

Voice of the Mountains

JOURNAL OF
THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.

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No.37 (2014)

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Journal of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria Inc.

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CONTENTS

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Office Bearers 2013/14	2
President's Message 2014	
A word from Charlie Lovick	3
Why cattle should go back to Wonnangatta <i>Graeme Stoney</i>	5
Bringing back the cattle <i>Neralie Teese</i>	7
It would be funny if it wasn't so serious (Part 1)	8
The Archive Project	9
This is Victoria's high country, 1989: lights, camera, action	13
I'd hate to say I told you so <i>Howard James</i>	15
He made his mark : McMillan's Alpine Track 1864	17
It would be funny if it wasn't so serious (Part 2)	28
The high country <i>Courtney Canavan</i>	30
Horsin' Around	31
Their names are etched on the landscape	35
Tawonga Hut	37
Tributes:	
Leslie George Kellow	38
Ian Roberts Roper	39
Ruth Irene Lack.....	39
Drury Ernest "Dru" Mackieson	40
When the cows come home <i>Val Kirley</i>	41
The Rusty Horse Shoe <i>Howard James</i>	43
The stroke of a pen <i>Don Dwyer</i>	45
39th Annual Get-Together Basin Flat, Glenfalloch Station, 2013	47
When the cattlemen go to the city	57
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting	59
MCAV Sponsors	63
Acknowledgments	64

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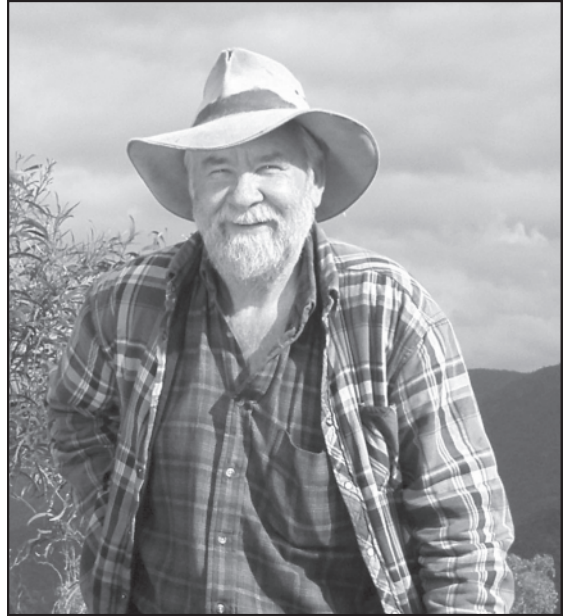
COVER IMAGE

The view from Collingwood Spur with an interpretation of the "Sketch Map of the ranges between Omeo and Wood's Point with roads newly cut by Angus McMillan" superimposed. *Tim and Sharna Dyson photograph.* The unidentified rider on the front of the 2013 *Voice of the Mountains* has now been identified as Mitchell Ward who placed third in the Frank Ryan Memorial Australian Packhorse Championship.

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President's Message 2014

CHARLIE LOVICK



Charlie at Suggan Buggan during the making of the documentary on the cattlemen.

As this edition of *Voice* goes to print we are waiting on a decision from the Federal Government which will be critical for the future of Alpine Grazing.

If Greg Hunt, the Federal Minister for the Environment, accepts the Victorian Government application to conduct trials, cattle may go in to Wonnangatta this summer for initial evaluation and to start the trial process.

If the decision drags on, or is negative or complicated, we fear cattle may never go back into the Alpine National Park because of the political realities we face.

There are many plusses for putting cattle back into Wonnangatta and into other grazing areas of the Park and the issue is fully explained in this edition. [see *Why cattle should go back to Wonnangatta* p.5 ed.]

I have said many times, that Wonnangatta is the Mountain Cattlemen's spiritual home. Grazing cattle on the flats at the Station, as was done for more than 100 years, could well be the start of a major shift in the management of the High Country. We have the feeling there is growing pressure from many quarters for a shift in management directions.



Our members who met with Ryan Smith, MP on the Wonnangatta visit.

This new approach by the authorities should include accessing local knowledge and taking a different approach to both grazing and burning techniques to reduce fuel. Mountain Cattlemen would have the opportunity to teach the next generation the ways of the bush and thus save our culture and heritage from pending oblivion.

This has been another huge year.

The MCAV would not be where it is today without our supporters. Your annual membership and attendance at the annual Get Together provides the funds for the MCAV to professionally campaign and lobby for the return of grazing and for better High Country management. These days, promoting our side of the argument and rebutting the Green agenda costs big money and it is your continuing support that makes that possible.

I wish to especially mention and thank Debbie Squires who produces this publication year after year. It is an iconic publication.

Thank you to all Central Councillors and our Secretary and Treasurer. The team has been strong, focussed and passionate as we have worked through the many issues facing the MCAV this past year. The result is that the MCAV is well organized, professional and effective.

Charlie Lovick

President
Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria
January 2014
president@mcaav.com.au

Why cattle should go back to Wonnangatta

Graeme Stoney, Executive Officer, MCAV

The State Government has applied to the Federal Minister for the Environment, Greg Hunt, to put cattle back into Wonnangatta Station. The Government is required to go through that process under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act. An answer to the request is expected shortly.

Wonnangatta was privately owned and was grazed from the late 1860s until the Cain Government purchased it in 1988 and incorporated it into the Alpine National Park. It was the most remote and inaccessible cattle property in Victoria at an altitude of 500 metres.

The Government wishes to conduct a grazing trial at Wonnangatta over three years to assess if grazing reduces fuel loads and assists with management of some suitable areas of the Alpine National Park. This follows a previous proposal for six grazing trials throughout the Park which was refused for political reasons by former Federal Minister, Tony Burke.

The Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria (MCAV) has offered the Minister for Environment Ryan Smith every assistance to conduct the trial but at the time of writing has not been formally asked to take part.

When the Station was resumed by the Government there was outrage expressed by mountain families and others who knew what the long term consequences of such an action would be. When grazing was stopped, the Wonnangatta flats were short and green and the valley was a lovely place to ride and walk. Within a few years all that changed and nowadays the flats are impenetrable.

Everyone who has visited Wonnangatta in recent years will be aware of the dangerously high fuel loads, the invasion of weeds and gradual invasion of

the bush and scrub onto the iconic open flats. It is obvious to those visitors who know what they are looking at, that the present management regimes of mostly 'just leave it alone', are not working.

Earlier this year eminent historian and writer Professor Bill Gammage visited Wonnangatta with a group of people including myself. We camped under the elms at the Station. We were privileged to have Prof. Gammage explain on site, how the Indigenous Australians deliberately managed the land with cool fire, which in turn encouraged the grazing animals, which in turn became dinner. That process ensured the land was "clean" not "dirty" and it remained open and attractive.

This management over centuries created a park like structure of bigger trees in much of the NSW and Victorian Alps with very little or at best a balanced understory. Gammage's book goes into great detail and is backed up with evidential references.

Mountain families anecdotal history relates how the early settlers followed the example of the first people and cool burned regularly. This created a mosaic pattern in the bush and this plus the short green grazed areas dampened any rush of wildfire. However Government policy gradually stopped the cattlemen conducting cool burns. The inevitable hot bushfires germinated a forest of seedlings and there were no following cool fires to reduce the new growth. Except in the regularly grazed areas, the landscape changed until today most of the Alpine area is dense bush and the park like features noted by the early explorers have disappeared.

We are at a point where there must be a total change to the management of the High Country. Future management must be on a landscape scale and use every tool in the tool box. These tools must include much more cool burning at the correct time and where possible in collaboration with local experience. Grazing

cattle in the grazing areas of the High Country must be reintroduced where it can be useful while protecting any extremely sensitive areas. It is a question of accepting there has to be a trade-off and balance to achieve the greater good.

Environmental groups have done both the land and the general public a huge disservice by claiming that all the Alpine National Park is pristine and would be trashed by cattle. They have extrapolated some minor scientific work done on a small section of the Bogong Plains to claim that the findings apply to the entire Park. They have neglected to acknowledge that rangeland grazing is carried out throughout

the world in National Parks and is regarded by the public as a vital management tool in those countries.

If we are to reverse what is happening to the High Country there has to be a complete rethink and approach to management. Wonnangatta is a good place to start with a combined burning and grazing program. The side benefit of such a program will preserve the traditions and knowledge of both the indigenous Australians and mountain cattlemen. The land would be the ultimate winner.



The top end of Wonnangatta in 2011. What appears to be smoke rising in the distance is actually dust from several vehicles making their way down into the valley. The cemetery is located under the pine trees in the middle of the view. Leanne Dyson photo

bringing back the cattle

You're mountain country cattleman and that's just how you ride
like the man from Snowy River – going down that mountainside.

You're plucky and methodical when riding on these hills
'cause you're bringing back the cattle and you're not after thrills.

You know the mountain country and can ride between its gums,
your horses aren't show ponies and your whips crack just like guns.

Your dogs know what's expected and they don't chase or fight
'cause they're bringing back the cattle and they're gunna do it right.

You've done your preparation and know where the cattle are,
your teams are fit and ready to ride long and hard and far.
But you don't overwork your horses and knock off before its night,
'cause you're bringing back the cattle and you're gunna do it right.



This is history and heritage, a traditional way of life –
it's work and yet it's social for family, man and wife.

So the older ones ride steady keeping younger ones in sight
'cause they're bringing back the cattle and they're gunna do it right.

Now the mountains have been silent during recent droughts and rain
and the new rules for this country are pretty much a pain.
But you've been patient, proud and strong, you've shown how to take a fight
soon you'll be bring back the cattle and you know you'll do it right.

So start planning for the future when Alpine grazing gets the tick,
'cause politics is changing and some groups will get the flick.

There'll be a bill in Canberra passed pretty late at night
and you'll be bringing back the cattle and your world will be all right.

*Neralie Teese, Echuca
Winner Peter McCormack Bush Laureate 2013*

It would be funny if it wasn't so serious



The Archive Project

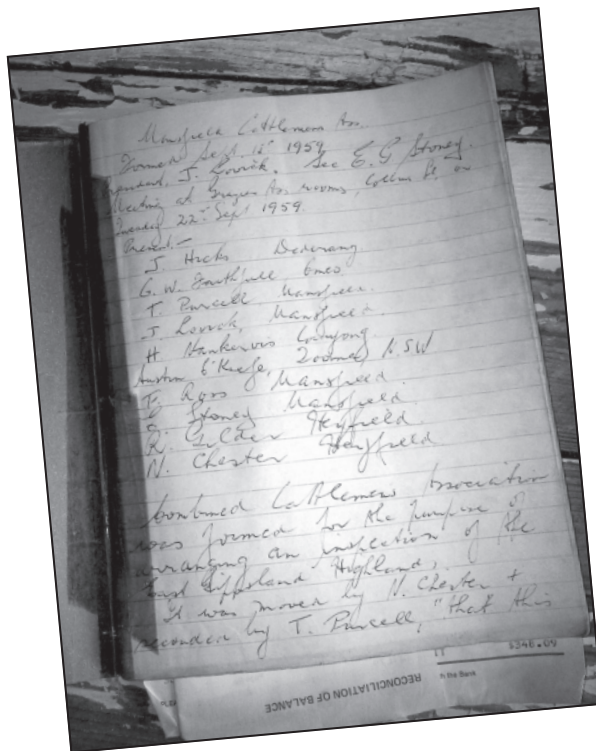
Some, but not many, members will be aware of the shipping container that is the repository of our archives - at least fifty years' worth of our direct Association records plus photographs, newspaper articles and other collected material for the time before the Association was formed. There are many, many boxes. For the past twelve months, Leanne Dyson has been (intermittently) cataloguing the container. Indexing, copying, archiving and digitising the material. To date this has involved close to 1,000 documents.

It is a vital resource for MCAV.

There have been a few "treasures" along the way. At the bottom of one box she found the minute book for the Mansfield Branch from its formation. Normally, one thinks of minutes as being a pretty dry affair but on closer examination (extracts below) they shed light on forgotten details.

If you have any records you are prepared to donate or have copied for the archive please contact the Association Secretary, Georgie Connan, who will put Leanne in touch with you.

P.S. Branch Presidents (other than Mansfield) where are the first minute books for your branches?



On front cover

Mansfield Cattlemen's Association
Minutes
1959 -1975

Mansfield Cattlemen's Assoc.

formed Sept 12th 1959

President: J Lovick

Secretary: E G Stoney

Meeting at Grazier Tea Rooms, Collins St on
Tuesday 22nd September 1959

Present:

J Hicks, Dederang

G. W. Faithfull, Omeo

T. Purcell, Mansfield

J. Lovick, Mansfield

H. Nankervis, Corryong

Austin O'Keefe, Cooma, NSW

F. Ross, Mansfield

G. Stoney, Mansfield

R. Gilder, Heyfield

N. Chester, Heyfield

Combined Cattlemen's Association was formed for the purpose of arranging an inspection of the East Gippsland Highlands. It was moved by N. Chester and seconded by T. Purcell, "That this association invites a delegation from the land use committee of the Graziers Association and representative from the Soil Conservation Authority (S.C.A.), to inspect and report on grazing in the High mountain areas, in view of adverse and damaging statements contained in the Costin Report to the S.C.A. on grazing in above areas. Carried

A meeting was held in the shire hall, Mansfield on 7 Nov 1959, and it was decided to hold the inspection on 16/17 Feb, 1960.

The Gippsland area was inspected on 23/24 Feb and the Bogong and Harrietteville areas on 1/2 March. The Chairman of the S.C.A. Mr Thompson

and his officers, Grazier Assoc., Land Use Committee and local members of parliament and Forests Commission officers attended all three inspections.

The Mansfield inspection was held in good weather and the high country was enjoying one of its very best seasons. On the first day the party journeyed to the Bluff and King Billy and camped at the Bluff Hut. On the second day Mt Stirling, Clear Hills, Razorback and No 3.

..... At this inspection the Chairman of the S.C.A., Mr Thompson, indicated that the Mansfield Cattleman could appoint an advisory committee to keep the authority informed on conditions generally on all lands above 4,500 ft level in the Eildon catchment. Acting on this a meeting was held in the shire Hall at Mansfield on 15 Nov 1960. The President (J. Lovick), Sec. E. Stoney and J. Purcell, were appointed to the Advisory Committee.

..... In 1962 the Buller run was closed to grazing, and a readjustment was necessary. King Billy and Clear were brought into the Mansfield area. and after consultation with the S.C.A. and the Forests Commission, the committee agreed to an all round reduction in quotas on as fair a basis as was possible. Since that time, and in the interest of all the committee have done their best to maintain quotas as at 1962.

Meeting held on Merrijig 6 Aug 1969

J. Lovick, Chairman, E. Stoney, Secretary, J. Purcell, I Weston, B. Weston, P. McCormack, C. Murphy, K. Lovick, G.J. Gough, T.Purcell, J. Lovick, G. Stoney, C. McCormack, F Ross, M. Ross.

..... Long discussion re affiliation with Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria. Moved J. Purcell, seconded M. Ross. Mansfield Branch of Mountain District Cattlemen's Assoc. of Victoria be formed.

Present on 5 Feb 1970

C. McCormack, J. Lovick, P. McCormack, G. Stoney, M. Ross, J. Gough, J. Purcell, T. Purcell, John Lovick, C. Murphy, T. Weston, B. Weston.

