ryder and seconded by Ron Briggs.

Carried.

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

This year has been a year of consolidation for the Association. We have dealt with issues both new and old, the first issue being Licence transfers. We had a concerning situation where the Minister for Environment and Conservation, after eleven months, seemed to be stalling with five licence transfers which had been passed by the Alpine Advisory Committee.

In one case the Minister's office suggested that if 80% of the licence was forfeited it might help the transfer of the balance to go ahead. If the area was reduced, this clearly would have made the licence unviable.

After a question in Parliament from Mr Peter Ryan, (Leader of the National Party) - "Will the Minister for Environment and Conservation advise the House whether it is the intention of the government to remove the grazing rights of mountain cattlemen in the Victorian High Country?" Ms Garbutt (Minister for Environment and Conservation) replied: "I would like the Leader of the National Party to listen very carefully, because obviously he has not been listening at all. Of course, this is an opposition which does not listen. It did not listen when it was in government, and that is why it is in opposition now. This government consults as part of its decision making. The government has said time and again, and I have explained it many times, that it will not be changing leases without consultation, without agreement and without the alpine cattlemen volunteering. I hope that is now clear and that the Leader of the National Party heard it."

After the lengthy process of negotiation by the Association on behalf of its members, all five were completed, unchanged and in time for the 2001-2002 grazing season.

The return of cattle to the Caledonia fire area of 1998 has continued to be of concern and has wider implications for general attitudes towards Park management in the future.

In October 2001 Parks Victoria carried out its annual vegetation surveys to assess the condition for the return of grazing for the 2001-2001 grazing season. Once again we pointed out to Parks Victoria where we felt there were inadequacies in its assessment process. Upon examination of the field data sheets we became concerned as to how Parks Victoria actually performed this task, as there was a greater chance of finding bare ground in the first half of each transect line, indicating there could be bias affecting the process.

We also had concerns with coppicing snow gums, a rabbit warren, and vehicle tracks appearing

in the grassland Ecological Vegetation Class, all having an effect on the amount of bare ground recorded, bare ground being the main determinant for the return of grazing.

Another area of concern was the “nine out of ten” rule, meaning nine out of ten sites must pass the 10% bare ground benchmark. With the introduction of this new criteria last year, Parks Victoria seem completely unaware of the mathematical implications this was having on the end result. Put simply, the “nine out of ten” rule changed the 10% figure to 7%, making it more difficult to achieve a suitable environment for the return of grazing.

MCAV has attempted to bring these issues to the attention of Parks Victoria and Professor Nancy Millis. Professor Millis is the chairperson of the Alpine Ecology Scientific Review Panel (AESRP). However Parks Victoria has declined a meeting with Professor Millis and our scientific adviser, on the grounds that he may intimidate her.

This whole process of vegetation assessment is a complete tragedy for the general management of the Alpine National Park.

Parks Victoria created a new and untried method of vegetation assessment which has required continual changes, highlighting the poor design of this new benchmark system, leaving a process which has brought about a lack of confidence in scientific methodology and cost the State hundreds of thousands of dollars, when there is already a widely used and accepted method of assessment - the Cover Class system.

If this is the new style of Park management and scientific methodology for the 21st century, the environment will be the loser.

This year has seen further development of a Native Title claim over some areas of East Gippsland and the lower North East. Although the process will be lengthy, we hope that the outcomes will be beneficial to everyone involved. I feel that there is a need for more involvement by the indigenous community in Crown Land management, their traditional methods of land management created what some today refer to as “the pristine environment before European settlement”. If this is the ideal environment, lets have some assistance from those who created it.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of Sue Reynolds to the Association. Sue has been our Secretary for the past seventeen years bringing consistency, dedication and a high level of ethical credibility to MCAV which has enabled us to support a valid case to continue the tradition of Alpine Grazing in the Victorian High Country. Sue’s intimate knowledge of each and every facet of the Association and its members is a vital asset, and I am pleased to say that Sue’s wealth of knowledge will still be available to the MCAV, but in a more low key role. I would like on behalf of the MCAV to thank Sue Reynolds for all her efforts over the past seventeen years and wish her all the best for her retirement.

