

MOUNTAIN DISTRICT CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

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

Jim Commins, Chairperson declared the meeting open at 12 noon.

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

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

BUSINESS

ARISING FROM

MINUTES:

Meeting with L. Lieberman and The Premier, Mr. Hamer. B. Fitzgerald couldn't attend but K. Kelly reported they spent two (2) hours with the Premier, who gave them a good hearing but did not make any promises. They kept pushing for 10 years L. Lieberman had thought Brookes and Haughton would be there. Mr. Hamer was going to write in five (5) weeks.

J. Commins reported on letter to Councils.

W. Cumming moved the minutes be received.

Seconded Bill Hicks.

TREASURER'S

REPORT:

For the period 1.7.80 to 23.9.80.

RECEIPTS

Balance at 1.7.80	1,413.28
Subscriptions Members	804.00
Subscriptions Associate Members	215.00
Donations	15.00
Advertising for Voice of the Mountains	370.00
Sales of Voice of the Mountains	532.00
Sales of Stickers	37.50
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	\$3,386.78

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PAYMENTS

Bank Fees	3.00
Freight and Postage	61.76
Central Secretary's allowance	60.00
Stationery	18.30
Balance at 23.9.80	3,243.72
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	\$3,386.78

B. Fitzgerald moved the Treasurer's Report be received.

Seconded Ian Minchin.

CORRESPOND-
ENCE:

2.5.80 - School of Forestry asking for Membership of Association.
Mal Wilkinson Transport asking for Membership of Association

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- Adele Ayres asking for Membership of Association.
 - 17.7.80 - Media Release from APRA.
 - 13.8.80 - Trimview Timber & Hardware asking for Association's support in "putting their case" to the L.C.C.
 - 6.9.80 - Don Treasure with list of questions to be put to M.P.'s.
 - 14.9.80 - F. Ward with support for our Association.
 - 16.9.80 - J. Treasure asking for question of reduced postage to be discussed at general meeting.

BUSINESS
ARISING FROM
CORRESPOND-
ENCE:

W. Cumming reported the letter from D. Treasure was as a result of Gippsland Branch Meeting where it was decided members could write to M.P.'s with questions on Alpine Study Area.

J. Commins presented a letter from H. Stagg concerning cattle on Baw Baw and National Parks. H. Stagg had been told his cattle would be shot and winched away by helicopter unless he removed them. W. Hicks pointed out "no-one can shoot stock unless they are endangering the lives of people".

J. Lovick moved correspondence be received.

Seconded J. Gunter.

LETTER TO
COUNCILS:

J. Commins put to the meeting a draft letter to go to the Shire Secretary's and city offices. General feeling that local government must not know enough about it. H. Stephenson felt direct contact was important and when delivering the letter emphasise that the grazing runs effects a lot of people. Suggest nominating a person from each branch to undertake task. J. Lovick suggested having "facts and figures" as further ammunition. I. Minchin suggested getting a report from Council meetings to check letter had been presented.

L. McCready moved J. Commin's letter be adopted and distributed as necessary.

Seconded I. Minchin.

MDCAV
SUPPORT:

Branches report interest seems to be waning and not good attendance at meetings.

RESOLUTIONS:

"that members of all branches of the MDCAV send ideas and questions in letter form to the Executive so that Government members can be further questioned and informed on matters relevant to the Alpine Area and Cattle grazing". W. Cumming moved individuals write to M.P.'s voicing their feelings on National Parks or to C. Aston, Central Secretary to be passed onto M.P.'s.

Seconded B. Fitzgerald.

J. Lovick moved we become affiliated with VFGA because they have a power basis and are respected by government. Questions to put to VFGA - would we be individual? do they have the facilities for an organization like ours?

L. McCready moved we have an informal discussion with President and report back to Executive for final decision. Direct approach rather than a letter. L. McCready to follow up.

Seconded J. Lovick

Break for lunch at 1.00p.m.

Meeting resumed 2.00p.m.

ADDRESS BY
GUEST:

John Walters, Secretary of Public Land Utilization Council. John feels the media will tend to try and promote the case of the underdog. The conservationists have been seen as the underdog at some stage.

Depends on local government ability to influence Government. local government in touch with local media. Seek direct dialogue - got to reach city voters - the country are on your side.

Establish contact with the media - direct dialogue again. Talk to politicians - don't rely on local M.P.

PLUC - are looking at structure of Land Conservation Council lobbying for change there. Looking at Government Grants conservation groups receive. Submission to L.C.C. Miners and Prospectors Association attending next meeting of PLUC as observers. By joining forces with another organization it brings an awareness of other groups and their aims and gives strength in numbers. Distance is a big problem but you have to ask yourself "is it worth it"??

GENERAL
BUSINESS:

W. Cumming moved Associate Members pay to go to get-together. Delete on Associate Member form "tear off and retain stub for entry to Annual get-together".

Seconded I. Minchin.

W. Cumming reported a motion was passed at last meeting "that the branches of MDCAV encourage members who are also members of the V.F.G.A. and other rural organisations to express their disapproval of any affiliation with the Conservation Council of Victoria". This is being looked into by Gippsland Branch of the V.F.G.A. General feeling of aggrecance for this.

L. McCready talked with Rural Finance and was told "they will give every assistance to displaced cattlemen as a result of L.C.C. Recommendations". J. Treasure assured there is no thought of compensation. Dairy Farmers receive compensation so should we. A moral obligation; because of Government action someone's life is changed.

Secretary to write to L. Lieberman and thank him for taking cattlemen down and seeing the Premier. At our Annual Meeting it was felt they have a right to compensation and could he advise our position. Most of those cattle properties are so isolated it is hopeless to think of any other diversification in any other form of agriculture or land use.

VOICE OF THE
MOUNTAINS:

suggested we donate surplus copies to libraries. Magazine should hold general reader interest. Grazing policy outlined. Don't assume readers know. Put something in concerning venue for next get-together. Branches get material together by October 10. Release approximate date November. One person responsible for distribution, namely Central Secretary and one person in each Branch responsible to Central Secretary.

GET

Forest Commission Display Centre in Bourke Street, Melbourne suggested as site for release of magazine. J. Lovick will definitely be in any gimmick to promote the magazine. J. Lovick will follow up Phillip Morris for advertising on back of magazine so we might have a glossy cover with more eye appeal. Photographs for a display to be blown up.

GET-TOGETHER: Suggested "Glen Valley" as site for venue. B.Y.O. Get information from Gippsland Branch re quantities etc. Refrigerated truck from M. Campbell and meat from B. Crane. V.I.P. list from Gippsland Branch.

I. Minchin moved L. McCready be appointed Liaison Officer for 1980/81. Seconded W. Cumming.

W. Hicks to compile a letter to go to R. Edmondson's family to be re-typed by Central Secretary.

I. Minchin reported his rates had gone up from \$20 to \$130... making it very difficult.

Contact B. Evans re access on stock routes through National Parks and wilderness areas.

Meeting declared closed at 5.30p.m.