Meeting held at Merrijig Hotel
Business

1. Report on Myrtleford delegates' meeting of Mountain Cattlemen's Assoc.
2. Arrangements for forth-coming high country inspection

..... PLANNED TRIP

It was decided to leave Merrijig on Thursday 12 Feb and travel via Stirling to Lovick's Hut the first day. If time allowed the party would go to the Rat Camp and then back to Cobbler on the second day. Costs for the trip would be calculated afterwards and split on a pro-rata basis with cattle numbers, arrangements left to J Lovick, G. Stoney, J. Purcell and B. Weston. Approx 10 4WD and 27 people will be going. The purpose of the trip is to allow the S.C.A. and Upper Goulburn Committee to have a first hand look at the conditions on the high county and meet local cattlemen.

Meeting at Merrijig on 17 Feb 1970

Present:

J. Lovick (Chairman) E. Stoney, C. McCormack, B. Weston, T. Purcell, T. Weston, G. Stoney, J. Gough.

..... Moved B. Weston, Sec G. Stoney That the Mountain District Cattlemen's Association be written to advising that at the meeting at Dargo on 27 Feb 1970 the following motion will be moved by the Mansfield branch, "That a Public Relations Officer be appointed from the committee to be responsible for all publicity, Press, Radio, TV." Carried.

..... Since our last meeting the death occurred at Traralgon of W. R. Gibson, with whom we had a long and happy association whilst he was a forester at Mansfield and a letter of condolence on behalf of M.C.A. was sent to his widow and family.

Levies on Members (Pro Rata Quotas)

Ross	\$34.00	McCormack	\$9.00
Purcell	\$27.00	Gough	\$7.20
Lovick	\$27.00	Weston	\$32.40
Stoney	\$34.20	N. Purcell	\$3.60
Murphy	\$3.60		

plus Lovick and Purcell \$10 each

Meeting at Mansfield Monday 28th September 1970

Present:-

J. Lovick, J. Purcell, E. Stoney, M. Ross, I. Purcell, John Gough, Graeme Stoney, Brian Weston, I Weston, Colin Murphy, Peter McCormack.

..... Rates:- Two Dollars per 200, and 50 cents per 100 or part thereof thereafter

Moved M. Ross Sec J. Purcell, That the delegates at the annual meeting get information on any developments on the control of cattle on tourist roads over the High Plains and associated roads.
Carried

Moved Graeme Stoney sec M. Ross, That the Mansfield delegate press at the annual meeting for a deputation to the V.N.P.A., to discuss their attitude and policy towards grazing on Alpine areas which embrace the proposed National Park.
Carried

Meeting at Merrijig on Tuesday, 9 March 1971

Present:-

J. Lovick, J. Purcell, T. Purcell, T. Weston,
B. Weston, J. Gough, C. Murphy, F. Ross,
C. McCormack, John Lovick, E. Stoney.

..... Agreed that a letter be sent to the Courier pointing out erroneous statements made by conservationists at the recent symposiums.
J. Lovick, J. Purcell, E. Stoney detailed to compile letter on behalf of Cattlemen's Assoc. Letter also to be sent to Mansfield Shire Council President.

..... Publication P. McCormack/ P. Kelly
We favour the publication of a newsletter to be circulated among members and associate members every four or six months to be produced as cheaply as possible. Suggested to be edited by Sed with assistance by President and Publicity Officer.

21 Aug 1972

Present

J Lovick Pres., J. Purcell, G. Stoney, P. McCormack,
T. Purcell, C. Lovick, J. Lovick, J. Gough, B. Weston.

Mr Lovick opened the meeting with a reference to our Secretary, Mr. E. Stoney, who passed away on June 3 1972.

He spoke of the high regard the Cattlemen's Association had for Eadley and the meeting observed one minutes silence in his memory. Nominations were called for Secretary of the branch and Graeme Stoney was elected.

Recommendation to M.D.C.A.

A suggestion of naming the highest point behind the Bluff Hut after the late Eadley Stoney was discussed & a motion to take the idea of this to

the M.D.C.A.V. was moved by J. Purcell / B. Weston.
Carried motion.

..... High Country Inspection

J. Purcell / G. Stoney It was resolved a trip over the plains this year. Invite interested bodies to send delegates.
Carried

FC, SCA, LCC, V.N.P.A., M.D.C.A. were discussed as possible people to invite.

P. McCormack / J. Gough

It was resolved to hold another meeting to finalise arrangements.....

Order Monday Tom Pick up excess silverside.
Trip 34 People

Colin Poul – expenses ? \$90 (\$10 per bod)

Food

40 steaks
2lb dripping
5 bacon
4 Doz Eggs
28lb Spuds
6 Pkts Thick Bread
6 Pkts Thin Bread
30lb Silverside

Detergent

small W (2) 4 sauce Black & Red
mustard sauce

6lb Butter

3lb Salt & Pepper

(3) 4lb tea

(8) 10lb Sugar

(2) 3 jars Marmalade

(1) 2 jars Honey

3 bottles Coffee

10 cartons Milk

4 Rolls Toilet Paper

½ case tomatoes

6 Lettuce

10lb Onions

Grog

35 Doz S.Cans

4 Doz mixed

1 Doz Soda W[ater]

4 Scotch

½ G Red

12 Glasses

Soup

14 Pkts Maggi (mixed)

Meat - Highton

J. Purcell - silverside

pick up & cook

Cup of tea Merrijig

Lovick Purcell

Salads – Women

NOTES

Trip over Mountains discussed and arrangements made.

Note of the provisions ordered

10 doz cans not used

3 bottles Whisky “ “

½ Red “ “

Whisky bottle used as Bostock brought his own

Food worked out well.
 Needed more soft drink.

Costing

	actual Times & Route
Merrijig	10.30
No 3	11.30
Clear Hills Hut	1.15
Stirling	3.00
FC over edge [Forest Commission vehicle]	
Bluff	5.30 – 7.30
Lovicks	8.30
(Trouble FC over edge Bluff lost 2 hrs)	
Leave Lovicks	9.30
Rat Camp	12.35
Love	1.40
Merrijig	5.45 app

Expenses	Receipts
Wintles	\$31.30
SCA Donation @ \$10 Head	\$90
Murphy & Edwards	\$12.00
Pro Rata Levy/Purcell	\$21.00
Ice 2.00	P. McC 3.50
Highton 60.65	C. McC 3.50
Grog Murphys Hotel 148.60	Weston 24.50
Cup of Tea { <u>7.50</u>	Gough 4.90
\$262.05	Ross 26.60
	Lovick 21.70
	Stoney 20.30
	Murphy 4.90
Rover donation *Purcells	20.00
Sale left over grog *Lovick	33.34
	*Stoney <u>49.21</u>
	<u>\$283.45</u>

Weston still outstanding 24/5/74 - Paid 15/6/74
 Credit on Trip of \$21.40.

List of those attending Inspection.

R. Grove	F.C.	Peter Lawson	L.C.C.
L. Sempendorfer	F.C.	Ed Adamson	N.R.C.L.
R. Ritchie	F.C.	P. Hughes	M.D.C.A.V.
H. Brown	F.C.	N. Nicholls	M.D.C.A.V.
C. Poul	S.C.A.	Bob Diprose	AG Consult.
Ken Rowe	S.C.A.		
W. Officer	S.C.A.		
Dead Runge	S.C.A.	T. Purcell	J. Purcell
R. Kelly	S.C.A.	Jock Lovick	John Lovick
P. Miller	D.Ag.	F. Ross	L. Ross
K. Webbware	D.Ag.	B. Weston	T. Weston
F. Friday	D.Ag.	G. Stoney	J. Gough
Bill Thomas	S.C.A. ?	(Benalla)	
R. Bostock	Shire		
R. Ritchie	Shire		
Tom Tomic Paddy Dale	(F.C.)		

Vehicles: Lovick: F.C. 2, S.C.A. 1, D.Ag. 1.
 Weston: Ross 1, P. Mc 1, Stoney 1,
 Hughes 1, Bostock 1, Ritchie 1

Meeting at Hotham Heights Hotel
 Feb 11 was attended by
 J. Purcell & G. Stoney

..... Material for next edition of 'Voice of
 Mountains' was asked for.

Peter Lawson from the L.C.C. attended the
 meeting and obtained from members information
 of individual runs. This information included
 average number grazed over the past years,
 improvements to runs and their location.

The increases in agistment were discussed,
 reasons given why the rate shouldn't rise were:
 Inability to pay owing to depressed state
 of the cattle market.
 Greater costs involved in mustering.
 Agistment rates are down elsewhere.
 The Sec. was instructed to write a letter to the
 F.C. asking for a deferral of the rate increase.

Annual Meeting Merrijig Hotel 24 Jun 75
 Present
 N. Purcell, P. Kelly, C. Murphy, C. Lovick,
 C. McCormack, J. Gough, Terry Murphy, G. Stoney,
 J. Lovick.
 Apologies
 B. Weston.

..... Result of the L.C.C. recommendations on the
 Baw Baw Plateau where some cattle runs were
 recommended to be terminated.

Secretary read a letter that was drafted to Tom
 Uren M.H.R. regarding an application to the
 Australian Heritage Commission.
 The letter was read and C. Murphy moved and
 Tom Purcell seconded that the Secretary and Bob
 Diprose be congratulated on their prompt action
 in drafting the letter, which was felt to be very
 effective.

This is Victoria's high country, 1989: lights, camera, action

Kate Cole-Adams, Environment reporter
Reprinted from *The Age* 27 February 1989



Tom Maddison, 79, poses for a camera crew during yesterday's made-for-television protest by the Mountain Cattlemen's Association.

PICTURE: DOMINIC O'BRIEN

It's a great spot for a rally, up there in the high plains. A vast silvery-green basin rimmed by softly curving hills, above which the sky seems enormous.

Add to the scene 350 mounted horsemen and women wearing almost as many Akubra hats and brandishing a large Australian flag.

Now watch them pause momentarily on the horizon before spilling in waves over the lip of the ridge and down into the valley where more than 500 supporters and media representative wait with eyes and lenses fixed.

In the background you can hear the strains of *Waltzing Matilda* fade into great whoops of appreciation. And suddenly the air is full of hats.

And a middle-aged man in moleskins is wiping his eyes.

This is great theatre. Or perhaps it's soap opera. Either way, the media can't get enough.

"The camera loves these guys," says one exultant television reporter, as a small child partly obscured by his hat trots past on a large horse.

Victoria's mountain cattlemen understand the value of good pictures, and yesterday they were exploiting it shamelessly before an impressive array of representatives from the print and electronic media, many of whom had driven more than five hours and stayed over night for the event.

It was no surprise to find the perfectly choreographed performance had been directed by the man who produced *The Man from Snowy River*, Mr Geoff Burrowes.

And if the facts got a little lost in the excitement of the performance, nobody was worrying too much.

Even the conservation movement – dismissed as “radical conservationists” at the rally – made little attempt to compete. The statement issued by the Australian Conservation Foundation, The Wilderness Society, the National Trust and the Victorian National Parks Association was as low-key as the rally was colourful.

Mr Douglas Hill, the National Trust administrator, said wearily: “It’s so difficult for anyone to mount a counter campaign. They’ve got so much great imagery. How can we compete against Akubras and stockwhips? All we can do is show bad news, which is never appealing.” “Yes, it’s theatre,” says the cattlemen’s association executive officer, Mr Graeme Stoney.

“Tom Roper does it every time he steps onto a steam train. Joan Kirner does it every time she kisses a school kid. That’s what the media’s all about these days. All we’re doing is matching them in how they get attention. At least we’re genuine.

“It’s a pity, but what’s best for the land in this debate comes last, after politics and theatre.”

In the afterglow of such a perfect media event, it seems almost churlish to point out that all this drama is over the Government’s proposed termination of 11 summer grazing leases covering 5 per cent of the public land being grazed by the cattle owners at a nominal rent.

The Government is acting on the recommendations of the Land Conservation Council which claims alpine grazing damages the local plant communities and leads to erosion. The cattle farmers reject the claims, saying they manage the land better than the government would and arguing that part of Australia’s cultural heritage would disappear with the termination of the old grazing leases.

But, as Mr Stoney pointed out, yesterday’s event was not so much about facts as about publicity. The hard facts would be debated at length, he said, over the coming year.



9 MARCH 2014

Magorra Park

Mitta Mitta

Contact 02 6072 4263 / 0405 357 164

www.mightymittamuster.com.au

i'd hate to say i told you so

I'd like you to come with me,
I'll take you to the alpine plains up where my family's cattle used to graze
I'd like you to come with me,
I'll show you peaks and outcrops where we used to muster stock in bygone days
I'd like to show you
cattle farming that has never changed in all the time that Europeans have been here
I'd like to share
this land with you and take you on a cattle drive where you would live the life of yesteryear

*But if we let the mountains go
to those who claim to know how to manage land that they have hardly seen -
I'd hate to say I told you so as that would mean that we have
lost the mountains and the bush forever more
I'd hate to say I told you so as that would mean my
grand children will never see the mountains that I saw*

"I have seen the damage",
the politician boasted after he went up to the High Plains for a day
He would have us think
that he has knowledge of the area, and is qualified to have his say
We have seen the photos
of the damage that his entourage did when they ploughed their way through a sphagnum bog
He has claimed,
"That's normal when the 4 wheel drives go through The Alps," and there is nothing he is guilty of

*That's why we cannot let the mountains go
to those who claim to know how to manage land that they have hardly seen and
I'd hate to say I told you so as that would mean that we have
lost the mountains and the bush forever more
I'd hate to say I told you so as that would mean my
grand children will never see the mountains that I saw*

I would like to know why
I'm forced to leave the mountains I have loved and have cared for all my life
I would like to know what
qualifies these city boffins when they claim that cattle damage is running rife
I would like to know when
was the last time they were up on top and have seen the damage they claim has occurred
I would like to know why
the undergrowth is overgrown and why our expertise has been ignored

*Because if we let the mountains go
to those who claim to know how to manage land that they have hardly seen -
I'd hate to say I told you so as that would mean that we have
lost the mountains and the bush forever more
I'd hate to say I told you so as that would mean my
grand children will never see the mountains that I saw*

Lyrics and music © Howard James 2012

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He made his mark : McMillan's Alpine Track 1864

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the track along the alps that was cut to link the Omeo and Jordan goldfields. The work was undertaken by a party commanded by Angus McMillan. The track was re-opened as a walking track in 1986 as a result of many years research by members of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club who located the original track markings. This log was previously published in Gippsland Heritage Journal in 1989.



Alfred Howitt's prospecting party no. 2 camp at Wonangarra 7.12.1860 by Eugene von Guerard. It is reasonable to suggest that McMillan's camp were of a similar configuration. Sate Library of NSW collection.

Arrived at Port Albert on **9th March 1864**, accompanied by Mr Jones, surveyor, two working hands, Cotton and Barry. Had a fine passage of 24 hours. Passengers the judge Mr Birrol, and Crown Prosecutor.

Thursday 10th March Arrived at Sale by coach. Everyone glad to see this unknown forestland of Gippsland was at last to be penetrated into and thankful that I was to be the party that was to receive that honour, being the first European that first broke ground in this far famed land. I would not like another to carry the laurels – thanks to the government that appointed me. I hope they will find me do my duty.

