

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED HELD AT 13 TUXEN STREET, NORTH BALWYN ON THURSDAY 22nd OCTOBER, 1987.

The Chairman, Mr. David Treasure opened the meeting at 11.25 a.m.

APOLOGIES: were received from:  
Terry Murphy, Don Kneebone, Ken Heywood, Jim Commins.

PRESENT: Messrs. Ryder, McCready, Hicks, Kelly, Cook, Connley, Brown, Hodge, Lovick, Cumming, Whittam and Treasure, and Mrs. A. Whittam, Mrs. S. Silvers.

MINUTES: Moved C. Hodge seconded G. Connley that the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Council as circulated be confirmed.

BUSINESS ARISING: The Secretary reported that she had written to Sue and Russell Clay, and had sent the annual subscription to the Greater Gippsland Development League. Copy rules would be sent to all branches shortly. Mr. C. Hodge reported that Jim Commins and Dick Condon were now doing a preliminary survey of the Kosciusko National Park. Mr. Kelly stated that Omeo Branch strongly supported a moratorium on 1991 phase out areas. Secretary was instructed to write to the Minister expressing these views and quoting from the Submission.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters references 87/1 - 87/23 deal with general enquiries, thank yous and requests for information.  
Shires of Upper Murray, Tambo, Mansfield, Omeo re Alpine Planning Proposals.  
Copy letter VFF to Planning Team supporting MCAV.  
Copy letter Minister to L. Lieberman re submission VFF to MCAV re affiliation fees.  
Policy Consultants report on activities.  
G. Elphick with copy Bicentennial telethon.  
Correspondence out:  
Greater Gippsland Development League re m/ship.  
W. Crump re list 1987/1988 office bearers.  
Mrs. S. Clay re thanks.  
Alpine Planning Project enclosing submission.  
Memo Treasure/Commins re Kosciusko National Park.  
Mr. D. Wimbush re information Kosciusko Park.  
Shire Secretaries: Avon, Mansfield, Oxley, Myrtleford, Bright, Tambo, Omeo, Maffra, Upper Murray, Tallangatta re Alpine Planning Proposals.  
D. Evans, J. Kirner, J. Plowman re M.C.A.V. concern regarding Flora & Fauna Conservation Guarantee.  
S. Cubit re logo & slogan for Tassie Mountain Cattlemen.  
Moved H. Ryder, seconded J. Lovick that the correspondence be received.

TREASURERS REPORT: The Treasurer reported that the current

balance in the Central Account as at 22/10/87 was \$4,078.52 credit and presented the meeting with a list of accounts for ratification for payment.

Moved L. McCready seconded K. Kelly that such accounts be ratified.

DEFAMATION ACTION: The Secretary read a letter from Hassall & Byrne Solicitors regarding the latest position and also a letter from D. & J. Gunter requesting the Association to take a strong stand in this matter. There was lengthy discussion regarding this issue. All members agreed that Dr. Mosley and others had publicly and in the press, made statements which were detrimental to mountain grazing and, in every case the statements made were wrong in fact. Photographs had been used by some members of the conservation movement which did not relate to Victoria. The conservation movement had continually attacked cattle grazing in the Alps for many years. The role of grazing as a fire protection measure had been totally misrepresented by Dr. Mosley himself. The meeting agreed to take the strongest possible stand against this proposed action. The agreement between the MCAV was also fully discussed. The meeting agreed that there were some questions which needed to be answered by Mr. Hassall as to the Association's position.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.40 p.m.

RESUMPTION: The meeting resumed at 1.20 p.m. The Chairman introduced Mr. Rowland Hassall of Hassall & Byrne to the meeting. Mr. Hassall explained and discussed the defences to the action, i.e. justification, fair comment, and qualified privilege. The Chairman asked Mr. Hassall what would happen if a judgment was obtained against the Association and it could not pay the amount awarded. Mr. Hassall said this would be covered by the model rules and in particular the clause relating to the winding up of the Association. The Association rules, the model rules and the Act all needed to be read in conjunction to ascertain the position. Mr. Ryder said he thought his wife could undertake this task. Mr. Whittam asked Mr. Hassall whether the barrister specifically stated that the comment by Don Kneebone referred to in Jeanne Gorman's letter constituted defamation. Mr. Hassall said he would have Mr. Gillard check this out. The meeting informed Mr. Hassall that it wanted to take the strongest possible stand against this action. It was pointed out that the Association had everything to lose and nothing to gain from making any settlement at all with Dr. Mosley. Mr. Hassall said that he would co-ordinate all the material collected in the defence of the

3.

action and send it to Mr. Gillard Q.C. with instructions and request his advice.

RESOLUTIONS:

On a motion by Clive Hodge it was resolved that having read the Memorandum of Advice of 1/7/87 in which it is set out that the agreement between the Association and William Collins Pty. Ltd. had not been properly executed on behalf of the Association; this Committee confirms that agreement on behalf of the Association retrospectively, and authorises the proper officer, (if necessary) to execute the Agreement in accordance with the rules. Seconded Ross Brown.

On a motion moved by Mr. L. McCready that the Association should do everything in its power to defend any action by Dr. Mosley and empowers the President, Mr. David Treasure to deal with Mr. Rowland Hassall and Mr. E. Gillard Q.C. Seconded by Mr. K. Kelly.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Mr. Ross Brown brought forward for discussion the lack of support the members of the Association give the associate members in their efforts to support the Mountain Cattlemen. He particularly mentioned the Royal Melbourne Show where two branches had not sent representatives to the Show despite being rostered and having had the tickets sent to them.

Moved G. Connley seconded J. Lovick that the Secretary write to each branch regarding the above, and asking that more support be given to activities undertaken on behalf of the members by the associate members.

The Chairman discussed the lack of equipment owned by the Association and suggested that each year the Association might consider acquiring a necessary piece of equipment. Three items in particular were mentioned - a facsimilie machine, a photocopier, and a typewriter.

Moved L. McCready seconded G. Connley that the Association look into the options of leasing or purchasing a facsimilie machine.

The Secretary and Assistant Secretary to look into the possibility of purchasing a second-hand photocopy machine. The Secretary to consider what typewriter might be the best to purchase for the Association's requirements.

TASMANIAN MCA

The Chairman reported that he had been invited to address a public meeting in Launceston in early November to give support to the Tasmanian MCA. He would be spending two to three days as the guest of the Tasmanian MCA looking at their country and addressing the meeting.

DOCUMENTARY:

The Chairman reported that he had a preliminary script from Mr. Tony Tynong for a commercial hour documentary. Mr. Brown requested that

4.

there be no references to 'the last muster'.  
The meeting agreed that the documentary should  
place some emphasis on children, cattle, and the  
role the Cattlemen play as conservationists.

GET TOGETHER:

The Secretary was requested to write to the  
Secretary of the Mansfield Branch and ask for  
a statement of receipts and payments from the  
last Get Together.  
The Chairman reported that the Gippsland Branch  
had confirmed a tender for the gate, had engaged  
a band and were negotiating with local groups  
regarding the food and drink. The sound system  
would be provided by Mr. Gannon as he did last  
year.

CLOSURE:

There being no further business the meeting  
closed at 3.25 p.m.

Confirmed as a correct record:

*David Sheasman*.....Chairman.

MIN  
CAT  
THE  
DEC  
The  
a.m  
APO  
PRE  
MIN  
BUS  
COR