

The Mountain District Cattlemen's Association of Victoria

NEWSLETTER

November, 1981.

A successful Annual Meeting was held in Melbourne in September and it was pleasing to see a number of Associate Members present.

Following a suggestion that our Association might make some contribution towards further study of Crown Land grazing, our Secretary, Mrs. Aston, wrote to Melbourne University (School of Agriculture and Forestry) to enquire if we could help their studies in some way. An appreciative response was received from Mr. John Holmes, who is leading a research team studying the grazing habits of cattle on the Bogong High Plains. He said that in the forthcoming year some locally bred cattle and a quiet horse may be needed to enable further study and suggested the Association may be able to assist in obtaining these.

There are signs that there is department pressure developing to sharply raise the fees being charged for grazing rights. Since the effects of grazing and the runholders's involvement is still not well understood by many authorities, I can see that we will have a job to do to try and contain any rises to a reasonable level.

It is very important that all members keep a careful log of time and travelling involved with managing their runs.

Another issue of Voice of the Mountains is being prepared and it is hoped to be ready for distribution by Christmas. Should anyone want extra copies, please contact Mrs. Aston on (051) 57 3236 or write to Post Office, Ensay, Vic. 3895. It may not be a large magazine, but it is a large task for those involved with its production to have in addition to their normal workload.

Our Liaison Officer, Mr. Lyle McCready, has been active in Melbourne trading information with those in the seats of power who can have great influence on our grazing activities.

The North East Branch is busy organising the next Get-together which is to be held on the Bogong High Plains on 6th and 7th February, 1982. It is to be hoped that all members who are not seriously indisposed will be there to help with the big public relations exercise in meeting and discussions with visitors.

While wishing all members and Associate Members a very happy festive season, it is to be hoped that the marketing scene will improve to ensure a prosperous new year.