Friday 11th March Left Sale for Stratford where I met my second in command, Mr Short, who was formerly with Mr Howitt. I at once commenced forming my party – purchasing horses, stores, tents, tools etc.

Saturday 12th March Had most of the men in camp.

Monday 14th March Preparing for a start tomorrow.

Tuesday 15th March Had all hands in marching order and on Thursday 17th had the whole party thoroughly equipped fourteen miles from Stratford at the foot of the range that leads to the Crooked River where our work commences.

Friday 18th March Mr Short had the men at work widening the present track to Crooked River.

Saturday 19th March Still employed cutting etc.

Sunday 20th March Arrived at camp having to remain behind purchasing sheep, settling account etc.

Monday 21st March Examined the work done and hearing that there was a great rush to the Crooked River, and likely to be a large population of miners to be there in a few weeks. I determined on clearing a

dray road to that river at once and then machinery can be got to the heart of the Alps. Proceeded on up the Dargo River to find a spur leading from our intended dray road to the low diggings. Discovered a good one about eight miles from Connolly's Inn. This day I found at a miner's hut the skull of a very large bird supposed to be this man's.

Tuesday 22nd March Busy cutting the road. Camped at Peppertree Spring and visited the station to get some beef.

Wednesday 23rd March Bought John, Mrs Wills horse, saddle and bridle and started for camp at 3 p.m. found that the men worked in my absence.

Thursday 24th March Started for the Crooked River to find a better spur from the main range to the river, but the present one the best.

Friday 25th March Told the men this morning that this being Good Friday they might all have a rest and that I was quite pleased with their work yesterday. We are now half mile to the Crooked River. Mr Jones is out examining the country towards Upper Dargo. He and the party start tomorrow to cut the track. Mr Short busy writing. Black Jeremy and Billy, the boy at the Crooked River getting horses shod.
4 p.m. heavy thunder shower with hail.

Saturday 26th March All hands set to clearing the road at 8 a.m. **Rain** all last night. Mr Jones party out clearing the track to the Upper Dargo. 2 p.m. the fat weathers arrived at Camp 77 in number, 80 being the count I bought, 1 killed at the Wannangarra, and two left for beef at (indec.) Three killed at the camp. There are now 74 in the flock. The pack horses arrived with the remainder of the stores from Connolly's. McIntyre and Bolton accompanying the sheep proceeded on to Isaac's shanty where there is better grass.
3 p.m. heavy rain, the road cutters had to stop work, 20 past 5. Mr Jones returned like a drowned rat, encountered fearful scrub, even his forehead is bleeding with the bites of leeches which are always numerous in this altitude in this damp underwood.
Yesterday, Sunday, all hands quiet in camp. Mr Short and two of the men went to the Crooked River. Got up this morning at half past five, he was surprised by a blazing fire on, all hands appeared at 6 a.m. started their work by 7 a.m. Party are now divided, four men to start with Mr

Jones to the Upper Dargo. Four and Black Jeremy to continue to clear the track from Omeo back to the Crooked River. Mr Jones and one of his party out surveying.

3 p.m. Heavy rain, the pack horses arrived from Connolly's and (indec.) with eight horses loaded with flour and other sundries for the expedition. Spent all the loading from mules farther on. Mr Jones returned, reports that three miles of the track to the Crooked River and Omeo is clear.
5 p.m. Mr Short returned, reports that he has found a better spur from the range to the River (indec.) for my journey, all hands in good spirits, removed dray road cutters to camp no. 7 four miles farther where the sheep are now kept. I am sorry to say they are not so good as I expected, one of them that was slaughtered on Saturday only weighed 30 pounds, save me from my friends, I will not trust a highland drover again.

Tuesday March 29th Roused all hands at half past five a.m. Got our packs ready at seven, started the road gang, the horses being at the other camp did not make their appearance until 10 a.m. Started at once, overtook the road party, stopped the packhorses as we could not proceed on our journey, the scrub being so dense. All hands set to work at once and soon cleared a track to get the tread of Good Luck Creek where one miner makes his fortune.
1 p.m. pitched our tents, fine grass for the horses.
2 p.m. Both parties joined and set to work clearing the track. I started with Mr Jones and Black Jeremy to mark the line, found our only route very scrubby, it is the dividing range between Dargo and the Crooked River, found it fearfully scrubby for four miles, had great difficulty in getting through, however with the assistance of Jeremy who was on the range before, the line was marked to clear ground, on our way back I was delighted to find that our party cleared half way through arrived at camp at half past 6 p.m. Had supper and then our pipes cheered us up with a few tunes, all hands in splendid spirits, our party trying to beat the other in pitching tents, cooking, etc. I think Mr Jones has the best party, but mine appear to be proud that they were chosen by the leader and tell the rest that we (indec.) them (indec.) it is a great pleasure to one that they are so anxious to get on with the work and I make it my duty to keep them on the most friendly terms, as a party of explorers should be like one family, look on their leader as a father, and the leader should behave to them as he would to his children.

Wednesday 30th March Up at half past 5 a.m. Roused all hands at 6. Started to clear the track at 7 a.m. and ordered the pack men to (indec.) after, at 11 o'clock, cleared about three miles, came to the Omeo Road within 5 miles from camp, widened and cleared the Omeo Road for three miles.

2 p.m. the packmen should be in camp, but never made their appearance before 4 p.m. too late to start farther. Mr Jones took samples today, we called the only hill on the Dargo Road after little Ewen so I hope he will deserve the honour same day. The Omeo Road is as yet clear of scrub, hope to get to the Dargo tomorrow.

5 p.m. Mr Jones out exploring, our camp is on a nice snowy flat, the water shed is to the (indec.) We are about 7 miles from our camp No. 7 at the bottom of Mt Ewen.

6 p.m. fed the horses with oats as the little grass that there is here is rather sour, distant thunder this evening. Mr Jones returned and found the range we intended to take is rather scrubby.

Thursday 31st March Up at 20 to 6 a.m. Started the men and pack horses at half past 8. Mr Jones and myself marking the bends in the road, rather scrubby and heavy logs to remove, came to Stockyard Creek, a tributary of the Little Dargo, went to the Diving Range between the Crooked and where Mr Jones took sights, had a fine view of Mt McMillan, Kent and Snowy Bluff, came back at noon, sent for the road cutters for dinner at 15 minutes to 2 p.m. Mr Jones and party started to

clear the track to the Upper Dargo. I started on the Omeo, good open forest, well adapted for a summer, plenty of water, came nine miles after dinner and on the head of the Crooked where there is a large spongy flat, a regular snowy country. Hundreds of large trees on the plains, looked up while the men fixing the tents and cooking supper. I walked to a large plain about a mile N.N.W. of camp, which divides the waters of the Crooked River and Dargo. Came back to the camp at half past 9. Mr Jones will have to touch again the Omeo Road as it comes so near the Crooked which he is not to cross. Started one of the men back with the second pack and planted some pea (indec.) at camp No. 2. We intend to get to Dargo early tomorrow, the Omeo Road is very crooked, it goes all points of the compass. I met with two miners from the Upper Dargo, they gave poor account of the diggings there. Mr Jones found 6 specks of gold in the creek where we dined.

9 p.m. Beautiful night, looks as if we would have a frost before morning.

Friday 1st April Left Camp No. 3, near the head of the Crooked River, came to a large snowy plain which divides the Dargo and Crooked River, also the little (indec.) which takes its rise on the East Corner, the Dargo takes rise farther west than Table Top, fearful wild country, marked and cleared the spur down to the river, arrived at the river at noon, had dinner, and while preparing to start for Mr Parslow's Jeremy caught three black



Horse and buggy photographed in the high country c1905.

fish, one of them was the largest I ever saw about 3 pounds weight.

10 mins to 2 p.m. Started with Bill and Jeremy, and two of the men to clear the track on the east side of the river, but found the one on which the present track is, too steep and rocky, that I gave up the idea of clearing it, and sent Burnett and Cotton to examine a spur lower down the river. Proceeded on with Billy and Jeremy after getting on to the Dividing Range between the Victoria and Dargo Rivers. Commenced marking the trees until 5.30 p.m. when we gave up marking about 3 miles from Parslow's where we arrived at 6.30p.m. Distance today 15 miles.

Saturday 2nd April Hearing from Mr Parslow that there was a good spur higher up the river, started Bill back this morning at 8 a.m. to remove the camp according to Mr Parslow's directions. Mr Jeremy accompanied me to Omeo Diggings where we arrived at noon.

Distance 11 and three quarter miles. Marked very ten minutes, being quarter of a mile between each tree – found Mr Howitt P.M. at home from whom I got a tracing of this part of the country and valuable information about the Wannangarra and Wonangatta country – we both agree about the route to be taken to the Jordan. He tells me that the miners are doing well, there are about 250 Europeans and 350 Chinese at work. Two drays arrived with 2 ton each, arriving while I was there. Started back at half past 3 and arrived here at half past 6 p.m. – Met the butcher from Upper Dargo who informs me that there are about 150 miners working there still. Mr Parslow starts with me to the camp tomorrow, a dray road can be got from here to the Omeo Diggings, and from here to the Dargo Ranges and from the south side of the Dargo all the way to the Crooked River Road, it is quite level country. When the road is cleared wider, a dray would take two tons all the way from Pepper Tree Range, Mt Ewen being the only hill which rises gradually. It is called after my elder son. I hope he will deserve the honour, his father's monument can be seen from it. I hope poor fellow he will not have so many ups and downs in this cruel world as his papa has had. I am rather sleepy after my day's work, so I must retire. Wrote assistant commissioner of Roads and Bridges today – wish him to place some more money at my command, also wrote Mrs McMillan it has been a delightful day – 10 p.m. all in bed. The native dingo is very bold here – 10 p.m. Beautiful night.

Yesterday, Sunday, I consider it is the work of necessity to take advantage of Mr Parslow's kind offer to show me the best spur that leads from

the Dargo Range to the east of the beautiful river –we started from his place at 11 a.m. and I must acknowledge that Mr Parslow is one of the best bushmen I have known, with the exception of my good friend Albert Brodribb – Peace to his ashes, for neither fire nor water could stop him – he died of disease of the lungs on the way home to Europe.

at 1 p.m. found Mr Parslow's spur, it is the best I have seen to the east of Dargo. Mr Parslow returned after dinner, and I at once walked up a spur on the west side of the Dargo, found it fearfully scrubby, and on my way back took another spur higher up the river on which I could drive a carriage all the way to the Crooked River dray road, and on the East side all the way to Omeo, and from thence to Sale – so much for old bushmen. Today started the men to clear Parslow's Range at 7 a.m., went to find my friend Jones' whereabouts knowing that he would have to head for the Crooked River which takes its rise near the Dargo. I made for the Snowy Plains at the heads and the Dividing Range became so narrow while walking over it last Saturday that the only place where we could get grass for his horses was on the east side of the Dividing Range, found my way along to a good spot where he had pitched his tent. Dean and Neilson were quite astonished to see me. Mr Jones made his appearance at 11 a.m. and I kindly thanked him for his behaviour on this occasion. It is very lucky that I have such a clever young man in the party. His map of this part of the country cannot be disputed by all the government surveyors, for there was not one of them broke the soil where I am at this moment within a couple of miles of Mt Feathertop which is 10 miles out on the government's map. Mr Jones has acted wisely in clearing the Upper Dargo track to the one that leads to Harrierville.

Tuesday 5th April 7 a.m. went to meet Mr Jones and party and met them at the range that I intended to clear the track on to the river. Left the party at work. At 11 a.m. came to the camp, my own party at the same clearing the track on the east side of the Dargo River – Had dinner and started with Mr Jones, Deans leading a pack horse, overtook the clearing party about 5 miles from 7. They did their work well as they had to clear the track wide enough for a dray. Arrived at Mr Parslow's at 5 p.m., the track clearers made their appearance at 7 p.m. after clearing the road within five miles of this place.

Wednesday 6th April Horses lost, rainy morning, then men at work making the track.



2 p.m. the rain stopped work.

4 p.m. the rain ceaseless. Ordered the men to remove the tent two miles further back. Mr Jones and self went to mark trees on the main line – learnt that there is an iron mine yielding 90 within 8 miles of this place, he could not spare time to go and there is (indec.) to (indec.) but promised to send us a specimen.

7 p.m. Bean has not returned from Omeo.

Thursday 7th April 6 a.m. Fine morning, find Mr Jeremy has seen a horse. Found at 10 a.m. With great trouble got Jeremy to start but he did not go far until he dismounted and there was no rousing him. I went back again with his horse and one of Parslow's men where he lay – overtook the man at 2 p.m. had some trouble in packing the horses, finished clearing the dray road to Dargo at 6 p.m. found Jones Party in camp. They report that it is impossible to get a track up the river. 7 p.m. Bean made his appearance leading Jeremy's nag. After giving him a lecture for his conduct made him track back with three more of the men to the spot where he left him. The night became very dark, we made a lantern of a gin bottle. The (indec.) Mr Leach and myself remained at the crossing place where we kindled a large fire that may be a guide to the men

whenever the signal was given that Jeremy was found. The piper played up. All arrived safe back at camp at 9 p.m. A glass of Parslow's brandy cheered them up.

Friday 8th April All hand up at 6 a.m., cloudy and hazy morning, started all hands and told them there was no more work to the eastwards and came to the camp and dined at 2 p.m. Came to Mr Jones posts found he put no marks for travellers to find their way, he might as well build castles in the air as put up posts without showing where they were from. Raining all day – came to Stockyard Flat, where we camped.

Saturday 9th April Rainy morning, all hands up at 6 a.m. 8 a.m. Mr Jones went back on the horse "Whalebones" to finish his route to the Upper Dargo. I was quite glad to see him join the party yesterday for with such cloudy weather he could see no distance and in fact sometimes I could not distinguish an object 20 yards before, and we as leaders and old bushmen ought to do our best to prevent travellers losing their way, that cannot now be done. My party were as anxious as myself to make this road as in the snow storm they mark the trees on the Dividing Range at least 4 feet from each other.

5 p.m. arrived at home, found Mrs McMillan and family well.

Monday 11th April Yesterday left home accompanied by Mr McAlister. Called at camp found that party had moved 6 miles down the river, had to stop at Mr Croft's the storekeepers and then travelled down to where Mr Short and Mr Jones were.

Tuesday 12th April Remained in camp. Some of the men found quartz reef which appears to be very rich – caused great sensation – most of the men leaving. I discharged four of them today.

Wednesday 13th April Only five of the men remain – hired eight more to replace the men that left. Mr Jones and party went to clear a track from Crooked River to Wonangatta River and from there to the Moroca (*sic*) I accompanied Mr Short to Eaglevale.

Thursday 14th April Mr Short's party arrived at Eaglevale, found still standing.

Friday 15th April Got the things across to the men out clearing. I rode up the river but could not get a good spur.

Saturday 16th April Left Eaglevale to join Mr Jones Party accompanied by Jeremy. Left instructions with Mr Short to proceed at once to the Moroca River and cut the sidelines on my former tracks, at the Crooked River I found Cook the packman idling his time, started back to Eaglevale at once. Found Mr Cross had used 70 pounds of our flour with [out] Mr Short's orders, told his wife, he being away from home, that it must be returned – in 2 days. Arrived at Mr Jones camp only 5 miles from the Crooked River on route to the Wannangatta. I was much displeased he having camped in a most wretched place, no feed for horses and no flat place to pitch tents.

