



Voice of the Mountains

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

caring since 1834™

No. 39 (2016)



Voice of the Mountains

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

No. 39 (2016)

CONTENTS

ISSN 0816-9764

Office Bearers 2015/16	2
President's Message 2016	
A word from Charlie Lovick	3
Executive Officer's Report <i>Graeme Stoney</i>	5
Digital Library Project : HCHH	6
High Country Scrapbook	8
A room with a view <i>Leanne Dyson</i>	17
The packhorse <i>George Knights</i>	18
A place to call home <i>Melanie Faith Dove</i>	19
Common sense <i>Rod Poulter</i>	21
Light <i>Leanne Dyson</i>	23
On the cattlemen's bookshelf:	
<i>High Country Cattlemen</i> by <i>Melanie Faith Dove</i>	24
<i>Firestick Ecology</i> by <i>Vic Jurskis</i>	25
Those who rode with Riley <i>Bill Witham</i>	30
Horsin' Around : Four page pullout	33
Historic places on public land investigation	37
Tributes:	
Coral Ann Aston	41
James Stanley "Jim" Treasure	42
Walter "Neville" Wright	43
Gerald Patrick Coleman	44
Albert Tait Campbell	46
41st Annual Get-Together Mitta Mitta 2015	48
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2015	59
MCAV Sponsors 2016	63
Thank You	64

Office Bearers 2015/16

President: Charlie Lovick
Vice Presidents: Simon Turner and Chris Cooper
Secretary: Georgie Connan
Treasurer: Rose Faithfull
Executive Officer: Graeme Stoney
Special Project Officer: Chris Commins
Merchandising Officer: Rebecca Farmer
Get-Together Co-Ordinator: Bruce McCormack
Equine Race Co-Ordinator: Julieann Martin

president@mcaav.com.au
vicepresident@mcaav.com.au
secretary@mcaav.com.au
treasurer@mcaav.com.au
executiveofficer@mcaav.com.au
projectofficer@mcaav.com.au
merchandise@mcaav.com.au
g2g@mcaav.com.au
g2g@mcaav.com.au

Shop 11, 12-20 Highett Street, Mansfield 3722
Phone 03 5779 1747 ABN 2534 2519 237
www.mcaav.com.au Reg. No. A0002117P



Branch Office Bearers 2015/16

Gippsland Branch

President: David Hurley
Vice President: Brian Higgins
Secretary: Leonie Phelan
Central Council Delegates:
Diana Hurley, David Hurley
and John McMahon

North East Branch

President: Ken Heywood
Vice President: Christa Treasure
Secretary: Ben Treasure
Central Council Delegates:
Ken Heywood, Glen Chalwell
and Christa Treasure

Mansfield Branch

President: Bruce McCormack
Vice President: Kellie Lovick
Secretary: Graeme Stoney
Central Council Delegates:
Bruce McCormack, Kellie Purvis
and Graeme Stoney

Omeo Branch

President: Bruce Commins
Vice President: Joe Connley
Secretary: Chris Commins
Central Council Delegates:
Simon Turner, Chris Commins
and Danny Cook

Correspondence and contributions for *Voice of the Mountains* are always welcome and should be addressed to P.O. Box 816, Bairnsdale 3875 or phone Debbie Squires on 0438 522 378.

All material in *Voice of the Mountains* is copyright, and may not be copied or further reproduced in any way whatsoever without the written permission of the individual contributor, or where no contributor is stated, the written permission of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria Inc. The views expressed by individual authors are not necessarily those of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria Inc.

COVER IMAGE

Melanie Faith Dove was there when Chris Cooper was moving stock up on Black Mountain. If you like this image make sure you check out her new publication, reviewed in this issue of *Voice*, for more memorable images.

Printed by E-Gee Printers Pty. Ltd., 135 Forge Creek Road, Bairnsdale 3875
Phone 03 5152 5055 : Fax 03 5152 1387
www.egee.com.au

President's Message 2016

A word from Charlie Lovick

The 2015 legislation to ban cattle must be seen in perspective

THE Legislation passed in May 2015 to ban cattle in the Alpine National Park has to be seen in a wider context. The death knell for grazing in the Alpine National Park was actually sounded in 2005 when the Bracks' Labor Government introduced Legislation to cancel all licenced grazing areas in the Park.

Widespread outrage was expressed across Victoria about the loss of good management of the High Country. Fallout and angst continued until the 2010 election, when two seats changed hands after the MCAV campaigned against the grazing ban in those seats, and the Labor Government fell. The grave concern for the future of the High Country continues to this day among people who understand the bush.

When the Andrews' Government won back office in 2014 the new minister cancelled the existing Wonnangatta three year trial and introduced legislation to stop cattle for any reason entering the Park. The Legislation passed this year by one vote tidies up an alleged "loophole" in the previous 2005 legislation.

It is important to understand that in reality nothing has changed since 2005 when general Alpine grazing was legally banned.

The only thing that has happened since 2005, has been two sets of grazing trials instigated by the new Coalition Government in 2011 and 2014 which used controlled numbers of cattle under trial conditions.

The Wonnangatta trials unleashed savage political activity against the MCAV. The Federal Labor Government, the Victorian National Parks Association, and one group of scientists collaborated their efforts to prevent the introduction of general Alpine grazing. Obviously the opponents of grazing feared that the trials would have shown that grazing reduces fuel.

Grazing in the grazing areas of the High Country reduces the intensity of wildfires, thus especially protecting the snow gums, the MCAV has always claimed. It bases that opinion on intergenerational observation and experience of how wildfire operates.

This latest Legislation bordered on the bizarre with one group of scientists obviously quite happy that Legislation was introduced to cut off any options for scientific work with cattle in the Park by future generations. What objective scientist would allow that principle to become law without protest?



President and Secretary MCAV on site at Merrijig discussing the forthcoming G2G.
Graeme Stoney photographer.

To their credit, other scientists spoke up against the principle and other aspects of the legislation, including the veracity of some science that the Government was relying on to justify the Legislation.

Regressive actions based on ideology are what provoked the Government (and the VNPA). Grazing is being used as a tool for restoring land health around the world. Why not in Australia?

Some Mountain Cattlemen still hold State forest grazing licences which the MCAV will strongly defend if they now come under attack.

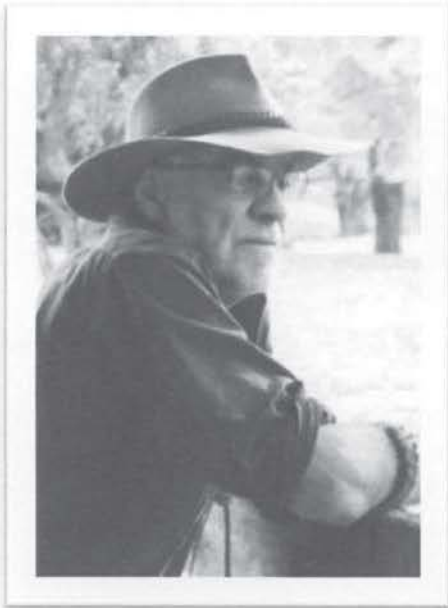
On behalf of the MCAV, my thanks to everyone who has supported us over the years in many ways. The Cattlemen still need that support. For those of you who aren't actual members please consider signing up. A strong membership will assist our ongoing efforts to retain access for all to the High Country. It will also ensure our knowledge, culture and traditions are not lost but carry on into the future.

I wish to make it clear; the MCAV supports multiple use of public land. It supports the use of grazing as a management tool in appropriate areas of the Park and wider High Country and it supports widespread cool burning to reduce fuel loads.

Please join us in that fight for better management of our beloved High Country. We intend to continue to promote and advocate our clear position, and we aren't going anywhere.

In conclusion, my special thanks goes to our efficient and long suffering Secretary Georgie, and Central Council for its support and loyalty.

Charlie Lovick
December 2015



Executive Officer's Report

Graeme Stoney

PRESIDENT Charlie has covered in his report the effect the Legislation to completely ban cattle in the Park had on the MCAV.

The lead up to the vote in the Upper House was frantic as the MCAV attempted to convince the five independents to vote against the Bill. Part of the MCAV strategy was to hold an hour long forum at Parliament House where we had a series of speakers explaining the background to this long running issue.

Among the presenters were Prof. Peter Attiwill, Geoff Burrowes, Lachy Ingram (from the University of Sydney's High Fire project), Vic Jurskis (forester and author) and Chris Commins (MCAV).

Over some weeks, the lobbying was intense with Daniel Young, MP and Jeff Bormann, MP from the Shooters and Fishers Party assisting our cause for which we thank them.

In the end it came down to the Legislation being passed by only one vote.

As Charlie has said, this result was disappointing but it hasn't actually changed anything from 2005.

At the time of writing this article, it is concerning that the Alpine Advisory Committee has only met twice since the November 2014 election, after being directed by the Minister to cease its work. It is also concerning that the targets for planned burns have been recently removed by the Government. The implications of these two moves are not yet clear to those interested in the good management of our High Country.

Federal Bill to protect heritage

Senator Bridget McKenzie has drafted a bill to ensure that the EPBC Act (Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999) is required to take into account the importance of the Mountain Cattlemen's heritage. That private members bill may eventually come to the Senate for debate.

Digital Library Project - The HCHH

This exciting project is well underway.

The High Country History Hub (HCHH) is made up of three groups comprising The Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria, The Mansfield Historical Society and the Merrijig Community Hall Committee.

We have a dedicated team of volunteers under the guidance of Norm Hookey assisted by Anna Francis and we are situated at the Railway Station at Mansfield.

The team has been busy scanning and filming into the digital library old High Country records including photographs, news and television stories of MCAV protests and rallies, Get-Togethers and other events.

Some interesting scientific papers and classic documents dating back more than fifty years have emerged. We would dearly like to be lent more personal documents - submissions, notes, letters or diaries and photographs that relate to the early days in the High Country. We will quickly scan them and return them.

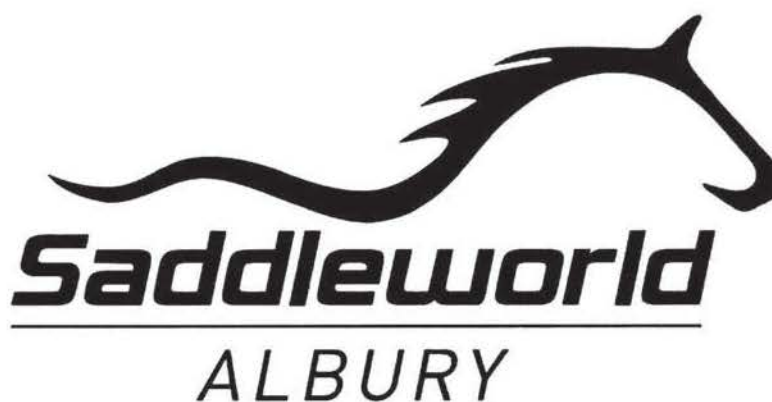
Of special interest in our collection are papers and letters written by respected cattlemen Jack Treasure and Jim Commins which outline the consistent message the cattlemen have been giving for many years. The importance of cool burning and the vital part grazing plays in the management of fuel in the mountains.

Probably the most significant document we have scanned so far is Peter Cabena's *Grazing the High Country* MA thesis (University of Melbourne) recording the grazing leases, their owners and some stories about the runs in the years preceding 1934.

Of course we are keen to obtain more documents and photos. We can undertake to quickly scan them and return the originals to their owners.

We also are keen to train more volunteers to use the scanning and recording equipment. This will be especially important as eventually the project will be entirely run by volunteers.

If anyone can assist please contact me at graeme@stoney.com.au or on 0428 576 090.



419 TOWNSEND STREET ALBURY NSW 2640 02 60212 133

Combining the largest range of stock in the region with the highest level of customer service.

A broad range of saddlery and tack covering everything from dressage, showing, eventing and jumping disciplines, to western, campdrafting, cutting and well as harness, flat racing, endurance, trail riding and miniature pony gear.

Extremely proud sponsors of the MCAV Cattlemen's Cup 2016



“Australia’s mountain cattlemen have been grazing their herds on the natural alpine grasslands of the Victorian high country since the mid-nineteenth century.”

“Their story is important to the broader history of European settlement in this part of Australia. Their traditions have helped shape us as a people and make us who we are today.

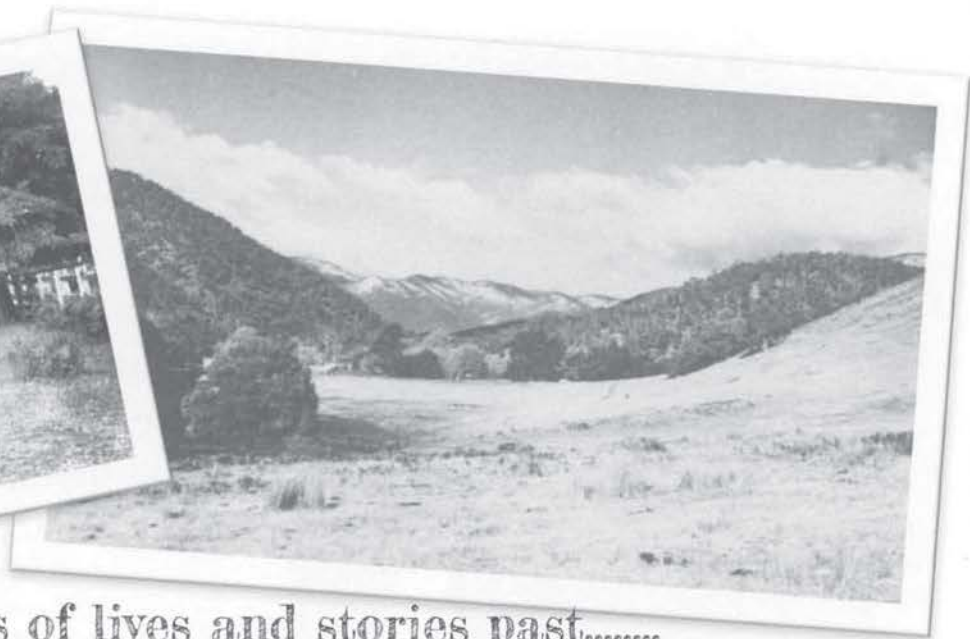
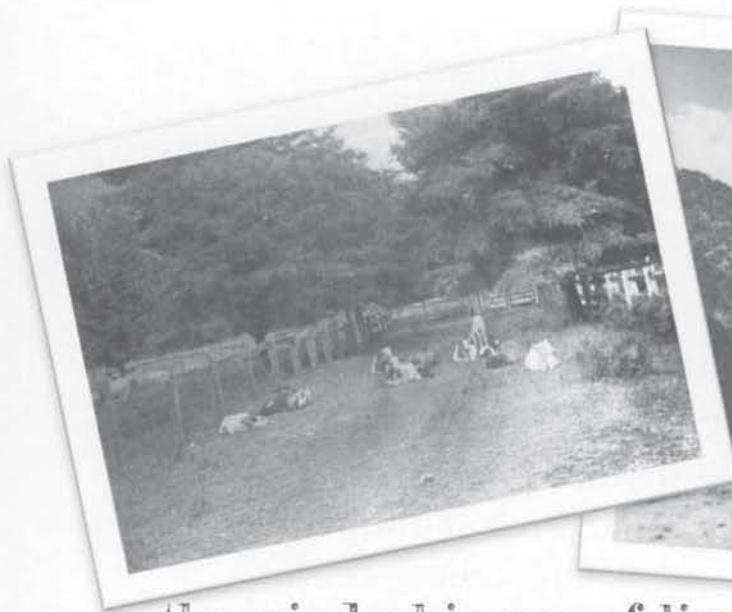
“I am a proud supporter of the Mountain Cattlemen’s Association of Victoria and I support the right of Victoria’s cattlemen to return to the tradition of high country grazing over the summer months. In my experience, the true environmentalists are farming families that have been caring for land over generations, and that certainly applies here.”

Senator John Madigan
Independent Senator for Victoria

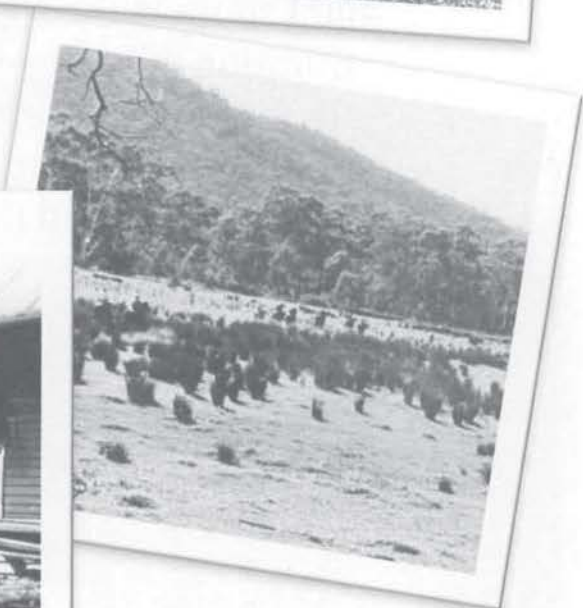
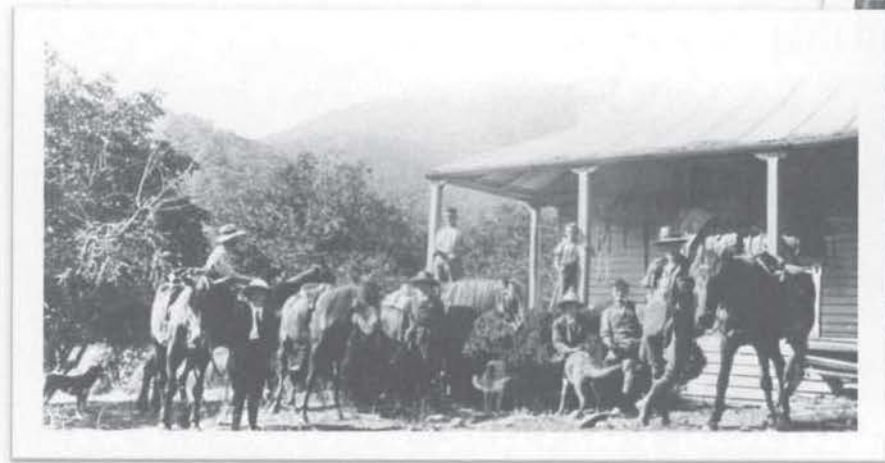
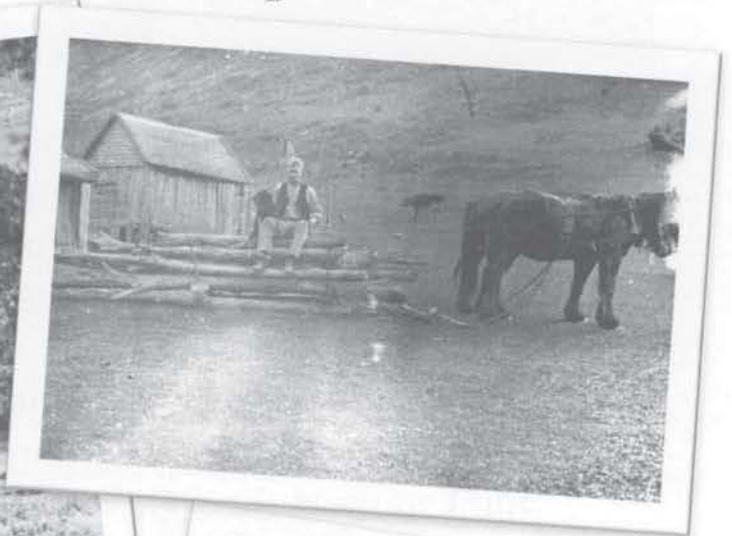
practical politics, putting people first

www.johnmadigan.com.au

Authorised by John Madigan 17 Albert St Ballarat Vic 3350



the wind whispers of lives and stories past.....



The HCHH Digital Library Project hopes to gather copies of photographs such as these.



Views of "old" Wonnangatta. *State Library of Victoria*

High Country Scrapbook

MUSTERING CATTLE

ON THE BOGONG HIGH PLAIN.

(Contributed).

