

**A Funeral Service to  
Celebrate the life of**  
Gordon 'Clive' Hodge

**05/07/1929 – 03/11/2009**



**Silver Lining Chapel  
Bairnsdale**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at 2:00pm**

## *Bushman's Poem*

*The smell of eucalypts  
In the early morning rain,  
Will surely tell his friends  
that the man will come again  
Through the rustle of the trees  
Beyond the gentle flowing stream  
The man we know as our dear friend  
Will ride with us again.*

*Hush my friends  
And please, don't grieve  
A man like this can never leave  
He merely passes to a place  
Where he will have no care,  
Somewhere that forever free  
He rides to eternity.*

I AM HONOURED TO HAVE BEEN ASKED BY THE HODGE FAMILY TO SPEAK TODAY ON BEHALF OF THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN.

CLIVE HODGE WAS RECOGNIZED THROUGHOUT GIPPSLAND AS A TOP HORSEMAN, BUSHMAN AND MOUNTAIN CATTLEMAN.

HE WAS TOUGH, RESILIENT, RESOURCEFUL, AND VERY, VERY DETERMINED.

(HE ALSO LOVED THE SONG "THE LIGHTS OF OLD KHANCOBIN" WHICH WAS PLAYED HERE AT THE START TODAY)

THESE QUALITIES GOT CLIVE THROUGH VERY TOUGH TIMES WHEN HE WAS YOUNG AND LATER HELPED HIM MAKE A SUCCESS OF HIS CATTLE AND TOURISM BUSINESS.

CLIVE HAD SOME GREAT PEOPLE, HELPING AND WORKING WITH HIM.

THE LATE CHARLIE NOBLE AND CLIVE STARTED OUT TOGETHER RUNNING HORSES AND FOUR WHEEL DRIVE TRIPS AND LATER CLIVE WENT OUT ON HIS OWN WITH HORSES.

HELPING HIM WERE LIAM AND JOSETTE BRADLEY, ROSS AND MAGDA BROWN, JAN HOBBS AND BOB ELLIOT.

AND THERE WERE MANY OTHERS.

CLIVE AND HIS PEOPLE RAN THE ALPINE TRAIL RIDES, RAN CATTLE IN THE BUSH AND IN THEIR SPARE TIME RE-OPENED BRIDLE TRACKS.

ROSS BROWN TOLD ME THE OTHER DAY ABOUT THE TIME THAT CLIVE HAD DROPPED A POST ON HIS FOOT AND AT THE SAME TIME ROSS HAD BROKEN HIS WRIST FALLING OFF A HORSE.

THE WOUNDED PAIR DECIDED TO DROWN THEIR SORROWS BY GOING TO THE PUB.

WHEN THEY WALKED IN, THE PUBLICAN ANNOUNCED TO THE BAR,

"WOW, HERE COMES A WALKING ADVERTISEMENT FOR ALPINE TRAIL RIDES."

CLIVE LOVED HIS FAMILY AND THE BIG SET BACK IN HIS LIFE WAS THE LOSS OF MARION, WHO WAS A WONDERFUL PERSON, CLIVE'S ROCK, AND WHO WAS TAKEN MUCH TOO EARLY.

CLIVE WAS VERY SUPPORTIVE OF THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN AND THEIR FIGHT THROUGH THE 1980'S TO KEEP THEIR LEASES.

HE WAS ON THE MCAV CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR YEARS AND HAD VALUABLE INPUT TO DECISIONS AND THE DIRECTION OF THE ASSOCIATION. THEY WERE TOUGH AND DIFFICULT TIMES.

I NEED TO JUST REMIND EVERYONE OF THE SITUATION, BY SETTING THE SCENE.

THROUGHOUT THE SEVENTIES THERE WAS PRESSURE BUILDING TO CREATE THE ALPINE NATIONAL PARK AND BAN ALL GRAZING.

THE CATTLEMEN MET THAT CHALLENGE BY PROMOTING THEMSELVES IN THE MEDIA AND THEY BECAME VERY PROMINENT.

THE FIRST THING THEY DID WAS HOLD THE FIRST CATTLEMENS CUP IN 1982 WHICH CAME OFF THE BACK OF THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER FILM.

WE INVITED THE MEDIA, AND THEY ALL CAME.

IT WAS A BIG DEAL. IT WAS ON EVERY NEWS OUTLET AND WENT OVERSEAS.

CLIVE RODE IN THAT FIRST CUP, ON A BIG WHITE DAPPLED HORSE.

I HAVE THE PHOTO; IT WAS FRONT PAGE OF THE STOCK AND LAND.

CLIVE LOOKED A MILLION DOLLARS, LINING UP WITH CHARLIE AND JOHN LOVICK, A COUPLE OF CONNLEYS AND OTHER WELL KNOWN NAMES.

THE RACE WAS FAST AND FURIOUS,

BOTH THE LOVICKS AND STONEY FELL OFF IN THE RIVER.

KEN CONNLEY WON, BUT CLIVE WAS RIGHT ON HIS HEELS

IT WAS FANTASTIC AND THE CROWD LOVED IT.