Monday 18th April Yesterday, Sunday, considered it the work of necessity to shift camp. Went about two miles and found a good camping place, plenty of grass and water – this day I found to my great annoyance that the party was out of beef, arrived at the river (distance 9 miles) at 2 p.m.

3 p.m. Started for Eaglevale down the river ten miles to our Eaglevale Track. Mr Jones accompanied me down for 4 miles, pointed the spur that he would clear a track on to the Wannangatta, got to Eaglevale.


About 8 p.m., the party removed higher up the river, but like (indec.) left not notice – had some tea, biscuit and cheese, the gift of dear Dina with the intention of starting after the party and got two sheep killed to enable us to make an early start. In the morning, however, the moon got so clouded that we could not see the marked trees, got a good fire and turned horses out, had neither bushy beds nor blankets.

Tuesday 19th April 3 a.m. a beautiful morning, could not find Jeremy's horse.

7 a.m. Mr Jeremy on "Murphy" looking for his horse.

9 a.m. no appearance of Jeremy. Skinned a sheep's head left by the party yesterday to cook it for breakfast when Jeremy made his appearance with the strayed horse. Started at 10 a.m. and found the party hard at work clearing a dray road where no dray could be got to that valley, they were only four miles from the hut. Good two days work when there was no occasion to cut one tree or shrub. Got very angry and heated, then men before I had breakfast had a mile marked. Mr Short and Mr McIntyre out exploring and the men no knowing where to go. I showed them my old

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marks. I told them to stick to that track all the way to Moroca before now. Started at half past twelve noon with 80 pounds of mutton accompanied by Jeremy and Pay, found the spur very rocky which detained us, having to clear stones and rocks before we could venture with our horses. Succeeded in getting to the falls and the Wannangatta about 6 p.m. tried to get a spur, but got into a fearful gully, tried to cut our way out of it in the dark, but at last had to give in. No feed for horses and the range too steep could not lie down and found the black boy lost all water out of the canteen. Had some grilled mutton and biscuits for supper and half pint of water which was left in one of the canteens.

Wednesday 20th April Started at day light – cut a track to the range and marked out yesterday's as the best. Found a spring of water within a few hundred yards of where we camped. Got to Mr Jones camp and found to my great astonishment that he was cutting up the wrong spur. Fired some shots to bring the men back, they soon made their appearance as they were longing for the Fleshpots. It seems Jeremy

pointed out the spur and only found his mistake when he came over the only passable one between the rivers. They were all very surprised when I stopped the work and ordered the camp to be removed down to the river at once, and fixed it at the spur. Jeremy shot two water goanna, got them both salted. They feed on flies.

Thursday 21st April Started from Mr Short's Camp to (another hand with me) clear stones and rocks on the range, arrived at camp at 7 p.m. found that Mr Short had made little progress.

Friday 22nd April Found that the men were employed by Mr Short to clear the track to the Upper Moroca by the river flat where I once marked a line. I found it would never do to cross the stream so often, and marked a line of the east side.

Saturday 23rd April Started up the Moroca with the sheep and one pack horse, the men busy cutting the side line. Arrived at a beautiful spot about 5 p.m. Marked the remainder of the track and fixed an arm on the spur to get to the Snowy Plains.

Monday 25th April Started with Jermy to examine the spur 1t 10 a.m. we encountered a snow storm. Poor Jeremy got quite a fright and got so cold that he could not mark the trees – we took shelter in a hollow tree.

12 noon still snowing and blowing a gale of wind. Had to go back again as all our marks were filling up with snow. Beautiful clear day in the valley which I named Glenmae (the glorious orb that makes the day was brightly shining). After dinner started up another spur and found it a better one than the former one, but still snowing on the Dividing Range, between the waters of the Macalister and the Moroca. In consequence of the snow I made up my mind to make a push for Glenmaggie at the head of the Macalister. Mr Short called yesterday.

Tuesday 26th April Picked three of the smartest men with two pack horses and camped about from the camp. Jeremy went back for his tobacco which he had left behind.

Wednesday 27th April Jeremy did not make his appearance that night so started from the main camp, met him on my way and got another pack horse to carry oats as I suspect the snow is rather deep, and no grass for the horses. Overtook my small party near the top of the hill where we dined. Mr Jones and George overtook us there, found I was then on the Dividing Range I took on my way home from the snow plains 16 years ago. Camped, made our tea of snow water. Distance today 7 miles.

Thursday 28th April Snow water again to break, got onto a high and rocky hill which I named after my friend Dr Arbuckle, he being one of the oldest settlers in the district. Camped on the snowy plain, one of the tributaries of the McAlister. Jeremy found a spring that sprouted out of a hole in solid rock – poor Jeremy was quite alarmed – distance today 6 miles ahead.

Friday 29th April

Saturday 30th April Started George and Ryan to meet the sheep. Crawford with three pack horses. About 8 a.m. Jeremy and myself started on an exploring expedition. About 9 a.m. we found that there was a better route than the one that we took, the day being clear I got a peep at some of my old friends. We made a splendid rout of it to our Friday Camp where we got before McLeod arrived with provisions.

Monday 2nd May Yesterday, Sunday, the sheep and four packhorses arrived in camp, and thought it necessary to get the tings as quick as possible out to the snowy regions. Mr Jones and two men started at half past 8 a.m., to put up posts on the plains as a guide for traveller. Mr Short with Cook, the packman and Barry, the cook still behind. I started with Jeremy and three men to clear a track on the spur fixed upon yesterday; from which spur I could see the tents at the head of the Jordan – distance of about 20 miles. Found the range fearfully rocky and only got to the little river about 7 p.m., very little feed on the flats.

Tuesday 3rd May 9 a.m. Started to clear the track of rocks as we were too late last night. 2 p.m. while clearing and breaking rocks on the last piece, Mr Short and Mr Jones and party made their appearance. All the horses and sheep are now in camp near Mount Tabbaretta. This party consists of seven working men, Mr Cotton, Barry, Ryan, McLeod, Byers on Buff, George the Blacksmith, Crawford the packman, Cook the packman, and behind George Mr McIntyre, and Bolton with sheep, Jeremy, Raymond, aborigine, Mr Short and Mr Jones. Half past 5 p.m. Four tents pitched.

Wednesday 4th May All hands ordered to wash their clothes and have a days spell – Jeremy having arrived in camp with biscuits and tea, viz half chest tea and 4 cwt discuits, also 200 pounds of flour. We have a good commissioner now. 2 p.m. started, accompanied by Jeremy to examine the Tabbarittas Range. Could find no good leading spur with out crossing the river twice – they are all too steep and rocky, we then followed the little river on Wellington down to the McAlister – distance 8 miles – had to cross it 14 times as the range comes in so abruptly – arrived back at camp about half past nine p.m. – rather a difficult and dangerous journey yet Providence was kind to us in bringing us safe out of so many breakneck places.

Thursday 5th May Two of the men discharged at the Moroca overtook us yesterday – they have joined the party again, as there is now plenty our horses are getting fatter. Started six of them with the stores round the range by the Wellington and McAlister Rivers to join us again on Tabarratas Flats on the west bank of the McAlister River. Jeremy accompanied them with his load. I with Jeremy and four of the men marking and clearing. Mr Short went with the Packman and Jones busy mapping. We discovered a good spur today.



As the roads climbed higher, the views became more impressive.

Jeremy and myself arrived at camp at 3 p.m. Quite pleased at finding such a good spur in such rocky and broken country. The men were left clearing a track to the Range. Fine day, but rather cloudy, Mr Jones, who went to examine the creek that ran near, as he disputed with me, that we camped on it near the snowy plains, having a few sharp words with him in the morning. I was quite glad to find that he was sorry for his remarks.

Friday 6th May Started with three packs, also Jeremy's horse carried my bulyon bag with 15 pounds of flour and his own swag – cleared tracks on the range, and made the McAlister River at 1 p.m. got the sheep and horses across a half past one p.m. and camped at the head of it, a large number of wild cattle were seen today, I am now ahead of Mr Short's party again.

3 p.m. Mr Short arrived all safe – he had to cross the Wellington 14 times and the McAlister 23 times – he travelled for 2 days 18 miles from the Wellington Camp, and by getting this lucky spur yesterday I with my party got to the present camp in 5 hours, the distance from river to river is only four and a half miles.

5 p.m. The men are trying their luck while I am happy to say I found a range. By taking it in the morning will enable me to proceed on my route without crossing the river again, as I do not consider

it advisable, if possible, to cross the large streams twice, as travellers, in consequence of the rocky ranges, parties might be detained near the bend and could not get backwards or forwards. Mr Bennison's stockman came over to our camp this evening. Mr Bennison's station is 8 miles lower down the river, near what he called "McMillan's coming" – where we camped 16 years ago. These were happy days, but thanks to the Giver of all good and perfect gifts I am now contented with my lot, for he gives strength according to my burden.

I met a lot of wild cattle today while trying to get up the river without it, among them was an old bull at the perpendicular rocky spur. He was making for the river as he and his mob could not get any higher up, the old warrior at once disputed the crossing place with me, and my horse, "Pioneer", not fancying – he shook his head and pointed his moss covered horns at him, very soon showed the white feathers, when at once the old mountaineer rushed to the very spot where my horse was standing, and soon plunged into the river.

9 p.m. The men that were fishing came back – caught eight eels and eleven blackfish.

Saturday 7th May Started with two men and Jeremy to mark the lines – took up the spur fixed



A lunch stop on the Hotham road. By now the roads had become somewhat smoother to accommodate motor vehicles but they still remained one lane (and a dining table!) wide.

upon yesterday – it is rather steep, but wide enough to track. Came in to Glenfollick's (*sic*) Flat then proceeded to west until 1 p.m. when we put up signal fires for Mr Short. Mr Jones and party with pack horses.

2 p.m. All in camp on the Barkly at the bottom of Barkly Range. Cook the packman went back with three packhorses for 400 pounds of biscuits and some tea left behind by Mr Short, as Jeremy had to go back to Stratford. Saw scores of wild cattle today. 3 p.m. Came to Porter's Tracks – about one mile from our camp on the Barkly. It takes up our intended spur.

5 p.m. Drove all our horses back for better grass – the remainder of the sheep are safe, there are now 28 of them – two of them have got the disease now prevalent among stock. All hands are well and are expressing themselves sorry to be so near the end of their journey. One of the men expresses that the expedition was more it a rule to camp on a nice spot and a most excellent cook to attend to our needs.

Monday 9th May Yesterday, Sunday, went to the top of the range to Porter's Track. Cook arrived with the biscuits, accompanied by Mr Bennison's stockman, Billy.

9 a.m. Mr Jones and three men started to clear the track – the rest of the men employed making a bridge to cross the sheep.

11 a.m. Got the sheep safely across, 4 pack horses, 10 drays of provisions, 3 tents and all our swags. The top and sides of the range very scrubby – left Porter's Track and camped on a flat one mile from the top of the range.

Tuesday 10th May Started Mr Jones and party at 8 a.m. I walked and allowed each party equal distance to clear. Then I walked on further and fortunately found a tolerable camping place, then examined the range further on. I find that the scrub is so dense that one party can only clear two miles a day.

Half past 3. Pack horses and other horses and sheep arrived safe.

5 p.m. Rather cold.

Wednesday 11th May The sheep got out of the pen last night – made most of the men search until 5 a.m. They, it seems, made for the sound of bells, as they were found with the horses in the morning. I account for this audacity as the poor animals are in the habit of travelling after the

pack horses during the day. Ordered the party to work on the same plan as yesterday. I started with Jeremy and Mathieson to mark the line to the Jordan.

11. a.m. Our cook, Mr Short and party found that Mr Jones' party missed the marked line – found that Porter's Track is so crooked that I gave directions to cut off the bends – then proceeded on our journey and camped on a large stream 5 miles from our camp. It runs well here, if it is a branch of the Thompson it must take a large bend again to the south.

Thursday 12th May 7 a.m. Found we took no plates with us for porridge. Jeremy got us bark plates for the porridge. Morning cold and raining. Continued on Porter's Track – found the stream crossed yesterday is the main branch of the Gouldburn (*sic*) it takes its rise within 15 miles of Mt Useful – 16 miles further on came another branch of the Goulburn, within 3 miles of the Dividing Range. We crossed the other branch yesterday within 5 miles of the same range – had dinner about 1 p.m.

3 p.m. The weather cleared up, we then got a view of the township of Edwards Hills.

4 p.m. Camped on the Bald Hill – 5 miles from the Jordan – blowing a regular gale of wind – tents were blown down twice – good grass for horses.

Friday 13th May Started for Edwards Hills for oats. The party brought three bushels at two pound a bushel. Had dinner and started for the Jordan, arrived there at 5 p.m. – arranged with the Bank of Victoria to cash my cheques. Jeremy got so drunk I could not get him away.

Saturday 14th May Wrote to Mr Grant, Dr Arbuckle, Mrs McMillan and the Editor of the 'Argus', left at 2 p.m. but could not manage to get Jeremy away to camp – found that the pack horse left to meet the party was seen on the road without a driver. Proceeded and met Mathieson, who had charge of him. He told me that he broke out of the stable and he could not find him. He was seen at our old camp. I proceeded there and found him alright. Stopped the night, expecting the party to make their appearance.

Monday 16th May Stopped all Sunday in a nice bark hut belonging to a young man from Southerland. Short and two of the party made their appearance, left the remainder of the party 5 miles back at the creek. We dined as on Thursday – slow as usual.

2 p.m. the party with packhorses and sheep arrived safe. Mr Short, Mr Jones and Crawford

started with me to Edwards Hills. Got some bread and sugar, returned to camp at 7 p.m. Mr Short went back again to a shanty 2 miles from camp – five of the men are with him.

Tuesday 17th May Two of the men came back. 3 p.m. Mr Jones left for Woods Point. Mr Short still minus tent – two men track for him. I am now in the camp with only one man.

Wednesday 18th May Cleared and marked the road to the Jordan and came back to camp.

Thursday 19th May Horses too weak to start back.

Friday 20th May Still in camp.

Saturday 21st May Started all hands back, waited for Black Jeremy.

Monday 23rd May Not able to follow the men, being attacked with rheumatism. Had to remain in the camp.

Tuesday 24th May Still unable to move.

