

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

Meeting commenced 12.15p.m.

Chairman Mr. Jim Connors.

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

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

MINUTES: The minutes of the previous meeting were read. Harry Ryder moved the minutes be accepted. Seconded Graeme Connely. CARRIED.

Graeme Stoney invited Margot Knox to be a lunch guest of the Association. Mrs. Knox wishes to write a book on the history of the high plains. She hopes to meet as many of the "person"-alities as possible. It was agreed she could sit in on the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 4.7.79 Vermin & Noxious Weeds Destruction Board re District Myxomatosis Inoculation Campaigns/Local Farmer Apathy.
- 13.7.79. Vermin & Noxious Weeds Destruction Board re Heliotrope Request by Dr. Culvenor.
- 24.7.79 The Graziers' Association of Victoria re Amalgamation with Victorian Farmers' Union and United Dairyfarmers of Victoria.
- 1.8.79 Vermin & Noxious Weeds Destruction Board re blackberry problem in Victoria - questionnaire.
- 6.8.79 Soil Conservation Authority re copy of a letter delivered to all runholders listed. Map pin-pointing areas concerned.
- 9.8.79. Shire of Avon re Support for Association against L.C.C. recommendations. Copy of letter to Premier, Mr. Hamer.
- 15.8.79. Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Ian Smith re apology for inability to meet.
- 15.9.79 Mr. S. Warford re discussion with Ian Smith at E. Gippsland Branch Annual Meeting. Talk of phase-out period of 3 years by Smith. He may be prepared to recommend a 10 year phase-out period. Wish for Central Council to write to National Parks expressing wish for phase-out period of 15 years minimum.
- 16.8.79. Shire of Wangaratta re L.C.C. Recommendations..Will endeavour to see that the alpine area is used to the best of its advantage.
- 22.8.79 Shire of Oxley re Support for Association against L.C.C. Recommendations.

- 23.8.79 Shire of Omeo re Support for Association against L.C.C. Recommendations. Submissions to be put to politicians.
- 23.8.79 Shire of Mansfield re Support for Association against L.C.C. Recommendations.
- 24.8.79 Shire of Alberton re Support for Association against L.C.C. Recommendations.
- 29.8.79 F.H. Stephenson re enrolment of M.D.C.A.V. and request for Editions 1, 2 & 3 of Voice of the Mountains.
- 31.8.79 Forests Commission of Victoria re inability to attend Annual Meeting and luncheon on Sep. 21., Dr. R. Grose attending as Deputy to Mr. A. Threder.
- 5.9.79 Minister for Conservation, Mr. W. V. Houghton re inability to attend Annual Meeting on Sep. 21st.
- 10.9.79 Shire of Benalla re copy of letter from W. Houghton to Shire and copy of letter from Shire to Houghton.
- 12.9.79 Mr. D. M. Evans, M.L.C. re Support for Association against L.C.C. Recommendations.
- 14.9.79 Mr. R. J. Long, M.L.V. re Support for Association against L.C.C. Recommendations.

BUSINESS
ARISING:

Lyle McCready moved that a copy of the letter from Vermin & Noxious Weeds Destruction Board dated 1.8.79, including questionnaire, be sent to branches giving 14 days to send submission to President to go to VNWDB. Seconded Bill Cumming.
CARRIED.

Letter from H. Stephenson - Jack Treasure will endeavour to supply the Central Secretary with back copies of Voice of the Mountains to forward to H. Stephenson.

Letter from W. Houghton to Shire of Benalla written on September 6, advising that M.D.C.A.V. had not made representations to the Minister. Mr. McCready and Mr. Stoney had talks with W. Houghton on August 14. Seems to be a breakdown in Houghton's office. Jack Treasure strongly suggested a reply to the Minister of Conservation from our President be handed to the Minister by Graeme Stoney along with a copy of the letter from the Minister to the Shire of Benalla.

Letter from Soil Conservation Authority - map needs investigating to check altitudes.

Graeme Stoney moved the correspondence be received.
CARRIED. Seconded Ian Roper.

GUEST
SPEAKER:

Dr. Ron Grose addressed the meeting. Interesting run-down on the Forest Commission activities and answered a series of questions.

GUEST:

Margot Knox addressed the meeting. She hopes to write a book on stories from the Mountain Cattlemen along with paintings. Making application for a Council Grant for finance.

GENERAL
BUSINESS:

A discussion took place on the Soil Conservation Authority's attitude and approach to grazing. Concern was expressed from members at the S.C.A. Attitude compared with other Govt. departments such as Forest Commission and National Parks.

A report was given by Clive Hodge on the recent meeting of Councils to discuss the L.C.C. final recommendations.

Bill Hicks stated that the members in his area do not want to concede the loss of their runs and intend fighting for their rights to stay on their runs to the end. They don't wish to discuss any concession by Govt. (eg. long term finance) for fear it may prejudice their case to stay there.

Graeme Stoney said it was most important that any approach to Govt. is united and any different approach by the executives and any other particular group will be exploited by Govt. to divide cattlemen. Lyle McCready asked if there was anything else the executive could do to help, other than the line being taken to Govt. by the executive. Bren Fitzgerald said nothing else could be done by the executive and they were under the shadow of the axe in his area.

Several members, including the President, Jim Commins, felt that compensation or concession for Bogong displacement should not be discussed with departmental authorities until the act is passed.

Graeme Stoney felt that it may be hard to argue for concession after the act is passed and it should be pursued in conjunction with the argument to retain the leases. Areas in E. Gippsland have been phased out in 3 years. A meeting in the area has resolved to fight for an extended time.

Lyle McCready offered to attend a meeting with National Parks and representatives from E. Gippsland in Melbourne. Graeme Stoney moved that reps. from E. Gippsland and Lyle McCready meet Mr. Saunders (National Parks Service) with a view to arranging a satisfactory settlement on phasing out of leases in E. Gippsland. Seconded Graeme Connely.
CARRIED.

Lyle McCready moved that Jack Treasure discuss with Peter Nixon, Minister for Transport the problem of bureaucratic growth and inefficiency. Seconded John Mulligan.
CARRIED.

General discussion on car stickers. Central Secretary to contact Angus Robertson, Mt. Hotham Committee, Box 58, Bright and ask where they get their stickers printed. Contact printers and get a quote for 1,000.

Lyle McCready moved that a donation of \$25.00 go to Nuffield Scholarship Fund. Seconded John Mulligan.
CARRIED.

Lyle McCreedy moved that subscription fee for 1979/80 be:-
\$14.00 per 100
" 6.00 every part thereof.
" 5.00 Associate Members.

Seconded John Mulligan.

List to come from sub-branches re Associate members. Central Secretary to follow up new method of notices for renewal of subscription fee. (e.g. window envelop, tear-off section for return).

Jack Treasure moved that branch members distribute Voice of the Mountains and pay on receipt. ten (10) copies to go to members. A letter to go to members to "warn them" along with renewal notices. Jack Treasure moved 200 copies be sent to various members of Parliament and V.I.P.'s.

CARRIED.

Seconded John Mulligan.

Meeting closed at 5.25p.m.

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Minutes confirmed. 5/12/79
J.H. Bommins