THERE WERE MANY OTHER PROMOTIONS AND DEMONSTRATIONS AND CLIVE WAS IN THE THICK OF THEM.

THEN CAME THE BIG ONE.

IN 1984 WE HEARD THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS PLANNING TO ANNOUNCE THE CREATION OF THE ALPINE PARK.

WE KNEW THAT THE OPPOSITION HAD THE NUMBERS IN THE UPPER HOUSE.



WE ALSO KNEW THAT IF THE OPPOSITION COULD SEE THAT POPULAR OPINION WAS WITH THE CATTLEMEN THE OPPOSITION WOULD VOTE AGAINST THE BILL WHEN IT CAME INTO PARLIAMENT.

THE QUESTION WAS HOW DO WE PROVE THAT WE HAD THE PUBLIC ON OUR SIDE?

SO THE CATTLEMAN HAD TO MAKE A MAJOR DECISION.

IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT WE RALLY AND PROTEST IN MELBOURNE ON THE STEPS OF PARLIAMENT.

IT WAS A HUGE RISK, AS IN THOSE DAYS WE THOUGHT ONLY RAT BAGS PROTESTED!

IT WAS OUR CONVENTIONAL WISDOM THAT COUNTRY PEOPLE DIDN'T PROTEST, THEY JUST PUT UP WITH IT.

AND WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WHEN THE BUSH HORSES SPOTTED A TRAM FOR THE FIRST TIME?

THE RISKS AND THE UNKNOWNNS WERE ENORMOUS.

SO A MEETING WAS CALLED AT PORPUNKAH TO DISCUSS IT ALL.

PHIL MAQUIRE REMINDED ME OF THIS STORY THE OTHER DAY.

THE PORPUNKAH MEETING WAS BIG.

ALL THE KEY FAMILIES WERE THERE.

WHEN IT WAS ALL EXPLAINED, AND THE RISKS AND DOWNSIDE LOOKED OVERWHELMING, THERE WAS A THOUGHTFULL SILENCE.

YOU KNOW, ONE OF THOSE LONG CATTLEMANS SORT OF SILENCES.

THEN CLIVE SPOKE UP

"IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES, I WILL BE ON MY HORSE IN THE MORNING' HE SAID.

"BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF A HORSE SHOE GETS STUCK IN THE TRAM TRACKS? "SOMEONE ASKED.

'WE BLOODY WELL SLIDE IT TO THE TERMINUS AND GET HIM OUT!" SAID CLIVE.

THAT SEALED IT.

WE SECRETLY ORGANIZED THE PROTEST, AND WAITED FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT.

SO, THE SAME DAY THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THE PARK ,....

THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN ANNOUNCED THEY WOULD RIDE ON PARLIAMENT,

THAT TOOK THE LEAD NEWS OVER THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT.

NEXT WEEK WE RODE , WITH 304 HORSES, TWO WAGONS AND FOUR DOGS.

MELBOURNE LOVED IT AND THE MEDIA WENT NUTS.

THAT NEWS WENT AUSTRALIA WIDE AS WELL AND THE OPPOSITION CAME OUT SUPPORTING US.

IT WAS ANOTHER 6 YEARS BEFORE A DEAL WAS DONE,

SOME RUNS WERE LOST BUT THE REMAINING CATTLEMEN WERE GRANTED SEVEN YEAR GRAZING LICENCES IN RETURN FOR THE PARK.

So lets reflect... "IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES, I WILL GET ON MY HORSE IN THE MORNING" SAID CLIVE.

CLIVE WAS ALSO VERY INVOLVED IN THE ALPINE TOUR OPERATORS ASSOCIATION WHICH WENT ON TO BECOME VTOA AND LATER TOURISM ALLIANCE.

IN THE LATE 1980,S THE GOVERNMENT WANTED TO CLOSE THE KING BILLY TO MT HOWITT BRIDLE TRACK TO HORSES.

THIS PROPOSAL WAS A RED RAG TO CLIVE AND OTHER TOUR OPERATORS BECAME INVOLVED.

WE ALL WENT UP TO MT HOWITT WITH THE TV AND PAPERS IN TOW, AND AFTER A STRONG CAMPAIGN THE TRACK STAYED OPEN.

IT WAS A HUGE VICTORY AND THAT TRACK IS STILL OPEN TO HORSES.

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIGHT, CLIVE WAS THREATENING TO CATCH A WOMBAT, PUT IT IN A BAG, GET ON THE TRAIN AND TAKE IT DOWN TO MELBOUNE .

HE WAS GOING TO GIVE IT TO JOAN KIRNER.!

CLIVE ALWAYS HATED INJUSTICE.

WHEN RUSTY CONNLEYS CATTLE WERE IMPOUNDED A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO , DESPITE BEING UNWELL, CLIVE WAS BREATHING FIRE AND HE WAS GOING TO GO TO THE SALEYARDS AND DISRUPT THE SALE.

LUCKLY IT WAS RESOLVED BUT CLIVE WAS GOING TO SORT IT OUT IF IT WASN'T.

THE LAST TIME MOST OF US SAW CLIVE WAS AT THE MERRIJIG GET TOGETHER LAST JANUARY.