I would also like to thank Pauline Venn (Marketing Officer) for her contribution through the year, also the members of Central Council, our Special Projects Officer and Vice President for their contribution and assistance.

## **SECRETARY/TREASURER’S REPORT**

When I told a friend of mine just the other day that I was retiring from the Association, having been its Secretary and Treasurer for seventeen years, her response was “Heavens, you don’t get that long for murder”.

It has been a strange last few months. Simon Turner asked me to provide a draft job description for the Secretary/Treasurer , and I couldn’t for the life of me think of half of what I did, although it looked pretty amazing when it was finally set down on paper. I has also been thinking of how it all began, how very much a city girl had become involved with a group of mountain cattlemen. There was no complicated job description back in 1984. Graeme Stoney simply asked me if I could type, and I said yes.

I had been an associate member of MCAV since about 1982. My family had a holiday block near Mansfield, and we spent weekends and school holidays there. I joined the famous demonstration march to Parliament House in September 1984, on foot I hasten to add - I am not a rider of horses, and after the demonstration, which has been described as the most popular with Melbourne crowds since the Light Horsemen went to War, I was asked the fateful question, and began work opening and answering a mountain of correspondence sent to



Stoneys. It became clear there was a very large support base both within Melbourne and in country Victoria for the history and heritage of the mountain cattlemen. The Jim Commins and other Association members decided to arrange a meeting in Melbourne for interested people, and asked me to help arrange it. This meeting, held at the Exhibition Buildings in November of 1984 showed the cattlemen just what the possibilities were - it was packed. Now with a strong support base the work began of informing and encouraging the associate members as to how they could support the cattlemen.

The next major hurdle was the Nunawading by-election in 1985. On the first count of votes for this Legislative Council seat, the two candidates were tied - Bob Ives for Labor, and Rosemary Varty for the Liberals. The returning officer put the two names in a hat and drew one out, and it was Bob Ives. This would have meant the Legislative Council would be held by Labor. It would have meant the end of the mountain cattlemen. Labor policy was to create an Alpine National Park - without grazing. Fortunately Rosemary Varty decided to appeal the decision. The appeal was successful and a new election was ordered. It was at this point that the mountain cattlemen decided that Rosemary Varty could do with a hand or two. In the weeks leading up to the by-election members and associate members manned shopping centres throughout the electorate handing out stickers and other material urging voters to vote Liberal and save the mountain cattlemen. And they did. The cattlemen and their associates rode again - this time through the streets of Ringwood. Rosemary Varty won a resounding victory, and the cattlemen were acknowledged as having had a hand in it. Very exciting times.

The Labor Government of the time took serious umbrage at the success of the mountain cattlemen's lobbying of the Nunawading electorate, and for a time following Mrs Varty's success members of the Association and their supporters were soundly abused in the Parliament, and some very silly stories were repeated by Labor politicians who were obviously unhappy with the outcome. Eventually Graeme Stoney was called to speak in defence of the Association at the Bar of the Legislative Council. An event which had only happened once before in the Council's history. That morning the Council Chamber was packed to the rafters. And in the end Mr Stoney did not get his

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opportunity to speak, because of a mix-up when it came to a vote. All this is related in the 1986 (edition 10) copy of the *Voice of the Mountains*.

Meanwhile, at the time the by election issue was before the Court of Disputed Returns, the conservation Minister of the day, Joan Kirner, went up to Bennison Lookout to announce that the Labor Government would be bringing legislation into the Parliament to create an Alpine National Park. We had only a little over 24 hours notice of this splendid occasion - Jim Commins' invitation had come almost too late. It was the only time I ever heard Jim lose his temper. He roared down the telephone to me in Melbourne, demanding that I do something and get a crowd of associates together to greet Mrs Kirner the next morning. Well, with the aid of Keith and Anne Whittam, we did. Quite a convoy of us left Melbourne in the small hours of the morning and we were all bright and ready to greet Mrs Kirner at Bennison Lookout. She was horrified. She came

around the corner in the official white car, and there were the mountain cattlemen and their supporters with banners, smiling at her in the morning sun. She dropped her head into her hands. There was even a banner saying 'Mountain Cattlemen Care for the High Country' placed behind her official podium. Joan Kirner recovered from her initial unpleasant surprise, and invited all of us down to the Wellington River for lunch. And very nice it was too.