TAWONGA, situated at the foot of Mt. Bogong, 6508 feet, the highest mountain in Victoria, was the scene of much activity on Tuesday morning the 6th April, the commencement of the trip to Bogong High Plain to muster the cattle. Mr and Mrs S. Ryder, of Tawonga, who had previously made all preparations for the trip were accompanied by Misses B. and S. Bollin and H. Mitchell (Benalla). The cattlemen met at the Bogong Hotel all bustle and excitement. At last we were ready and away we went, most of the riders wearing spurs and carrying stockwhips. The pack horses were heavily laden and the dogs, too, were eager to be off.

Leaving Tawonga we crossed the Kiwla and soon began to climb steep spurs. We had lunch at the Springs. Still climbing we reached Bogong Jack's hut, where Hollands were mustering their cattle. Then began the steep ascent to Mt. Fainter, 6-80 feet—wonderful views of Mt. Bogong, Mt. Feathertop and Mt. McKay Once over Mt. Fainter we soon reached Tawonga Hut on Fainter Creek, where we left the horses and walked to our camp. We quickly made a fire and hotted the billy. After eating hot curry and plum pudding we talked and laughed around the fire.

Wednesday! Raining! How disappointed we were. This was to have been the commencement of the great muster. Still raining at mid-day we rode 6 miles and stayed the night at Cape Hut, 11 miles from Mt. Cope, 6027 feet. This hut is well equipped with bunks, cooking and eating utensils, and all conveniences for the welfare of the traveller.

Thursday! Bogong High Plain the height of which is from 5300 to 5900 feet is an area of lovely undulating country. The exhilaration enjoyed at such a high level is most remarkable. On the morning of the mustering when the sun shone through the dense clouds never will I forget the magni-

ficent and fascinating panorama which stretched for miles around us. The variety of color on the distant mountains covered with snow drifts, the rich green of the valleys winding through the plain, the white trunks of snow gums with glorious shades of red, yellow, russet and gold all along their gnarled and twisted branches, and hundreds of well-conditioned Hereford cattle coming from all directions down the slopes of the ranges into Protty Valley was wonderful. Cattlemen were there from Tawonga, Omea, Bright, Freeburgh, and Poropunkah. Now in earnest the hard work began. Whips cracked and the dogs always knew what was expected of them. While some drovers kept the cattle in a ring, several cut out the cattle for other districts leaving only Tawonga cattle.

We of course helped or thought we did. After the cutting out was finished the Tawonga men drove their cattle up the steep slopes to the yards situated on the side of a hill amidst snow gums near the Tawonga Hut, where they were all locked up for the night. How the poor brutes howled, never ceasing throughout the whole night—cows looking mainly for their calves.

Friday.—Ryder Bros. (3) and P. Dunne's cattle were then drafted from Cooper Bros. and Higginson Bros. into a fenced enclosure. The others grazed their cattle on the plains for the rest of the afternoon when they were again locked up ready for an early start next morning. In the afternoon we rode to look for horses, passing round Mt. Jim, 5300 feet, the source of the Bundarra River. We saw trout in the river and found some petrified wood.

Saturday.—The rest of the party rode to see the cattle being pushed over Mt. Fainter while I went with S. and W. Ryder to bring some of their cattle which had been left by the Bright cattlemen at Dibbon's Hut. For miles we had Mt. Feathertop, 6306 feet, on our left, grand and stately. We had a look at the new hut of Weston's and Briggs', also the new hut of Blair's in the Kiwla Valley. We then proceeded along Durrroy's track passing over the low divide at the heads of the Kiwla and

Cobungra Rivers—Kiewa on the left and Cobungra on the right at Dibbon's Hut.

Sunday.—We left Tawonga Hut in heavy rain taking the pack-horses as far as Bogong Jack's. There was terrific wind and rain all the way till within a few miles of Tawonga. We met and passed the cattle which had left the previous day and crossed the Kiewa, rising rapidly. We reached the Bogong Hotel about 4 p.m., fed the pony and left for Bright, 20 miles going through Tawonga Gap noted for its scenic beauty. Although I have ridden over most of the mountains this was the most wonderful and interesting trip of all. When we read in the papers of the mustering of cattle, how many realise the arduous toil and hardships of the cattlemen who yearly make the journey to and from the High Plains. Seeing pictures of the American cowboys, it is hard to believe they could be better riders than these men who muster cattle on the Bogong High Plains.

The North Eastern Ensign
Friday 29 April 1932 p2

TAWONGA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The weather here for the last week has been very varied. Two violent thunderstorms occurred accompanied by very severe lightning, striking several trees, and hail stones as large as pigeon eggs falling, resulting in a frost the next morning.

All the harvesting is about completed. The farmers say they have the best crops for years.

A meeting of the anglers was held on Saturday night, but owing to the most severe wind, only one turned up, consequently it was postponed.

Several New South Wales people have large numbers of stock on the high plains for grass, making Tawonga quite live'y during Christmas and new year.

A new lot of surveyors arrived last Saturday to go over the ground the first lot surveyed for the electric light scheme.

Albury Banner and Wodonga Express Friday 16 January 1920 p3

EARLY MUSTERING OF CATTLE

On High Plains

A comparatively heavy fall of snow on the Bogong High Plains last week has speeded up the activities of cattlemen.

For the past few weeks they have been preparing for the annual muster. The work would have begun about the middle of next month, but the early snow has made it obvious that the stock must be brought down by more accessible points.

About 10,000 head, mostly bullocks, are running up on the "plains," drawn from the Mitta Valley, Kiewa Valley, Ormeo, Harrieville and Bright sides of the ranges. Conditions on top this year are described as almost springlike and the cattle are looking remarkably well.

Better tracks leading to the haunts usually frequented by the cattle make the task of mustering less dangerous than it was even five years ago, but it is still not work for the novice. The musterer must be a reasonably good horseman and know the habits and likely haunts of the cattle.

Right through the summer there was an abundance of feed and water on the high country, even when there was a shortage on lower levels. Already arrangements have been made by agents for disposal of the stock "direct from the tops" which usually finds ready sale.

Gippsland Times
Monday 7 April 1941 p6



Can you identify either of these images? Both are from the Fawcett collection at the State Library of Victoria. The top one, labelled as feeding out salt at Buenba [near Benambra] c1948 (H2015.92/59) while the second one above is c1940 (H2015.92/43). If you know anything about either image please contact Graeme Stoney or email the information to inkpress@bigpond.com.

BRINGING IN 17,000 CATTLE

HUGE VICTORIAN MUSTER

Weeks of hard and daring riding from dawn to dark, and complete control over cattle, horses, and dogs, will be demanded of 35 cattlemen, who have ascended to the Bogong and Dargo High Plains to bring 17,000 cattle to valley pastures below the snowline.

The first light snow has fallen on the wild plateau (states an exchange), and it will be a race against time under the threat of the last mobs being left floundering in the snow at Tawonga, Mitta Mitta, Omeo, Dargo, Stratford, and Harrierville.

Cattlemen have decided it is time to prepare for the State's biggest drive a little earlier than usual. Misjudging the weather would cost the cattle owners dear, for cattle cannot live in feet deep snow which covers the High Plains for six months a year.

With several weeks' provisions the riders have gone up to huts on "The Roof" of the State. About 12,000 head run on Bogong high plains, and the Dargo carries about 6000. Although they are shy mountain cattle, spread over about 30 miles, the stockmen seldom return without having mustered almost every beast.

THE CALL TO SALT.

Driving from all points, the horsemen muster about 1000 at a time, and begin expertly cutting out and pad-docking before the big drive. Scores of pounds of salt will be used to hold the cattle together. The salt-hungry stock will answer the call to salt for miles around.

Calves are running with the cows, and this means a big droving problem, for cows try to get away with their off spring. Dogs, stockwhips, and even tin cans are used to keep the mobs from 600 to 800 of big Hereford cattle compact and moving fast.

Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton)
Thursday 22 April 1937 p13

CATTLE MIGRATION TO ALPS

With the approach of a belated summer the annual cattle drive to grazing ranges in the Victorian Alps is under way, and hard-riding horsemen from the north-east and Gippsland are taking thousands of quality Herefords up to nearly 6,000ft. above sea level. Soon there will be nearly 17,000 head on the "roof of Victoria."

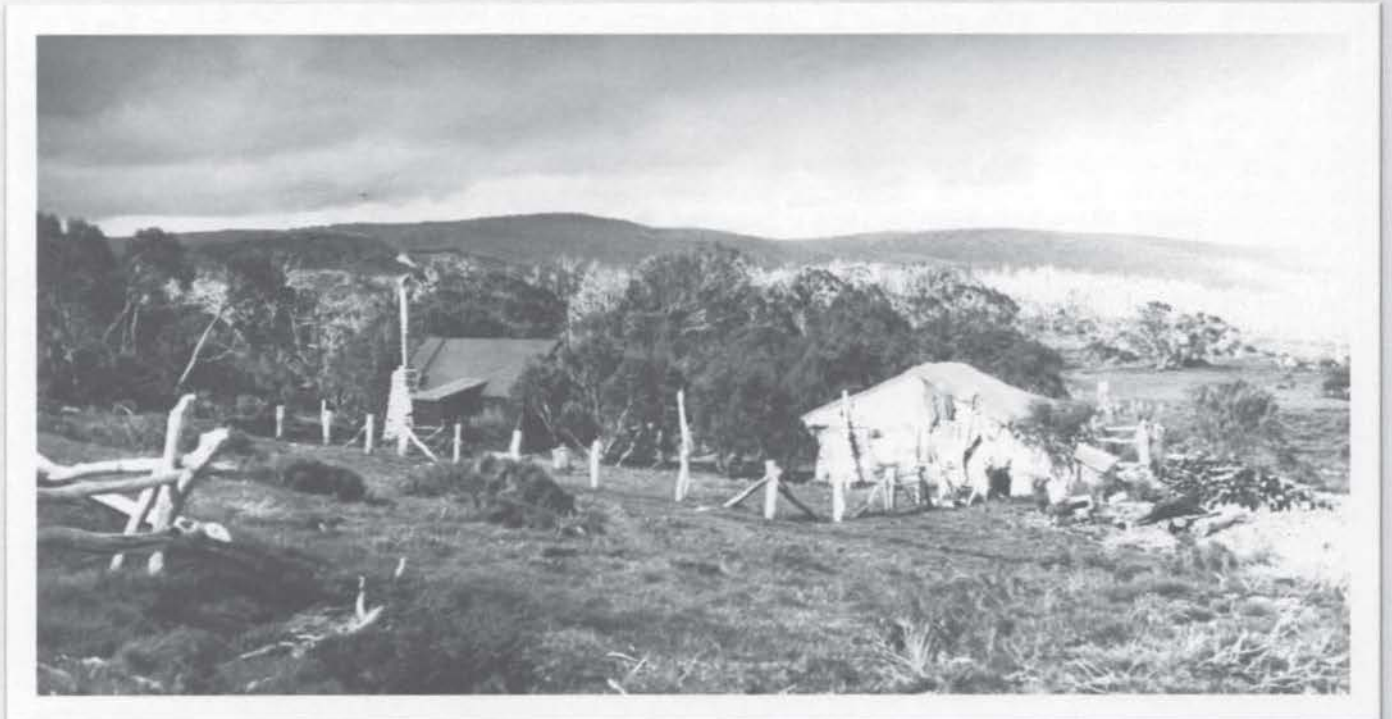
The cattle will be left undisturbed for a month to graze anywhere on the Bogong and Dargo high plains. Then they will be yarded and branded before being freed to roam at will until April, when, with snow threatening, they will be brought down again to below the snow line.

The Argus Tuesday 5 December 1939 p5

SNOW ON THE ALPS; CATTLE IN DANGER.

Spurred on by the early fall of snow and the possibility of 10,000 head of cattle being trapped in the drifts when real winter comes, 40 hardy horsemen are racing against time on the Alpine high plains to get the stock down to lowland pastures. Some weeks ago these men assembled at Tawonga, Mitta Mitta, Omeo, Dargo, Stratford and Harrierville, and began their ride to the 5000 and 6000 feet high plateaus where the big Hereford cattle had been running wild over rich plains of nutritious grass and clover. They are living in the huts now with their month's provisions. For four weeks they must ride up to 30 miles a day to muster cattle spread over the 30 square miles of the Bogong and Dargo high plains. Already the first mobs, each of 300, have been started down the treacherous mountain trails, around gorges that, in places, are 1000 feet deep, and where only the mountain pony that can "turn on a three-penny piece" can carry the horseman safely. With the splendid rains over the Alps early in the summer, following the previous summer's fire, the cattle have been grazing in knee-deep clover and are reported to be in better condition than for years past.

The Horsham Times Friday 19 April 1940 p2



Again both of these are from the Fawcett collection at the State Library of Victoria. The top one is labelled as "descent of Mt Howitt" from a walking club collection, but who is it? (H2002.51/46) while the second shows two buildings on the Bogong High Plains. If you know anything about either of them please contact Graeme Stoney or email the information to inkpress@bigpond.com.

ALONG THE HOWQUA RIVER

AMONG THE DINGOES.

[By a Benalla Tourist.]

We started from Mansfield with rain overhead and mud beneath, and landed in Merrig in sunshine. Next day, on trained horses, we made up the bridle track for Mts. Bulla and Howitt. The young generation can never realise the pluck and endurance of the pioneers who opened up this country for them unless they take a trip along the bridle tracks which traverse the precipitous ranges and skirt the deep gorges of the way-backs—the lands of snow and storms. In the early days officers of the Mines department cut these tracks for miners to pack in their provisions, and thus they were able to explore and prospect the mountains in search of gold. On crossing the Howqua the remains of large mining enterprises meet us. Two water-wheels still stand there, one—a very monster—causing wonder how such ponderous iron girders were carried over the then mountain tracks to their destination. The bridle track varies from 3 to 5 or 6 feet wide, and in places out out of a sheer face of rock or rubble, leaving a wall rising above us on one side and a sheer precipice beneath on the other, and at the foot the Howqua River rushing in foam over bed rock. For 20 or 30 miles the stream runs foaming over clear rock, and the fall is very rapid. Along this bridle track mobs of cattle and horses are driven in summer to the snow grass pastures beyond, and the animal instinct is so keen that they walk in single file along the narrow track and seldom make a slip, although my guide showed me a few places where a restive animal had slipped over the side and had been dashed to death in the river below.

Thus we passed along mile upon mile, far away from the sound of human life and surrounded by solitude and grandeur. Mountain peaks rising 4000, 5000, and 6000 feet, the upper reaches being pinnacles of bare rock, which will presently be covered with anything from 9 to 19 feet of snow. Continuous loading and grinding of the snow and ice powders the surface rock and carries it to lower reaches, where snow gum and undergrowth hold it, and it becomes a fertiliser, where the snow grass thrives luxuriantly for a few months in summer and stock put on condition quickly. Here, far down in the deep dark depths of the ravines and gorges, where the sun seldom shines, there is long, lank grass covering woollybut logs that have come shooting down from the heights above, and brought tree ferns and saplings with them, and below this tangle run clear streams, the side walls of which are covered with moss and lichen—a splendid field for the botanist, whose love of adventure and botany would lead him to risk breaking his neck in getting into or out of these dark places of the earth. Very few birds were

seen or heard beyond a few mountain parrots and some lyca birds. The latter we heard, but did not see.

As night closed in and darkness crept over us we were gladdened by the sight of a wayback hut, used when cattle mustering, and here we took off the saddles, put on hobbles and bells, and turned the horses adrift for the night, taking care to block up the entrance to the track at a narrow place to keep our steeds from marching home again. The hut was on a small flat, with fair grass. Here we gathered sticks as in days of yore we did for mother to light the fire, and without candle or lamp by the fire-light we spread our table with the luxuries of johnny cake and fried chops (cold), which, with black tea and white sugar, supplied the wants of the "inner man." No pyjamas here, but taking off our boots and wrapping our coats closely around us we retired gracefully to meditate rather than sleep.

Our meditations were interrupted by a curious sound as of grumbling and sniffing and snapping, which my guide informed me came from dingoes, or wild dogs. This was soon made very clear by a howling chorus that rang through the forest and echoed far away among the mountains. Just before daybreak they left us, and after a hearty meal we found our horses and started off for another 30-mile ride. One fine dingo followed stealthily for ten miles. He was a splendid animal, and often came within 40 yards of us. A bright yellow, with white muzzle and white tip to tail, prick ears, and a broad chest—in size as big as a Newfoundland dog. He was the finest specimen I

have seen of a pure dingo, and two or three of these could make short work of an unarmed man if they knew their power. My guide told me that they never tackle a man, but have been known to kill a yearling beast.

Another ten miles on the track we found another hut belonging to the cattle ranchers. This was also on a small flat, with poor grass, it being too cold and too close to the snow line for grass in May. The forest here altered a bit. There was more woollybut and messmate on the reaches of the ranges, and the Benalla Sawmilling Co. and G. D. Howes would delight to see such fine mill logs around them here. They will remain where they are, however, unless our flying machine can hitch them on and bring them over the dizzy heights to the lower world. A lot of fine blue gum timber is scattered along the spurs and valleys, and above it all comes the snow gum, a stunted, crooked and apparently useless timber, except for firewood, and it is splendid burning timber. Just ahead of us is Mount Howitt, and on the left the Bluff, and behind us Mount Bulla, while on the right a mountain (whose name I could not find out) stood out bold and steep, and on top is a small plateau of grass land and a fine lagoon. Our time had expired, and we also feared a snow fall at

owners would not take the trouble they do and the risk to life and stock to get to the pasture lands.

A trip to these waybacks would do our young folks good, by making them realise their comforts and easy travelling as compared with these cattle ranchers, who risk life and stock to make a livelihood out of four or five months' pasture above the snow line.

any moment, and made tracks across for settlement again, well satisfied that this rugged country is worth a further trip in summer time, with a fortnight to do it in. The grass land has suffered much by bush fires burning up scrub and choking the forest. Grass crop in places, but it is still a good summer grazing ground, and must be especially so in drought years when we are dried up here. If it were not so, the stock-

Benalla Standard
Tuesday 16 May 1911
p2

RESCUED FROM SNOW CATTLE DRIVEN FROM ALPS

MELBOURNE, Monday

Three hundred cattle which had been trapped on the Alps by last week's snowfalls, were rescued during the week-end by the Lawlor brothers and their nephew Bernard Lawlor. They were cramped with cold and almost starving.

The mustering of the cattle had been commenced last week in preparation for driving them into the valleys for the winter when the snow interrupted operations. Yesterday about 150 cattle were found on Mt. Feathertop crouched together and unable to move towards grass patches because of a snowdrift in front of them. The drift was beaten down and the cattle released.

Another herd of about the same number was driven up from the Dargo Valley and together the whole mob was taken down the mountain towards Harrietteville. There are still about 400 cattle away on the mountains but they will be mustered within the next few days.

Shepparton Advertiser
Tuesday 14 April 1936 p5

These are just a sample of the type of articles and newspaper clippings that we are seeking. If you have any in a digital format please forward them to graeme@stoney.com.au for inclusion in our High Country Heritage Collection.

Photocopies can be forwarded to the MCAV office, Shop 11, 12-20 Highett Street, Mansfield

Argus
Wednesday 17 April 1935
p7

CATTLE-MEN MAROONED

ON BOGONG HIGH PLAINS DENSE FOGS AND SNOW

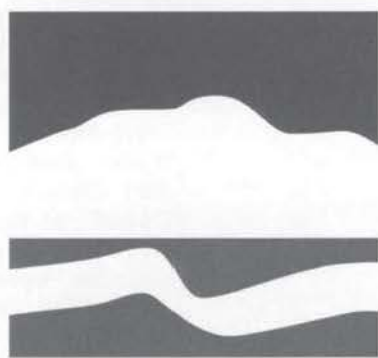
12 Shelter in Lonely Huts

WODONGA, Tuesday.—About 12 cattle-men are having a most unpleasant experience on the Bogong High Plains owing to the cold weather, which has brought heavy falls of snow and dense fogs. The men's trouble is due more to fogs than to snow. The men, who are from the Klewa Valley side of the Bogong Mountains, are known to be isolated. They made the ascent to muster stray cattle left after the intense muster that has been proceeding for several weeks up to last week. Then more than 3,000 cattle were brought down as usual, but there were some shortages in counts and the men returned to make their numbers correct, or to help their neighbours to do so.

