

ASSOCIATES OF THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN

NEWSLETTER No. 1 - NOVEMBER 1984.

MEETING AT THE EXHIBITION BUILDINGS.

We had an overwhelming response to our invitation, more than 300 people attended the Meeting held at the Exhibition Buildings on October 25th, 1984, 150 apologies were received from people who regretted that they could not be present but showed interest and support, and expressed the wish to join any new association which was to be formed.

Until we embarked on this exercise we had no real idea of the amount of enthusiasm felt in the community, and the result was overwhelming. It was an exciting experience to find such support and from such a complete cross-section of the community. We now all feel that we are a solid group and have great confidence that we can work together to achieve our aims.

Originally it was considered that we form a group called "Friends of the Mountain Cattlemen" but at the Meeting it was agreed that we could maintain closer links with the Mountain Cattlemen themselves if we joined their present Associates. This organization is now simply an enlargement of the original Associates of the Mountain Cattlemen group. A registration form and membership card are enclosed with this Newsletter. The registration form was circulated at the Meeting so if you completed one that night you should ignore it. Those of you who were unable to attend the Meeting should complete and return this form, as it enables the Committee to assess what talents are available; e.g. if we suddenly need ten people in a certain area to help with a project such as a stall, we can contact them at once. The membership card should be completed and returned with your cheque to Sue Silvers, 28 Cityview Road, North Balwyn, 3104. Sue has been appointed Assistant Secretary to the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria and will from now on handle all Associate Memberships, queries etc. If you have any ideas you think may help the cause please either write to, or phone her, and she will be pleased to forward your suggestions to the Committee.

A Steering Committee was announced at the Meeting and it consists of Mr. Bill Sweetland, Chairman, Graeme Stoney, Geoff Ritter, Josette Chircop, Neil Perrett, Sue Silvers and Mark Granland.

T SHIRTS, WINDCHEATERS, POSTERS, STICKERS, ETC.

As we all know, the issue of the future management of the High Country is a lot wider and involves more people than just the Cattlemen and Alpine Grazing. Up until now the Cattlemen have been spear-heading the attack, but now the Associates can help widen the issue.

One of the ways of doing this is to produce a range of goods with a slogan depicting the problem, telling people that their rights in the High Country are under threat and generally promoting our philosophy of "there is room for all in the High Country". The Committee is looking at this at present and would welcome ideas on a slogan which could be used on such a range of products. We will use the Cattlemen's logo of the horsemen, as it is a very graphic symbol, plus a word slogan - any slogan ideas amongst you?

Some of the Associates attended the Great Mountain Race of Victoria at Sheepyard Flat which was organised by the Mansfield Chamber of Commerce. We conducted a stall of products and were swamped with people. We took more than \$3,500.00 with customers three deep wanting to buy. We also held a stall at the Mansfield

Show, and at the Geelong Show Lyn Mulligan and Ken Connley showed the flag. Barry Masters is organizing a very grand display and stall selling shirts etc. at Traralgon Show on 30th November and 1st December. A good chance for you Gippslanders to stock up on shirts, posters stickers etc.

If any Associates would like to hold a stall at any similar function, or wish to purchase T shirts etc. please contact Sue Silvers.

SPECIAL 150th ANNIVERSARY SOUVENIR - OLD CATTLEMENS PORT - BROWN BROS. MILLAWA.

This excellent idea came from Associate Kelvin Bush who did all the initial groundwork and then sent all the information down to the Committee.

Old Cattlemens Port comes in an attractive stoneware jug with handle, and is beautifully presented in its own special box. When the Committee decided to go ahead with this project they urgently needed a copywriter and graphic artist. By using the registration forms completed by those at the meeting, these people - Marion Pennicuik and Don Porter were found immediately, and work for the label was completed within 36 hours of the decision being made. (We impress upon you the need to fill in and return these forms).

The Old Cattlemens Port 150th Anniversary Special will be released on 2nd February at Junction Plains at the Cattlemens Get Together.

MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS "GET TOGETHER" JUNCTION PLAIN FEBRUARY 2nd & 3rd, 1985.

Mr. Jim Commins, President of the Mountain Cattlemens Association of Victoria has extended an invitation to all of us to join the Mountain Cattlemen at Junction Plain for their annual get together in February 1985. This is an historic occasion, as it celebrates 150 years of grazing in the High Country, and at the most appropriate location - Cobungra, the first cattle station in the High Country of Victoria. Junction Plain is on the Victoria River, and Mr. Commins says it is a particularly beautiful area. One of the highlights of the weekend is the famous Mountain Cattlemens Cup - a hair-raising horse race, once seen, never to be forgotten. For those of you who have not attended one of these Get Togethers in the past, we urge you to attend. It is a wonderful opportunity to camp in a beautiful setting, and a chance for you to study part of the High Country and talk to the Mountain Cattlemen in their home territory. Junction Plain is near Omeo, and easily accessible by car. You must bring your own camping equipment. A barbeque is provided on the Saturday night, plus music and dancing well into the night.

The cost is \$15 per person or \$40 per family of four. Pre school age children are admitted free.

A sketch map for directions is included.
Please also tear off and return the following section.