Later in 1985 the Labor Government brought the Alpine National Park Bill into the Parliament where it was finally debated in the Legislative Council. The vote went against the Bill.

All of that was just one round in the battle, and those events took place over a period of just twelve months. So it was a busy time.

The next few years passed relatively peacefully. Quarterly newsletters were established to keep the associate members up to date, the marketing side of the operation was developed, and the Association held a couple of bush dances. The one which comes to mind is the dance held in the Hall of Commerce at the Showgrounds and we had to 900 people to make it a success. It was, thanks to the incredible amount of hard work done by Anne and Keith Whittam. Anne thought she might have a nervous breakdown, but thought better off it, and Rusty Connley will know the year and date it was held because it was his 50th birthday, and we gave him a cake.

During this relatively peaceful period, in 1987 Jim Commins retired as President. Jim's contribution to the Association was outstanding. He had held the office for ten years. He taught me everything I know about early settlement of the colony of Victoria, the Land Acts, the Fencing Act, lots about rabbits and early research into grazing in the high country, in fact really, just about everything. He was a wonderful and gifted teacher, a great gentleman and a great friend. The Association organised a grand farewell dinner for him at Leonda, and Joan Kirner was one of the guests of honour. You can read about her appreciation of Jim in the last issue of *Voice of the Mountains*. Everybody was there, journalists, politicians, associate members, artists, and entertainers, and Don Kneebone sang *Waltzing Matilda* backwards! Clive Hodge spoke of the early days in the mountains when horses were really the only form of transport, and he recalled

the dances and picnics and sports events which were held around the mountains, and everybody rode to them, and all the boys had to sleep in the woolshed.

The peaceful years were not to last. In 1989 the Labor Government signalled that it would be bringing back the legislation to create the Alpine National Park, and the members of MCAV rolled their sleeves up again and rearmed for battle.

The first half of 1989 was spent in lobbying politicians. The hierarchy of the Association were in Melbourne more than at their home properties. Only going home to feed the dog was the expression, and it must have been difficult and frustrating for families left behind to do the work. The Association knew that this time the legislation would be passed. A strenuous effort went in to make sure that it included grazing, seven year terms for licences which had, up to that time been only for one year, use of huts and yards, and in fact all the issues which are now standard clauses in the grazing licences. Association members fought every inch of the way, and finally, very late at night on May the 25th 1989

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the National Parks (Alpine National Park) Bill passed into law with seven year grazing licences. The young man from the Victorian National Parks Association burst into tears.

In 1989 the Labor Government decided they would have a big party on Snowy Airstrip to launch the new Alpine National Park. There was a huge marquee which would seat 700 guests for lunch, another huge marquee which was the information area and full of beautiful posters of the Park, and then the ultimate folly, on the cliff overlooking the valley below, was a flag decorated podium and dainty little white chairs arranged in rows for the VIPs to sit on. Now that night a violent and savage storm blew up, it blew the podium and chairs into nowhere, they were never seen again, the luncheon marquee had its solid posts snapped in half and the marquee itself shredded into two foot wide ribbons, and the information tent just vanished. The Minister, who was to arrive elegantly in a helicopter, couldn't, and had to drive up at top speed, one of the DNRE cars failed to properly negotiate the slippery road and crashed, and eventually a replacement marquee was driven up and anchored on four corners to four 4WD vehicles. The cattlemen spent a peaceful, though windy night down on Holmes Plain.

Some months after the launch of the Park, the Association held a mass protest rally on the Bogong High Plains at Watchbed Creek to seek support for the cattlemen who were to lose their licence areas in the 1991 phase-outs when grazing was to be removed from the northern area of the Plains. The atmosphere was electric and highly charged with emotion when the members of the families who were to lose their licences appeared in a line on the horizon and rode down towards the crowd. But nobody expected the wave upon wave of riders who followed the families down, and there was plenty of tears as roars of support went up from the spectators. Unfortunately on this occasion the Association was powerless to stop the 'evictions', and subsequently through a method of cutting stocking rates, the cattlemen in the south of the Plains made room for their displaced fellows from the north.

