



MEDIA RELEASE

A RIDE AND A PLAQUE TO REMEMBER MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN FRANK RYAN

Well known and respected Mountain Cattleman the late Frank Ryan, was honoured and remembered last weekend (March 21/22 09) by his relatives, friends and the Mountain Cattlemens Association of Victoria.

The weekend ceremony was held on the upper Rose River at the historic "Bennies" near Frank Ryans former cattle lease.

On the Saturday a group of riders rode into the lease at the head of the Dandongadale River along the original bridle track, revisiting the lease and remembering Frank and his good mate the late Don Kneebone. The ride was led by Chris Ryan, (Frank's nephew) and a friend Roger Smitheron.

A plaque on a rock at Bennies was unveiled on Sunday by members of Frank's family. It is situated beside a plaque remembering Don Kneebone, so the mates are still together.

The ceremony was chaired by local bushman Neville Wright and tributes were paid to Frank by speakers including Christa Treasure, Ron Briggs, Graeme Hughes and Graeme Stoney.

A poem written by Don Kneebone's daughter Christine was read to the audience by Wendy Jubb Stoney.

Neville Wright excelled himself by presenting a roast dinner, hearty breakfast and lunch to the good crowd who attended.

Speaking later, the President of the MCAV, Christa Treasure said that the Mountain Cattlemen will continue to push for grazing to be used widely as a management tool in both State Forest and National Parks

Ms Treasure announced that the MCAV intends to sponsor similar heritage rides to different leases around the High Country in forthcoming years.

"We must retain for posterity the special knowledge the Cattlemen have about their leases even after cattle have been removed and one way to do that is to have a ride into the lease and have someone connected to the country tell our riders and especially our young people all about the history. At the same time we will also

remember the stories of the particular Cattlemens' families who ran cattle on the country for up to 150 years.

We are determined that the knowledge will not be lost and we are being proactive in preserving our proud heritage and history" Christa concluded..

For more information, please contact Christa Treasure mobile 0427576367

Picture caption (accompanying file) left to right,

Nug Wylie, Neville Wright, Leonard Ryan, Rosalea Ryan, Barbara Ryan, Dan Ryan are pictured after the unveiling of the plaque at Bennies

