

The Mountain District Cattlemen's Association of Victoria

NEWSLETTER

By Stockmen.

October, 1980.

For those of you who are unable to attend meetings and particularly for our Associate Members, I have mustered some interesting and important items of news and events which have occurred since the publication of our last issue.

It is history now that the Final Recommendations of the Land Conservation Council on the alps were published in June, 1979. As yet Parliament has not ratified these recommendations, and it is not difficult to realize the mental strain on those 10 cattlemen who, if the recommendations are confirmed, will, within the next decade, lose their summer grazing.

As they are unable to diversify, they and their families are unfortunately compelled to sit it out, particularly when some groups who were generously treated, are still insisting they intend to have the lot. Without the efforts of your association, the results could have been much worse.

We and others still have a moral problem to see they, or at least their families are suitably re-established.

Your executive has spent many days discussing these problems with local members and last September, had a long talk to our Premier, who gave them a good hearing but did not make any promises.

For three days last February, that understanding group, the National Resources Conservation League held a worthwhile seminar at Bogong and Rocky Valley and it was entitled "Understanding The Alps".

Jim Commins and Lyle McCready were both speakers well received by those present, and from later conversations it was evident a large number of people had a better understanding of the advantages of grazing the Alps. Some speakers who have travelled overseas emphasized that Alpine grazing is important and accepted, particularly in Europe.

I often wonder whether at the bi-centenary of Victoria, celebration organizers will be regretting the loss of Pioneer grazing habits in the Alps — it is up to our members to retain these procedures.

In February, Bill Cumming and his team from Gippsland ran our annual "get-together". I mention this function because of its importance in enabling cattlemen from the whole perimeter of the Alps to get together for discussions and meet members and associate members who support the association. It also offers the opportunity to meet all the Government officials exercising their functions in the Alps.

We had a successful Annual Meeting in Melbourne during show week; Mr. Jim Commins remains President, Mr. Graham Stoney, Mr. Clive Hodge and Mr. Harry Ryder, Vice Presidents (1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively) and Mrs. Coral Aston, Secretary-Treasurer.

It was a particularly good meeting, planning and reorganizing for the next year. Associate Membership fees will remain the same at \$5.00, but because of the rapidly increasing scale of costs, *ALL* members will be asked to pay for entry to the get-together. The 1981 get-together will be held the 14th and 15th February at "Shannonvale" close to the Bogong High Plains. Further details will be in the next edition of "Voice of the Mountains".

Our new publication of "Voice of the Mountains" has been organized. The preparation, publication and distribution is being shared by a larger number of people. It is planned to release Edition 6 before Christmas. Last year a number of members purchased 10 copies for gifts and we again seek members' support to increase this method of distribution.

Plans were discussed for strengthening and building your organization to give it more strength, this is being followed up and more details will be communicated at a later date.

We thank our Associate Members for their very real support, and look forward to seeing most of you at our annual get-together in the Omeo area next year.

May we send early wishes for the festive season and stress everyone take care and stay safe.