The Government had not finished with the mountain cattlemen. It formed what was called 'the Alpine Grazing Working Group', and its task seemed to be to stall the issuing of the seven year licences for as long as possible. There was meeting

after meeting, none getting any further towards the licences, and there were some pretty interesting rows along the way. Finally after more than twelve months talking, the Association had had enough and threw down the gauntlet - we stated that we wanted the licences and we would give the Department six weeks to deliver them. We spent the next month preparing a Supreme Court action to force the Department to issue the licences, and on the very day we were to file our documents, the licences were issued. I was actually sitting in our barrister's chambers in William Street with Buff Rogers who had generously agreed to allow himself to be the Plaintiff, when Harry Ryder faxed through his licence. Of course, we found out later that they were issued because of the pending Supreme Court action, and were issued in such a hurry that many of them contained errors which in some cases, remain to this day.

Once the seven year licences were issued the cattlemen believed that peace would somehow miraculously descend and the greenies would go back to wherever greenies go. This was not to be. Having suffered the 1991 phase outs, the cattlemen now had to face the push for wilderness areas. This time the system for creating wilderness was to be very different to anything the cattlemen had faced before. There would be no discussion, and the main points of the management plans for wilderness were to be set by legislation. The legislation 'creating' wilderness passed through Parliament without any proposed areas being identified, and therefore local people did not think they would be affected. The wilderness boundaries came later. Some cattlemen were affected by the wilderness boundaries, and in one case the licensee took the Department of Conservation and Environment (DNRE) was then called, to Court. The court decided the case in favour of the licensee - a great, but expensive victory.

There was fun and frivolity as well as hard work and worry. Members of the Association took a bus trip to Longreach as guests of honour at the annual Ringers Muster. This trip was one long party and the coach crew - captain, co-driver and cook - all became instant members of the Association. We all had adventures, some more unexpected than others. Leonard Ryan went mustering in a helicopter, and years later still could not bear to even see one on television. We discovered the beautiful

singing voices of Clive Hodge, Rex Jefferies and Tiger Ripper, the mountain cattlemen beat the locals at mustering cattle, and coach crew shouted us dinner at the Bourke RSL on the way home. This trip inspired the creation of the Don Kneebone Mountain Heritage Award. I have never been so hot in my life. I think it was over 40 degrees nearly every day.

And then a new Government came into power and nothing much changed. Two members of the Association stood for Parliament and were elected. I think we can claim that their skills were honed in the fires they had been through as officers of MCAV. During this time the Association had a lady President for the first, and only, time in Mary Goldsworthy, and one of her major projects was the standardization of laws and regulations in regard to travelling stock on roads. The MCAV worked closely with the Victorian Farmers Federation, and achieved its aim to move freely with stock from the home property to the high country without hindrance and red tape. Life was a little more peaceful. MCAV, this time represented by the late and great Jim Commins made a major contribution to the Victorian Fire Management Cod of Practice, and working with Jim on this project was a delight and taught me much. Jim was passionate about fuel reduction burning and the role grazing had as a management tool in this regard. "The smoke free alternative" he used to call grazing in this context. He went into battle with the bureaucrats on this and other issues, and enjoyed every minute of it.

Jim relished locking horns with bureaucrats and had his own particular style which was, in fact, unbeatable. I was fortunate to see this at close hand, since I usually accompanied him to meetings to take notes. He was an impressive man to look at, tall, straight, and with that hint of fire shown by the red hair. He was friendly and he listened carefully to the arguments being put. And then he calmly reduced his opponents to jelly. He most often commenced his defence with a brisk historical lecture on pioneering settlement. He spoke of past problems and lessons learned from mistakes made. He discussed issues of common sense and experience. He explained difficulties which country people had to overcome in relationship to distance and communication. He spoke with authority and from experience and in a manner which assumed that these city bureaucrats would understand exactly

what it was like to live and work in the bush. They didn't, but didn't dare to interrupt. He always hoped for, and generally manufactured, an excuse to discuss the role of fire and fuel reduction burning. And he always ended with a concise list of reasons why his position should be accepted. It was a breathtaking performance and always worked.

