

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE MOUNTAIN  
CATTLEMENS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED HELD AT THE  
VICTORIAN FARMERS FEDERATION BOARD ROOM 24 COLLINS STREET  
MELBOURNE ON FRIDAY 27TH MAY, 1988.

The President, Mr. David Treasure as Chairman opened the meeting at 10.50 a.m.

PRESENT: David Treasure, Keith Whittam, John Cook Jim Commins, Tim Barker, Bill Cumming, Clive Hodge Ross Brown, Bill Hicks, Harry Ryder, Ian Roper Lyle McCready, Betty Fitzgerald, Annie Whittam Sue Silvers.

APOLOGIES: Graeme Stoney, Don Kneebone.

MINUTES: Moved Lyle McCready seconded Betty Fitzgerald that the Minutes of the previous meeting held at Castleburn on Friday 29th January 1988 as circulated be confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE: T.M.C.A. re its Get Together.  
Hassall & Byrne re Mosley (plus copy letter from Sly & Russell).  
T.M.C.A. Newsletter No. 2.  
V.F.F. re Flora & Fauna Guarantee Bill.  
Greater Gippsland Development League re annual conference.  
Lancefield & Distict Bush Nursing Hospital re donation for Bryan Jameson.  
Mary Westman re grazing in British Columbia.  
David Evans re East Gippsland Parks.  
Kirner re Flora & Fauna Guarantee.

Outgoing:

To Minister re Wonnangatta.  
To Mark Stephens re handouts at Longreach.  
To Hassall & Byrne re Mosley and action on phaseouts.

Resolution Moved Jim Commins seconded Harry Ryder that the correspondence be received.

BUSINESS ARISING: Tim Barker described a pre-election document prepared by the VFF and sent to each political party. Suggested the question of National Parks could be taken up in such an exercise the results of which would determine policy of each party.  
Secretary asked to write to Mary Westman requesting details of fees charged in British Columbia.  
Keith Whittam suggested M.C.A.V. should reiterate its strong stand against extensions to National Parks in writing to Marie Tehan.

TREASURERS REPORT: The Treasurer stated that the Marketing Account held a total of \$21,492. That Central Account was overdrawn by \$280. \$20 on hand to bank. The Treasurer presented accounts for payment totalling \$25,487.71. Moved Harry Ryder seconded Jim Commins that such accounts be passed for payment.

Resolution

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**CATTLEMENS CUP:** Rules for the conduct of the Mountain Cattlemens Cup were decided as follows:

1. Contestants to use a stock saddle and saddle cloth minimum weight to be 10 kilograms.

2. Race distance to be appropriate to the location as decided by the Host Branch and course approved by the Cup Committee.

3. Whip and oilskin coat to be carried.

4. A minimum of three activities to be included which will bring the horse to a halt and at least one activity where the rider must dismount.

5. Nominations for each Branch to be received by the Race representative 6 weeks before the date of the running of the Cup.

6. Number of Cup Contestants (**UNDECIDED**)

Suggestions included:

\*Maximum 12 riders;

\*3 from each Branch;

\*Nominations (3 per branch) to be entered 6 weeks prior to the Cup. If 12 not received then Host Branch to make the decision who who the extra ones can be. (If any Branch received more than 3 entries).

**This question was to be returned to the Branches for their resolutions.**

7. Cup Committee. Committee representatives to be elected at each Branch Annual Meeting.

8. Eligibility of riders.

Riders must fulfil the following criteria:

(a) Full members (fully paid up).

(b) Family members of full members.

(c) Employees of full members currently on the payroll for a minimum of 6 months, or regular seasonal employees.

Resolution:

Moved Lyle McCready seconded Bill Cumming that Rules 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 be confirmed Rule 6 to be resolved after receipt of Branch resolutions.

**WHIPCRACKING:**

Mr. McCready reported that he and Max Blair were working on some irregularities in the rules regarding whipcracking and will report the result at a later meeting.