There is no immediate danger for the men, but it is feared that at one hut food supplies must be nearly exhausted. The three Maddisons, Jack, Victor, and Thomas, have been in the Bogong hut for a week. If there are other cattle-men with them, there would be a severe drain on provisions. Unless there is a marked improvement in weather conditions within a day or two, food will have to be taken to the hut on pack horses by men with a thorough knowledge of tracks and cattle pads. It will be a task only for the most expert, and it is doubtful whether any man out of the mountains has a better knowledge of the mountains than the dozen now in the huts.

In Painter hut are Sid Ryder, Walter Ryder, and Jack Ryder, all of Tawonga; Ray Cooper, of Khancoona; and Reg Cooper, of Coral Bank. They have been locked up since Thursday, but their food supplies were replenished on Sunday. Since then there have been several snow falls. Edward Turner, Robert Reid, and Jack Roper, of Tawonga, are in the Tawonga hut, but they have not been long enough away to cause anxiety.

Early in the summer, some Melbourne people had six kerosene cases of tinned foods taken by train to Wodonga, and then to Tawonga by road. Later it was taken by pack horses to the highest hut on the mountains. Now the hut is accessible only to expert runners on skis.



MANSFIELD SHIRE

The MCAV acknowledges the support and assistance of the Mansfield Shire.



a room with a view

High in the hills
crisp mountain air
fold upon fold
merge blend compare.

Framed by the snow gums
trunks twisted white
softened by leaves
shimmering light.

Foreground o' grasses
tufts, 'round dispersed
blanket of frost
feel you're the first.

Pure the vision
pristine untouched
breath in the hues
land loved so much.

Dawn sun is rising
camp-fire smoke
swag is my room
with a view to bespoke.

Learne Dyson

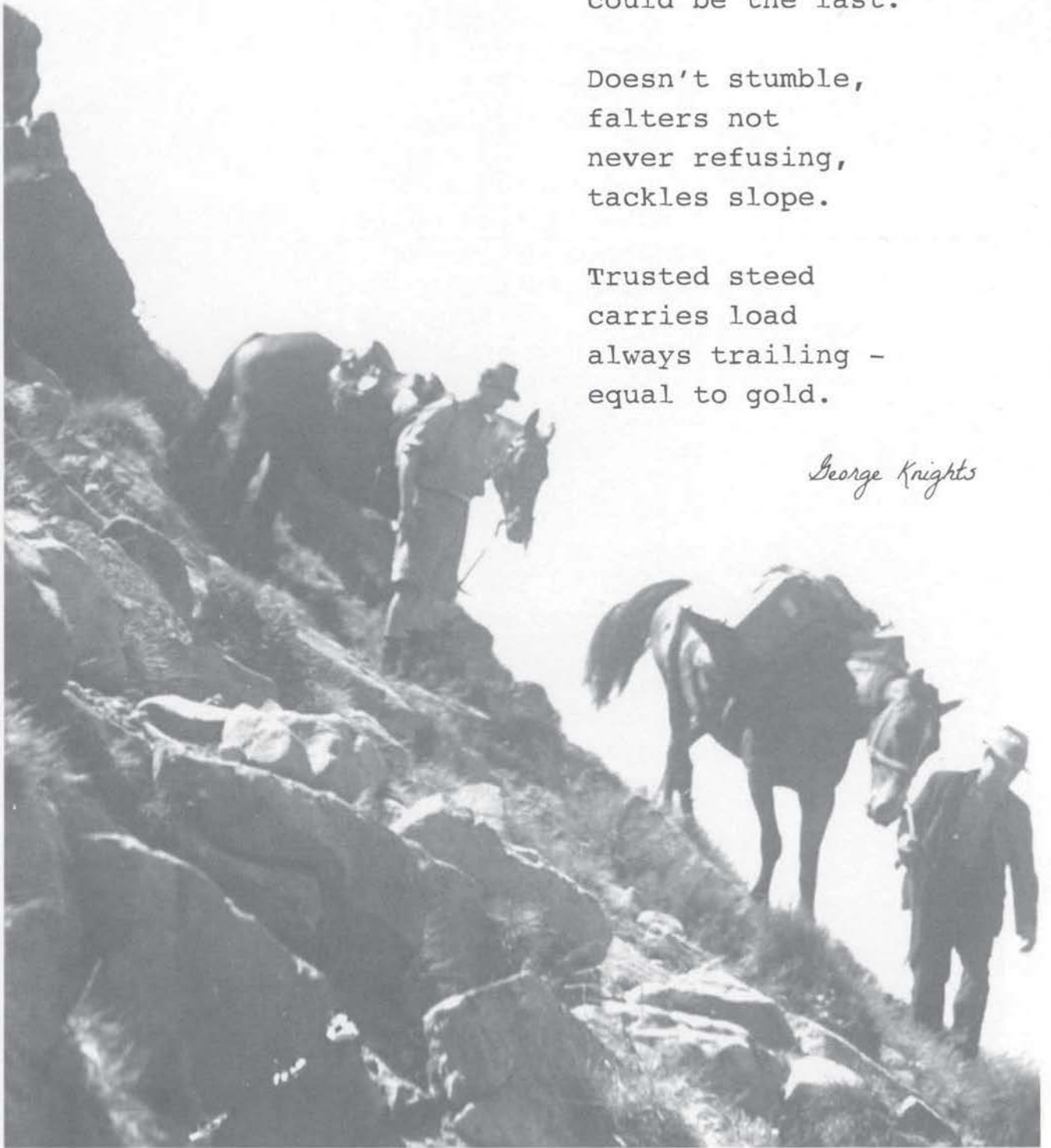
the packhorse

Follows on
flint stones sharp
each step
could be the last.

Doesn't stumble,
falters not
never refusing,
tackles slope.

Trusted steed
carries load
always trailing -
equal to gold.

George Knights



A Place to Call Home

Melanie Faith-Dove tells what drove her to producing her photographic book and how she overcame being an outsider to get the images she sought.

There is a place in the High Country State Forests for everyone. The cattlemen know they don't own the land but they belong to it, a spiritual connection, a connection I'm sure the Aboriginal people of the region would share. Their knowledge of the land, its intricacies, hidden trails, rivers, sights and sounds trace through the Australian bush like a network of veins inextricably linked deep into their hearts where their slow burning passion reigns fierce. This culture is not one you can join; it has to be lived to be truly understood. Generation to generation, their knowledge, kinship and connection is passed down through man, woman and child. This is their home; this is where their heart runs free.



Mel, in the centre (minus camera), relaxing with friends.

I'm an outsider. I grew up on the land in the Western Districts of Victoria, far from the Alpine Ranges. I knew nothing of the mountain ranges, ridges or roads. I knew nothing of how the Alps play to their own tune, getting sunburnt and bitten by march flies one minute, fog rolling in the next, followed by a freezing hail storm thereafter. What was this place? Who were these people? I had heard about the infamous Lovick family from my father, as my Grandfather Ray Dove had lived and worked around the Alexandra/Mansfield area and played Polocrosse. I'd heard the

Lovicks were pretty tough riders and Dad would tell me how the cattlemen put salt out in the bush to bring their cattle back home from the bush. It all sounded like a fable, I worried that the Cattlemen were a thing of the past and I decided to do some further investigation.

That was the sum of my introduction; that was the start of *High Country Cattlemen*.

I grew up with cattle so I felt confident to work with them but I'd only ever belted around the paddocks on my friend's pony growing up, so I wasn't so courageous when I had to carry a camera on the back of a horse and try and shoot with one hand and steer a horse with the other. And really,

that was the least of my challenges, in undertaking a book on the remaining Mountain Cattlemen of Victoria and Tasmania, I had no shortages of hurdles to overcome (some of them quite literal).

I had photographed the Lovick and McCormack families of Merrijig in late 2012 for stories in *The Age*, *Outback Magazine* and for my book *Working Dogs*. I could see all of the ingredients were there, horses, cattle, dogs, Akubras, swags and spectacular scenery and I knew it had the makings of a photographic book. I approached Charlie Lovick, the MCAV

President in 2013 and explained my idea of doing a photographic book; I guessed I wasn't the first hopeful author in recent times to have done so. He essentially said, it sounded ok by him but it wasn't him that I had to convince, it was the rest of the MCAV members. After inviting me along to the next AGM to pitch my idea, the reaction was positive and enthusiastic so I decided to charge on down the road less travelled. Thanks to Mary Treasure who I will always remember for getting the ball rolling with my exploration of life on the land in Springtime.

Some of my main challenges

1st Pot Hole

You call people and they don't call you back. I understand, I'd rather talk face to face too but can I tell you, it's a bloody long drive from outer Melbourne to the likes of Benambra, Dargo and Merrijig to sit down with families and explain what I hoped to achieve through doing this project. I learnt how massive the state of Victoria truly is. I also learnt how to follow mud maps rather than rely on my mobile phone, which usually lost connection well before most destinations.

2nd Pot Hole

Feral deer in the headlights: Most people thought they weren't worthy of the attention. "Why don't you go talk to 'so and so' down the road, they've got a much better story than me". I was amazed at their humble natures, just going about their own, normal business not considering that to the rest of Australia, perhaps the world, their unique culture and way of life is extraordinary.

3rd Pot Hole

Thick Fog: Trying to understand the catch phrase 'Grazing reduces blazing'. It seemed to me that in the days when cattlemen undertook cool burns, the fuel load was reduced and kept the bush clean in a manner more akin to how Aboriginal people had retained the natural balance. It seemed to me that without burning

the bush, cattlemen were operating with one arm tied behind their back, living with the frustrating and imminent threat of mega bushfires forever on their doorstep while they wait and rely on government departments to manage the threat through their own sporadic burn offs.

4th Pot Hole

Black Ice: Spinning a tail, weaving in enough history so that the audience gets an understanding where the Cattlemen have come from in order to sense how traumatic the extradition from the Alpine National Park has been, and then share a sense of hope about where the last remaining cattlemen are heading and what the future holds for them; Ian Stapleton and Geoff Burrowes kindly offered some wise words to open the book. They added a greater context and weight to this densely complex subject.

Cattlemen are true characters, down to earth, generous, hilarious, warm and tough but not rough (I've never eaten better three course meals let alone around a campfire). I am truly grateful for the experience, to have gotten to glimpse these elusive mountain cattlemen families in their natural state, preserving their legacy and their love of heritage and tradition.

For those that gave up their precious time for a chat, a story to share, a glass of wine, a place to sleep (for me and my children) and most of all a magical memory to accompany the beautiful photos, thank you. Thanks too for the valuable education. I was privileged to partake in this most sacred event and capture a small slice of the beauty from the journey you all took me on. I hope you can appreciate the contemporary collection of images and stories and treasure it in future generations.

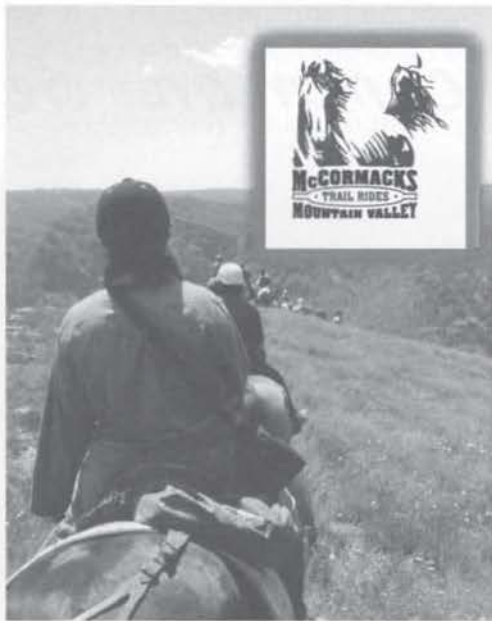
Melanie's book, *High Country Cattlemen* is reviewed on page 37 of this issue of *Voice of the Mountains*.



Common Sense

I'm sick to death of city folk
who rant and rave and banter.
They couldn't sit a horse at trot
far less a bloody canter.
They make the rules, the bloody fools,
for places they've not been.
A mountain creek, or lofty peak
they've probably never seen.
And the suited mugs in Canberra,
they really are a farce.
They wouldn't know a dingo's track
if it bit 'em on the arse.
Yet still they come here saying
this place we'll surely spoil.
The fact that it's still beautiful
is a result of the cattleman's toil.
So keep your green ideals my friend
and put your mind at rest.
No mountain man could ever harm
the place that he loves best.

Rod Poulton



Ride with us through the magnificent
Victorian High Country.
Breathtaking views from mountain tops,
roam through tree ferned valleys,
engage in river crossings.

Ride to "The Man from Snowy River" Craig's
Hut - Mt Stirling - Mt Magdala
Howitt High Plains - Wonnangatta Valley

2 hr - half day - full day - overnight
or 3-7 day rides

McCormack's Mountain Valley Trail Rides

Bruce & Deb McCormack, 62 McCormacks Road, Merrijig

Bookings 03 5777 5542

Mobile 0428 573 708

www.mountainvalleytrailrides.com



Soil & Water
Conservation

J.A. Commins & Co.

Road Safety
Vegetation Management



Fire Management
Earthmoving
Plantation Site Work

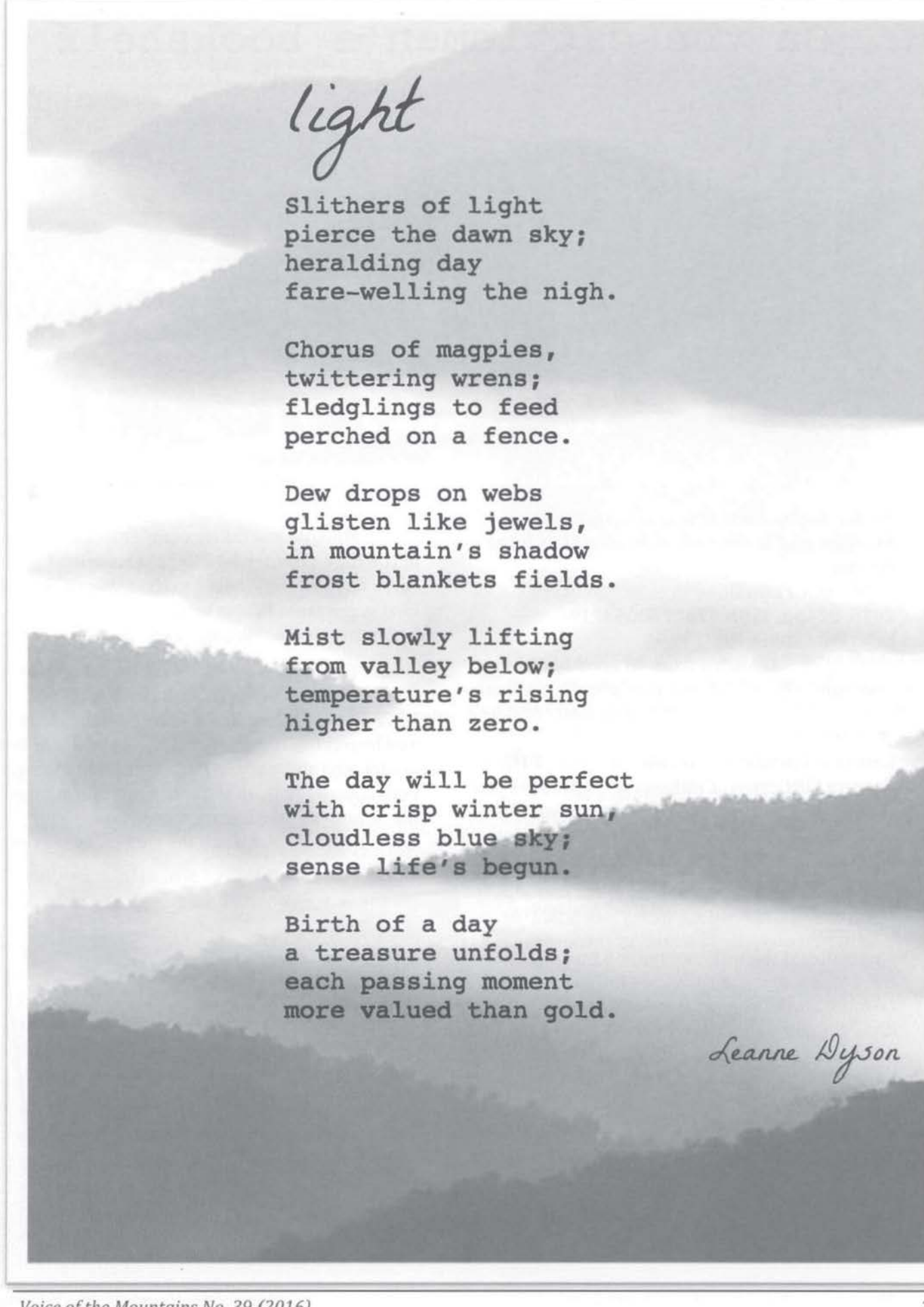
Chris (03) 5157 3232 / 0428 573 296

cjcommins@bigpond.com

Graham 0327 573 295

www.jacommins.com.au

J.A. Commins & Co. have been Primary Fire Fighting Contractors since its inception
and have fifty years experience in the East Gippsland region.



light

Slithers of light
pierce the dawn sky;
heralding day
fare-welling the nigh.

Chorus of magpies,
twittering wrens;
fledglings to feed
perched on a fence.

Dew drops on webs
glisten like jewels,
in mountain's shadow
frost blankets fields.

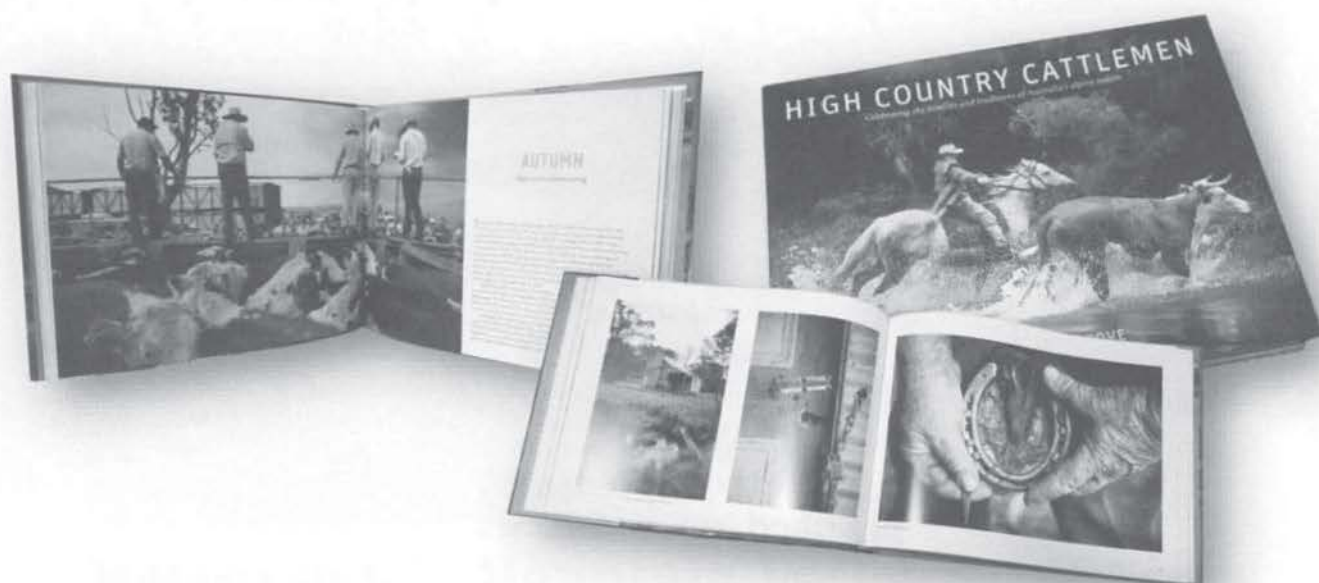
Mist slowly lifting
from valley below;
temperature's rising
higher than zero.

The day will be perfect
with crisp winter sun,
cloudless blue sky;
sense life's begun.

Birth of a day
a treasure unfolds;
each passing moment
more valued than gold.

