

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE MOUNTAIN  
CATTLEMENS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED HELD AT  
THE COMMITTEE ROOMS BAIRNSDALE RACECOURSE ON FRIDAY 11th  
DECEMBER, 1987 AT 11 a.m.

The Chairman Mr. David Treasure opened the meeting at 11 a.m.

- APOLOGIES:** Ross Brown, Bill Cumming, Harry Ryder, Ken Heywood, Lyle McCready.
- PRESENT:** Messrs. K. Whittam, W. Hicks, C. Hodge, G. Stoney, Doug. Treasure, J. Hall, D. Kneebone, J. Commins. Mesdames: A. Whittam, S. Silvers, R. Treasure. In Attendance: Mr. T. Barker.
- MINUTES:** Moved C. Hodge, seconded G. Stoney that the minutes of the previous meeting as circulated be confirmed.
- BUSINESS ARISING:** The Secretary reported that she had written to each Branch as requested. The Secretary reported that she had not received a reply to her request for a statement on the last Get Together from the Mansfield Secretary.
- CORRESPONDENCE:** Letters references 87/23 - 87/122 deal with general enquiries etc.  
Incoming:  
Shires of Bright & Avon re Alpine Planning proposals.  
Secretary Omeo Branch enclosing cheque.  
D. Condon re Kosciusko Park trip.  
Secretary North East re document Wodonga Seminar.  
Snowy River Country re article for magazine.  
P.J. Pendergast re full membership.  
J. Kirner re Petitions (copy)  
W. Crump re annual return.  
Report from Policy Consultants with Report to Pricing Panel, Summary of Findings Kosciusko Park trip, Federation Insurance re bicentennial ride.  
Outgoing:  
Secretaries all Branches re support for Associate members.  
Secretary Mansfield re 1987 Get Together.  
M. Tehan, M.L.C. re appointment.  
J. Plowman re appointment.  
A. Freckleton re full membership.  
Moved Doug Treasure, seconded D. Kneebone that the correspondence be received.

TREASURERS:  
REPORT:

The Treasurer reported that the current balance in the Central account was \$36.03 with \$504.00 in cheques to be banked. Central account investment deposit was \$4,572.91. Marketing account investments are \$17,909.91 and \$1,065.70. Balance in account was \$91.68 with \$362.00 to be banked. The Treasurer presented accounts for ratification totalling \$15,016.40. Moved C. Hodge seconded B. Hicks that the Treasurers Report be received and accounts presented be ratified.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Flora & Fauna Guarantee. Mr. Tim Barker reported that this Bill has been formally deferred. That there are to be a series of meetings to discuss the Bill, the Minister will chair each of these meetings. Meetings are to be held at Wangaratta, Traralgon and Sale among other areas. The three above being the ones appropriate to the Association. Mr. Barker made the following points:

That the nomination process for conserving a particular specie needs tightening; that the Government does need power to stop development in certain cases, e.g. the Eltham copper butterfly, where such a species is unique; that Interim Conservation Orders should not apply where the use of land in a traditional and conventional could be threatened by such an Order; That people who lease Crown land should have the same rights to information and consultation as owners of private land; that the Bill must not allow the malicious use of the Interim Conservation Orders or any other mechanism system by over zealous individuals or organisations to unnecessarily disrupt productive endeavour; that the Association should not blindly follow the amendments to the Bill proposed by the National Party. That as many members as possible should attend the Department of CFL meetings and should strongly stress the above points. That members should also write to the V.F.F. in the above terms and also to their local member of Parliament.

The meeting fully agreed with Mr. Barker on all the above points.

Moved Clive Hodge seconded Doug Treasure

that a Committee of four comprising President, Executive Officer, Mr. Barker and the Secretary attend the Shadow Minister in January to make the above points.

re Koscuisko National Park. Mr. Barker reported to the meeting that he is now editing some 200 pages of Mr. Condon's report, and will have a final draft before the end of the year.

Jim Commins reported to the meeting on the trip to Koscuisko. Mr. Commins stated that he and Mr. Condon had received tremendous support from people throughout the area who are dissatisfied with the condition of the Park, that there are hundreds of miles of rotting fencing, and brown and dead snowgrass dominates the scene, except in areas around huts and old homesteads where brumbies, rabbits and kangaroos have kept the grass short by grazing. Some areas of the Park are closed, and the fire danger appears to be extremely high owing to the shrubs and fallen timber. He stated that in N.S.W. there are 52 separate groups fighting against any further wilderness areas in that State, however they are all small groups and unlikely to succeed. Mr. Commins wishes to return to the Park in January to compare the October findings.

Tim Barker suggested that the edited material from Mr. Condon, plus any comments we can obtain from a botanist should be presented for publication in the Journal of the School of Botany University of Melbourne. This would give the Association credibility to counter the material being put out by the C.S.I.R.O. If the M.C.A.V. work was not published, comments by the scientific editorial committee would be useful. Mr. Stoney suggested that if the work were published the media would be interested in such new findings. Mr. Stoney introduced the subject of obtaining a video in regard to the Kosciusko Park, and congratulated Jim Commins and Dick Condon on their work.