**KOSCIUSKO PARK:**

Jim Commins reported he and Dick Condon had made 3 trips to Kosciusko the last being after the January 1988 fires which were not as bad as some he had seen in the past. Mr. Commins discussed Merambego which he related to Wonnangatta. N.S.W. Government purchased Merambego and incorporated it into the Park. It once supported 2 families but is now an environmental disaster - buildings destroyed fences removed and all overgrown. Mr. Commins

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said that there needs to be some strong stand taken in the future when Government buys land for an inappropriate use.

Tim Barker reported he has condensed the Kosciusko report, forwarded it to Paul Osmond Botanist for comment, and the final draft will be forwarded to the Journal of Botany in the next few weeks for publication or comment.

Mr. Commins advised that Dick Condon suggested the article be forwarded to the Australian Rangeland Society.

## PRICING PANEL:

Mr. Barker reported the V.F.F. had written to CF&L recommending that CF&L adopt the recommendation of the Pricing Panel that rent be charged at a rate of \$3.00/head/season for both alpine and bush runs. Mr. Hicks pointed out Rob Knight, Rural Finance Commission had recommended the \$3 figure and was a senior public servant. The Minister would have to have a very good reason to act against his advice. The meeting agreed that the pricing panel members Rob Knight, Frank Drum and Denis Cahill should be present at the final meeting with the Minister to determine the fees.

Resolution

Moved Bill Hicks seconded Clive Hodge that the pricing panel committee should be approached to attend the final meeting when the fee for the runs was decided by the Minister.

## ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 12.50 p.m. for lunch

## RESUMPTION:

The meeting resumed at 1.30 p.m.

REPORT - POLICY  
CONSULTANTS:

Tim Barker reported as follows:

The Lands Bill will probably be introduced in the Spring Session of Parliament. David Treasure and Jim Commins are currently considering the legislation.

State Election. There has to be a State Election before next June. It would be useful to know the views of all the parties on various issues affecting M.C.A.V. Jim Commins agreed and said questions should have been put to ALP branches over the past.

Public Land Council. Mr. Barker reported on the meeting between Public land users convened by the V.F.F. Draft details re structure, funding and organisation are being prepared.

Clive Hodge also commented on this meeting which he attended representing Tour operators and M.C.A.V. He said this Council could represent a very large number of people. The Council supports the concept of multiple-use. Mr. Hodge stated Gippsland Branch supported the formation of the Public Land Council.

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Resolution

Moved Jim Commins seconded Clive Hodge that the M.C.A.V. support the formation of the Public Land Council of Victoria but reserve its final decision until it has examined the proposed structure, funding and organisation of the Council.

N.F.F. Campaign. Mr. Barker discussed the N.F.F. campaign to seek amendments to the Federal Governments World Heritage legislation. He provided the meeting with background notes and sample letters to be written.

Resolution

Moved Jim Commins seconded Bill Cumming that M.C.A.V. participate in the Campaign and members be circulated with the information through the next newsletter and that Branches be asked to individually persue this matter.

## WONNANGATTA:

There was lengthy discussion regarding the sale of Wonnangatta with the view being expressed that a precedent had been set for the cessation of grazing in National Parks, that M.C.A.V. should be insisting that the Government abide by the recommendations of the L.C.C., and the views of the Opposition parties sought regarding the purchase of freehold land by Government.

## 1991 PHASEOUTS:

Mr. Ryder corrected the resolutions passed at a meeting on 15th May 1988 as "Bogong High Plains Runholders" and not North East and Omeo Branches.

In the following lengthy discussion the following points were raised:

\* Members should decide whether the Government should come up with its own decision, or be assisted by M.C.A.V.

\* M.C.A.V. write to the Minister and also send letters to local Liberal party members Lou Lieberman and Dick Long, as well as Marie Tehan stating our objections to the 1991 decision and asking the Liberal members to state their party's position on phaseouts.

\* After phaseout there was a difference between stock trespassing, and being actually taken to the runs. Penalties would differ.

\* N.F.F. should be approached for funds for a campaign to keep the runs open.

\* It should be strongly pointed out that members were being deprived of their livelihood and heritage.