Leanne Dyson

On the cattlemen's bookshelf



High Country Cattlemen : Celebrating the families and traditions of Australia's alpine region

by Melanie Faith Dove

2015, 224pp., ISBN 9781760063719

Echo Publishing, RRP\$39.95

Available from all good booksellers
or direct from Melanie at mfdove@gmail.com
or phone 0409 006 972

Last year I predicted that Melanie's book *High Country Cattlemen : Celebrating the families and traditions of Australia's alpine region* would be on the most wanted for Christmas list, however I doubt if most readers could wait that long when it came out last October. Melanie's photographic mentor, Andrew Chapman, co-produced the ultimate tribute book to the drovers and their lifestyle in *The Long Paddock* last year and Melanie has done the same this year for the Mountain Cattlemen with this beautifully produced book.

Fabulous photographs grace almost every page and it perhaps captures the essence of the cattlemen the best of any of the colour glossy productions that have been produced on the high country in the past.

Melanie has taken a contemporary look at the High Country families that continue to carry on their long-held bush traditions and the next generation that is being trained in becoming the custodians of the land.

The book was photographed over two years and covers Victorian, Tasmanian and NSW alpine regions, huts, families, landscape and brumbies. It documents the daily life of the cattlemen (and women) throughout the season with a keen focus on the cattle migration over the Summer and Autumn months. The cows know the runs and teach the calves the way of



the drive from home paddock to high country run. In much the same way, the cattlemen are now teaching the seventh generation the secrets they have learnt of the mountains, rivers and seasons, tackling river crossings and mountainous terrain on horseback.

The photographs are sublime as Mel has endeavoured to document the proud and threatened tradition of the mountain cattlemen as environmental legislation strips families of their long-held summer grazing leases in the alpine regions. The book also, importantly, documents the last cattle to ever be taken into the Wonnangatta Valley.

The book tells many people's stories, from their past memories to sharing their dreams for their children as they take them with them on the journey to being a Mountain Cattleman.

Firestick Ecology :
Fairdinkum Science in Plain English

by Vic Jurskis

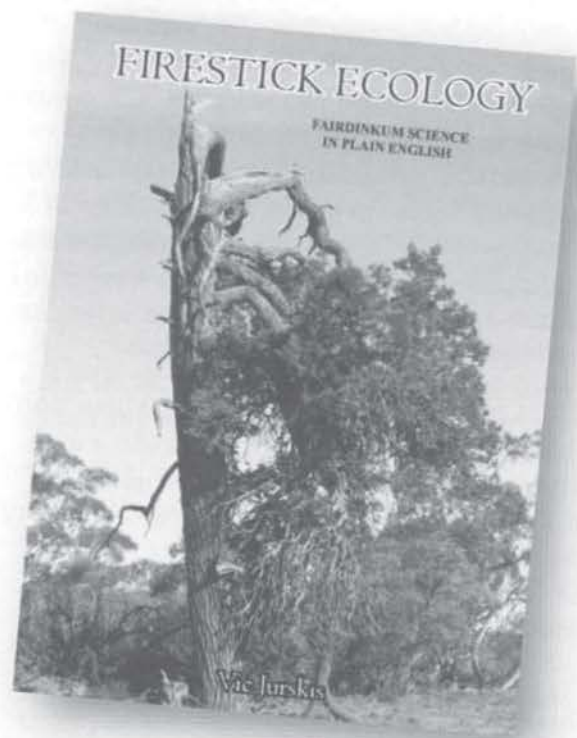
2015, 370pp., ISBN 9781925138740, PB

Connor Court Publishing Pty Ltd, Ballarat, 2015

Available from the MCAV \$30 plus postage
vic.jurskis@gmail.com

Every Australian when asked: Do they want a healthy and safe bush environment? Would answer yes to that massively loaded question. Greenie or Grazier will claim to want the same end result. If, then asked: How do we get there or what is a safe and healthy forest environment? The answers will be poles apart. In this highly contested debate Vic Jurskis and his book *Firestick Ecology* step in as the most comprehensive, original testament to returning the bush to Australia Felix rather than the current aboriginal termed "gone to rubbish".¹

Reading, understanding and enjoying this important contribution by Vic Jurskis does provide the pathway by which we can achieve once again a healthy and safe environment as it was before 1788. There is in Vic's book no myth, pathological science, lies, dammed lies or even statistics to mislead, nor distorted journalism, to achieve a political end, or more



global warming guilt. Just a lifetime of keen and educated observation and creative thought. As we read we can almost feel Vic luxuriating in the purity of original and untainted application of honest scientific method.

Vic's analysis is based on a rigorous totally researched theory of Australian Forest ecology. The Jurskis theory of forest ecology is quite simple. Expressed by Vic himself and I quote from page 146 "*Arbivores, saplings, shrubs, litter, fallen timber, scrub, bush rats, cockroaches, common birds, parasites and disease are proliferating at the expense of healthy ancient trees, grasses, herbs, bare ground and the animals that depend on them. European settlers disturbed the balance of nature when they stole the firestick*".

Every page of this remarkable book has a thought based upon understanding, practical experience, massive contemplation, theoretical logic and immense scholarship, all in plain English which like Vic himself is without pretention or hubris. Try for example pages 106/108.

" Australian Aborigines originally disturbed a dynamic balance of nature. The firestick replaced a regime of infrequent high-intensity lightning fires. They rearranged the vegetation and extinguished many plants along with the mega fauna that ate them, before maintaining a newly established balance through forty thousand years of large environmental fluctuations" which then invokes the razor sharp summation of Mitchell "Fire, grass, kangaroos and human inhabitants seem all dependent on each other for existence in Australia".

Chapter 1, "Science" begins with a Bob Dylan gem, "Yes, how many times can a man turn his head pretending he just doesn't see" should also be compulsory reading before any contribution is made to the grazing "conversation" by our urban 'scientific and academic' warriors.

Vic states correctly (page2) that *"Observation is the first essential step in the scientific method and thinking is second. Proposing a hypothesis is the third and testing it*

is the fourth step" Unfortunately, modern research often begins at the fourth step by testing a preconceived hypothesis or, just as bad, bypasses the scientific method and uses data collection and statistical gymnastics to search for insights into perceived problems. This invariably gets people into trouble because they focus on association and neglect logical cause."

Of particularly interest to us is chapter 7, The Wilderness Myth. The flavour of which is expressed in the first sentence, *"Wilderness is an elitist, imperialist, antisocial concept rooted in the arrogance of Terra nullius – the idea of land belonging to no-one - which helped the Roman Empire to flourish and also allowed European aggressors to dispossess Aborigines around the world"* and may I add ignore their stewardship of Australia by 40,000 years application of Firestick Ecology later however picked up by our early graziers.

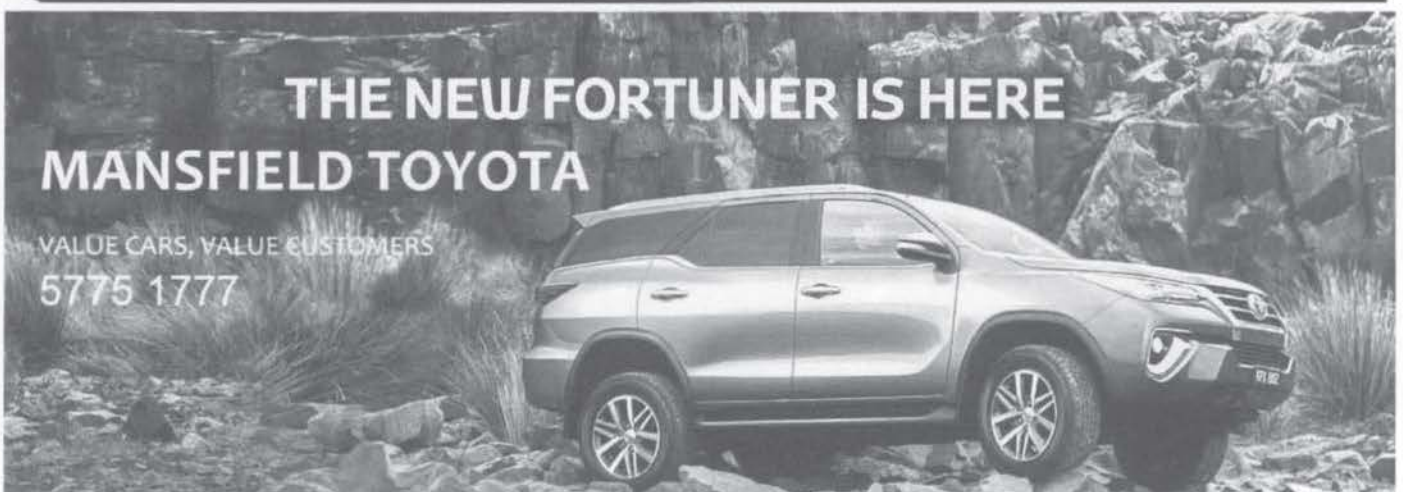
Of greater interest is Chapter 9 "The Alleged Evils of Grazing" with another apt quotation *"All of Rubin's cards were marked in*



125 High Street, Mansfield

5779 1685

Everything for hunting, fishing
and camping



advance, the trial was a pig-circus he never had a chance"- Bob Dylan". That chapter is essential reading and study for anybody engaged in the High Country grazing debate.

The Australian environmental disaster is that Vic Jurskis and others of his view have been silenced and ignored because they do not fit in with the urban Greens, their tame media, the quasi military emergency services, vote sensitive politicians, or the current climate change hysterics.

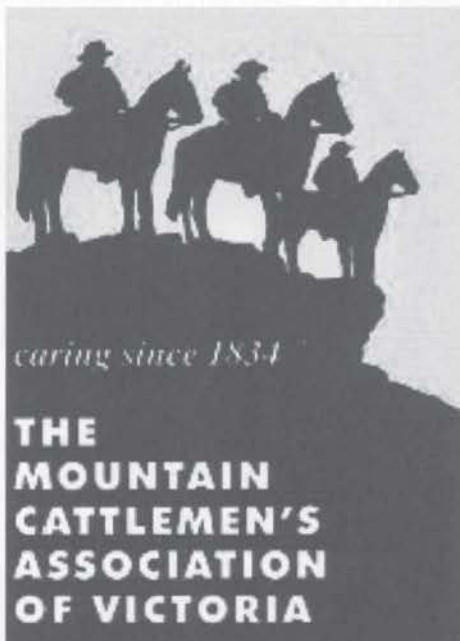
Vic makes an asset of the healthy use of robust scepticism so necessary and so unwelcome by those who have rewarding careers from following the rest of the flock. He sums up for us and makes our life more worthwhile by stating those arguments that us less courageous would like to express. Who amongst the readers of this journal have not felt the following quoted by Vic and attributed to Walter Starch. (P140) "*When large amounts of money are made available to study a problem the one thing that is least likely to be discovered is there actually isn't one. Almost certainly it will be found that the problem is complex and more research is urgently needed.*"

The following 178 pages deserve just as much attention as the previous 140 but you can find that for yourself without me spoiling the end for you. After (or before, if you wish) comes Bill Gammage '*The Biggest Estate on Earth*'² and Luke and McArthur '*Bushfires in Australia*'³ and then you will be equipped to return Australia Felix before its enemies finally achieve its complete destruction.

Consider buying a copy as well as for your local, favourite green activist for I am sure they will not buy one for themselves.

Review by David Packham OAM, MAppSci.
21 December 2015
holleyhill@bigpond.com

1. Robinson, Packham and Powell (1995) 'Cleaning up the Country', *Wildfire*, 5(1) March 1995, 45-47
2. Allen and Unwin (2013).
3. Australian Govt Publishing Service, Canberra, (1978).

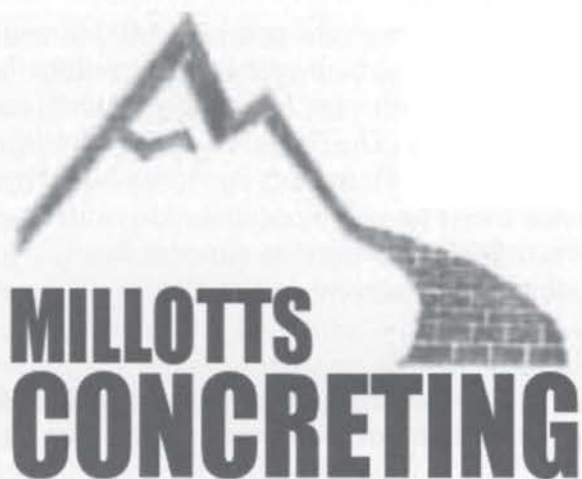


Help bring sense back into the management of the Alpine National Park! Become a member of the MCAV and join forces with common sense.

The cattlemen are known for their love and knowledge of the bush, for independent action but with the ability to co-operate. They are persistent. They have a profound interest in the past. In order for us to articulate our message we need you to join our growing membership and show your support. You can become an Associate member, joining as either a family (\$40) or an individual (\$30).

Join us in our efforts to ensure our culture and traditions carry on into the future by becoming a member of the MCAV.

Email secretary@mcaav.com.au or visit our website at www.mcaav.com.au



MILLOTTs CONCRETING

call Greg

0409 172 118

Slabs Shed Floors Paths
Concrete Cutting and Drilling
Servicing Mansfield since 1948

Dianne Patten Quilter



Specialising in edge to edge
quilting and quilts to order

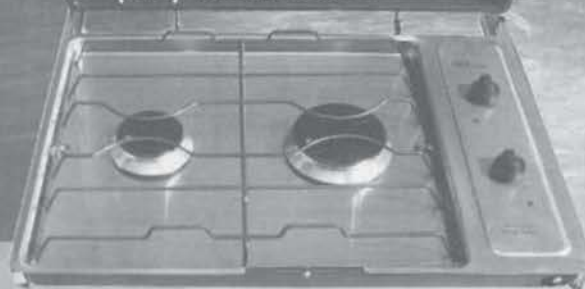
0427 540494

Make sure you see Dianne's
beautiful quilt designed with
fourteen High Country huts that will
be up for Auction during the weekend



We supply cook tops, ovens, range hoods, hot water
systems, BBQ's and microwaves and general plumbing
accessories for the caravan industry.

14-16 Brooklyn Court
Campbellfield
(03) 9359 3068



DOUG O'BRIEN WATER CARTING

14,000 Litre water tank
30 years local experience

Domestic or Commercial
Council Certified

Call Doug

0428 775 532

MANSFIELD BINS & SKIPS

3, 6 & 12 metre bins for all
**COMMERCIAL, BUILDERS, HOUSEHOLD
& GARDEN WASTE**

Peter Wooley

0407 500 711



HENRY THE THIRD



The Royal Flusher

1300 762 395 Mobile 0418 515 596

**Cleaner of
septic tanks · treatment plants · grease traps · oil interceptors · sludge pits**

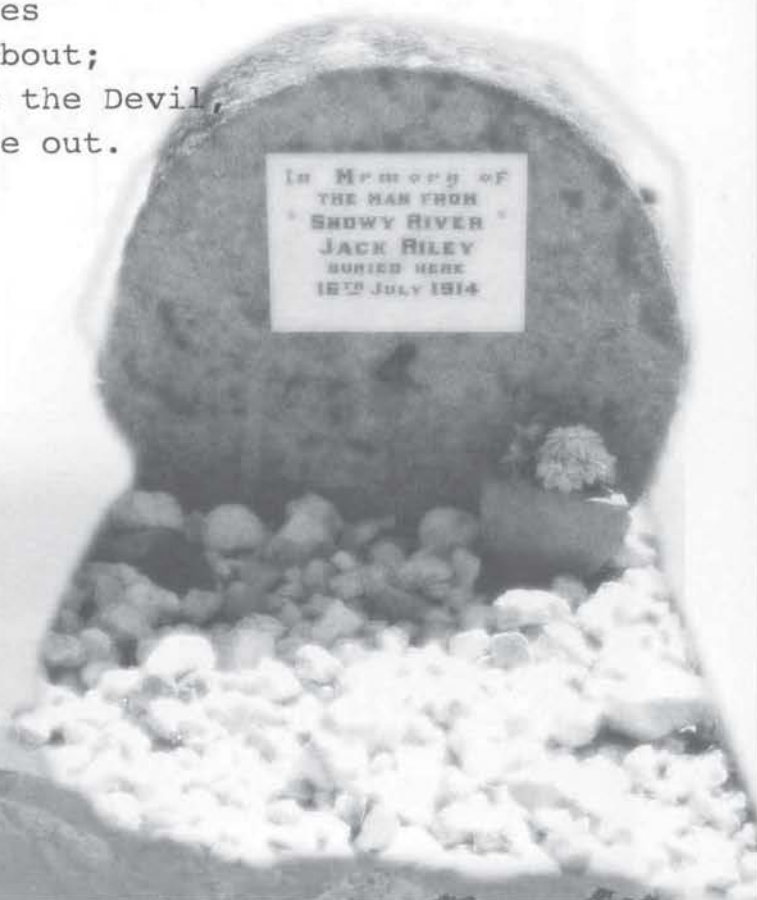
Tony Demasi (Lic. Plumber & EPA)

those who rode with Riley

From the gateway of the Snowys
over Geehi River way,
across those boulder strewn reaches
Monaro frost precedes the day.
Along wild, rough, and broken gullies
that surround a stockman's shack
we mustered slopes, and darkest gorges
and brumby tracks, to hell and back.
We blocked the gate, then dropped the railings,
eased the longtails through the snow;
swung the lead to cross the ranges
where only mountain stock dare to go.
We never bathed ourselves in glory,
it's where the Mountain Men belong,
carried on our old tradition
on the route to Corryong.
We knew the ride of one Jack Riley,
where hoof beats made Tom Groggin ring,
test of courage, birth of legends:
they later brought the old man in,
to lay him down in fourteen
midst thick fog, and pouring rain.
Then placed a boulder gently
so those myths might still remain.
We hear faint echoes in the ranges
of phantom riders and their steeds,
bawling cattle, barking heelers,
cracks of whip, to turn the lead.

We spy the ghost of old Jack Riley
flash in timber, distant blur
when he sent the flint stones flying
down the Leather Barrel spur.
While a mountain girl who saddles up
to breast the steepest track,
may feel the spirit of Jack Riley
gently touch her on the back.
'Tis many a chase can strain a girth
on a wild and reckless ride
but the lass who stays with Riley
swings the mob the other side.
Still our mountains beckon softly
enticing one to dare,
while one dingo keeps on calling
from his distant valley lair.
For no more around our fires
to yarn or share a flask about;
they sold our souls out to the Devil,
when they locked the cattle out.

Bill Witham, Tallangatta.





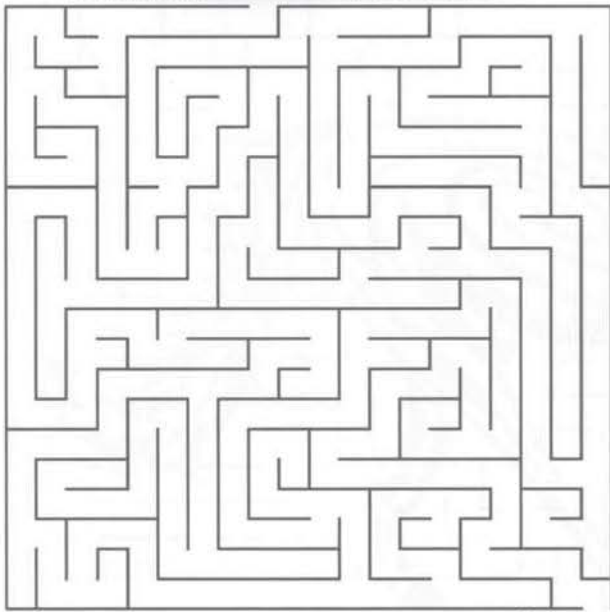
Mt Buller Alpine Transport

Proudly servicing
the High Country.

