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MOUNTAIN GET TOGETHER

Last weekend the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria held its annual get together on the property of Kevin Higgins at Bennison Plain, near Licola.

Thousands came for the weekend to take part in the events, to enjoy the entertainment and to catch up with old friends. As well as the serious business of the cattlemen fighting to maintain their grazing leases, history, music and horseriding combined to make a weekend to remember.

Mansfield was well represented in all events. Money was on Neil Waite representing the Mansfield branch in the Senior Mountain Cattlemen's Cup but after a strong start Neil was forced to drop out half way through the race. Ricky Hodge from Buchan lead the pack to take line honours. Lincoln Adams was second and Andy Purdon third.

A new event, the Mountain Cattlemen's Classic, combining riding with whipcracking and putting on a Drizabone at the gallop, saw many familiar faces from bush racing days. On borrowed horses Chris Stoney came in second, Nick Cook third, with David Stoney fourth, losing out to riding legend Ron Connelly.

Ron also won the Wally Ryder Walking Race, with David Stoney second.

In the photographic competition Debbie McCormack came first with a portrait of husband Bruce; Christine Lakeman, previously of Mansfield second; and Marg McCormack third.

The Bush Laureate award went to Dorothy Watt; the Bush Minstrel award went to Dennis Carstairs for his poem 'Wally Ryder' and Billy Ross won the Don Kneebone award.

The proceeds of the event go towards the lobbying work of the association. The 2001 get together will be near Omeo.

For full cattlemen's action see Page 28.



Dave Stoney just leads in front of brother Chris in the Mountain Cattlemen's Classic