\* Buff Rogers was losing Broadbent on 30/9/88

\* Sam Dimmick wrote that phaseouts were not because of damage by cattle but as an appeasement to conservation interests.

\* Phaseouts were political and not environmental.

\* Overseas experience shows in some cases where cattle were phased out and graziers are now being asked to put the cattle back in.

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\* Leases proved valuable during recent droughts.

\* There is a Park in W.A. where cattle and tourists co-exist without conflict.

\* The advisability of keeping any campaign on phaseouts confidential to M.C.A. at this stage.

\* Whether a small committee should be formed with CF&L and displaced persons and if so cattlemen should be fairly recommended. Kevin Kelly was mentioned as a possible member.

\* Economic arguments should be put forward and Livestock Council has done an exercise on this.

\* Statutory Declarations should be avoided at all costs.

Mr. Tim Barker suggested that the issue be split into 2 parts:

1. A State pre-election campaign.
2. A campaign for 1991 designed along the lines of Nunawading.

A pre-election document questionnaire could be prepared which argues the case and then asks questions. Meetings are arranged where the answers are discussed and commitments sought. Policy Consultants would charge a fee of \$2000 for this work.

Resolution

Moved Jim Commins seconded Betty Fitzgerald that the Policy Consultants be employed to prepare the pre-election document and questionnaire.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Mr. Hodge stated that a resolution was passed at the Gippsland Branch meeting regarding the decision taken by the Liberal Party in supporting the extensions to National Parks in East Gippsland. Gippsland members felt disappointed in the decision to support the Government.

Resolution:

Moved Clive Hodge seconded Bill Cumming that the M.C.A.V. write to Marie Tehan with a copy to Mr. Kennett expressing our disappointment with the decision to support the Labor Government extending the East Gippsland National Parks, and that such extensions are opposed by the M.C.A.V.

Mr. Hodge raised for discussion the subject of feral dogs in the alpine area and the fact that their numbers are becoming out of control. Mr. Hicks suggested the Department be asked for an all-out eradication rather than piecemeal attempts as is occurring at the moment.

Resolution

Moved Lyle McCready, seconded Clive Hodge that M.C.A.V. write to the Minister stating that the feral dog problem was increasing and asking her to discuss the matter with her regional managers to see if a solution could be arrived at.

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GENERAL BUSINESS: Marketing. Ross Brown suggested that each Branch be asked to select a particular show in their area and make it a project for all members of that Branch. Associates do the Royal Melbourne Show and the Get Together. Secretary instructed to write to each Branch President to include this item at the next Branch meeting, and that it be mentioned in the next newsletter. Ross Brown wanted to alter the structure of the Marketing Committee as one member has moved interstate.

Resolution Moved Jim Commins seconded Clive Hodge that the marketing committee comprise Ross Brown, Annie Whittam and Sue Silvers.

Mr. Commins suggested that stickers have a printed message on the reverse paper. Secretary to check with printer on cost.

Mosley. Secretary advised that Collins Solicitors are pressing for settlement. She advised Rowland Hassall of resolutions of Central Council meeting 22nd October, 1987.

Honorariums. Secretary advised she wanted to pay Honorariums within the financial year to which they relate.

Resolution Moved Jim Commins seconded Lyle McCready that honorariums be paid within the next four weeks.

Subscription rates. An increase in subscription rates was overdue. After discussion it was moved Ross Brown seconded Betty Fitzgerald that Associate membership rates be increased to: \$10 per student, \$20 per individual and \$30 per family (2 adults, 2 children).

Moved Bill Hicks seconded Jim Commins that Membership rates be \$100 for the first 100 head and \$25 per 100 or part thereof.

Discussion on exceptional circumstances Moved Harry Ryder seconded Lyle McCready that non stock holding members have the right to remain full members at the associate membership rate.

Jim Commins stated that all members should be encouraged to become members of the V.F.F.

Resolution Moved Harry Ryder seconded Jim Commins that V.F.F. subscription forms should be sent out with M.C.A.V. subscriptions and a letter appealing for support for the V.F.F. and why.

CLOSURE: There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.20 p.m.

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Signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.