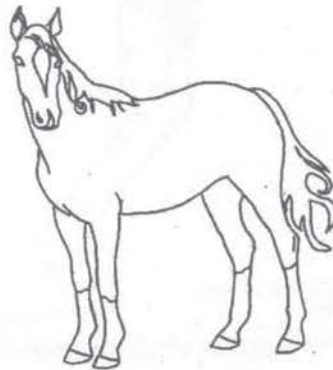
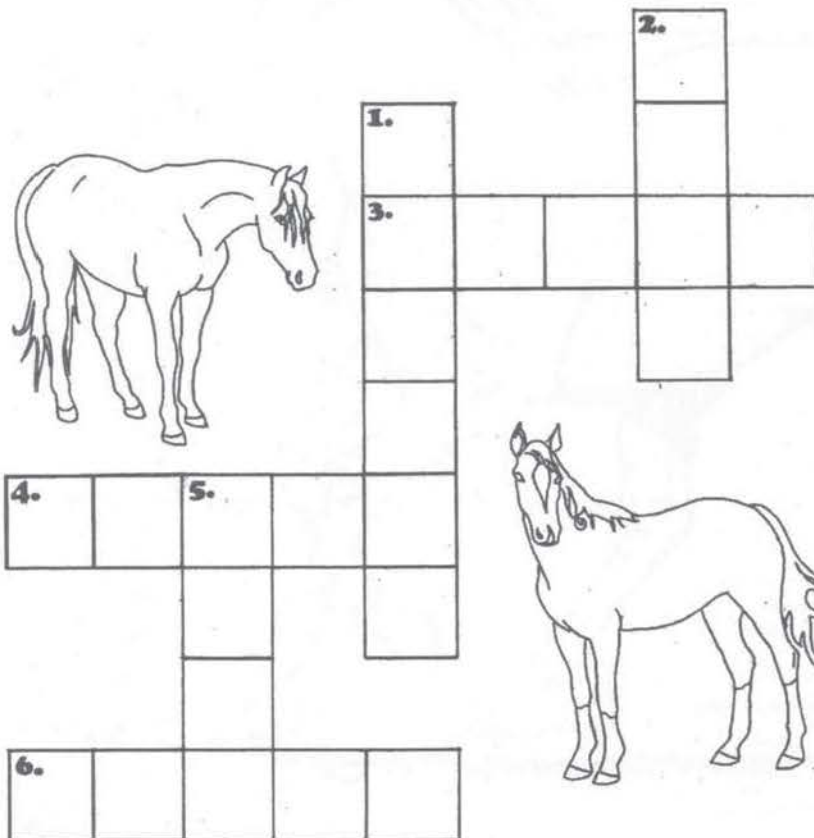
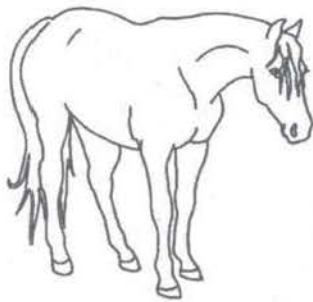
Daily general freight
to and from Melbourne.
Freight forwarding
our speciality.

Evan Lowing
57751229

Depot
Deadhorse Lane, Mansfield



Four page "pullout"
of fun for the kids

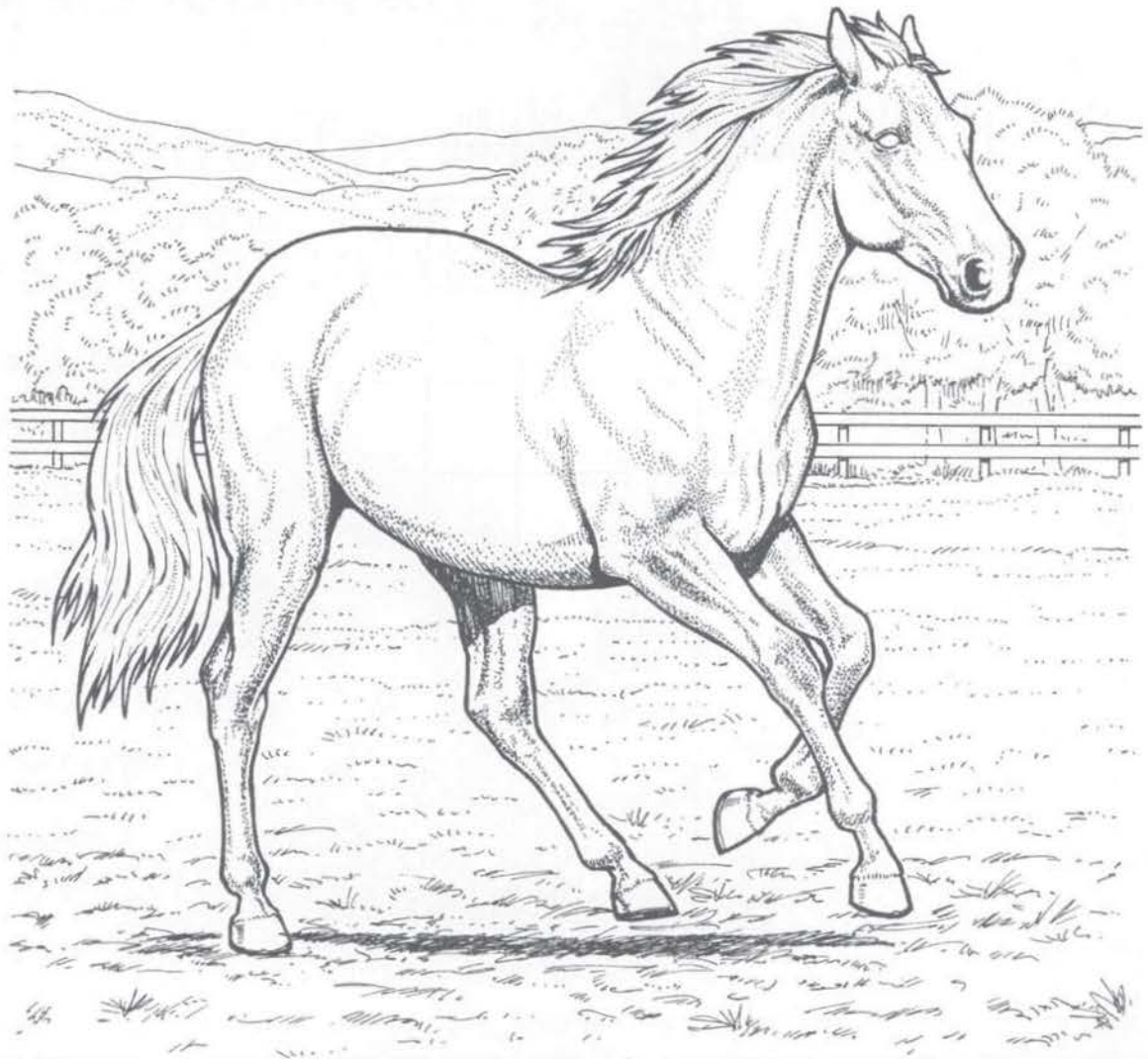
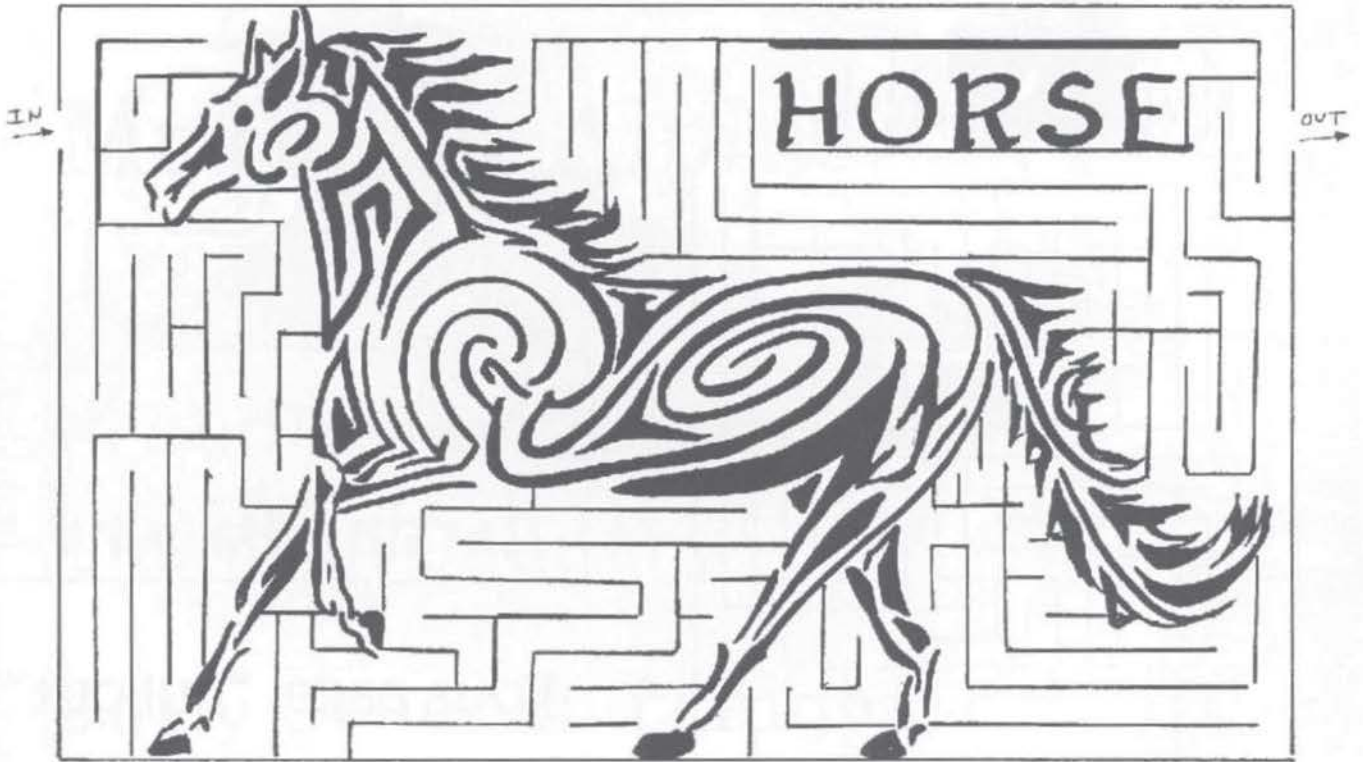


ACROSS

- 3. Red fruit horse treat
- 4. Animal we like to ride
- 6. An apple to a horse

DOWN

- 1. Four beat way of moving
- 2. Boy baby horse
- 5. What we do on a horse's back



E	I	I
A	B	G
L	N	T

How many words?

How many words can you find by using any of these nine letters?

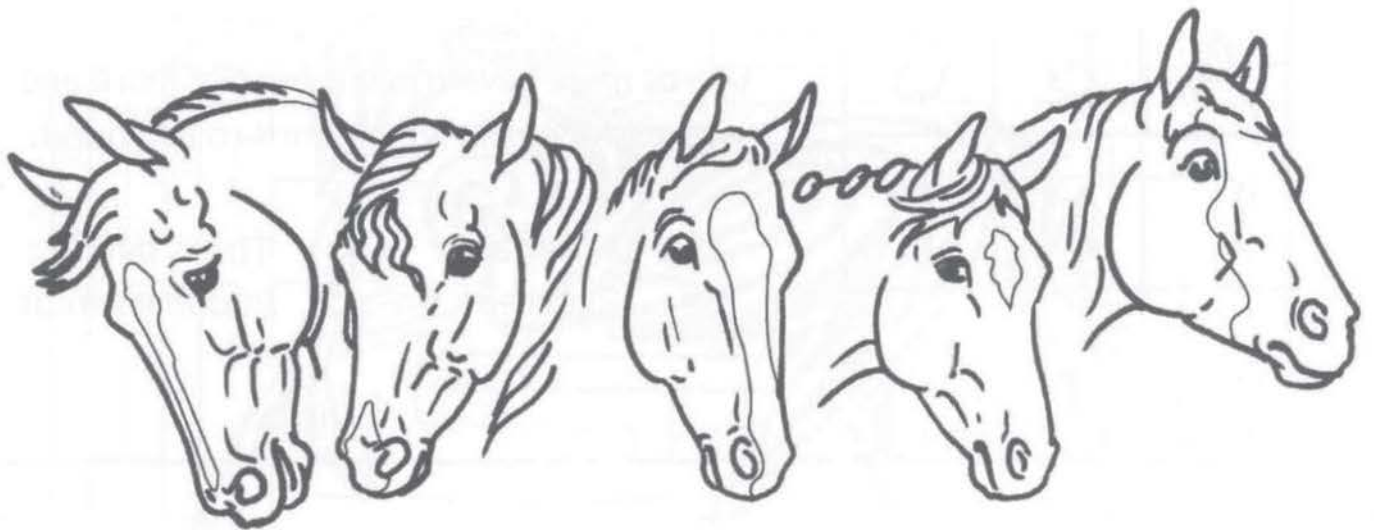
Words must have three letters or more and there is one nine letter word to be found.

- 15 Is that all?
- 30 That's better
- 50 Excellent
- 70 Budding genius



FACE MARKINGS

Do you know a horse's face markings?



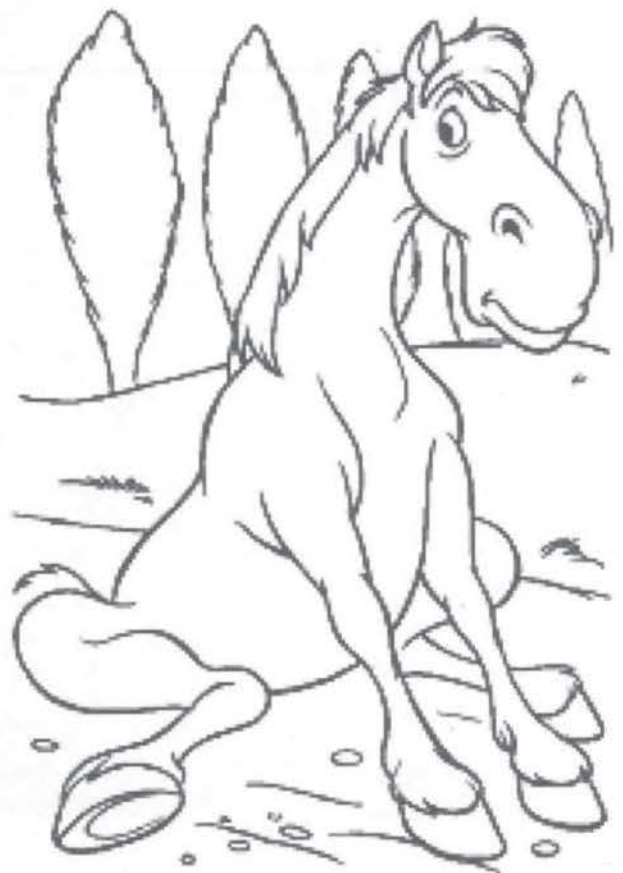
Horse Word Search

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

mane
fetlock
hoof
withers

colt
filly
blaze
saddle

english
dressage
girth
western



Historic Places on Public Land Investigation : Draft Proposals Paper

In late November the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council held several public forums seeking participation by interested parties in Public Land Heritage. Unfortunately very few groups or interested parties were made aware of the forums and disappointingly, the MCAV were not invited to make a submission in regards to the Alpine National Park. The Park constitutes roughly 10% of the area under consideration. DELWP manage over seven million hectares of public land in Victoria. For almost 180 years the mountain cattlemen have managed the 700,000 hectares of the park but our voice has not been considered.

Did you know that not one reference is made to the area in the Commonwealth Heritage List but there are 128 references for NSW, 40 other references for Victoria and 81 for the ACT? None of the 40 references for Victoria refer to the Alpine National Park area (i.e. huts etc.) and those properties previously listed on the Register of the National Estate (which was phased out in 2007) have no guarantees of protection.

It is a dry read but the recommendations of the committee are:

R1: Accountability for public land heritage

That a commissioner for public land heritage or similar office be established to:

- a be responsible for strategic cross-agency planning for management of historic places on public land and provide a forum to coordinate implementation of strategic planning with managers of historic places on public land
- b produce a strategic plan to document the management needs of historic places on public land and proposed programs to meet these needs, and report on the performance of previous such programs within 18 months of establishment of the commissioner
- c produce an updated strategic plan every five years thereafter
- d as detailed in draft recommendation R3, develop and drive reform towards an historic places dataset to inform and support management decisions
- e establish a process for managing the efficient transition of suitable historic places to adaptive re-use where the transition is likely to be difficult, and

- f where appropriate, manage such transitions when identified in strategic planning (see note 1)
 - f work with key government agencies that lease heritage assets on public land to establish a policy specifically for adaptive re-use of heritage assets
 - g oversee and report to the Government on the implementation of these recommendations, and
 - h advise the Government on management of historic places on public land, as required
- and that:
- i the establishment and operation of the commissioner be enabled through new provisions in the *Heritage Act 1995*, and
 - j the commissioner report to the Minister for Planning.

Note: It is not envisaged that the commissioner be a long-term or ongoing manager of any historic places.

R2: Minimum standards for management of historic places on public land

That the *Heritage Act 1995* be amended to place an obligation on public land managers of places on the Victorian Heritage Register to manage those places to a minimum standard sufficient to maintain the values for which they have been listed, as documented in their respective statements of significance, noting that this obligation should apply to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) for places with a community-based committee of management

R3: Reliable well-managed data to inform strategic management planning

That information from all existing heritage data sets:

- a be consolidated into a single statewide data set for Victoria's historic places on public land that is:
 - i. reliable and authoritative, with minimal ambiguity and duplication of information and records
 - ii. responsive and up-to-date, and continues to be so
 - iii. spatially precise and accurate
- b under direction and supported by the recommended commissioner for public land heritage (draft recommendation R1), be augmented with standardised information on key variables to inform management planning, monitoring and reporting, including:

- i. the spatial extent of each place including accurate boundaries, land tenure (e.g. title reference, Crown land parcel and reservation or vesting information)
- ii. public land or object ownership and manager (e.g. responsible government agency or department, Crown land committee of management; see note 1)
- iii. current use and whether the site is occupied for a specific purpose
- iv. site or object condition, threats and ongoing monitoring functions where significant threats are identified and the site or object is considered at risk, and
- v. details of any conservation management plans and that:
- c the structural, custodial and ownership relationships of this data set to other heritage data sets held by public land managers and owners be clearly documented (see note 1), and
- d this information be accessible, as appropriate, to owners and managers of historic places on public land and to the public.

Note 1: The Council's intention is for DELWP to maintain the data set and information outlined above for Crown land reserves managed by community-based committees of management. Parks Victoria would continue to maintain the data set for heritage assets it manages. Both of these would link to the recommended consolidated statewide data set.

R4: Identifying heritage places on public land to address under- representation of some place types on the Victorian Heritage Register

That:

- a a review be conducted into the representativeness of the list of places on the Victorian Heritage Register, with recommendations on:
 - i. types of places on public land that are under-represented, the extent to which they are under-represented and a process to identify suitable places for nomination to the register to address this under-representation, and
 - ii. any places to be removed from the register to reduce over-representation and that:
- b information on places not added to or retained on the Victorian Heritage Register be retained and used to inform strategic planning (draft recommendation R1)
- c this review be completed within one year of the government response to these recommendations, and
- d its recommendations be fully implemented within a further two years.

R5: Continuing work to recognise and protect shared values

That Government support the continuation and expansion of recent work by the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council and the Heritage Council of Victoria to improve the documentation, management and appreciation of historic places with shared Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal values.

R6: Improving government leasehold arrangements

That the commissioner for public land heritage (see draft recommendation R1 work with key government agencies leasing heritage assets on public land to:

- a assist in developing business plans for potential leasehold sites that articulate realistic parameters for the successful establishment and operation of each site under lease
- b create guidelines or a framework that provide for lease conditions for heritage assets that acknowledges the lessee has increased costs of adapting and maintaining heritage assets and ongoing maintenance responsibilities
- c facilitate mid-term negotiations with lessees to maintain heritage assets up to the end of any current lease agreement
- d amend any existing policy or regulations restricting commercial arrangements to provide for the above e.g. *Retail Leases Act 2003*, *Leasing Policy for Crown Land in Victoria 2010*, noting that maintaining a heritage asset can be measured as both an economic and social benefit to the public.