In 1997 discussions began on the renewal of the grazing licence which fell due in 1998. These negotiations went on for twelve months and looked into every aspect of alpine grazing. Every condition on the original licence was taken apart and examined, and we had some extremely difficult times I can tell you. There were highlights however. Parks Victoria suggested seriously that tail tags should be used as a means of identification of cattle, as their new city trained Rangers were having difficulty in learning the earmarking system. Despite having diagrams. Another highlight was when a well known researcher frankly admitted that, over seven years of monitoring a burnt site on the Fainter, although the condition of the grassland site varied over time, no statistical trends were detected, and that the variation could have been caused by seasonal conditions. He was shocked to realise that I had taken his statements down in shorthand. We went through the worries of Parks Victoria's contention that the grazing licence fees should be increased by 600%, that there should be a minimum licence fee, that there should be fees for transfers of licences, and then finally that the area of three grazing licences would be slashed. Harry Ryder descended on Parliament House and held discussions with a number of politicians and the chief of staff of the Department of Conservation. Shortly afterwards Parks Victoria informed us that all the licences would be renewed, no licence areas would be withdrawn, and stock allocations would remain. There were a few changes to the licences but these were administrative in nature.

Our next challenge was the Caledonia fire. This is an ongoing issue. It is worth noting that as soon as the Bracks Labor Government came into power the attitude of Parks Victoria hardened significantly. I think it is fair to say that from that time onwards Parks Victoria have done everything in their power to keep cattle from returning to the Caledonia grazing areas. Expensive vegetation surveys and assessments, bog assessments, formation of expert panels, reports etc. have all cost

the poor unknowing taxpayer hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is frustrating to know that these taxpayer dollars have been spent to achieve a result that the same taxpayers would not want. The unending struggle to return cattle to Caledonia is well documented in the last issues of the *Voice of the Mountains*.

I would like to mention our honorary Associate members. This small group of five dedicated people have been rewarded by the members of the Association for their outstanding assistance over the years. Keith and Anne Whittam, who put their lives on hold during the Nunawading by-election, served as the Associates' voice on Central Council for many years, expanded and ran the marketing, arranged social events, and forever afterwards gave their time to getting the Newsletters out. Don Porter whose artistic skills we are reminded of each year when we look at the Port crocks, artwork for marketing, photographs of this and that, constantly at our beck and call, always calm and unruffled and never puts in an account. Don instigated and ran the photograph competition at the Get Togethers up until the last couple of years. Debbie Squires and Linda Barraclough. Each an inspiration. From them came the idea to create the Don Kneebone Mountain Heritage Award. They created, organised and arranged the judging of it. And they donated the prizes. The *Voice of the Mountains* would not exist today without their dedicated hard work in putting this journal together. And I happen to know that when the journal is a bit short of articles, they write them as well. And poetry. I am sworn to secrecy never to reveal the assumed name Debbie and Linda use as 'author' of their poetry. I thank all of them for their friendship and assistance to me over the past seventeen years.

I need to mention those who were made Life Members of the Association. Jim Commins, Lyle McCready, Jack Treasure, Ross Blair and Jack Lovick. We have our memories of these men. Graeme Stoney and I were each made Life members in 1991.

For the future? I will still have some involvement with the Association of course. I have been appointed to the Alpine Advisory Committee, and provided I survive retirement, I will be involved with that for the next three years. I might sometimes be asked to remember something, or to give advice, I don't know. I am sure that the Association will

benefit from my retirement. I expect an invigorating mighty rushing wind to roar through the Association bringing new and clever ways and new experience with it. I would hate to be in the shoes of Parks Victoria right now.

This is also, of course, my last year as Treasurer, and I am pleased with the steady improvement in the Association's finances. You will be aware that the financial position of the Association has caused some serious concern over the past two years, and members and associate members have given generously of their time and money to keep the Association viable. There has been a small increase in income. Members and Associate member subscriptions appear to have increased significantly, and we can wish this was so. However the current figures reflect the fact that the renewal invoices went out in June, and many were paid in that month, although they are not due until the end of July. I recommend that the subscription invoices now be sent out in June prior to the end of the financial year. Part of the increase in subscriptions is also due to the fact that we have now had twelve months to see an improvement since increasing the subscription levels for both full members and associate members.