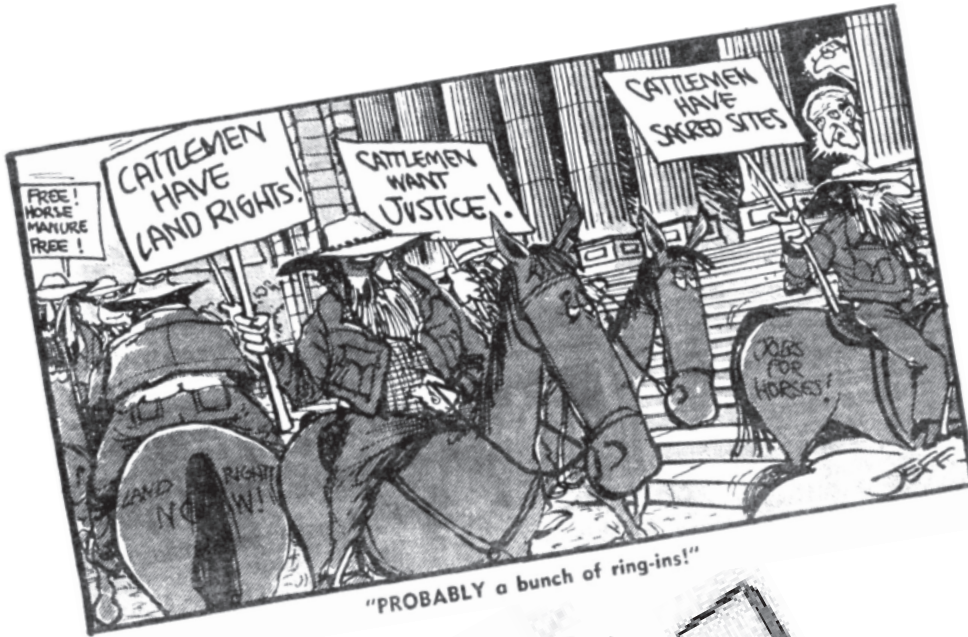
Wednesday 25th May Still confined to the hut. Could not leave until Friday 3rd June, when I started with then men to Scotts. Arrived in camp on Sunday 5th June, suffered fearfully on the road.

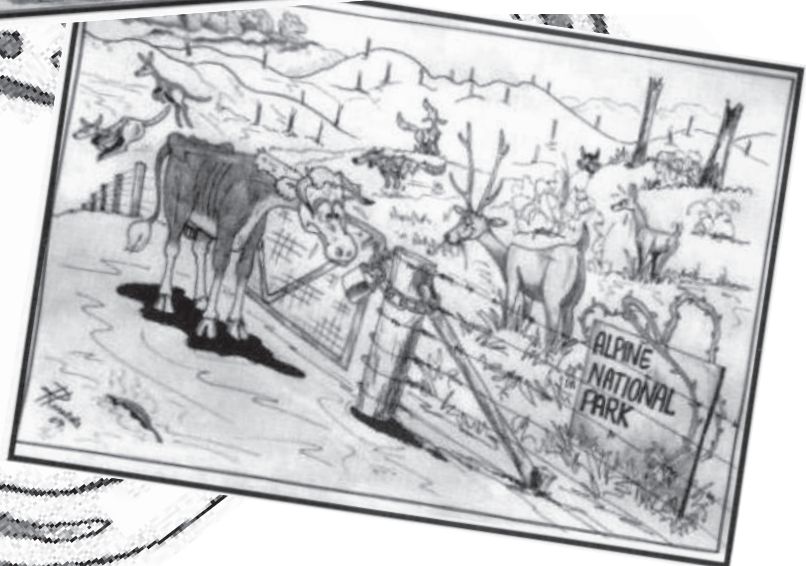
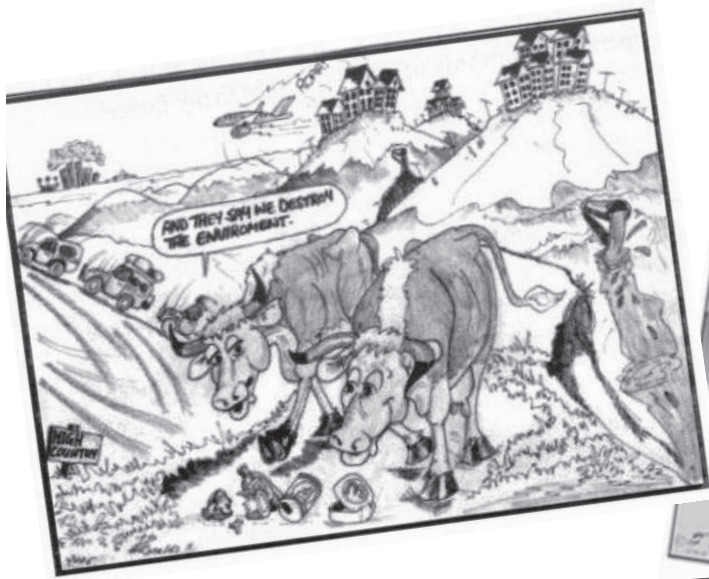
Due to the discovery of the gold at the Pioneer McMillan found it difficult to engage new hands and many of the men had deserted the track cutting for gold exploring. Nevertheless McMillan continued as best he could with reduced manpower and another 220 miles were cut in the next twelve months.

Early the following year his health deteriorated and combined with other difficulties, what remained of the party disbanded in May 1865. McMillan continued on his own to blaze a trail from Dargo to the Moroka River. It was at this time that a packhorse fell and rolled on him causing severe injuries. Seeking help, he reached Gilleo's Hotel at Iguana Creek on 18 May where he died just hours later.

It would be funny if it wasn't so serious

Over the years the cattlemen have been the subject of much political comment in both the written word and in editorial cartoons. Some are for us - and some are against us.





the high country

Here in Licola, we're in the High Country.
As you can see there are quite a few trees.
It's a little bit dusty and hot,
but at least there's no flies to bother me.



I'm looking forward to seeing the horses racing,
the dogs jumping and the whip cracking.
I think I'll also go to the kids disco tonight,
follow that up with the Sunny Cowgirls, I just can't wait!

In my opinion the Cattlemen's Get Together is the best weekend ever!!!

*Courtney Canavan - 9yo
Winner of the Laurence Webb Junior Award 2013*

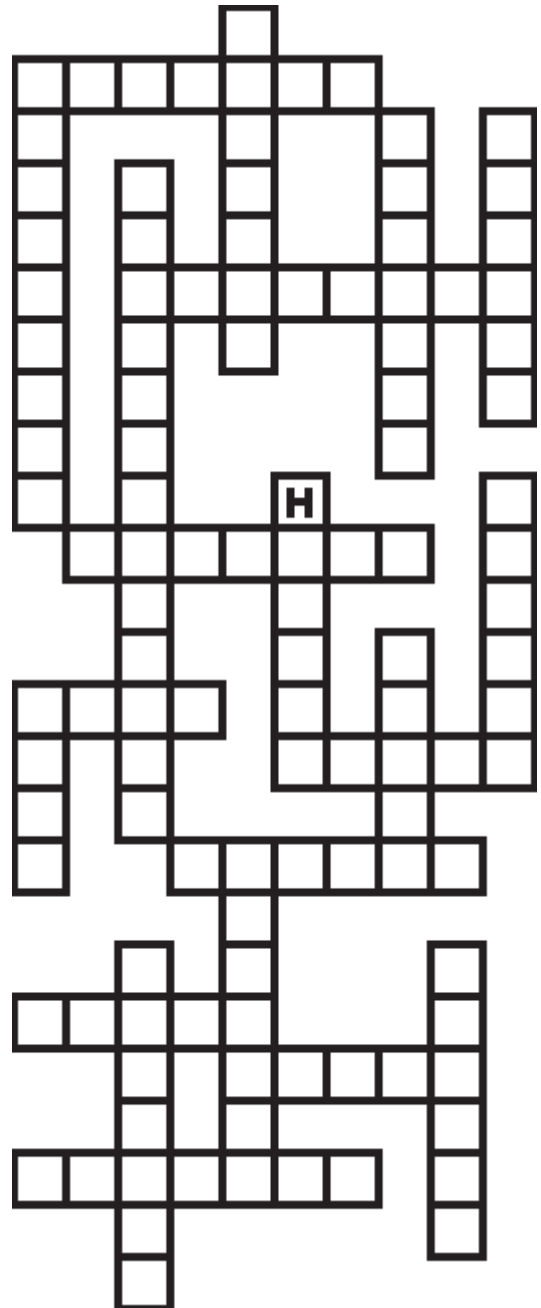


All the underlined words fit in this grid. Can you work out which word goes where?

We've put in the first letter to help you get started. Good luck !!!

Some famous people in history have managed to alter its course. That's part of the story but some of the glory belongs without doubt, to the horse. There once was a battle, cleverly won when a gift was misunderstood. That cunning ploy in the city of Troy was a horse, made out of wood. In ancient Rome, men became heroes by winning chariot races. Their skills were fine but they crossed the line with horses, pulling the traces. Back in the days of dragons and knights, kings rode off to war. At times of course, they needed a horse, to offer their kingdom for. Across the plains of the high country, cattlemen legends abound. Would there be such talk if they'd all had to walk. Because no horse could be found? In present times it can still be said,

a horse is a good companion. No matter where, you'll find it there, whether mountain, valley or canyon. Take it from me, it's widely known. From the North Pole to the South; "The trusty steed is a noble breed" and that's straight from the horse's mouth.



Wordsearch

H B O G O N G Y E N O T S C O B U N G R A G S E P
N A M E L O C Z M S N I A L P A M G E P K N N W A
V R Z V A C M Q A P N M B N Y E L R U H X I I A R
R B O I F S D R A Y P E E H S L A R E F P L M M M
E U J C F K E R I F H S U B U L C K H L D R M E B
D K H T U B B R I G H T Y F L E N W A E P I O R U
Y A B I B M X R B Z K A H Y L E R O R C G T C R C
R L Y O A Y E C Y C A T T L E M E N O X C S H I H
T V C N L V R R A A I B R B A E E N N O W E J J A
E S E I I O E M O A R B O S Q S N A U U R O G I N
O B M R O B R D F P E N W N S L H N L I D K N G O
P A C K H O R S E N E A S W E I T G T I Y O I S T
F E E R C O A C N D G R D Y N R U A U L D L T M S
Z D T C V K F I E S A E L N Y L G T S E H C L G E
O R M I R C S E N V I R O N M E N T L G C O A I W
M H N A R O H N A Y R M G E N E R A T I O N S B B
U G P O N T L T S T U H R O S K C I H S L S R B L
S U B M I S S I O N H A R R I E T V I L L E E O U
T D I T A E F F J T N E M N R E V O G A A R G L F
E Z W H T V D I M G M O R O K A A V G T F V O P F
R K K O N I E C E P O L I T I C S F I I N A R W L
L Y R W U L W D W L H A G N O W A T N O E T U D O
H P H Q O V R O E L D D A S O P M R S N L I A N R
W I V U M F I G H T R E A S U R E H T E G O T N A
P P K A K C I V O L U H Z T R A D I T I O N R W O

100 words to find

Akubra	Coleman	Fight	Kneebone	Politics	Swag
Alpine	Commins	Flora	Lease	Protest	Tawonga
Benambra	Connley	Generations	Legislation	Purcell	Together
Bennison Plain	Conservation	Gibbo	Livestock	Rally	Track
Billy	Country	Glenfalloch	Lovick	Rogers	Tradition
Bluff	Crooked River	Goldsworthy	Mansfield	Roper	Treasure
Bogong	Dargo	Government	MCAV	Ryan	Weston
Bright	Dog	Harrierville	McCormack	Ryder	Whip
Buchan	Drizabone	Heritage	Merrijig	Saddle	Wilderness
Buffalo	Droving	Hicks	Moroka	Salting	Wonnangatta
Bushfire	Environment	Higgins	Mountain	Scientific	Wulgulmerang
Caledonia	Eviction	Hinnomunjie	Muster	Sheepyard	Yards
Campfire	Faithfull	Horse	Omeo	Snow	Yarns
Cattle	Family	Howitt	Packhorse	Stirling	
Cattlemen	Fauna	Howqua	Park	Stock	
Cobberas	Feathertop	Hurley	Plains	Stoney	
Cobungra	Feral	Huts	Poetry	Submission	

How many words?

N	T	C
L	E	T
A	M	E

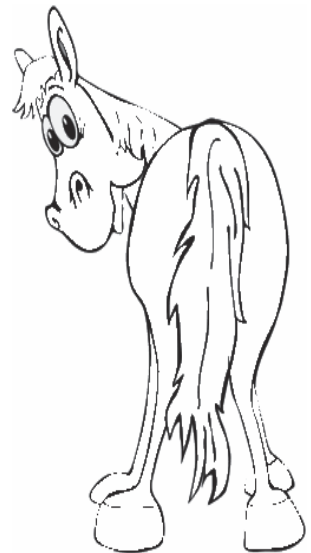
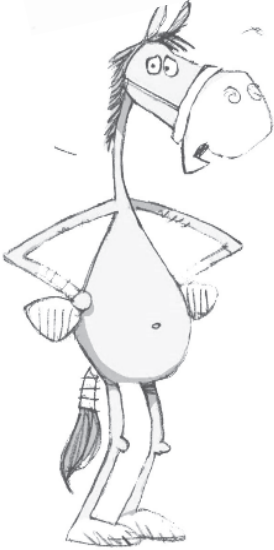
How many words can you find by using any of these nine letters? Words must have three letters or more and there is one nine letter word to be found. No names, abbreviations or foreign language.

- 20 Is that all?
- 40 That's better, good
- 65 Excellent
- 85 Budding genius

Spot the Difference

Can you find twelve things that are different in these two photos?

You want
to do
WHAT?!



Their names are etched on the landscape

There are many landmarks and features of the High Plains that carry the names of the High Country families. So that Voice of the Mountains readers can learn more about the families and places we will be printing a series of "place name" histories.



Doug Treasure and party with Mt Eadley Stoney in the background.

MT EADLEY STONEY

A high point on the Bluff range

The Bluff Hut sits in a low saddle on the Bluff range. Rearing up to the sky behind the hut is Mt Eadley Stoney (1662 m). The hut was built by mountain cattleman Eadley Stoney and other cattlemen in 1956; packing in everything by horse. Four years later a four wheel drive track was pushed up the steep and dangerous Bluff escarpment to the hut by Pat Kelly (Forests Commission).

Eadley grazed cattle on the Bluff range and King Billy from the early 1940s.

He first drove them from the family farm at Darlingford, often on his own, and later from Minto Park near Mansfield, after the property at Darlingford was drowned in the rising waters of Eildon Weir. His mustering camp, which he shared with another cattleman, Jack Ware in the early days, was nestled away from the weather, on a small green flat near a spring. Towering over the camp was the mountain now known as Mt Eadley Stoney.

Eadley was well known for having a self-deprecating sense of humour and being a keen judge of stock. Herefords were his breed of choice for the mountain run. He was a very hard worker and was very attached to the farm, as



Eadley, on "Woldy" moving stock from Darlingford in 1949 and Eadley (left) with Frank Johnson (right), packhorse and dog.

was his wife Flora. They loved nothing more than improving the land and their stock.

Eadley was a foundation member of the MCAV, a Mansfield Shire Councillor and strong community man.

Some years after Eadley died in 1972, the Mansfield Shire Council applied to the place names committee to have the mountain named for Eadley in recognition of his contribution to the Mansfield community and the mountains.

Graeme Stoney

(see also the Minutes on page 11 where it is recorded that the Mansfield Branch moved a motion at the first meeting after Eadley died to approach the M.D.C.A.V. (as it was then known) with a view to having the mountain named. *ed.*)



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Jan Traynor - 0413 330 859

Tawonga Hut



A pleasure trip to the plains visiting Tawonga Hut c1945 that included (from left): Unknown male, Jim Payne, Fred Damm, Tom Briggs, Tom McAlexander, Dorothy Ryder, Mavis Sealy, Miss Ostberg, Miss Riley, Lorna Ryder, hat of an unknown male at back, Walter Ryder, Ben Cooper, George Higginson and Harry Trimble. Miss Ostberg, was a regular visitor to the Ryder home and both she and Miss Riley were school teachers. Miss Riley later marrying locally. Photographer unknown.