R7: Improving arrangements and support for community-based committees of management

That:

- a a standard-form business plan be developed, and be used to produce a business plan for each historic place managed by a community-based committee of management
- b the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* be amended to provide for committees of management to issue licences and permits with approval of the Minister's delegate or DELWP including for reserves set aside for historic purposes, where:
 - i. the licence or permit is short-term (3 years or less) non-exclusive use, and
 - ii. the use is compatible with the reserve purpose and in the public interest
- c the DELWP develop templates or guidelines to assist committees of management with the negotiation of licences and permits described in (a) above
- d a program be established for the DELWP to work with community-based committees of management to document risks to heritage values as described in draft recommendation R3

- e that the recommended commissioner for public land heritage work with DELWP to establish an awards program to recognise works undertaken by committees of management at heritage places on Crown land reserves and
- f the DELWP provide committees of management who are managing historic buildings and historic places listed on either the Victorian Heritage Register or a heritage overlay of the local planning scheme with:
 - i. ongoing access to technical heritage expertise
 - ii. training opportunities and assistance with financial planning
 - iii. support with maintenance and adaptation for complementary re-use, and
 - iv. assistance to streamline the production of conservation management plans and business plans for heritage assets.

R8: A trust for public land heritage

That a trust for public land heritage be established to:

- a create opportunities for self-generating income through establishing interest in the community

- b for supporting public land heritage in consultation with the commissioner for public land heritage, identify vacant public land heritage that is suitable for adaptive re-use and potentially for transition to lease or sale
- c establish a revolving fund to be used to restore historic places on public land that are at risk and to transfer them to appropriate ownership (see draft recommendation R9)
- d distribute monies from the fund to public land heritage managers for the purpose of conservation of heritage assets.

R9: A revolving fund for public land heritage

That the trust for public land heritage establish a revolving fund to assist in the rejuvenation of historic places and properties on public land through repair, restoration and re-use.

What a pity that the voice of the mountain cattlemen was not sought in making these decisions and their knowledge was not captured for the future heritage management .

Oakbank

**Proudly supporting the
Mountain Cattlemen's Association
Stock feeds, fodder and supplements
Mt. Buller Rd Mansfield
Ph. Justin 03 57751710**



**Pat Morrissey Agricultural Contracting
189 Barkers Rd, Main Ridge
0419 118 737**



RB SELLARS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW THE WIDEST RANGE OF
 MEN'S & WOMEN'S WORK SHIRTS & WORK JEANS
 OR CALL FOR A CATALOGUE TOLL FREE 1300 727 355

Proud sponsor of The 2016 MCAV Get Together

**Mansfield
 Garden
 Supplies**

- MULCH • SOIL • STONES
- AGGREGATES • SAND • GRAVEL
- ROCKS & MORE!!
- FAMILY FRIENDLY SERVICE
- CHEAPER DELIVERY PRICES TO
 MANSFIELD AND SURROUNDS.

**175 Mt Buller Rd,
 Mansfield**

www.mansfieldgardensupplies.com.au

5779 1108
 WE DELIVER 7 DAYS

**HIGH COUNTRY
 WATER CARTAGE**

10,000 to 20,000 LTR

Food Grade Stainless Steel Tanks
 Servicing Mansfield and District

Glenn 0412 403 204



Coral Aston was the secretary of the MCAV for seven years, 1979-1986, working with then President Jim Commins at the beginning of the Association's turbulent fight for high country grazing rights and heritage. She was a tower of strength for Jim as she lived just down the road and she could type! And many will recall the volumes of work that Jim produced for her to type.

Coral would often tell her husband Dave, that she felt privileged that she was able to be part of the events of the time, a reflection of her heritage as a sixth generation born Australian.

Coral also had a family affinity with grazing in the high country of NSW. Her grandfather Charlie Manning owned Merambego in the Tingaringi area near Delegate. On his death the property was sold by the State Trustees to a family named Ryan who subsequently sold the property to the NSW government to become part of the Kosciusko National Park. Charlie also ran cattle and sheep on what was known as the Willis country.

Coral was born at Delegate to John (Jack) and Ivy Reeves (nee Manning), lived at Orbost before moving to Melbourne. Coral married Dave (Kiwi) Aston in 1979 and moved to Ensay.



Coral Ann Aston
12 April 1955 - 16 June 2015

Living in a small community was the start of her passion for involvement in community groups. In 1991 a move was made to Bairnsdale.

Coral always became involved in community activities, be it in the work place or support groups, such as the Department of Human Services and Latrobe Community Health Service as Carer support, Book Club, East Gippsland Cancer Support Group, kiosk at Bairnsdale Regional Health Service, Relay for Life, Cancer Council Forgotten Cancer Research project, just to name a few. She was a caring, passionate person and had the ability to make people feel they were the most important person in the world.

When Coral was diagnosed with cancer she tackled it with great positivity and stoic courage. A witty, sharp and perceptive person, Coral is sadly missed by all who knew her. Coral is survived by husband Dave, daughters Kate and Lauren, granddaughters Heidi, Chloe and Tori.

The family were doubly hit by tragedy as Coral's father died just a few days before.

Written by Chris Commins for *Voice of the Mountains*. Thanks to the Aston family for the lovely photograph of Coral.

James Stanley (Jim) Treasure

14 February 1947 - 7 September 2015

As a small child, Jim lived at Whorouly South. His parents, Jack and Marcia Treasure, could see that the movement of mobs of cattle to and from the Dargo High Plains would become increasingly difficult with the growth of traffic volumes in the Ovens Valley and up to Mt Saint Bernard. The decision to sell and move was made.

Jim started school at Dargo in the summer of 1951-52 and later attended Sale Technical School before returning to work on the family farm.

Getting a herd of breeders together and acquiring land takes time, and over the years he became interested in Welsh black cattle and started his small Budweid stud which he ran concurrently with his Herefords. He went on to win a ribbon at the Royal Melbourne Show, and later, a trip to New Zealand to meet Welsh black breeders. They were highlights of that time in his life.

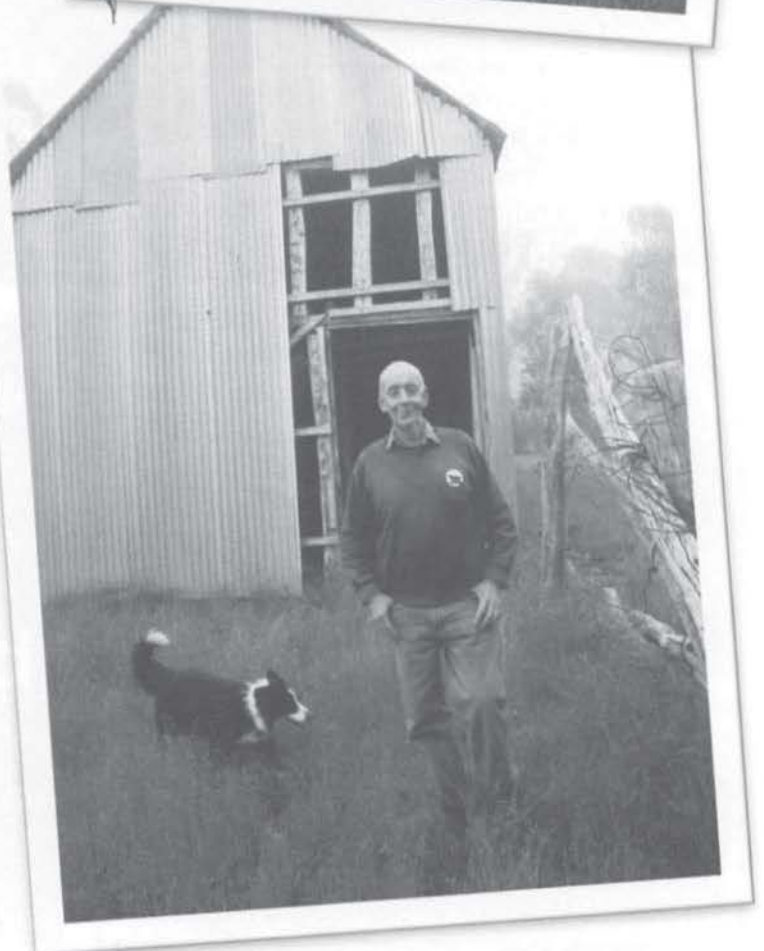
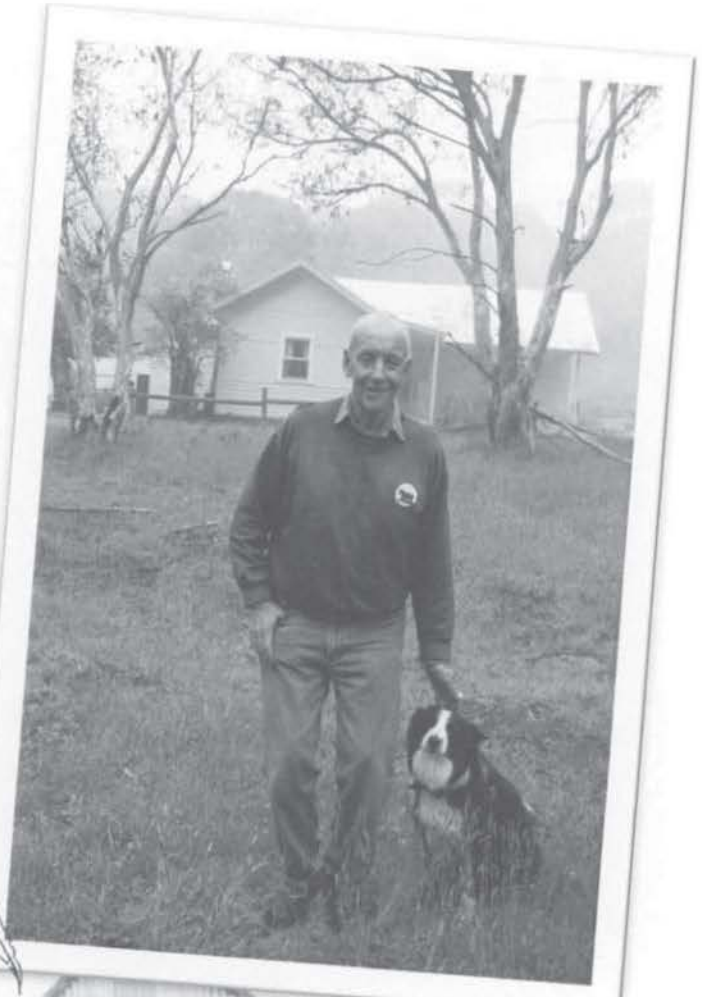
Jim loved the high country. With his horse and dogs he always enjoyed mustering, droving or salting the cattle.

He bought a horse from Clive Hodge, a bay mare, about fifteen and a half hands high. It was one of those horses, a natural traveler and Jim won the walking race at the Get-Together that same year. Those that knew him took pleasure in his delight, those that did not may not have noticed.

A quiet man of the bush, a person who enjoyed the company of others but never minded being alone. We will miss him.

Written by former MCAV President, David Treasure *Voice of the Mountains*.

Jim, and his dog, in the high country he loved.
Melanie Faith Dove photographer.





Walter Neville Wright

18 June 1948 - 20 July 2015

THE Mountain Cattlemen lost one of their best and truest supporters when Neville Wright passed away in Royal Melbourne Hospital on 20 July after a short illness.

Neville and wife Lyn had three children, Travis, Karlie and Richelle and nine grandchildren.

He was a member of the Victorian Government Alpine Advisory Committee for a number of years, and as a strong advocate of multiple use of public land, a good friend of the heritage of Alpine grazing.

He was involved in many of the heritage and protest rides, the grazing trials in Wonongatta last year and a regular "host" and cook at cattlemen's functions.

Asked once where he got the good meat for his cooked dinners, he said "Road kill!!" That summed up Brumby Wright and his sense of humour!

Experienced in all forms of farming, he grew up on a Wimmera wheat farm and played

Neville droving the protest cattle at Wonnangatta, January 2006, following the cancellation of the licences.
Melanie Faith Dove photographer.

football there under coach Bill McGrath (afterwards Minister for Agriculture in the Kennett Government.)

A very skilful welder and fabricator of farm plant, he was a world class farrier and on three occasions was a guest presenter on his method of corrective horse hoof and gait at the American Farrier's Conference in Cincinnati, America, attended by almost 1000 farriers from USA and other nations, with his expenses paid.

Not bad for a boy from the bush!

He served on the Rural City of Wangaratta Council – as the Environment portfolio holder – with his service best summed up by former Mayor Roberto Paino :

"He was an honest man who knew where he stood and what you saw was what you got.

"He was a champion for the rural community."

Neville's first job in the North East was with me when, as a 17 year old, he helped dip sheep and cart in hay, and his very last job was feeding hay to my cattle when he finally fell ill. In all that time, I never had a better, more loyal friend and helper.

There are many great stories about Neville – and they will be told wherever cattlemen meet for years to come – and as Neville would wish, they will get better with the telling!

The respect in which Neville was held was very clearly shown when a few of us decided to “pass the hat around” to help meet the expenses of his time in Royal Melbourne

Hospital during his final illness – within two weeks \$5,220 dollars came in from all over Victoria and has now been forwarded to his family.

A life well lived but cut too short. The world is just a little better because he passed this way.

Written by former MP, David Evans, August 2015 for *Voice of the Mountains*. In Neville's memory his family are sponsoring the Neville Wright Junior Packhorse event at this year's Get-Together.



Gerald Patrick Coleman

26 October 1935 - 15 September 2015

GERALD Patrick Coleman was a man of great faith, humility and integrity.

Born at St David's Hospital, Maffra he was the fourth child of Pat and Annie Coleman.

His sister Margaret recalls how as children when she and their brother Mick were sent to feed the chooks they threw the scraps and headed off but Gerald would always stay to make sure all the chooks got something to eat. An early indication of his being very attuned to the natural world around him.

Gerald was educated at St Joseph's school beside the convent in Maffra. Initially he was dinked to school on 'Flossy' behind his sister Patricia until, with great excitement, he was old enough to ride his own horse 'Trixie' to school. He finished at St Joseph's in Grade 6 and went on as a boarder until Grade 8 at St Patrick's College, Sale. As a boarder he enjoyed having his bed on the verandah where canvas covered the arches. He made sure that each term his mother took him back early enough to secure his spot. It was great until the easterly weather came in and the wind would blow the rain under the canvas wetting the end of all the beds.

He enjoyed his years at St Patrick's and made many lifelong friends from throughout Gippsland.

After school, Gerald went home to work with his father Pat, brother Jack and cousins Kevin and Billy Coleman from Glenmaggie. They were working at Fortuna at the time. Gerald was a keen worker and his passion for horses came to the fore.

Margaret also recalled how fabulous growing up with Gerald was, especially when their big brother got his driver's licence and they went to dances in either Tinamba, Newry, Briagolong or Sale every Saturday night and had great fun.

Polocrosse was another passion and the four Coleman brothers, Jack, Gerald, Mick and Leo all played for the same team. Their home ground was Stagg's Corner. The Polocrosse Association was very competitive at the time and Gerald's greatest joy was riding his thoroughbred horse 'Rainbow' who was generally regarded as a once in a lifetime horse.

Gerald's favourite holidays were those taken on horseback. Riding from Maffra to the Dargo High Plains then on to Omeo and home,

or alternately, riding out to Licola and on to Wonnangatta and out via Dargo. His interest in the High Plains was lifelong and passionate. His last trip to Wonnangatta was in Autumn just twelve months before he died.

Gerald met his future wife, Teresa Keary, at his cousin Kevin Coleman's wedding where he was groomsman and Teresa was bridesmaid for her identical twin sister Pat. Teresa had come from Melbourne in 1960 to nurse at the Maffra District Hospital and they were married at St Joseph's, Chelsea on 30 March 1963.

They had four children, Moira, Geraldine, Jim and Matthew while Gerald continued to dairy at Riverslea. He was a dedicated farmer and never complained about the early starts or the long hours that the job entailed. Working with cattle "was not work it was pleasure" as were all the animals in his care - horses, sheep and dogs as well as the stock.

Gerald had a broad skillset. He could break horses to harness or saddle, shear, or butcher a sheep. He could do the lot and taught many the same skills. He was an incredible educator as his own children were always encouraged to give it a go and were guided through the process.

Gerald bred and broke Clydesdales for the milk rounds in Melbourne. The horses would be walked into Tinamba railway station and put on the goods train for Newmarket and



collected at the other end. The last milk run in Melbourne was Tighe's of Essendon with horses 'Katie' and 'Holly' supplied by Gerald. That milk run ceased in 1986 when supermarkets pushed out the last of the home delivery milk runs. 'Holly' went to an asparagus farm at Koo-Wee-Rup and 'Katie' retired. Gerald was also often called upon to supply horse and cart for street parades, fetes and the like and he always used them on the farm to feed out.

Gerald was heavily involved in the Maffra Agricultural Society

where he was involved in the working bees as well as being a steward in the lead classes on the Show Day.

He was diagnosed with cancer five years ago and his strong faith helped him to continue to live his life on the farm with his interest in his horses never wavering. He was a devoted father and grandfather. He loved people and had a wonderful retentive memory and was 'Uncle Gerald' to many and in the past had enjoyed many a Get-Together with his family.

Gerald on the family property at Riverslea.

Albert Tait Campbell

14 September 1928 - 19 July 2015

ALBERT Campbell, a well known identity of Bunyip district and staunch MCAV member, passed away peacefully on 19 July, aged 86 years. He was the thirteenth of fourteen children having grown up in the small bush community of Weetah near Deloraine, Tasmania. He had a tough but happy childhood, as did many from his generation and perhaps

inherited some of his axe skills from his father who was a bushman, cutting shingles, posts and rails. After leaving school and working on farms until he was nineteen, Albert moved to Victoria and worked on a property called 'Four Oaks' at Dandenong. This led to the 'adventure and travelling phase' of Albert's life where he accompanied horses, pigs, sheep and cattle on ships being exported to various countries such as Burma, Singapore, New Guinea, Hong Kong and Japan. He had many adventures on these trips and could recall the trips down to the smallest detail which were published in 2009 in *For the love of life's voyage*. His life was also the inspiration for country singer Bed Hance for a song of the same name.



Albert with one of his horses.

Photograph courtesy the Campbell family.

In 1952 Albert married Beryl and his travelling days ended but he continued to manage the depot and the workers. After two years the first of their four children was born and Beryl and Albert started to share farm at Bunyip before buying their own property where they lived out their lives. Albert was very involved in the local community and began to carve out a reputation as one of the best craftsmen of his generation. He was a member of many communities including the Mountain

Cattlemen's

Associations of both Victoria and Tasmania.

Albert attended the MCAV Get-Together for 30 years and was well known for the demonstrations he did at the annual event including making log huts from the ground up. He would arrive early on the weekend, start making wooden shingles and then building the wood hut and by the end of the weekend - the hut would be completed. He demonstrated different materials from the bush that could be used in the building with half

having a log interior and a bark roof and the other half having walls covered with hessian and mud for insulation and a roof from shingles he had split. He was also well regarded for his green hide whips. After a long day on the axe he would retire to his camp and make whips, which he continued to make until a year before he passed away. His skill and whips were one of a kind and unlike others, came with a lifetime guarantee. To this day his grandson Wayne (who inherited Albert's love for whip

making and cracking) repairs whips that Albert made fifty years ago. Wayne has been attending the Get-Together for 25 years and still to this day makes and sells greenhide whips because of the reputation that Albert established. The hide they use is salted for three years before being hand cut and worked up into a whip.

Albert also judged the MCAV whip cracking events every year and would always donate a couple of whips for prizes, one of which was always for an encouragement award for the next upcoming junior whip cracker. If he had had his way every child would have won! He enjoyed every minute of teaching children and even adults how to crack and make whips and only ever wanted gratitude in return. He has provided some of Victoria's best whip crackers with their competition winning whips and has sent whips all over Australia. His belief in keeping Australia's heritage alive was paramount and he strived to teach people the 'old ways' and as such was a kindred spirit with the association, both of them striving to keep the heritage of the past.

He was also a proud member and sponsor of the Victorian Working Dog Association and bred working Border Collies and Bob-Tailed Smithfields. Albert was also a very talented horseman. He broke in horses, competed in camp drafting events and taught his horses many spectacular tricks, especially

his beloved trick horse Bronty. His special way with horses made his handling of them look easy.

After the passing of Beryl in 2012, Albert's health deteriorated, though he managed to live at home with the help of family and friends until the last few weeks of his life.