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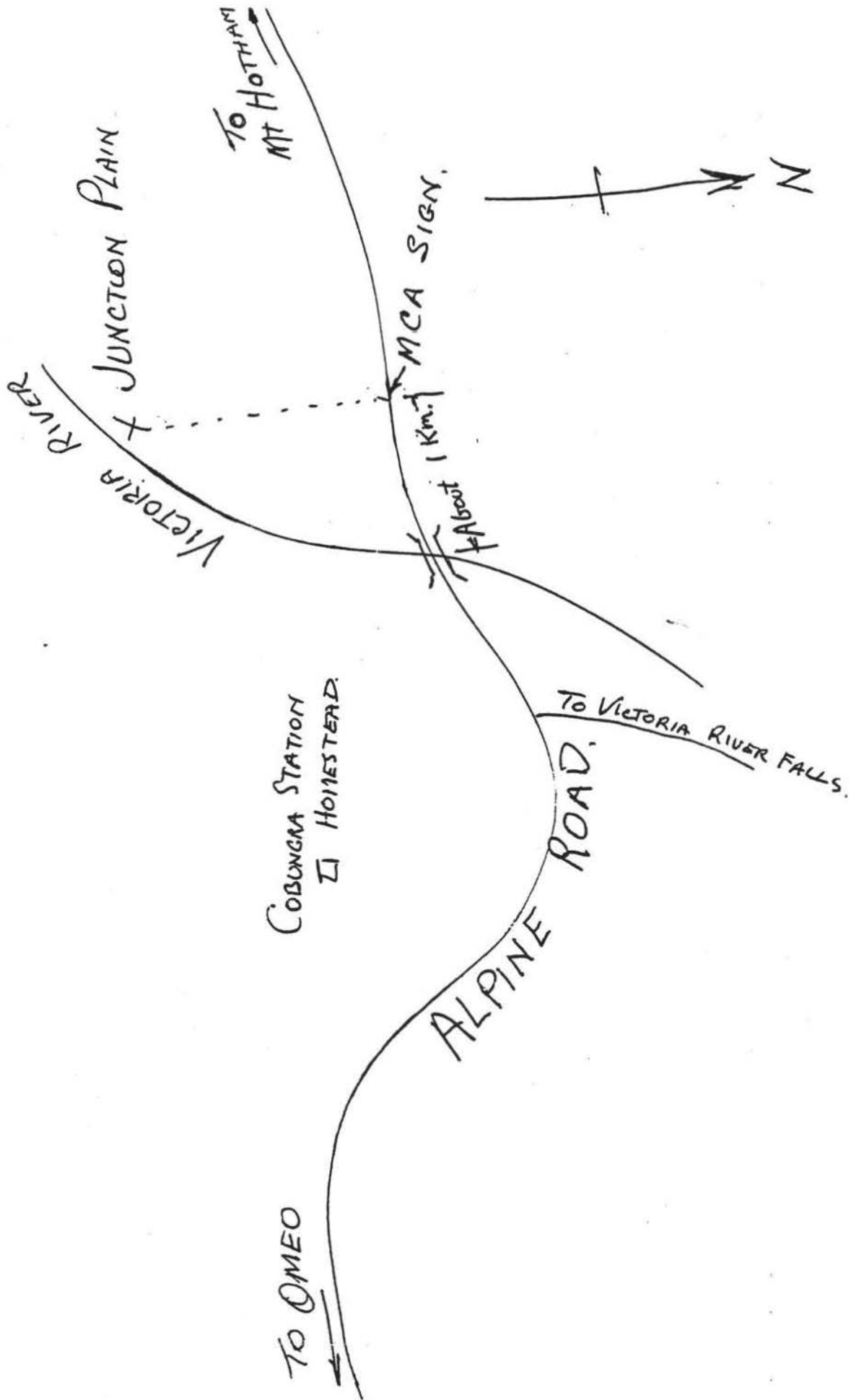
NAME:

ADDRESS:

NO. IN GROUP:

RSVP January 18th, 1985.

Return to Mrs. Betty Fitzgerald, "Shannonvale", Omeo 3898. Phone 051 59 7228.
For further information contact Mrs. Fitzgerald, or Jim Commins on 051 57 3232.



DIRECTIONS FOR THE JUNCTION PLAIN GET TOGETHER
 FEBRUARY 2nd & 3rd, 1985.

Junction Plain is approx 26km from Omeo, or 30km from Mount Hotham.

It is early days with our Associates project, but already things are falling into place. It was quite obvious at the Meeting that a great number of people are concerned about the proposal to create a massive National Park in the Alps.

We understand that if the Government is re-elected the appropriate legislation will be introduced into the first sitting of the new Parliament. Please all make a point of lobbying for our cause. Make an appointment with your own local member of the State Parliament and ask him if anyone has done a costing on this project. It appears to us that this information has not been released, and is a big consideration from the public's point of view. Also ask him to make a note, that you, as a constituent are firmly against any extension of an Alpine Park, and that he must consider YOUR opinion on this matter.

SEE YOU AT THE GET TOGETHER IN FEBRUARY.

Sue Silvers.
November 1984.