

MOUNTAIN DISTRICT CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

Annual Meeting held Tobacco Board Room, Dalgety House, 461 Bourke Street, Melbourne on Tuesday, September 23, 1980.

Jim Commins, Chairperson declared the meeting open at 11.20a.m.

PRESENT: John Bruce, Harry Stephenson, Ian Minchin, Bill Hicks, Harry Ryder, Bill Cumming, John Hall, Bren Fitzgerald, J. Commins, N. Commins, Judy Gunter, J. Lovick and Coral Aston.

APOLOGIES: G. Stoney, R. Treasure, J. Treasure, C. Hodge, G. Connley, D. Gunter, J. Mulligan.

PRESIDENT'S

ADDRESS: The past year has been an eventful one for the members of our Association. After years of costly study and release of the final recommendations of the Land Conservation Council, the Government announced that it intended to adopt the recommendation by legislation almost to the letter as it was presented. In doing this I believe a mistake has been made that will prove to be of huge expense and give little real satisfaction to the general public.

When the L.C.C. was formed it was thought in political circles to be a rewarding move to create more National Parks so while the L.C.C. of Victoria may not have been expressly directed to find a greater area for National Parks this recommendation was undoubtedly expected of it.

The average citizen if he wants to venture into the bush would much prefer not to be guided and regimented by uniformed rangers of various departmental agencies as it now appears will come to be the case.

I am sure they would be happier to see the occasional four wheeled drive Police patrol passing through on the look out for lawbreakers such as vandals, noise polluters etc. I should remind members that our association was instrumental in having Police Stations in the more remote areas of our Eastern ranges being equipped with four wheeled drive vehicles so that these duties could be carried out.

I feel that the only real necessary addition to this would have been educational material from the Ministers of Forests and Conservation which could have been distributed through the media and from their departmental offices in perfect harmony for relatively minor cost.

I believe there is more merit in building a more effective Vermin and Noxious Weed Destruction Board than increased wild life and National Parks services and certainly so until there are vastly more people populating this continent than at present.

However, the die appears to be cast and as a result, and in spite of our long and costly endeavours to prevent it, a number of our members will be forced to quit their runs. In the case of the contentious Bogong High Plains area, we are assured that it is not because the cattle are considered to be harmful but because it is considered necessary (i.e. politically expedient) to have an area where the public can drive through

and see the land as it might have been before its recorded history. Utter nonsense. If more thought had been given to the fire and erosion hazard and to protective burning and less to the mere sight of cattle then a better service would have resulted.

Others of our members have been given notice to quit in terms as short as three years after a verbal suggestion from the Department concerned of a minimum of nine years. by the proposed decimation of our members.

Our Association must be seen to be taking a real set back but I hasten to add that had not all the time been given by Executive Members and reliable information given (for which we have been repeatedly commended) and membership prepared to pay the cost of much of this, then we may have been very considerably worse off.

However, much remains to be done.

In spite of the long investigations by the L.C.C., the fundamental matters of terms and conditions of tenure that we have been concerned about since the inception of our organization, have not been satisfactorily dealt with.

In some of the areas of Crown Lands studies by the L.C.C., the need for extended terms of tenure were recognised but in the alpine study area this was neglected.

Since more people have been encouraged to visit remote places, runholders have a need for greater security in the occupation of their huts and stockyards. Also, the definition of boundaries has not been satisfactorily resolved in many places.

Many erroneous ideas have been formed from personal notions and inconclusive research, and there is a continuing need for independent and unbiased study to evaluate the practical effects of a great many factors that influence the ecology and benefits derived from our grazing and forest areas.

Until our points of view get the backing of this sort of research, we are at great risk of losing further ground.

In the immediate future, a case should be prepared to claim adequate financial compensation for cattlemen already denied the use of their runs.

To achieve continued bush grazing on a sound and sensible basis, we will need the continued strong support of every member and the many associate members we have.

I would like to thank the many people who contributed to our effort during the past year. This would include the folk who prepared and organised the very successful get-together at Holmes Plain, many Associate Members, and those who regularly attended and contributed to Branch Meetings. A special mention of appreciation should be made for our capable secretary, Mrs. Coral Aston, also Mr. Lyle McCready and other members of our Executive Committee who have devoted valuable time and effort to our cause.

In closing, I urge all members to continue active support for our efforts to have sensible rules and regulations developed in relation to our continued grazing activities.

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ELECT
OFFICE
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AUDITO

TREASU
REPORT

MINUTES: The minutes of the previous meeting were read. H. Ryder moved the minutes be accepted. Seconded B. Fitzgerald

ELECTION OF OFFICE

BEARERS: W. Cumming called for nominations for:-
 PRESIDENT
 J. Commins nominated by I. Minchin Elected
 SEN. V. PRESIDENT
 G. Stoney nominated by J. Commins Elected
 2ND V. PRESIDENT
 C. Hodge nominated by B. Fitzgerald Elected
 3RD V. PRESIDENT
 H. Ryder nominated by B. Fitzgerald Elected
 SECRETARY/TREASURER
 C. Aston nominated by I. Minchin Elected

AUDITORS: Secretary to approach a new auditor and report to Executive.

W. Cumming thanked J. Commins for his past work and efforts in his position as President.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

For the period 1.7.79 to 30.6.80.

RECEIPTS	\$
Balance at bank 1.7.79	1,666.02
Members' subscriptions	1,318.20
Associate Members' subscriptions	500.00
Donations	115.00
Miscellaneous Receipts	51.00
Symposium	620.00
Advertising	710.00
Sale of Voice of the Mountains	2,104.40
Sale of Stickers	441.30
Receipts at annual get-together	113.50
	<u>\$ 7,639.42</u>

PAYMENTS	
Bank Fees and Charges	40.49
Freight and postage	204.35
Copying and duplicating	345.84
Stickers and stationery	915.58
Catering and room hire	104.00
Professional advice and instruction	375.00
Graziers Association	259.00
Publication of Voice of the Mountains	3,522.58
Central Secretary allowance	322.90
Typing	96.40
Miscellaneous expenditure	40.00
Balance at 30.6.80	1,413.28
	<u>\$ 7,639.42</u>

B. Fitzgerald moved the Treasurer's Report be received.
 Seconded H. Ryder

Recommendations from A. Rodd, to approach our bank for exemption from bank fees and stamp duty to be followed up by Secretary.