It was five months after Albert's death before Wayne, who was very close to him, started to make whips again taking the first steps in keeping Albert's memory alive. Albert's great granddaughter, two year old Charlotte, is starting to learn how to handle a whip and no doubt great grandson, Oliver Albert Tait (named after his great grandfather who died ten days before his birth), will also appreciate the Australian stockwhip. Albert's encouragement of whipcrackers will continue at the Get-Together in 2016 with a Campbell whip being donated in his honour.



Whipmaker Diana Hurley Steed
Quality whips, Belts
Leatherwork & Repairs
55 Weir Rd. Wuk Wuk Vic. 3875
Ph: 0428501521
diana.hurley@bigpond.com



TOP FODA

Quality Pasture

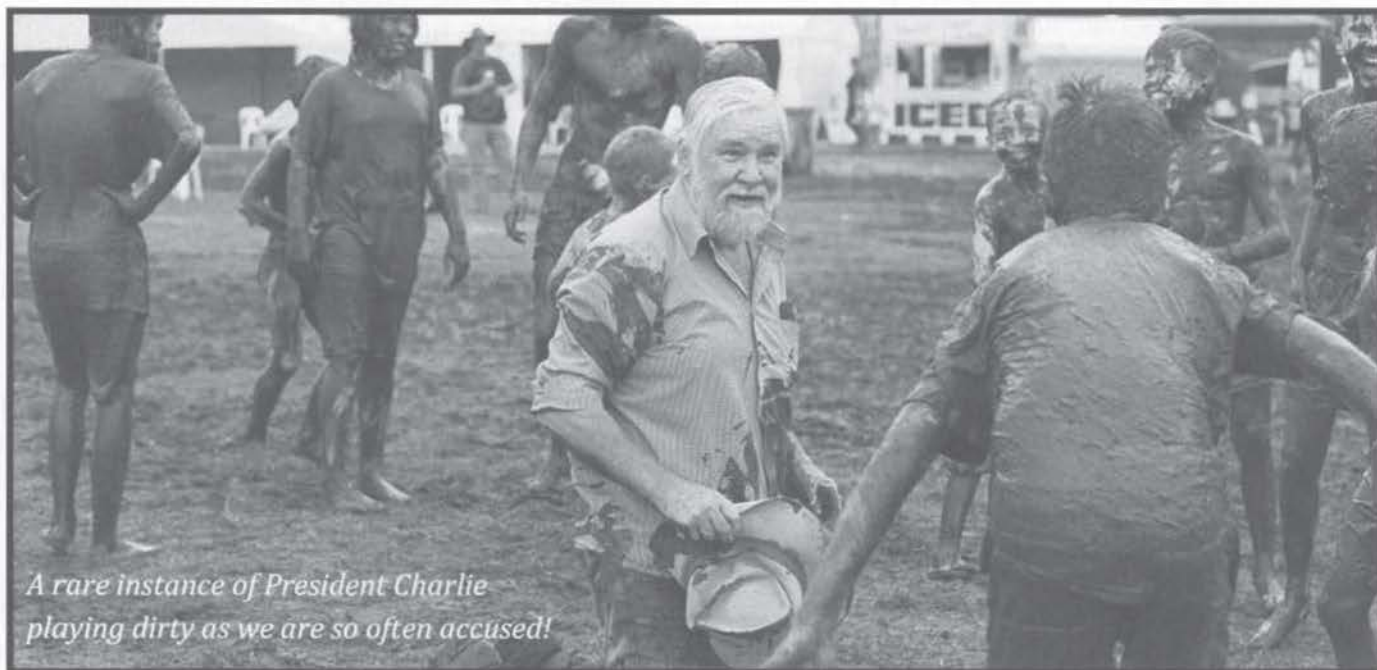
Horse Hay

Check our website for your closest distributor

www.topfoda.com.au

41st Annual Get-Together

M I T T A M I T T A 2 0 1 5



A rare instance of President Charlie playing dirty as we are so often accused!

If there is one word that sums up the Mitta Mitta G2G it would have to be **MUD**. We go expecting blue sky days and clear nights, sunburn and heat, dust and flies and this year was the exception to the rule! Mud. It was pretty much everywhere and more than a few attending "embraced" the situation literally and probably had a more memorable weekend because of it.

We are not used to misty mornings, drizzly rain and coats being the order of the day but this weekend it was! Events were added to the program to utilise the sloppy conditions and despite it all, a great weekend was had.

This year Elle Shaw braved the elements managing to capture some memorable images. Thanks Elle!

RESULTS

SENIOR CATTLEMENS CHALLENGE

(Overall winners)

- 1ST Brett Lancaster on 'Kelly'
- 2ND Kane Lamperd
- 3RD John Douglas
- 4TH Ken Connley
- 5TH Jess Smith
- 6TH Josh Oatley

SENIOR WHIPCRACKING ON HORSEBACK

- 1ST Brett Lancaster

SENIOR TIME TRAIL OBSTACLE COURSE

- 1ST Brett Lancaster

SENIOR CATTLE HANDLING

- 1ST Nadine Harte

JUNIOR CATTLEMENS CHALLENGE

(Overall winners)

- 1ST Kelsie Lupson on 'Maggie'
- 2ND Rose Wellesley
- 3RD Sophie Clark
- 4TH Meg Freudenstein
- 5TH Elle Woodgate
- 6TH Jake Douglas

JUNIOR WHIPCRACKING ON HORSEBACK

- 1ST Kelsie Lupson

JUNIOR TIME TRAIL OBSTACLE COURSE

- 1ST Sophie Clark

JUNIOR CATTLE HANDLING

- 1ST Jake Douglas



WILD HORSE CATCH - MENS

- 1ST Dean Pendergast
- 2ND Ken Connley
- 3RD Leo MacDonald

WILD HORSE CATCH – LADIES

- 1ST Aleisha Lancaster
- 2ND Emma Crameri
- 3RD Kellie Lovick

OPEN PACKHORSE RACE

- 1ST Graham Forge
- 2ND Mitchell Ward
- 3RD Darren Williams
- 4TH John Douglas

LADIES PACKHORSE RACE

- 1ST Ellen Forge
- 2ND Bonnie Lampard
- 3RD Emma Crameri

JUNIOR PACKHORSE RACE

- 1ST Tuppy Forge
- 2ND Tahnee Olsson
- 3RD Jake Douglas

NEATEST PACK

Darren Williams

JUNIOR WALKING RACE

- 1ST Jake Douglas
- 2ND Elle Woodgate
- 3RD Amber Rendell

SENIOR WALKING RACE

- 1ST John Douglas
- 2ND Darren Williams
- 3RD Ken Connley

DOG HIGH JUMP

EQUAL 1ST Nick Cook with Chevy and
Lochie Ward with Tucker

JUVENILE WHIPCRACKING

- 1ST Emiliqua East
- 2ND Joe Claussen
- 3RD Jacqueline Davies

JUNIOR WHIPCRACKING

- 1ST Sarah Faithfull
- 2ND Lucinda Hurley
- 3RD Danielle Hurley

LADIES WHIPCRACKING

- 1ST Diana Hurley
- 2ND Emiliqua East
- 3RD Paige Williams

OPEN WHIPCRACKING

- 1ST Emiliqua East
- 2ND Diana Hurley
- 3RD Alicia Lancaster

LADIES HAYSTACKING

- 1ST Cait Toose and Kirsty May
- 2ND Kassie and Kathy
- 3RD Rachael Enders and Rhonda

MENS HAYSTACKING

- 1ST Pat Byrne and Jack Amery

LADIES BUSHMANS CHALLENGE

- 1ST Rachael Enders and Sophie
- 2ND Donna Barnes and Nicki Ryder
- 3RD Alna May and Cait Toose

MENS BUSHMANS CHALLENGE

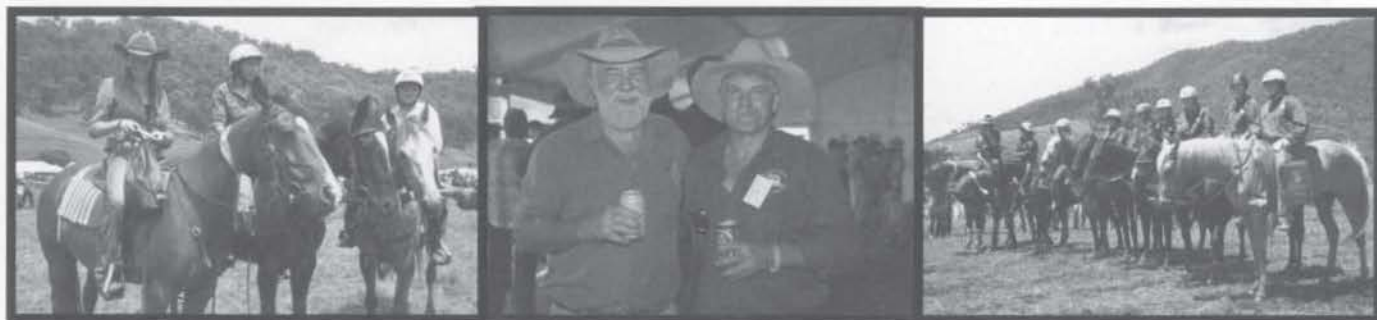
- 1ST Hugh Amery and Ben Amery
- 2ND Todd Amery and Tody Midget
- 3RD Dale and Bear

MENS TUG-A-WAR

- 1ST Raw Meat

LADIES TUG-A-WAR

- 1ST Mixed Matches





DON KNEEBONE HERITAGE AWARD

- 1ST John Dowdle *Untitled*
2ND Stewart Bryant *Australian Stockwhip*

BILL HICKS BUSH MINSTREL

Maria Harkins *The Cattleman's Prayer*

PETER MCCORMACK BUSH LAUREATE

Val Kirley

JACK TREASURE TRADITIONAL

Paul Connelly *Law of the Land*
by Neil McArthur

JIM COMMINS JUDGE'S CHOICE

Maddie and Kate Crombie
Broken Promises

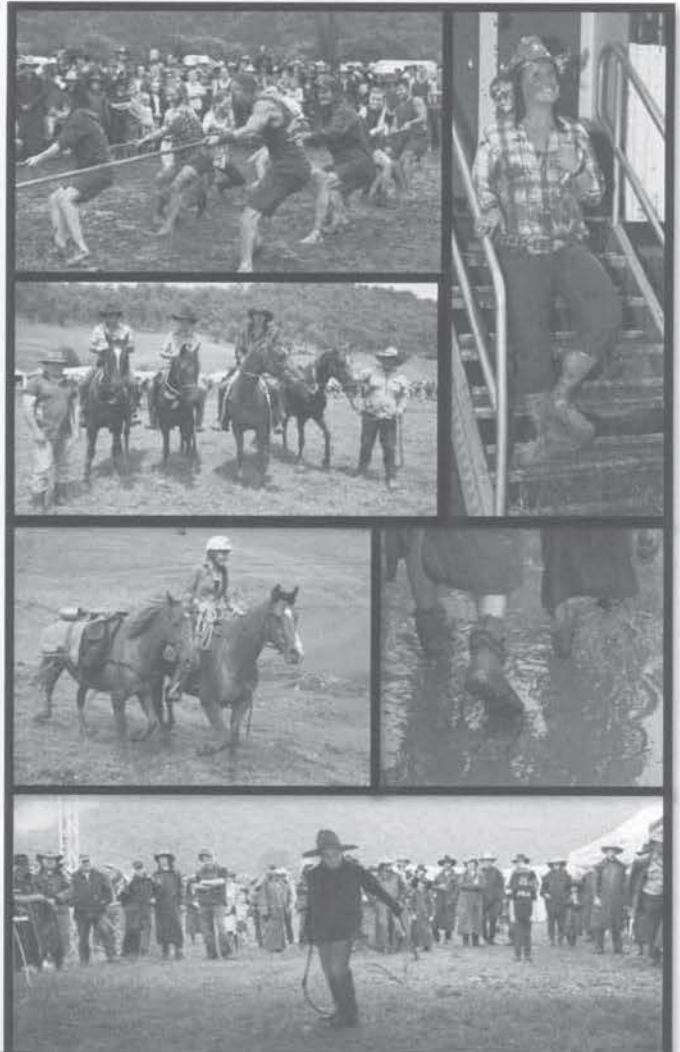
LAURENCE WEBB JUNIOR AWARD

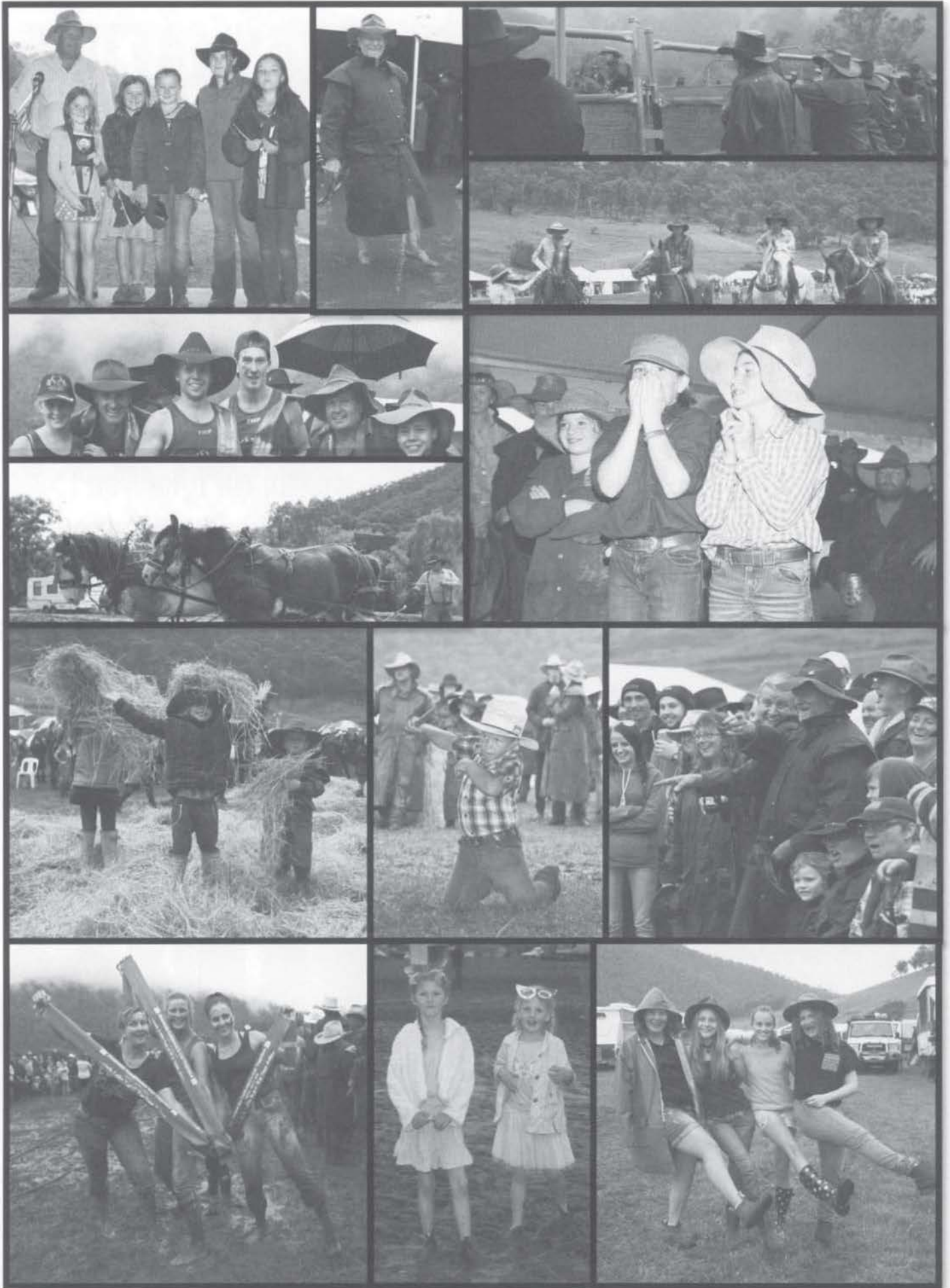
Teana Kilby *Down by the Creek*
River Bed

PHOTOGRAPHY - Open Competition

- 1ST Rebecca Kirk *Wandiligong Camp Fire*
2ND Rebecca Kirk *Water over rocks,*
Lake Buffalo
3RD Ross Brown *Bindi Poplars*

M I T T A 2 0 1 5







MANSFIELD



Large & Small Animals

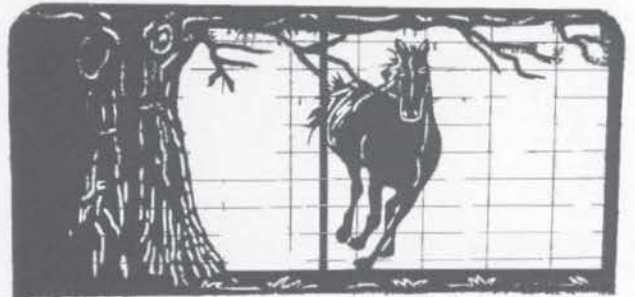
- Mobile Vet
- Farm Visits
- Routine & Emergency Care
- 24/7 Professional Care