While in the photo below the group are “drying out” at Tawonga. Photographer: W. Howieson.





Leslie George Kellow

19 October 1920 – 15 September 2013

*Son of William and Isabella Kellow,
brother of Molly, Ann, John, Josephine,
Margaret, Thomas, Laurie, Essie,
Maudie and James (all dec).*



Les riding Nimrod at the Omeo Show c1965

Born in Bairnsdale on the 19th October 1920 Les, better known as Kella, started work at the age of fourteen with W.H. Turner at Bengworden (...“the worst bugger I ever worked for”). Then in 1938 at the age of eighteen he moved to Tongio Station to work for Johnstons trapping rabbits, breaking horses and general farm labouring. In 1939 after devastating

bushfires swept through the district burning all pastures, Les and his older brother Jack, took 2200 sheep to Johnstons Run on the Bogong High Plains where there was ample feed to sustain them until snow started to fall in the April of that year.

Les continued to work for Johnstons until they sold Tongio Station in 1951. After a short time in Bairnsdale he returned to Swifts Creek in October 1953 to work for Mabel Johnston after the death of her husband Ron. From this day forward Les always called Swifts Creek home.

In 1959 Les joined the Lands Department controlling wombats as they were in plague proportions and causing extensive damage to rabbit and dingo proof fences. In 1966 Les started at “Woodlands” for Blake Hollonds and continued there trapping rabbits and general farm duties until 1975. Following his time with Hollonds, Les moved to “Negoura” with the O’Brien family, continuing as a stockman and labourer.

After his time at Negoura, Les joined the Forests Commission and remained there until compulsory retirement age of 65 in 1985.

Les however was not the retiring type and continued as a casual farmhand for those requiring his services. He was always on time, never late. “*What time will we start Les?*” we would enquire, “*About five*”, would be his reply, but you knew that at 4 am, that rattly old Toyota and trailer would roar up the drive, dogs barking and horse shoes clanging on the trailer floor. Then the dark silence would resume, and you knew Les was ready, nothing else needed to be said, it was time to get going!

Les always had a close association with the mountains starting from those early days on Bogong with Johnstons right through into his eighties still riding and taking cattle to Nunniong with Murphys and Turners.

Catching brumbies was one of his favourite pasttimes, and in the mid 70s when cattle weren't worth a lot, catching brumbies helped supplement his income. He also enjoyed fishing a quiet remote mountain stream for that elusive big one.

Les was a very competent stockman and was always in demand with his dogs, horse and his local knowledge of the region. His affinity with horses extended beyond work to the show ring where Les successfully competed all over Gippsland bringing home many ribbons and trophies.

Les was a wonderful person and respected by all those that knew him, and will be sadly missed, but never forgotten.

Contributed by Simon Turner



Tom Johnson, Simon Turner and Harry Ryder with Les Kellow outside the new, Johnstons Hut, Bogong High Plains, December 2012.



Les riding Cyclone at Buchan

Ian Roberts Roper

28 April 1936 - 28 October 2013

Passed away peacefully in Geelong on Monday (28 October 2013). Loved husband of Belinda and loved father of Peter and Andrew. Fondly known as Popsie by Posy, Fred and Edwina; Annabelle, Penny and Lucy.

Ruth Irene Lack

26 June 2013
88 years

Ruth Irene, of Wandiligong, passed away peacefully at Barwidgee Lodge, Myrtleford, on June 26, 2013 - aged 88 years. Dearly loved by all her family and friends. Partner of Carl Fletcher (dec.).

Ruth's funeral took place at the All Saints Anglican Church, Church St, Bright, on Friday (July 5, 2013) at 1.30 p. m. The Funeral then proceeded to the Bright Cemetery.

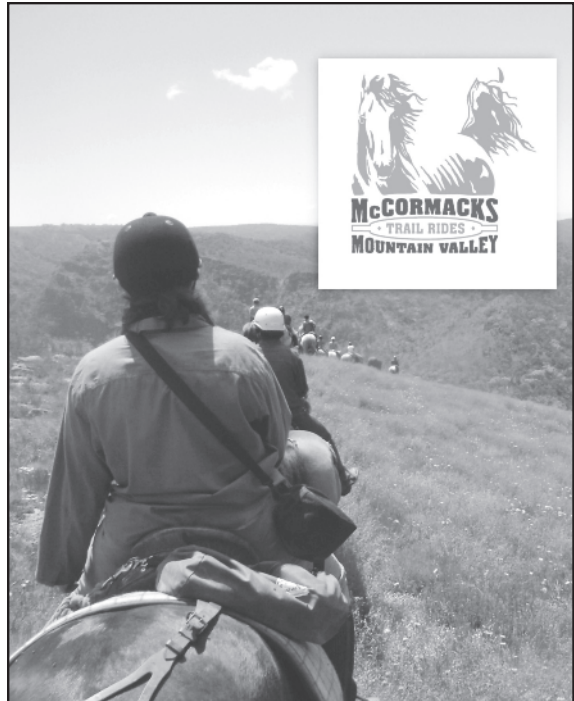
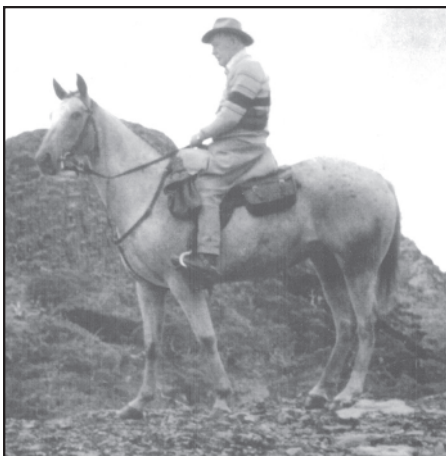


Drury Ernest "Dru" Mackieson

1 October 1922 - 4 February 2013

Dru Mackieson's family name is synonymous with the Buchan district. He was born in Bairnsdale to Ernest and Mary Mackieson and spent his life on the land. In the mid 1940s he married Shirley Perkins and they had four children - Carey, Fiona, Meridith and Gillian. Sadly for the family, the two youngest girls died in childhood.

Dru was not a member of the Association but he was, however, a strong advocate of the cultural rights of the mountain cattlemen and staunchly supported their rights to anyone brave enough to challenge him on them. He loved nothing better than to escape into the high country beyond Buchan on one of his trusted horses. His horses were there at the end when he was buried at the Buchan Cemetery.



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when the cows are coming down



You may have met her on the track,
shared her welcome smile, not a frown,
in her beloved hills past Buttercup,
when the cows were coming down.

She didn't ride a prancing steed,
wore no velvet robe or satin gown,
but walked, in her oilskin hat and coat,
when the cows were coming down.

Through the dogwood, gums and wattle,
with faithful Jess, the kelpie brown,
she kept the stragglers in the mob,
when the cows were coming down.

A unique link in our heritage,
like those of history renown,
her memory now etched forever,
when the cows are coming down.

Her Lord has called her homeward,
she now wears a halo crown,
but her presence will be sorely missed,
when the cows are coming down.

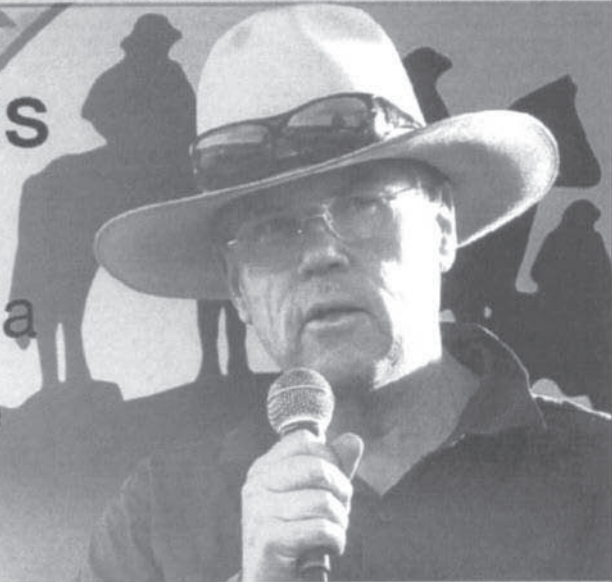
*Val Kirley, Mansfield
Winner of the Jim Commins Judges' Choice, 2013*

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Member for
Eastern Victoria

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of Gippsland and
East Gippsland



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of mountain
cattle grazing
to the Victorian
High Country

Authorised by Philip R. Davis MP
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Sale Vic 3853 — (03) 5143 1038
philip.davis@parliament.vic.gov.au

The Rusty Horse Shoe

Howard James

In 2012, I was lucky enough to win the coveted Don Kneebone award at the Merrijig Get Together. The finals were held in the middle of the rodeo arena. While I was nervously waiting to hear who won, I was kicking the ground with the toe of my foot like an agitated horse. As I was doing this, I felt my foot hit something hard.

I looked down and found a thrown horse shoe, so I picked it up, and held it the correct way up. Shortly after, I was announced as the winner.

I couldn't help but think that the horseshoe had brought me a bit of luck, and if I hadn't have been competing, I would not have found the shoe. I kept the shoe as my permanent trophy.

I then thought, "Why should I be the only one to have a permanent keepsake?" That's when I got the idea of making horse shoe trophies that winners can keep. So I contacted Graeme Stoney and

asked him if he had any old horse shoes, to which he replied, "As many as you want.", and he gave me a box full. I then went up onto The Bluff and camped a night there.

I got a couple of snow gum logs from there, as well as some grey box gum logs from Stoneys, and took them all home to the Adelaide Hills where I live (the SA High Country!!).

My idea for the trophies was that they were to be rough and ready, and could have been made on the track during a cattle drive from local available materials. The wood is cut and split with a chain saw, and a horse shoe attached to the flat side with horse shoe nails, and a plaque is attached in the middle of the horse shoe with the words,

"MCAV - DON KNEEBONE HERITAGE AWARD"

The wood is not sanded smooth, and the horse shoes are showing signs of rust and wear. No two trophies are identical, but they look similar, just as no two poems or songs are



Eleven of the former Don Kneebone Heritage Award winners who were present to collect their permanent trophy.



*Val Kirley, Don Dwyer, Courtney Canavan and Kate Crombie winners
in their respective sections of the poetry competition.*

the same but they are similar. Some of the horse shoes are mounted on snow gum, the others are on grey box gum. For the trophies to be as authentic as I could possibly make them I decided that the wood had to come from the mountains and the horse shoes had to come from a mountain cattleman.

The Rusty Horse Shoe trophy is to be awarded to the winner along with the coveted cowbell. I know I can speak for all Don Kneebone winners when I say it is a real bugger when the time comes to hand the cowbell back!!! The trophies are retrospective, and about a dozen were awarded.

For past winners to be presented with their trophies, they must attend the January Get Togethers, as they will not be presented at any other time.

My sincere thanks go to Wendy Jubb Stoney and Graeme Stoney for their assistance and enthusiasm in making the idea a reality, and to Christine Kneebone for her enthusiasm in presenting the trophies.



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the stroke of a pen

They've run those mountain cattle since 1835,
through hills, rivers and plains, they've roamed the mountain side.
They've run them through the gorges, over ridges and the peaks.
they grazed them on the plains and watered them at the creeks.

They ran those mountain cattle with horse and whip and dogs,
they drove them up the river, through the bush and over logs.
They learnt to love their mountains, they learnt the countryside
from every hill and river, they roamed far and wide.

A living they thought to make, a living off the land.
They knew that country better than the back of their gnarled old hand.
Then one came along, all fancy dressed, with suit and tie and shoes.
Next time we all go to the polls, the election he will lose.
He didn't even have a look! He didn't drive his Merc.
He did it all with the stroke of a pen that silly Mr Burke.

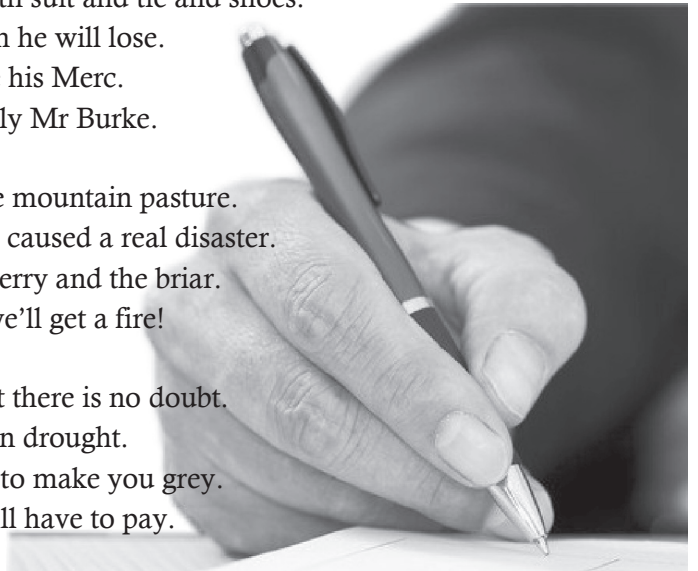
He took the cattle from the bush and off the mountain pasture.
What he did with the stroke of that pen has caused a real disaster.
The gullies are full of wild grass, the blackberry and the briar.
Next time it gets to tinder dry, by George we'll get a fire!

And they say we've global warming, of that there is no doubt.
But as for me, I think it was just the old man drought.
And then came the carbon tax! It's enough to make you grey.
But I guess the poor old cattleman again will have to pay.

So c'mon Mr Burke, do we have to ring the bell?
Don't you know the deer and dogs will fart and burp as well?
Now come on politician, next time you're asked to take a peek.
Go out with that cattleman. He won't give too much cheek.
He'll show you all the mountain places and what the deer have done.
And perhaps one day we'll see the cattle back out on their run.

Don Dwyer, 2012

Winner of the Don Kneebone Heritage Award 2013





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39th Annual Get-Together, Basin Flat, Licola

For a first time visitor the Mountain Cattlemen certainly put on a great weekend. I didn't know what to expect and for me the drawcard, of all things, was the dog high jump. But as soon as I got my camp "sorted" I discovered so much more than the dog high jump even though I thoroughly enjoyed the adventures of *Boof*, I was delighted that Barkley, a rescue dog, won the event. I found myself cheering for people who I don't know in the tug-o-war and was delighted when they won!

The haystacking, barrow races (such dexterity), that mismatched bike race through the mud, the whipcracking (so clever) and when I wanted something a little quieter there was the poetry and all the displays. Then I found myself bidding on things just to be part of the action. The evening entertainment was fabulous and who could forget that red sky sunset.

Sunday - starting off with the poets' breakfast and then all the events up to the Cattlemen's Cup. The cup was heart stopping. The excitement and adrenalin was contagious. To everyone who won in their event or participated be assured that the "watchers" had as much fun (or excitement) as you did.

My verdict - a fantastic weekend. Fabulously organised, great location, entertaining commentary (even for a rookie like me). I may have been just one of several thousand but it felt like it was one big family gathering!

- Anonymous first time visitor
(who hopes to return).

Thanks to Bee Appleyard, Chris King and Dale Wickberg for the use of their photographs.