We have tried, and generally succeeded in keeping the expenses down. It should be noted that the figure for insurance does not show up in this years statement having been paid in advance of the 30th June 2001. You might like to note the bank fees and charges which have nearly doubled over the past twelve months. This reflects a common situation within the community. We have also made credit card facilities more available, and this also has an effect in increasing the bank fees.

Although there is an improvement in the financial position of the Association there is no room for complacency, and I would recommend restraint in spending over the next twelve months.

My parting words of advice would be to remember that the remedy for the Association will always be political. Always keep the war chest full, and learn the wise words of the late Heather Mitchell - 'You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.' Very wise words indeed. (Heather Mitchell was a great supporter of the mountain cattlemen. She was also President of the Victorian Farmers Federation and the Public Land Council of Victoria

to mention only two of her many contributions to rural communities.)

Thanks to all the members of the Association who have worked with me and who I have come to know and regard as my friends - as delegates on the Central Council, all the Presidents and Vice Presidents, to all the special project officers and marketing officers, and not least Bill Crump, our Auditor. It has been a marvellous experience and privilege to work with you all.

I recommend that the financial statements be accepted by the members.

Moved Harry Ryder seconded Ross Brown that the financial statements as presented to the meeting be accepted. Carried.

## MARKETING OFFICER'S REPORT

Marketing has experienced another good year in the value of sales. Compared with last year, our sales increased by over \$2,000. This result, as always, was due to the successful Get Together held at Rose River where takings of almost \$18,000 were recorded.

This increase in sales makes the bottom line net profit, down on last year's figure look disappointing. I expect that this minor downturn will be a one off event, and remain optimistic that the net results for next year will be better.

There are a couple of reasons for the downturn. Last financial year we experienced, for the first time, the full impact of the GST on marketing turnover. Prior to the GST being implemented, careful planning permitted me to stock up in advance. However with a small Association such as ours and with limited finances to carry large quantities of stock, the GST finally caught up with us, that is, the majority of our sales made in 2000/2001 financial year were made with goods purchased prior to GST. Our markups have come under some scrutiny and I report that whilst there are some items where the margin is small, generally we follow current commercial practice in this area. Our aim is to move stock as quickly as possible, this obviously has been helped with regular wholesale sales to retailers, however wholesale sales do reduce our buy/sell margins even though the stock is being turned over. I repeat we are not in a position where we have the finances to purchase large volumes of stock. The figure for purchases is also up on last

year. The reason for this is that I decided to change the stock to include new lines and continue with those tried and tested at the 2001 Get Together. Marketing cannot be allowed to stagnate, and new ideas must be tried regularly to keep the items we offer new and interesting.

At the Rose River Get Together I put together fifty show bags, these were very popular with the kids. We had no trouble selling them and were able to off-load from of the old stagnant stock. It would be in our interest to repeat them again in 2003 and could include tourism brochures should any one want to supply me with some. The marketing raffle was again a huge success with David Belcher collecting the goods with orange ticket F50.

The ceramic port crocks were the number one item on many peoples Get Together shopping lists with over sixty five crocks being secured with the pre-release offer. We increased our port order to twelve dozen in 2002, however ten crocks remained unsold as at the 30th June stock take, thus leading us to conclude that ten dozen should be adequate going forward.

Lovicks Hut is the feature hut for the nineteenth edition 2003 release as a tribute to Jack.

Post Get Together sales occurred on a small scale and we are grateful for the continued support of Stoney's High Country shop. We received a reasonable order from the South Eastern 4x4 Centre. In June we gave members an opportunity for a strictly limited time, the chance to purchase our adult windcheaters at a reduced price. The offer was successful with over twenty windcheaters being posted to various parts of the continent. Some were even intended for overseas friends.

For those of you who subscribe or read *R.M. Williams Outback Magazine* you could have been mistaken for thinking the Association had embarked on a national advertising campaign.