Dr. Anna Manning
BVetMed

Phone 5779 1754

anna@delatitevetservices.com.au
www.delatitevetservices.com.au
Mansfield VIC

PLASMACUT

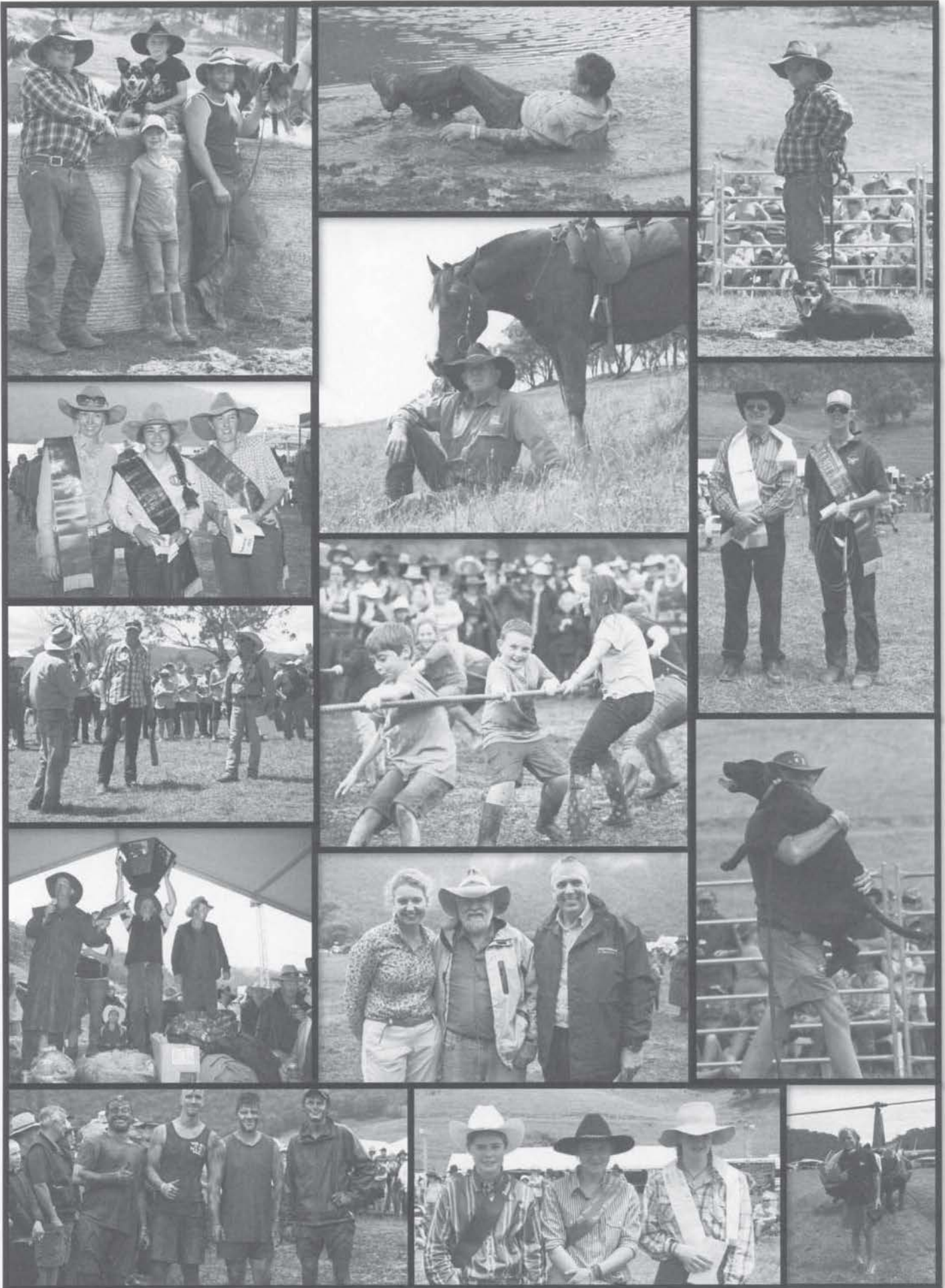


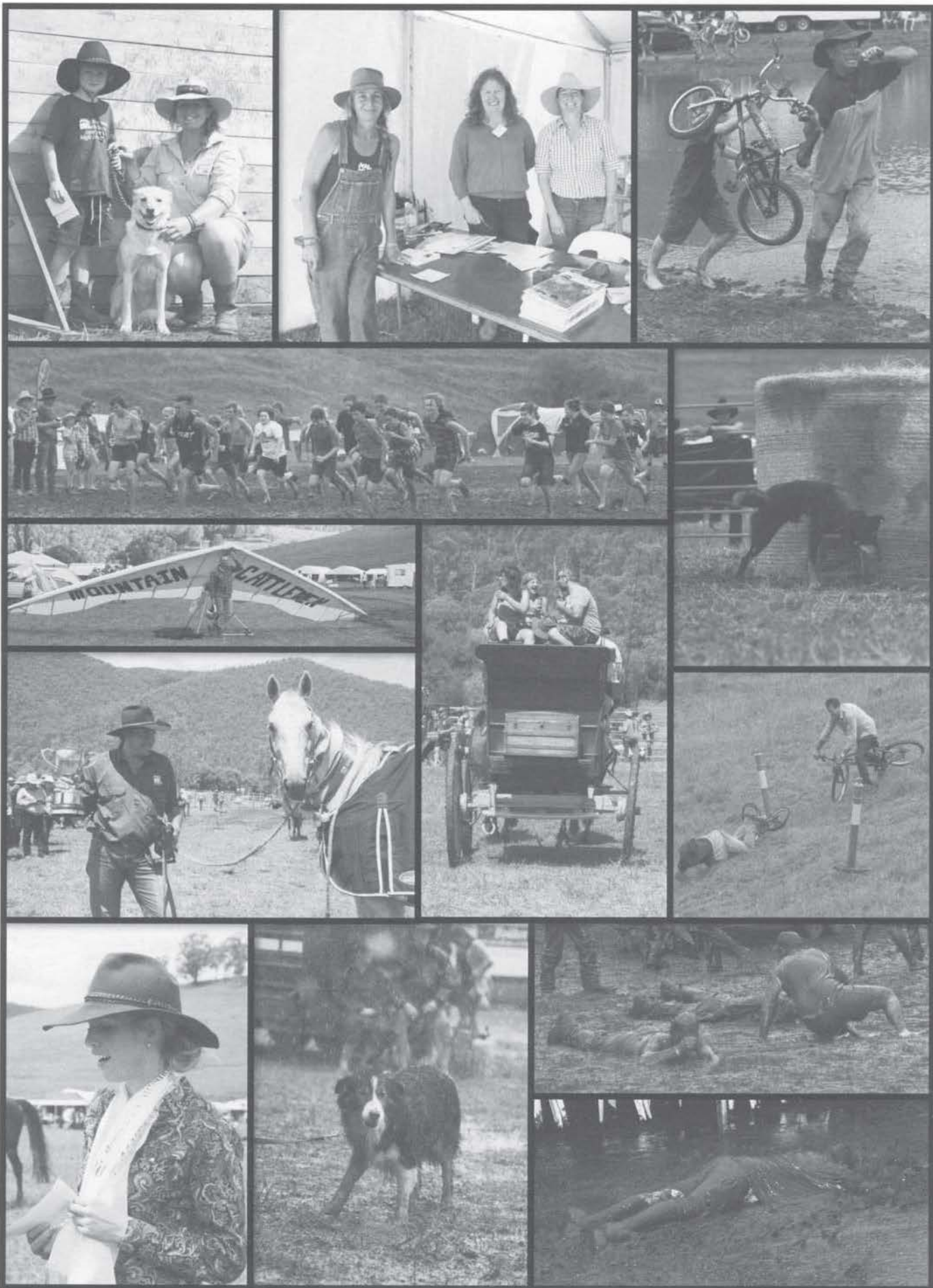
From gates to key holders,
feature panels to signs -
we can cut it for you!
Call Phil on 0411126592
plasmacut@hotmail.com

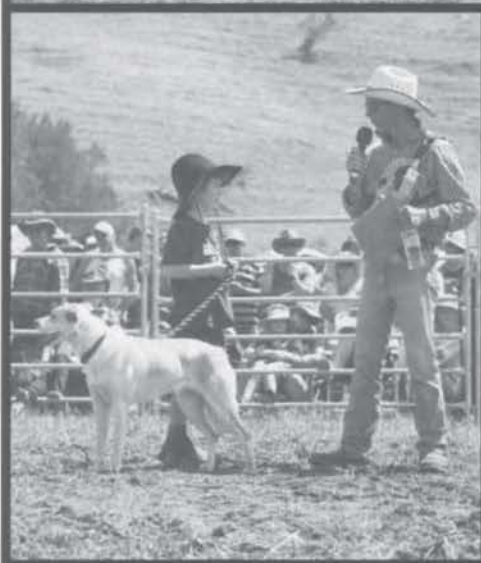
Radio MANSFIELD

99.7 FM

**Your Voice in the
High Country**







Rodwells

MANSFIELD

165 Mt Buller Road,
Mansfield, Vic. 3722

T: 03 5775 1588

A RURALCO BUSINESS F: 03 5775 1545

Proud supporters of the
Mountain Cattlemen and
wishing them all the best
for their

2016 Get-Together
McCormack Park
Merrijig

RODWELLS
LOCAL SERVICE,
NATIONAL STRENGTH



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria held on Friday 23rd October 2015 at Mill Valley Ranch, Tynong North commencing at 10.45am

Meeting opened at 10.45am.

1. Present

Bruce McCormack, Chris Cooper, Graeme Stoney, David Hurley, Charlie Lovick, Christa Treasure, Ray Anderson, Rhonda Treasure, Bruce Treasure, Mary Treasure, Chris Commins, Rose Faithfull, Georgie Connan, Matthew Jameson, Diana Hurley, Melanie Faith Dove and Simon Turner.

2. Apologies

Chris Hodge, Andrew Kee, Sue Reynolds, Anne and Richard Faithfull, Leonie Phelan, Kellie Lovick, Glenn Chalwell, Ken Heywood, Ben and Fiona Treasure, John Cook, Danny Cook, Dennis Carstairs, John and Rita McMahan, Annie Patterson, Brian Higgins, Terry Langley, Joe Connley, Janine Cooper, Peter Monds and Kate Treasure.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

It was agreed that the minutes, as circulated, of the Annual General Meeting dated 19 September 2014 held at Mid Valley Ranch, Tynong North are a true and correct record of proceedings.

Bruce McCormack/Bruce Treasure Carried

4. Reports

4.1 President's Report

Charlie Lovick then addressed the meeting about the past year as he had reported in *Voice of the Mountains No. 38*.

"In a major setback for future management of the High Country, the new Minister for the Environment, Lisa Neville, and the newly elected Labor Government have cancelled the three year Wonnangatta grazing trial after one year.

The Minister treated the MCAV with disrespect by informing us of her decision through rural radio on 10 December 2014 and then sending nothing in writing for the next nineteen days.

The Government's decision to cancel the trial came despite the MCAV writing to the

Minister on the day she was sworn in, asking her to hold off on any final decision. The MCAV letter and nine page briefing document to the Minister, pointed out that the trial is vastly different to Alpine Grazing which is on a rangeland scale and thus could be seen to be a different activity to the Government policy which is to ban Alpine grazing. For the record last September, we had met the Minister when she was Opposition Spokesperson as we did with other political parties.

Over the nineteen day period from 10 December *Channel Nine* and the rural media picked up the story as did *The Age* newspaper but it took until 29 December for an official letter to be emailed notifying us that the trial had been cancelled.

When the Minister's original radio announcement was made, the MCAV was in the advanced stages of planning the second year of the trial including arranging cattle from all over the High Country to be taken to Wonnangatta. The trial was due to start after 1 January 2015 so arrangements had to be put in place. Because of the many rules required in the contract by the Government, the project is complicated and thus costly to the MCAV. Planning and administration included trips to the valley last Spring to organise a new supervisor's camp, assess stocking rates, plan several new access routes and meet officials.

On 10 December, we had to put everything on hold, including another planned trip to Wonnangatta while we waited for the official letter.

This is the worst treatment the MCAV has received from a Minister or Government since our Association was formed in the mid 1960s.

Since that time, we have dealt with a least nine different State Governments. We have always been polite and respectful in our lobbying. Without exception until now, that respect has always been returned by respective Ministers and

Premiers from all sides of politics.

For example, when the cattlemen rallied on the steps of Parliament in 1984 with 304 horses and two dogs, Ministers from the Labor Government accepted a petition on the steps. Afterwards, Premier John Cain showed respect by inviting MCAV representatives into Parliament House to discuss the issue.

In the mid 1980s, a group of Labor Government Ministers came to the High Country and were taken on horseback for an inspection by my father Jack Lovick. They were polite and respectful during the three day trip, even though opinions strongly differed. They joked that the grazed country looked so good that should be in a National Park! (It doesn't look so good now, by the way.)

Some years later Minister Joan Kirner attended a dinner where the retiring President of the MCAV Jim Commins was recognized for his lobbying efforts to retain Alpine grazing and for his untiring efforts to alert authorities about the deteriorating condition of the public land. Mrs Kirner spoke with and was gracious to, the cattlemen who had been fiercely campaigning against her Government's plans to create an Alpine National Park and conclude alpine grazing. Mrs Kirner told the audience that the Cattlemen were the best lobbyists she had ever come across and that one of their secrets of success was the polite way they treated everyone, even when they were angry.

In 2004 a partisan Labor Parliamentary Committee, which had no experience in public land management or had any scientific background, was given the task of collating a case to ban Alpine grazing. This committee at least had the courtesy of inspecting the High Country and politely listening to our members' point of view. It was inevitable that in the end it chose to accept the view of a small group of scientists who had a personal vendetta against Alpine grazing because that suited the Government's political agenda.

Now we have a new Minister and a new Government which has shown no interest in the history or conventions established during this long running and historic dispute. It has completely dismissed any need to show respect for a group of well-known and responsible rural

people exercising their rights to defend their heritage and culture and promote good public land management.

It also unilaterally cancelled an agreement we had made with the Gurnaijurnai people and the Government to develop a joint management plan for Wonnangatta.

The implication of these actions to our members is that the new Government believes the traditions and culture of the mountain cattlemen are worthless. Its actions confirms that a group of rural and remotely based Victorians, with generations of knowledge and a long history of settlement in the High Country (dating back to James McFarlane in 1834), is no longer of any use or interest to a city centric Government.

This situation is a disgrace and we will not accept that treatment.

The three year trial was to prove once and for all if grazing reduces fuel loads in the grazing zones in the High Country. The MCAV had agreed to accept the findings. The cancellation of the trial after the cattle had been in the trial site for only half of one grazing season means the basic question remains unanswered. It is inevitable now that the debate will continue without any chance of resolution.

What an opportunity lost.

4.2 Financial Report

The MCAV had a successful Get Together at Mitta Mitta, due to good ticket pre-sales and the lowered expenses to run the event. Thank you to the two Vice-Presidents who have donated back their entitlement to the Association. The MCAV has ended the year with a \$11,512 profit.

Motion: That the financial report for the end of year 2015 is adopted by the MCAV and the secretary be directed to lodge the report with Consumer Affairs.

Chris Cooper / Bruce Treasure Carried

Motion: That the MCAV retain the services of MMK Accounting as auditors for the MCAV for 2015-16 financial year.

Rose Faithfull / Simon Turner Carried

Motion: That Malcolm Blair is retained for the 2015-16 year as the MCAV Accountant.
Rose Faithfull / Christa Treasure Carried

Motion: That Honorariums for Officers of the Association will now be payments made in accordance with the ATO ruling of Contractor/ Employee status.
Rose Faithfull / Bruce Treasure Carried

4.3 Branch Annual Reports
The branch annual meetings were noted.

4.3.1 Gippsland Branch

Office Bearers:

President David Hurley
Vice President Brian Higgins
Secretary Leonie Phelan

4.3.2 Mansfield Branch

Office Bearers:

President Bruce McCormack
Vice President Kellie Purvis
Secretary Graeme Stoney

4.3.3 North East Branch

Office Bearers:

Chairperson Ken Heywood
Vice Chairperson Christa Treasure
Secretary Ben Treasure

4.3.4 Omeo Branch

Office Bearers:

President Bruce Commins
Vice President Joe Connley
Secretary Chris Commins

5. Election of Office Bearers

All positions within the MCAV were declared vacant. Charlie Lovick passed the Chair to Graeme Stoney to oversee the election process. As the positions of President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary only attracted one nominee each, the roles were filled without opposition.

President

Charlie Lovick was nominated by Bruce McCormack and Graeme Stoney 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 Graeme Stoney and Charlie Lovick.

Chris Cooper was nominated by Graeme Stoney and Simon Turner.

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

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Rose Faithfull was nominated by Bruce McCormack and Charlie Lovick. There being no further nominations Rose was duly elected.

Motion: That all elected position holders be accepted for 2015-16.

Graeme Stoney / Bruce Treasure Carried

6. Confirmation of Central Council Delegates 2014-15

Gippsland

Diana Hurley, David Hurley, John McMahon with Chris Cooper (reserve).

Mansfield

Bruce McCormack, Kellie Purvis and Graeme Stoney.

North East

Ken Heywood, Glen Chalwell, Christa Treasure with Ray Anderson and Bruce Treasure (reserves).

Omeo

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

Motion: That the MCAV accept the nominations of Central Council delegates.

Graeme Stoney / Bruce Treasure Carried

7. 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	\$35 per hour
Merchandise Officer	\$3,000
Get-Together Co-Ordinator	\$10,000
Equine Race Co-Ordinator	\$3,000
Voice of the Mountains Editor	\$1,000

MANSFIELD PRE MIX
 is delighted to support the MCAV and
 McCormack Park Merrig
 For all quarry products and "REAL GOOD CEMENT"
GUS SYME 0418 399 479
Deadhorse Lane, Mansfield

ANSWERS

How many words?

ignitable, bleating, tangible, bailing, baiting, beating, belting, elating, gelatin, genital, intagli, lignite, tabling, tagline, tailing, aiglet, ailing, albeit, albite, bailie, bating, binate, biting, eating, entail, gablet, gelati, genial, giblet, ignite, ingate, ligate, linage, nilgai, tangle, tibial, tiling, tingle, agent, agile, aglet, algin, alibi, alien, align, aline, angel, angle, anile, bagel, began, begat, begin, being, belga, bialy, bilge, binal, binge, blain, blate, bleat, blent, bling, blini, blite, elint, entia, gable, genii, giant, glean, gleba, glint, ingle, inlet, laten, leant, legit, liane, liang, ligan, linga, litai, table, telia, tenia, tibia, tineas, tinge, abet, able, agin, alit, anil, ante, anti, bail, bait, bale, bane, bang, bate, bean, bant, beat, belt, bent, beta, biga, bile, bine, bint, bite, blae, blat, blet, blin, egal, gain, gait, gale, gane, gate, gelt, gent, geta, gibe, gilt, gite, gnat, ilea, ilia, inti, lain, lane, late, lati, lean, lent, lien, line, ling, lint, lite, nabe, nail, neat, nite, tael, tail, tain, tale, tali, tang, teal, tile, tine, ting, age, ail, ale, alt, ani, ant, ate, bag, bal, ban, bat, beg, bel, ben, bet, big, bin, bit, eat, eta, gab, gal, gan, gat, gel, gen, get, gib, gin, git, lab, lag, lea, leg, lei, let, lib, lie, lit, nab, nae, nag, neb, neg, net, nib, nil, nit, tab, tag, tan, tea, teg, ten, tie, til and tin.

The meeting was declared closed at 11.48 am.
 Date of next AGM to be advised.

Carried	<i>Rose Faithfull / David Hurley</i>
	\$40 (family)
	\$30 (single)
	\$50
	\$220
	Grazing Members
	Non-Grazing Members
	Associate Membership
	Full Membership
	Full membership fees and Associate membership fees to remain the same as last year.

8. Setting Membership Subscription Fees

Additional phone entitlement of \$80, \$60 and \$50 per month respectively with superannuation contributions being made for the Secretary and Treasurer. Merchandise Officer with addition of 5% of achieved sales.
 Motion: That honorariums and payments shall be made by the MCAV for the 2015-16 year as per the table above, with a February reflection.
Christa Treasure / Graeme Stoney
 Carried



MCAV SPONSORS 2016

MAJOR SPONSORS

Mansfield Shire
Senator John Madigan

SPONSORS

JA Commins & Co
Mary Treasure and family
Rose Hicks and family
Laurence Webb and family
Pauline and Jo Connley
Mansfield Hunting and Fishing
Lyn Wright
Kellie Lovick
Plasmacut
Saddleworld Albury
Eisners Guardian Pharmacy
Mt Buller Alpine Transport
Alpine Helicopter Services
Amcal Mansfield Pharmacy
Anthony Rennick
Delatite Veterinary Services
Dianne Patten
Doug O'Brien Water Cartage

Greg Millot Concreting
Norm Pigdon
Mansfield Bins and Skips
Mansfield Garden Supplies
Mansfield PreMix
Mansfield Printing
Mansfield Shoe Shop
Mansfield Toyota
Oobibat Collections
Radio Mansfield
RB Sellars
Rodwells
Snowy Mountain Rug Co.
Swift Group
Hidden Trails
High Country Water
Patrick Morrissey Agricultural Contracting
McCormack's Mountain Valley Trail Rides

Top Foda
Home Station
Gone Riding
Adrian Stute
Edith and May
Henry the Third
Outdoor Pleasure
Callahan Seed
Stihl
Davon Hair Room

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 a collective of volunteers who work each day: the judges, stewards, announcers, bar staff, rubbish removers, marketing staff and many others who work behind the scenes ensuring a great weekend for all. A HUGE THANK YOU to all concerned.

The Association is indebted to all our sponsors no matter how large or small as all contributions go toward us having a successful weekend. We thank these businesses, organisations and individuals for their loyal support of the Mountain Cattlemen.

Our sincere apologies to anyone we have overlooked as we greatly appreciate all the support we receive from our supporters. We could not continue without this strong supporter base.

THANK YOU

Despite having an earlier deadline this year, we still managed to pull it off and complete VOM for the G2G. As a consequence I hassled people in the pre Christmas bedlam instead of in the Christmas/New Year shutdown. Thank to all those I hassled particularly Georgie Connan (you deserve a medal!), Graeme Stoney (I haven't got time, but I will get it for you), Chris Commins (I will ring and organise that) and David Packham (for a no holds barred book review) and those who helped at the last minute like David Jefferys, Lyn Wright and David Treasure.

Thankyou also to the families who supplied information on those who have died in the last twelve months and to our sponsors for their assistance.

I had real fun trying to pick out photos that best represented last year's G2G - Elle Shaw did such a great job I literally had hundreds to go through and I am sure that some of the best probably didn't make it in - but great job Elle, thank you. Thanks also to Melanie Faith Dove for again providing the cover image and allowing me to use images from her book and when I suggested she write about her experiences she jumped at the chance even when every other thing was conspiring against her.

Egee Printers have again come through with the goods in their usual efficient manner in getting No. 39 to print.

Again Leanne Dyson and Neil Cox have burned the midnight oil to proof read all the text and make suggestions for content and layout and I can't thank them enough. The EGFHG has provided computing and photocopying support with is also appreciated.

Debbie Squires
Editor

P.O. Box 816, Bairnsdale
inkpress@bigpond.com