Results for 2013 were -

Cattlemen's Cup Senior

- 1st Christopher Connley
- 2nd Brett Lancaster
- 3rd Tom King

Cattlemen's Cup Junior

- 1st Tom Ford
- 2nd Josh Oatley
- 3rd Michaela Van Winden

Wally Ryder Senior Walking Race

- 1st Teagan Mastennikoff
- 2nd John Douglas
- 3rd Heidi Paige

Doug Treasure Junior Walking Race

- 1st Emily Williams
- 2nd Jake Douglas
- 3rd Charlette Canavan

Great Australian Frank Ryan Memorial

Open Packhorse

- 1st Graham Forge
- 2nd Mitchell Ward
- 3rd John Douglas

Ladies Packhorse

- 1st Ellen Forge
- 2nd Sally Watt
- 3rd Cathy Campbell

Junior Packhorse

- 1st Tippy Forge
- 2nd Tahnee Olssen

Neatest Pack

Tahnee Olssen

Relay

- 1st Team Forge
- 2nd Team Olssen
- 3rd McCormack Tarts

Rescue Race - Senior

- 1st Tahnee Olssen & Grantley Ward
- 2nd Lockie Callagen & Jo Stevens
- 3rd Maddie Watt & Sophie Clark

Rescue Race - Junior

- Equal 1st Harry Semmens & Ryan Semmens
Maddie Watt & Sophie Clark

Rusty Connley Open Race

- 1st Tom King
- 2nd Matt Clark
- 3rd Teagan Mastennikoff

Obstacle Course - Senior

- 1st Brett Lancaster
- 2nd Dale Perdon
- 3rd Lukas Roberts



Obstacle Course - Junior

1st Tahnee Olssen

Whipcracking on horseback - Senior

1st Brett Lancaster

2nd Christopher Connley

3rd Dale Perdon

Whipcracking on horseback - Junior

1st Josh Oatley

Cross Country - Senior

1st Tom King

2nd Christopher Connley

3rd Wayne McDonald

Cross Country - Junior

1st Michaela Van Winden

Men's Tug-O-War

1st Team Green Steam

Ladies Tug-O-War

1st The Bandit Babes

Haystacking - Ladies

1st Rhonda McMillan & Jo Stevens

2nd Kathy Gabriel & Tahlia Peterson

3rd Sarah Thorne & Malzy Inger

Haystacking - Men's

1st John Conroy & Shane Gaston

2nd Leo McDonald & Lewis Benedetti

3rd Rex Bennett & Chris Box

Bushman's Challenge - Ladies

1st Kristy Neville & Tracee Martin

2nd Sue & Cherry

3rd Kylie Morrissey & Kim Pickergill

Bushman's Challenge - Men

1st John Conroy & Luke Peters

2nd Leo McDonald & Lewis Benedetti

3rd Lachlan Campbell & Jayden Bear

Whipcracking - Open

1st Diana Hurley

2nd Emiliqua East

3rd Aleshia Lancaster

Whipcracking - Ladies

1st Diana Hurley

2nd Emiliqua East

3rd Paige Williams

Whipcracking - Juvenile

1st Paige Williams

2nd Jacqueline Davies

3rd Emiliqua East



Whipcracking - Junior

- 1st Joe Clausen
- 2nd Jade Clark
- 3rd Patrick Smythe

Dog High Jump

- 1st Shonnie Malfray with "Barkley"
- 2nd Ash King with "Tip"
- 3rd Brayden Flannigan with "Kiera"

Mulga Bill Bike Race - Senior

- 1st Scott Mynard
- 2nd Callum Boyer

Mulga Bill Bike Race - Junior

- 1st Riley Murtagh
- 2nd Sam Dwyer

Photographic Competition

- 1st Neil Moore : *Mount Hotham at Sunrise*
- 2nd Sharni Buckney : *Clarissa*
- 3rd Andrea Cook : *Good Old Block*

Don Kneebone Heritage Award

- 1st **Don Dwyer** from Newry with his poem *Stroke of the Pen*.

Bill Hicks Bush Minstrel Award

- 1st **Kate Crombie** from Metung with her song *Cattlemen's Lament*.

Peter McCormack Bush Laureate

- 1st **Nerelie Teese** from Echuca with her poem *Bringing back the Cattle*.

Jack Treasure Traditional Award

- 1st **Bob Skelton** from Minmi NSW reciting the Henry Lawson poem *Ballad of the Drover*.

Laurence Webb Junior Award

- 1st **Courtney Canavan** from Pakenham with her poem *The High Country*.

Jim Commins Oration Award

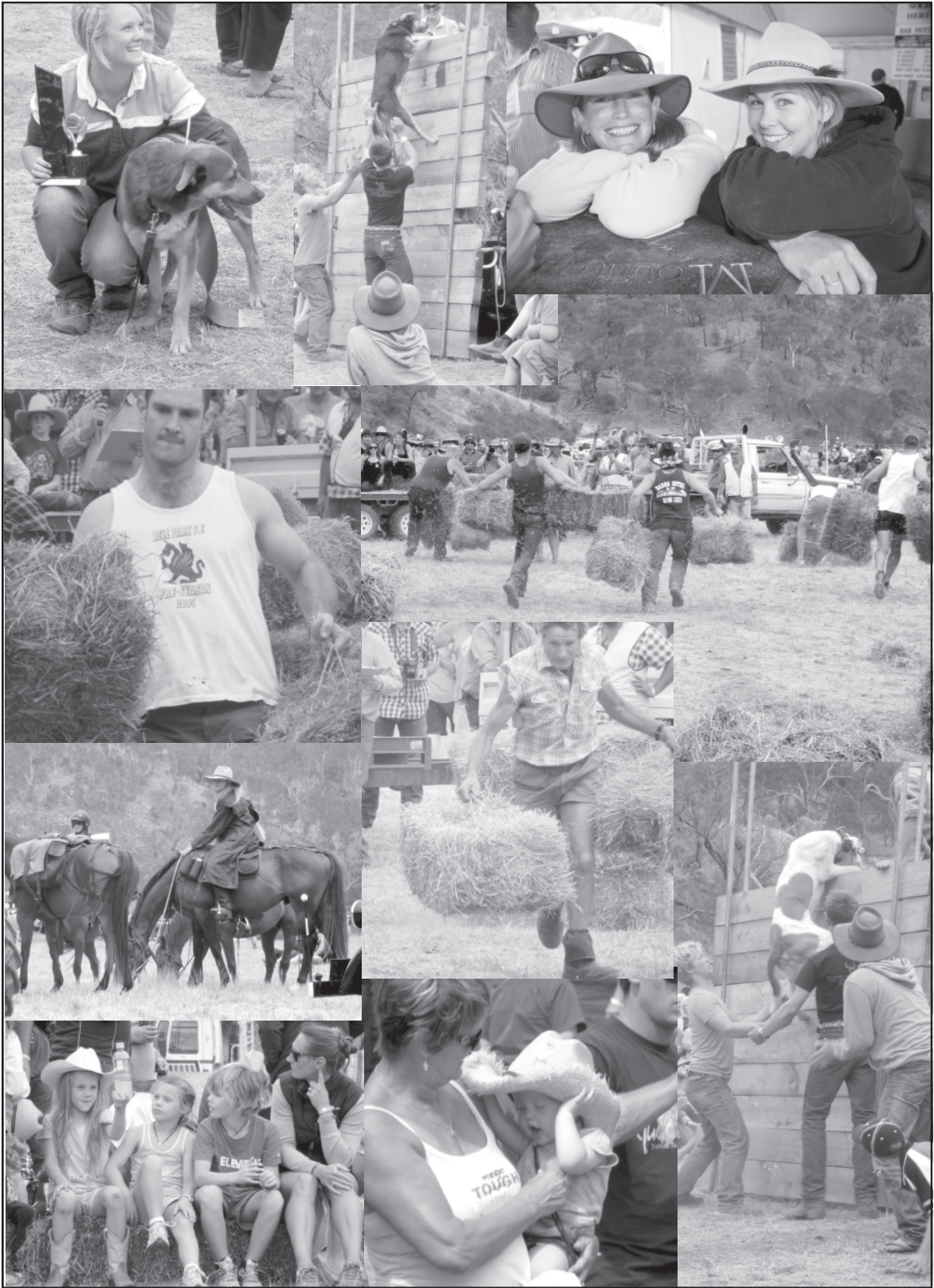
- 1st **Val Kirley** from Mansfield.

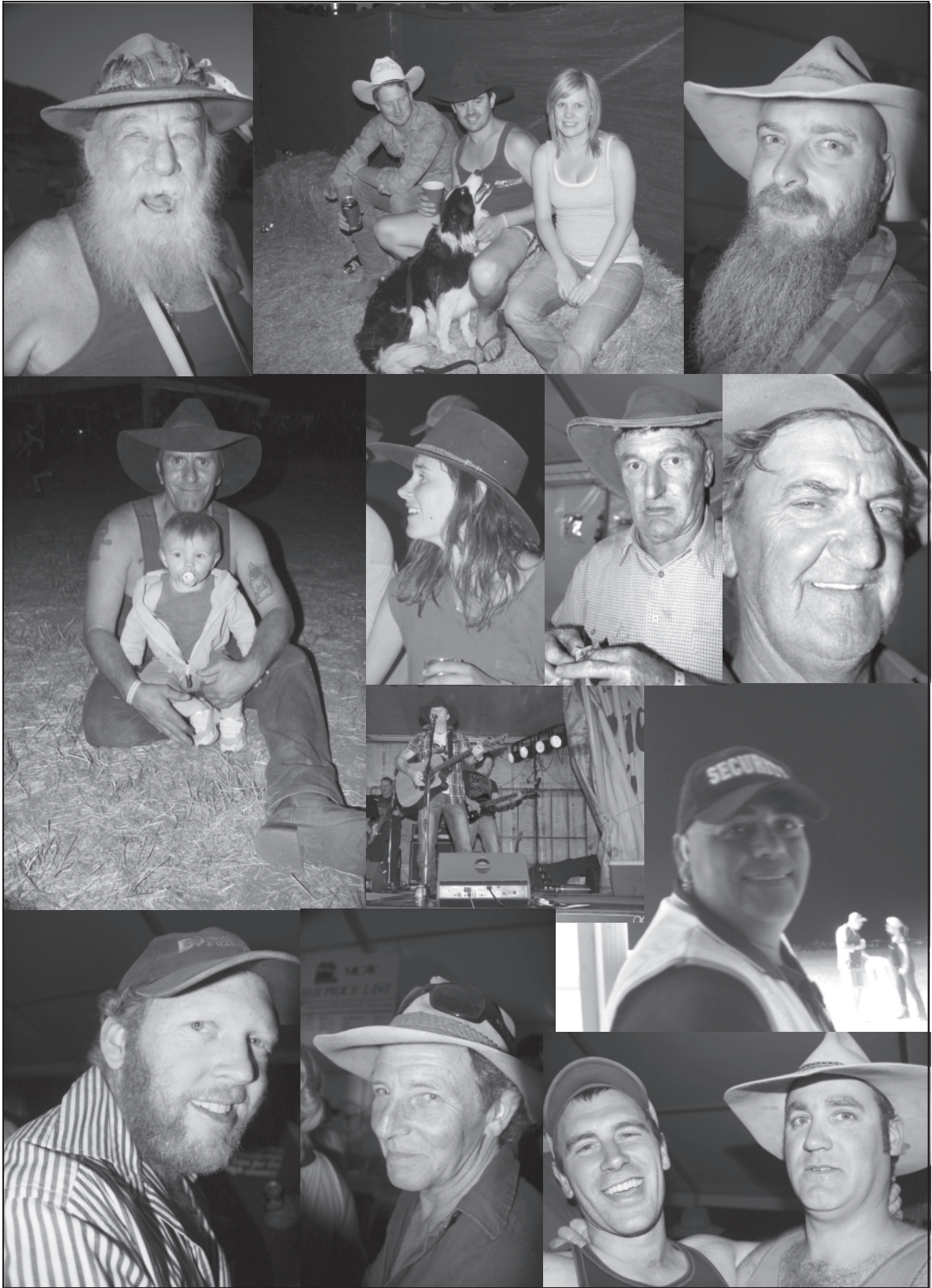
The Don Kneebone Heritage Award was judged by past winners Dennis Carstairs, Col Milligan and family representative Christine Kneebone.

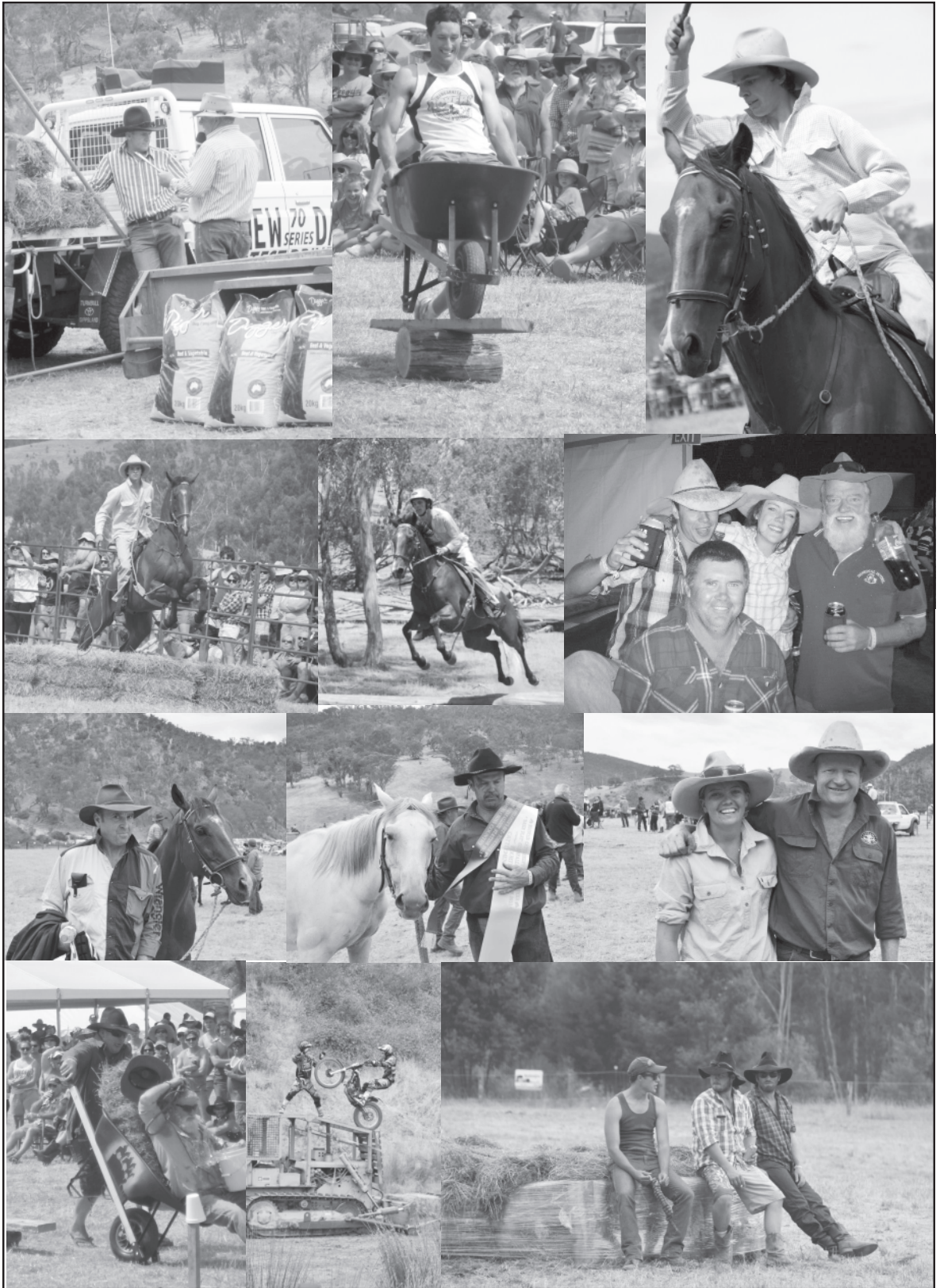
RAFFLE RESULTS were:

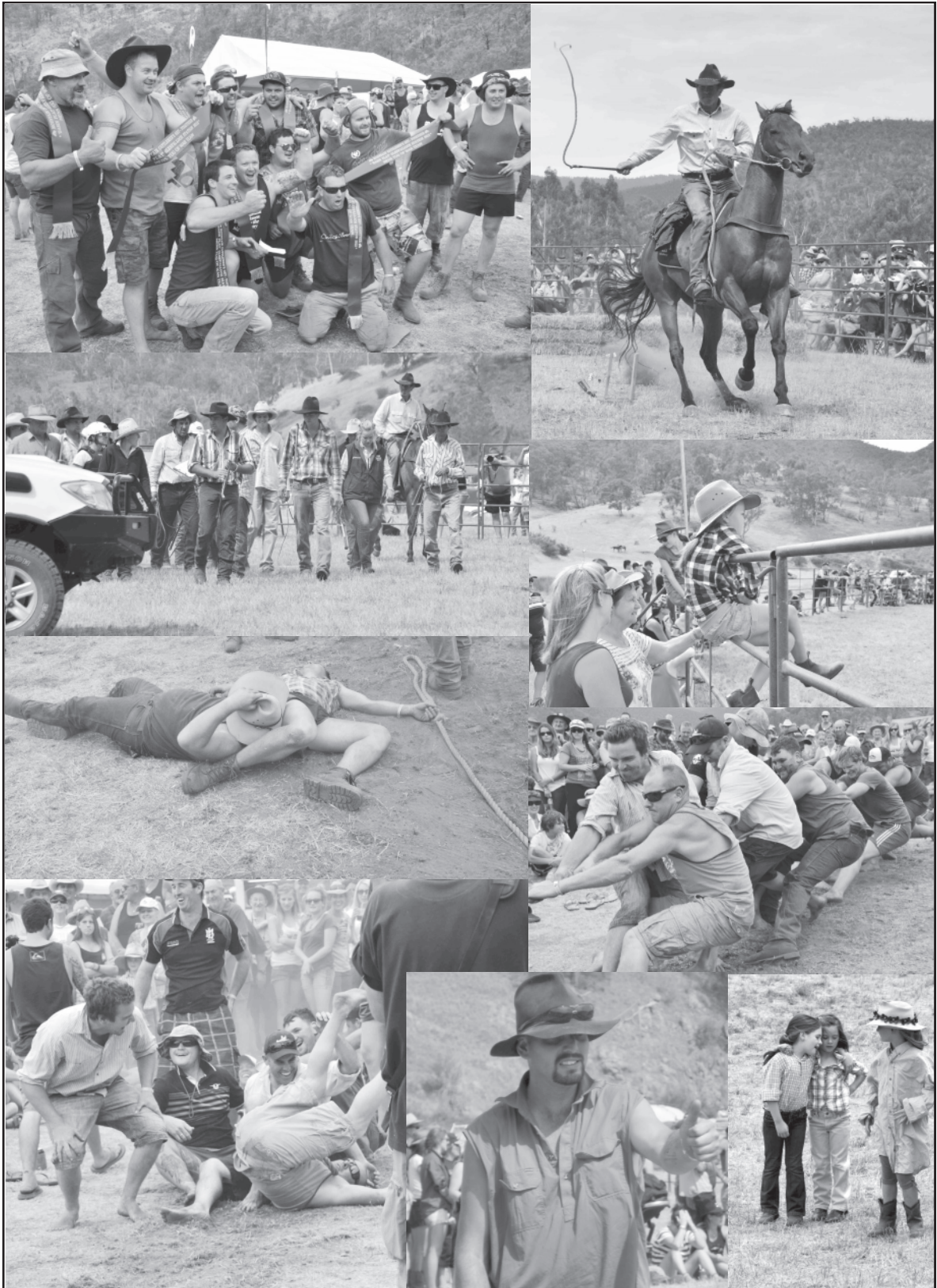
- 1st Snowy Range Horseback Tour - A. Sumner
- 2nd MCAV Bartop - "Turn" Coleman
- 3rd Samsung Galaxy Tab 2 - S. Donner
- 4th Novus Glass Window Tint - G. Thomas
- 5th Single Swag - J. Barwick
- 6th MCAV Merchandise Voucher - D. Stanyer.













**Congratulations (again)
to the organising
committee from the
2013 Get-Together
being awarded the
Community Event Award
at the Australia Day
Awards for the
Shire of Wellington.
Excellent work.**



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Wannabe cattle dog !



When the cattlemen go to the city



We have always had a very visible (and popular) presence at the 4WD Show and last year was no exception.

The boys were kept busy answering questions and handing out stickers to the public. Thanks fellas for being there representing the Association.

Charlie Lovick and Chris Commins meeting at Spring Street.

They're in "stepping out" clothes!





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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria held on Friday 20th September 2013 at Akoonah Park, Berwick commencing at 11.00am

1. Present

Anne Faithfull, Richard Faithfull, Joe Connley, Trudy Anderson, Chris Cooper, Graeme Stoney, David Hurley, Charlie Lovick, Kellie Lovick, Danny Cook, Glenn Chalwell, Brian Higgins, Christa Treasure, Ray Anderson, Rhonda Treasure, John Cook, Danny Cook, Neville Wright, Rosemary Osborne, Mary Treasure, Mathew Jameson, Roger Hollis, Paul Davenport, Philip Davis MP, John and Rita McMahon, Matt Jameson, Chris Lewis and Georgie Connan.

2. Apologies

Graham Osborne, Peter Monds, Jack Hicks, Ben and Fiona Treasure, Bruce McCormack, Wayne Turner (of Tom Groggin), Ken Heywood, Bruce Commins, Rose and Tim Faithfull, Diana Hurley, Simon Turner, Chris Commins, Barry and Fay Hicks, Leigh Woodgate, The Chesters, Anthony Higgins, Michael Higgins, Peter Roper, Harry Ryder, Ross and Magda Brown, Andrew Kee, Greg Purcell, Colleen Hurley, Chris Hodge, Danny Cook, Janine Cooper, Mark and Tania Coleman, Pat Coleman, Scott and Sarah Jennison, David Evans, Terry Langley, Susan Noble, Bryan Bassett, Cathy Riley, Bill Sykes MP, Alison Clark Schintler, Natalie McGregor, Peter Blackwell and Leonie Phelan.

3. Confirmation of Official Proxies

Rose and Diana Hurley nominated David Hurley as their official proxy.
Andrew Kee and Simon Turner nominated Chris Cooper as their official proxy.
Christine Faithfull and Danny Cook nominated Richard Faithfull as their official proxy.
Anthony Higgins and Michael Higgins nominated Brian Higgins as their official proxy.
Chris Commins, Jack Hicks, Bruce McCormack, Harry Ryder, Peter Roper, Bruce Commins, Mark and Pat Coleman, Chris Hodge, Ken

Heywood, Barry Hicks, Ross and Magda Brown and Wayne Turner (of Tom Groggin) nominated Charlie Lovick as their official proxy.

Kerrie and Greg Purcell nominated Graeme Stoney as their official proxy.

Ben Treasure nominated Christa Treasure as his official proxy.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

It was agreed that the minutes, as circulated, of the Annual General Meeting dated 21st of September 2012 held at Akoonah Park, Berwick are a true and correct record of proceedings.
Graeme Stoney / Chris Cooper Carried

5. Reports

5.1 Presidents Report

Charlie Lovick then presented his annual report.

Welcome and thank you for coming to our Annual General Meeting. The year started with the Get Together at Licola, I would like to congratulate the organisers and Gippsland Branch for this successful event which I believe was the best ever Get Together.

It is important that we continue to hold great events and we must ensure we keep up with event management and risk mitigation. Greg Cogan, a supporter from Heyfield has suggested that we might increase security by recording the vehicle registrations of those who enter the event.

The MCAV has made a submission to the Wild Horse Management Strategy to ensure brumby numbers are controlled to a manageable level using humane methods.

The Alpine Advisory Committee has been formed and some of our members have been appointed to the Committee in their own right.

They will bring extensive knowledge and experience to that Committee; we wish it well in its deliberations.

Paul Davenport from Affinity Risk is here today to make a presentation about changes in legislation around volunteers and the association's responsibilities.

A new merchandise van has been purchased to store and transport stock to events for sale.

Finally, to maintain our heritage and culture we must go forward and continue to press our case. This means that Alpine Grazing must continue for our heritage to survive. We intend to maintain our culture and heritage and keep it alive and relevant.
Charlie Lovick / Graeme Stoney Carried

5.2 Financial Report

The financial report for the year ending 30th June 2013 as tabled.
Anne Faithfull / Chris Cooper Carried

5.3 Marketing Report

Charlie Lovick presented Beck Farmer's annual report.

Thanks for the new merchandise vehicle; Kirst and I are well pleased. I have intentions of a fire sale to move old stock in October.

I have placed an order for Australian made children's work overalls. We also intend ordering blue shearers singlets and our popular branded shirts and will source MCAV embroidering locally.

I am taking a short break for the school holidays and look forward to getting stuck in on my return. In the meantime if anyone needs to call an ambulance you have my number!

5.4 Branch Annual Reports

5.4.1 Gippsland Branch

Motion raised about deer hunters carried over to Central Council meeting.

Office Bearers:

President David Hurley
Vice President Brian Higgins
Secretary Chris Lewis

5.4.2 North East Branch

Motions raised include access to properties during fire events, member updates and 2014 G2G which have been carried over to Central Council.

Office Bearers:

Chairperson Ken Heywood
Vice Chairperson Christa Treasure
Secretary Fiona Treasure
Special Events Neville Wright

5.4.3 Omeo Branch – Chris Commins

Office Bearers:

President Bruce Commins
Vice President Joe Connely
Secretary Chris Commins

5.4.4 Mansfield Branch – Bruce McCormack

Office Bearers:

President Bruce McCormack
Vice President Kellie Purvis
Secretary Graeme Stoney

6. Report from the Special Meeting

A Special Meeting with the resolution to discard the previous Statement of Purposes and Rules of the Association and adopt a new Statement of Purposes and Rules of the Association, known as "The Constitution" was held directly before the AGM on 20th of September at 10.30am.

This meeting passed the special resolution unanimously and so the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria Inc. is now operating with a new constitution.

7. Election of Office Bearers

All positions within the MCAV were declared vacant. Charlie Lovick passed the Chair to Philip Davis MP to oversee the election process.

With the decision to act under the new constitution, the roles of President, Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer are now all elected.

As all positions only attracted one nominee, the roles were filled without election. Congratulations were offered to the incumbents for their service over the past year and for 2014.

President

Charlie Lovick was nominated by Graeme Stoney and Wayne (Joe) Connley and accepted the nomination. There being no further nominations Charlie was declared elected to the position of President.

Vice Presidents

Simon Turner was nominated by Chris Cooper and Graeme Stoney.

Chris Cooper was nominated by Simon Turner and Graeme Stoney.

Both nominees indicated that they would continue in the joint position. There being no further nominations Simon and Chris were declared elected to the position of Vice President.

Treasurer

Anne Faithfull was nominated by Wayne (Joe) Connley and John Cook. There being no further nominations Anne was duly elected.

Secretary

Georgina Connan was nominated by Graeme Stoney and Charlie Lovick. There being no further nominations Georgina was duly elected.

8. Central Council Delegates 2013-14 Gippsland

David Hurley, Chris Cooper, Brian Higgins with Ross Brown (reserve).

Mansfield

Bruce McCormack, Kellie Purvis and Graeme Stoney.

North East

Christa Treasure, Ken Heywood, Glen Chalwell with Ray Anderson (reserve).

Omeo

Chris Cook, Danny Cook, Joe Connley with Simon Turner (reserve).

Motion to accept nominations of Central Council delegates.

John McMahon. / John Cook Carried

9. Fixing Honorariums

Honorariums are to be rolled over as per previous year.

President *	\$21,000
Vice Presidents	\$2,500 (each)
Executive Officer *	\$30 per hour
Secretary *	\$35 per hour
Treasurer	\$10,000
Merchandise Officers	\$3,000 (shared)
Get-Together Co-Ordinator	\$10,000
Voice Editor	\$1,000

* Additional phone entitlement of \$80, \$60 and \$40 per month respectively with superannuation contributions being made for the Secretary. Merchandise Officers to share payment 50% each with addition of 5% of achieved sales.

Chris Cooper / Rita McMahon Carried

10. Setting Membership Subscription Fees

Full membership fees and Associate membership fees to remain the same as last year.

Full Membership

Grazing Members	\$220
Non-Grazing Members	\$50
Associate Membership	\$30 (single) \$40 (family)

Graeme Stoney / Kellie Purvis Carried

The meeting was declared closed at 11.27am. Date of next AGM to be advised.



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ANSWERS

How many words?

tea, teal, team, tear, tee, teem, ten, tent, tentacle
 nett, nettle, tact, talc, tale, talent, lame, tan,
 mental, net, metal, mottle, name, neat, net, net,
 mean, mean, melt, men, mence,
 mantle, mantle, mat, mate, matt, mattle, meal,
 lee, lent, let, lace, male, malt, man, mane, mantle,
 lane, late, latent, latte, latten, lea, lean, lean,
 enema, enlacc, lace, lame, lamen, lance, lance,
 eaten, eel, elate, elect, elm, enact, enamel, enate,
 cement, cent, clam, clean, clear, clement, eat,
 came, camel, can, cane, cat, cattle, clement, cell,
 acme, acne, act, ale, amen, ant, ante, ate, calm,

Spot the Difference

1. More black on steer's flank 2. Botel instead of
 Hotel on sign 3. Rider's hat band missing 4. Cow's
 tail changed 5. Rider's right spur missing 6.
 Running man's boot has bigger heel 7. Rider's left
 boot is higher 8. Running man has beard 9. Steer
 missing a horn 10. Steer has one black hoof 11.
 Running man's hat has changed colour 12. A duck
 has appeared



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Nillamunjie Olive Grove

Jim Treasure and family

Golden Age Motel

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Benambra Hotel

King and Heath First National

DEPI

Elders

Sale Party Hire

The Association is indebted to these business, organisations and individuals for their loyal support of the Mountain Cattlemen. Our sincere apologies to anyone we have overlooked - it is not that we appreciate you any less as our fight could not continue without a strong support base.

Every year we owe a special debt of thanks to the Get Together workers. They prepare the site, starting months ahead of time, to ensure it is safe and workable for the three days of the Get-Together. Every year we have judges, stewards, announcers, bar staff, rubbish removers (the arena doesn't clean itself early Sunday morning!), tent staff and more who work the weekend for the Association. Scotty you have a dream team. A HUGE THANK YOU to you all concerned.