Article for magazine Snowy River Country  
Mr. Stoney brought up for discussion the subject of an article for the above magazine. The meeting agreed that the Secretary, Jim Commins, Graeme Stoney and Tim Barker prepare such an article from material already published in the Voice of the Mountains and

referred to by the magazine's editor in his letter to Mr. Commins. Lands Bill. Mr. Barker reported that this Bill will be introduced into the Parliament in 1988 and is a complete re-write of the existing Lands Acts. Jim Commins stressed the need to review the situation regarding the responsibility of land owners where they have a common boundary with Crown land.

ADJOURNMENT:  
RESUMPTION:

The meeting adjourned at 12.30 p.m.  
The meeting resumed at 1.p.m.  
The Chairman introduced for discussion the subject of Public Land rentals by advising the meeting that the Pricing Panel had agreed a figure of \$3 for the alpine area over a set period, and \$5.20 for bush country.  
Mr. Hicks stated that he had no argument with the figure of \$3, but expressed concern at how the Department would arrive at the particular number of cattle and gave as an example the fact that it would be impossible to count the Cobungra cattle.  
Mr. Stoney raised the subject of cattle numbers in one year then becoming the Department measure of the run's carrying capacity, which he stated would be incorrect, and would not take into account the changes in season etc. There was lengthy discussion on the subject of review clauses, allocations, review of allocations and the need to get away from allocations and numbers, and the position regarding payment of Council rates.  
The meeting decided on the following points to be settled at the meeting with the Department, Association and V.F.F. on December, 15th, 1987:

1. Accept the rate for cattle on alpine leases of \$3.00 per head per season, in a lump sum based on average carrying capacity - to be reviewed every 7 years.
2. That the number of cattle actually taken to runs each year should, over time, average out at the assessed carrying capacity.
3. Reject the concept that the charge for 'bush runs' should be based on dry sheep equivalents and keep to the \$3.00 as for the alpine leases.
4. Propose that within the alpine area and eastern mountains of Victoria the charge for 'bush runs' should be the same as for alpine leases.
5. Propose that there should be no differentiation between alpine leases and bush runs and that they all be incorporated into one system of charging.

6. That the carrying capacity of the runs should be reviewed every seven years. (Minimum).

7. Any reviews of charges should be undertaken in consultation with the M.C.A.V. based on an indexed 5 year average of calf sales in Omeo and Benambra.

8. Licences should be fully transferable after consultation with the Land Protection Advisory Committee, M.C.A.V. and the runholder.

9. Licences should be for a minimum of 7 years.

Moved G. Stoney seconded C. Hodge that the above 9 points be adopted as the policy of the M.C.A.V. in regard to any agreement with the Pricing Panel.

#### Alpine Advisory Committee.

Mr. Jim Commins reported on the first two meetings of the above Committee. The Minister requires the Committee to adopt as guidelines the recommendations of the Land Conservation Council. Mr. Commins expressed some doubts as to any major changes the Committee might make and stressed the importance of adhering to the L.C.C. recommendations.

Mr. Stoney informed the meeting that, in regard to the Flora & Fauna Guarantee he had contacted a Mr. David Sexton, who had been working with Tim Barker on the Bill, and providing him with background information etc. Moved Jim Commins, seconded Doug Treasure that the sum of \$500 be forwarded to Mr. Sexton in payment for his work. The Chairman informed the meeting that Don Porter, the graphic artist who each year designs the labels for the Cattlemens Port was ill, that he had worked very hard for the Association as an Associate member, and after discussion it was agreed that Mr. Porter be paid the sum of \$250. Moved Clive Hodge seconded John Hall, that the sum of \$250 be paid to Don Porter for his contribution to the Association over the past 4 years.

1988 Get Together. Discussion regarding the Cattlemens Cup. The Cup is a perpetual trophy. There should not be a cash prize - only the Cup and sash. Any money at all should be used only for the transport etc. of horses. Graeme Stoney is to check on the

sponsorship. It was agreed, in respect of the Cup that the prize consist of Cup, sash (if extra money was available) a rug - the prize to be thus described "...up to the value of \$..").

Moved Bill Hicks seconded John Hall that the Treasurer arrange the transfer of the sum of \$5,000 to the Gippsland Branch account for the purpose of the Get Together.

The Get Together Committee requires a copy of the V.I.P. list.

The Secretary was instructed to send 6 copies of the invitation to Lyle McCready, and to inform him that they were invitations only, and not free passes.

Don Kneebone stated that he would not be available for the Race Committee after this Get Together.

Weight of saddle was also discussed. Pack horse race: each Branch to supply 2 contestants.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Jim Commins discussed a letter from the Prospectors and Miners regarding keeping tracks open. Moved Doug Treasure seconded Bill Hicks that the Secretary write to the P.M.A.V. supporting the proposition contained in their letter.

Discussion on original stock routes through the Avon Wilderness area.

Moved Clive Hodge seconded Don Kneebone that the Secretary write to the Minister requesting that these original stock routes from the Monaro to Gippsland be maintained.

The Chairman provided each Branch representative with copies of the registration form from the Tasmanian M.C.A. regarding their bicentennial cattle drive, and asked that the forms be made available to any interested member.

The date for the next meeting was set for Friday 29th January 1988 at 7.00 p.m. at Castleburn.

CLOSURE:

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.10 p.m.

Confirmed as a correct record:

*David Treasure*  
.....Chairman.

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