

Mountain District Cattlemen's Association of Victoria

Annual meeting held Tobacco Board Room, Dalgety House, 461 Bourke Street, Melbourne on Friday, September 21st, 1979.

Meeting commenced 11.00a.m.
Chairman Mr. Jim Commins.

PRESENT: Jim Commins, Ian Minchin, John Mulligan, Jack Treasure, Graeme Connely, Harry Ryder, Bill Hicks, Ian Roper, Bill Cumming, Clive Hodge, Brea Fitzgerald, Coral Aston, Christa Mitchell, Judy Gunter, Graeme Stoney, Lyle McCready.

APOLOGIES: Frank Ryan, Kevin Kelly, Jack Lovick, Jack Purcell.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS: In opening this 10th Annual Meeting of the Mountain District Cattlemen's Association of Victoria I welcome all of you who are contributing so much to further the aims of our Association.

All will agree, I am sure that we are now in the most crucial period of our Associations existance.

Since our last Annual Meeting while waiting for release of the Land Conservation Council final recommendations for the Alpine Study Area. We enjoyed a most successful Annual Get-together at Native Dog Plain by the head waters of the Buchan River where, if children were included in the total who attended, over five hundred people must have been present.

Considering the remote location and the large attendance, considerable interest and moral support for our movement is indicated.

Great credit for organising the event is due to the East Gippsland Branch and the members from the Gelantipy-Black Mountain area who did so much to assist.

Since then, in June, the Land Conservation Council released its final recommendations for the Alpine Study Area, which coincided with my departure for a tour of Britain, Ireland and part of Europe.

Since then Mr. McCready has acted as President of the Association in a most able and active manner. Grateful thanks must go to Clive Hodge who undertook secretarial duties during Mrs. Mitchell's absence. This was an outstanding effort as Clive had many other duties at the time, including President of the Shire of Maffra.

I have not long returned and I will ask Lyle to report on his activities which I know have been considerable.

The Land Conservation Council final recommendation has been modified somewhat from the preliminary recommendation but it is still far from pleasing to us and today we will plan a way we feel best able to cope with the situation.

Several points emerge that are undisputed fact. Firstly, we are a minority group of sectional interest. We know that we are true conservationists and have the ease and good-management of the bush lands at heart but this is not written into the charter of our organisation.

Secondly, our Crown Land grazing in Victoria has been answerable to public department control for more than 140 years and it continues to be that way indefinitely.

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CHAIRMAN'S
ADDRESS
CONF'D:

Thirdly, the public departments with which we increasingly have to deal while often jealous of each others activities, will close ranks and resist most vigorously any sign of threat to their system. They are an enormously powerful and influential bloc.

Any fourthly, while we have good friends in the political arena we do not have much clout at the decision-making level of State cabinet.

I see it as of prime importance to continue to persuade the powers that be to refrain from enacting hasty legislation that will affect us while there are clearly unresolved issues at stake.

From our position of strength of some one hundred members, we are in no position to mount any confrontation to achieve our objectives - it would be like trying to split posts out of a log by driving the thick end of the wedge in first.

I urge all members to actively support our endeavours by continually raising the subject and discussing it with as many and as widely based people as they possibly can.

I see a most important continuing role for our Voice of the Mountains and effort must be made for redistribution of it - particularly in the field of education.

I see a clear need for our representatives to try and maintain open doors for reasoned discussion with the top people of Departments with whom we will have to deal. Thus we might well act as a liaison between them and the more broadly based pressure for change that they are resisting.

With those remarks I think we had best proceed with the meeting and the business in hand.

MINUTES: The minutes of the previous meeting were read. Ian Roper moved the minutes be accepted. Seconded Bren Fitzgerald CARRIED.

PRESIDENT'S
REPORT:

Mr. Lyle McCready acted on behalf of the President, Jim Commins in Jim's absence. Lyle presented his report on his lobbying in the past few months and thanked Clive Hodge and Graeme Stoney for their contribution during both the President and Secretary's absence. Points brought out:-

- * Conservation groups are going to scatter brochures throughout metropolitan area of Melbourne.
- * Letters have gone to all the local politicians.
- * No confidence in change of attitude by Soil Conservation Authority. Trend seems to be not anti-cattle grazing but water conservation - "We must conserve every drop of water in this water-hungry country."
- * Don Saunders (National Parks Service) will be prepared to come and negotiate with us.
- * Ivan Swinburne in favour of the current figure paid for rights to graze.

Ian Minchin moved the Vice President's report be accepted. CARRIED. Seconded Clive Hodge.

VOICE OF THE
MOUNTAINS:

Jack Treasure reported on the progress of Voice of the Mountains. Release date expected end of September. Clive Hodge moved that Jack Treasure's report be received. CARRIED. Seconded Graeme Connely.

TREASURER'S
REPORT:

Christa Mitchell presented the Treasurer's Report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Bank Balance as at July 31, 1979		1,666.02
Bank Balance as at July 1, 1978	831.40	
<u>ADD RECEIPTS</u>		
Subscriptions--	1,261.00	
Associates	140.00	
Donations	1,064.69	
Voice of the Mountains Sales	570.50	
Sticker Sales	36.00	
Advertising	370.70	
Symposium	599.20	
	<u>4,992.09</u>	<u>4,092.09</u>
		4,923.49
<u>LESS PAYMENTS</u>		
Bank Fees	17.00	
Stamps	169.00	
Printing, Stationery, Duplicating	182.17	
Room Hire	48.58	
Professional Lobbying	1,045.00	
Grazier Association	181.22	
Symposium	665.00	
Publications -Voice of the Mountains	922.70	
Associate Member Tickets	26.80	
	<u>3,257.47</u>	<u>3,257.47</u>
		<u>\$1,666.02</u> <u>\$1,666.02</u>

Bren Fitzgerald moved the Treasurer's Report be accepted.
 CARRIED. Seconded John Mulligan.

BUSINESS ARISING:

General feeling that copies of Voice of the Mountains be collected and returned to the Central Secretary. Back copies could also be kept by the Central Secretary.

Clive Hodge felt copies could be sent to libraries.

Because this years edition of Voice of the Mountains is larger, the recommended price is \$2.00. It was decided the Central Secretary could register it as a periodical.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

Nominations for:-		
PRESIDENT	Jim Commins	Elected.
VICE PRESIDENT	Sen Lyle McCreedy	Elected.
" "	-2nd Graeme Stoney	Elected.
" "	-3rd Clive Hodge	Elected.
SECRETARY-		
TREASURER	Coral Aston	Elected.

A vote of thanks to Christa Mitchell for her efforts and contribution to the Association.

AUDITORS - Lyle McCreedy moved that the ANZ Bank, Bairnsdale continue to be Auditors for the year 1979/80.
 CARRIED. Seconded Bren Fitzgerald.

Graeme Stoney suggested Lyle McCreedy act as Public Relations Officer. General agreement.

Lyle McCreedy moved a vote of thanks go to Jack Treasure for his compiling Voice of the Mountains.
 CARRIED. Seconded Ian Minchin.

Meeting closed at 12.06p.m.

*Minutes confirmed 23/9/80
 J Commins.*

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