The June/July issue featured people proudly wearing our gear in three separate stories. First, the story on the High Country calf sales where Fiona Burnell from Benalla was photographed looking very resplendent in her white MCAV polo shirt. Next, the Cook family from Benambra. In a family photograph John's son Danny is wearing a MCAV windcheater and John's two grandkids look cute in their MCAV caps. Finally in the Beaut Ute section we saw Buck Williamson from Heyfield in his

MCAV red singlet for all readers to clearly see what our message is.

A new product to the merchandise range for 2002, is a very warm polar fleece vest. Initially thirty of these vests were ordered in April and were offered for the first time in the mail order form that accompanied the June newsletter. I am pleased to announce that as of the 30th June stock take I only had eight left. Another twenty vests were ordered. The vests are embroidered with the MCAV logo and are made with anti-pill polar fleece, with zip-up fronts and side pockets, they come in red, navy and black.

As always I conclude my marketing report by giving thanks to friends who give up their weekend to assist me at the Get Together. Rachel Parsons gave us a hand for a couple of hours on Saturday morning and was blown away by how busy we were. Thanks to Kim Rawlings, Jeannine and Fred Pascale for being there all day both days and for making my role easier with set up and pack up and of course the all important sales in between. What a team.

#### **SETTING OF SUBSCRIPTION**

It was agreed that all subscription fees remain at the same level as the previous year. Moved Peter McCormack seconded Ross Brown that the members subscription remain at \$220 (including GST) for the first 100 head and then \$3.30 per head thereafter. That the Associate member fees remain at family membership \$38.50 inclusive of GST and that single membership remain at \$27.50 inclusive of GST. Carried

#### **SETTING OF HONORARIUMS**

It was agreed that all honorariums remain at the same level as the previous year with the exception of that of the Secretary/Treasurer which needs to be increased from \$20,000 to \$25,000. The honorarium for the President shall be \$3,000 plus expenses, the honorarium for the Vice President shall be \$1,000 plus expenses, the honorarium for the Special Projects Officer shall be \$1,000 plus expenses, the honorarium for the marketing officer shall be \$1,000 plus expenses and the honorarium for the Secretary/Treasurer shall be \$25,000 plus expenses. Moved John Cook seconded Bill Cumming that these honorariums be confirmed. Carried.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

The Hon. Graeme Stoney MLC took the chair for the election of Office Bearers. The following officers were elected:

*President* - Simon Turner nominated by Ross Brown was elected.

*Vice President* - Bruce McCormack nominated by Harry Ryder was elected.

*Special Projects Officer* - Harry Ryder nominated by Stuart Hicks was elected.

*Marketing Officer* - Pauline Venn nominated by Simon Turner was elected.

*Secretary/Treasurer* - Tim Barker nominated by Ross Brown was elected.

Graeme Stoney spoke about Sue Reynolds' place in the history of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria and congratulated her on her long service to the Association. Moved Graeme Stoney that this meeting place on record the heartfelt thanks of the MCAV to Sue Reynolds for seventeen years of faithful service to the Association. The motion was carried with acclamation.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR**

Moved Tim Barker seconded Simon Turner that Mr Terry Quirk be nominated as auditor of the Association. Carried.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bill Crump for his long service to the Association as its auditor.

#### **APPOINTMENT TO THE PUBLIC LAND COUNCIL OF VICTORIA**

Bruce McCormack was nominated to attend PLCV meetings on behalf of the Association.

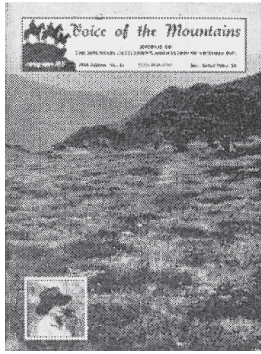
#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

It was noted that the new telephone number for the Association would be (03) 9429 8455. The fax number is (03) 9427 9324, email address is barker@vicnet.net.au

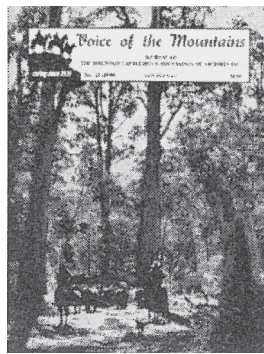
The new address of the Association is P.O. Box 5088, Burnley 3121.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 12.07pm.