DESPITE BEING VERY UNWELL, CLIVE PROUDLY RODE IN THE SNOWY REUNION,

HE WAS SHAKING HANDS WITH THE STARS AND MORE IMPORTANTLY HIS OLD RIDING MATES.

NO TRIBUTE TO CLIVE WOULD BE COMPLETE WITHOUT SOME MORE STORIES.

I KNOW YOU ALL HAVE A STORY ABOUT CLIVE TO TELL, HERES A COUPLE.

CLIVE WAS LEADING A HORSE SAFARI WHEN HE CAME ACROSS SOME LOST BUSHWALKERS.

"HOW DO WE GET TO WONNANGATTA?" THEY ASKED CLIVE.

CLIVE SAID,

"SEE THAT WHITE GUM AND THOSE WATTLES UP THAT SPUR?"

"YES," THEY CHORUSED.

"WELL, HE SAID, YOU GO PAST THE TREES AND UP THE SPUR,

WHEN YOU SEE A LYREBIRD

TURN RIGHT!"

I THINK I WAS THERE FOR THIS ONE

WE WERE RIDING IN NUNAWADING TO SUPPORT ROSMARY VARTY IN A BYELECTION.

IT WAS VERY POPULAR AND THERE WERE PEOPLE ASKING QUESTIONS AND CROWDING AROUND US ON THE HORSES.

A YOUNG, GOOD LOOKING GIRL BATTED HER EYES AT CLIVE AND SAID

"MR HODGE, DO YOU TAKE PEOPLE LIKE ME INTO THE MOUNTAINS?"

"YES MISSY", CLIVE BELLOWED,

"I TAKE THEM IN ONE SIDE THE MOUNTAINS AND OUT THE OTHER!"

I SAID EARLIER THAT CLIVE WAS TOUGH.

RHONDA TREASURE AND ROSS BROWN REMINDED ME OF THESE SIGNIFICANT EVENTS.

IN LATER YEARS WHEN HE WAS MOVING BACK FROM TUMBARUMBA, FOUR THINGS HAPPENED TO CLIVE, ONE AFTER THE OTHER.

FOUR THINGS WHICH WOULD HAVE LAID LOW A LESSER MAN.

HE WAS RUN OFF THE ROAD NEAR HIS NEW PROPERTY AND HIT A TREE.

THEN HE WAS SNAKE BITTEN UP AT TUMBARUMBA

THEN HE AND SON CHRIS WERE ATTACKED BY WASPS AT MOROKA AND THEY NEARLY PERISHED.

AND CLIVE WAS ATTACKED AND BELTED BY A PERSON UNKNOWN WITH A GUN AT MOROKA HUT AND BARELY ESCAPED WITH HIS LIFE.

AND ALL THE TIME HE WAS BATTLING HIS CRIPPLING LONG TERM ILLNESS.

WHAT A MAN.

THEY DON'T MAKE BUSHMEN LIKE CLIVE HODGE ANYMORE. HE WILL BE MISSED.

THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN MOURN THE PASSING OF CLIVE HODGE AND EXTEND THE ASSOCIATION'S DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY, AT THIS SAD AND VERY SIGNIFICANT TIME.

II HAVE NOW BEEN ASKED TO INTRODUCE A VIDEO ABOUT THE CATTLEMEN .

ABOUT THE TIME OF THE FIRST PROTEST AND THE NUNAWADING BY ELECTION, JIM BROWN AND HIS MATES MADE A VIDEO OF THE CATTLEMENS STORY AND LIAM BRADLEY WROTE A SONG TO GO WITH IT CALLED " IT TAKES FAITH TO MOVE MOUNTAINS"

WE HAD TO FIND A BUSH HUT AND A BUSHMAN TO FEATURE IN THE VIDEO.

WHO DID WE PICK?

CLIVE HODGE AND THE MOROKA HUT.

IT'S A FANTASTIC VIDEO AND SONG AND IT HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME.



## ORDER OF SERVICE

Service Led By: Celebrant Tom Dooley

**Music to Begin**                    **'Days of Old Khancoban',  
Smoky Dawson & Lee Kernaghan**

### **Welcome and Introduction**

**Reading**                            **Bushman's Poem**  
Read by Clive's Grandson Lloyd Hodge

**Eulogy**                            **Clive's Story**  
Presented by Clive's daughter Jan Patterson  
and Clive's son Chris Hodge

**Memories of Clive**            **A visual presentation of Clive's life  
with music from  
'The Man from Snowy River' Soundtrack**

**More of Clive's Story** **As told by Graeme Stoney – representing  
the Mountain Cattlemen's Association**

**The Dying Stockman** by Rick Hodge

**The Lord's Prayer**            Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil,  
For thine is the kingdom, The power and the  
glory, For ever and ever. Amen

### **Committal**

**Music to Conclude**            **'Maggie', Foster and Allen**



*Clive's family thank you for  
your attendance here today and  
your love and support at this time.*

*A welcome is extended to all to join the  
family at the Lindenow Memorial Hall,  
Main St, Lindenow for refreshments  
at the conclusion of this service.*

**silver  
lining**  
FUNERALS

beautiful farewells

East Gippsland  
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