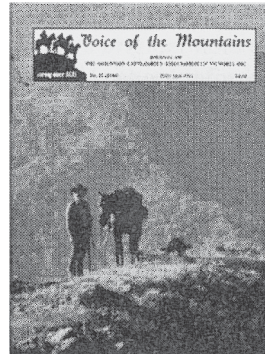
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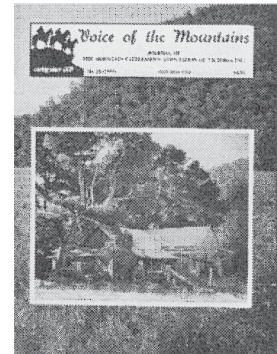
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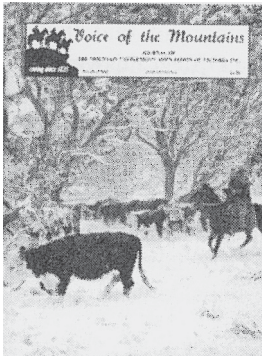
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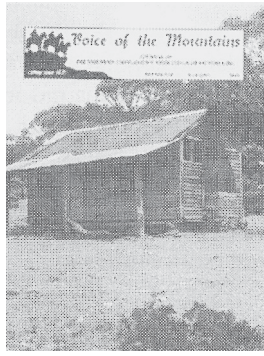
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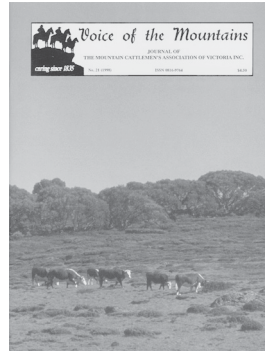
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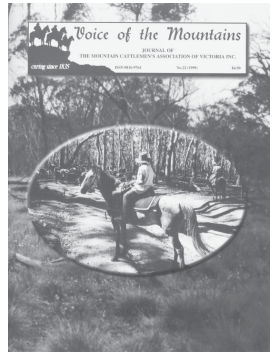
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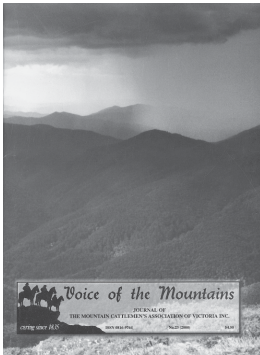
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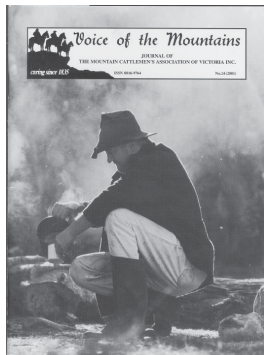
**No. 21 \$4.50**



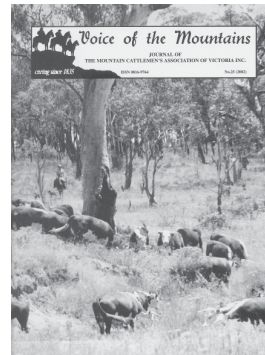
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The Committee of *Voice of the Mountains* would like to thank everyone for the support it has received during the year particularly Mary Goldsworthy, C. Gruer, Frances Westbury, Jimmy Piazza, Julie Marland, David Oldfield, Rowenea and Simon Turner, Sue Ryder, Barbara Ryan, Johnny Faithfull, Graeme Stoney, Sue Reynolds, Tim Barker, Kylie Higgins, Colleen Hurley, Neil Crawford, Alma Angus and Stephen Baggs - you all contributed in one way or another in making sure that this issue of *Voice* was printed.

**Poems, stories and photos suitable for *Voice* are always welcome, but please give us time to assess it by sending it in by the end of the October before the Get Together.**

*Voice* is yet again thankful to the staff at E-Gee Printers, particularly this year when we had a week less than we thought to produce the goods!