



The Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria Inc.

AFFILIATED WITH
THE VICTORIAN FARMERS' FEDERATION

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ANNUAL REPORT - 1993/1994

23rd September 1994

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Twenty-five years after its formation, the reins of leadership of this Association were placed in a woman's hands. This has indeed been an honour and a challenge for me.

The contribution of women, both in the pioneering era and particularly in the High Country, should not be regarded as transient. Whether as companions, spouses, sisters, aunts, mothers or daughters, women have played and will continue to play a vital role in their own right, as well as in support of their menfolk, who have generally gained more recognition.

1994 has been a year of highs and lows. In January, the Association celebrated the 25th anniversary of its formation. What started out as a small but dedicated group of Cattlemen with support from a small number of associate members, has grown into an effective industry leader with 82 full members and over 2,000 associate members and supporters.

The North East Branch did us proud in our celebration of this milestone with their presentation of the 1994 Get Together and Heritage Weekend. Thank you to all Branch members and associates who worked so hard to put such an innovative and special program together and achieved a fine financial result.

Our decision to proceed with an indepth scientific study is, I believe, a step in the right direction. This project will be of immense importance to our future and the credibility of the Association. An undertaking such as this will not be successful without the wholehearted support and co-operation of all concerned, so I urge all members and associates to fully assist our efforts.

Speaking of hard work and co-operation leads me to congratulate newly awarded Life Membership recipient Ross Blair and Honorary Associate Members Don Porter, Linda Barraclough and Debbie Squires. Your hard work and generosity with your time has been greatly valued by the Association.

Our Association is unique because it draws supporters and associate members from the length and breadth of Australia - and in fact from the U.S.A. and the U.K. Our supporters come from all walks of life and all political persuasions, and it is important to recognise that despite these differences we are united in one single aim - to keep forever safe the Mountain Cattlemen and cattle grazing in the alpine regions of Victoria.

To our members and associate members your continuing support is warmly welcomed and deeply appreciated.

My grateful thanks to Allan Brewer who during the year

assumed the office of Executive Officer so capably. To you Doug, as Chairman thanks for your smooth handling of those duties. To Jim Commins, your many contributions on special projects have been outstanding. To Ros Andrews who since 1991 has expanded and managed the marketing department of the Association so successfully I offer the Associations sincere thanks.

I must also thank the members of the Central Council who have guided me through this learning period. I have been grateful for your patience and co-operation. Lastly to our Secretary, Sue Silvers, who has completed yet another extremely busy year on behalf of our Association thanks for your support, hard work and friendship.

To those families who have lost loved ones this year, I offer the Association's condolences.

In conclusion I would like to thank the present office bearers and offer my good wishes to those elected today.

Mary Goldsworthy
September 1994

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

1994 has been a year of achievement for the Mountain Cattlemens Association.

Our annual Get Together at the Blair family's property at Bowmans Forest was used as an opportunity to promote our culture and heritage, and to that end was advertised as the Mountain Cattlemens Association Get Together and Heritage weekend.

The Mountain Cattlemen have a long association with heritage, and it is important that this be continued and recognised.

The weekend was an outstanding success, and the North East Branch are to be congratulated on their efforts.

An important step forward by the Mountain Cattlemens Association is its decision to undertake scientific research into the effects of alpine grazing.

Opponents of alpine grazing have always claimed that results from narrowly defined studies of small areas apply to the whole of the high plains. Lack of research into the wider issues has led to difficulty in presenting the Association's belief that grazing does not harm the environment, but enhances it.

It is important for our future to develop a body of scientific knowledge encompassing the whole of the alpine grazing area which will support both the Mountain Cattlemens philosophy and their experience.

All members of the Mountain Cattlemens Association mourn the death of Lyle McCready. Lyle was a foundation member of the MCAV, was a Vice President, and held the office of Public Relations Officer for many years.

Lyle was responsible for the design of the Ford Falcon motor car which replaced the Zephyr in 1960.

As his heart and soul was in the High Country, when Lyle retired from Ford he purchased a property at Dandongadale. He ran cattle there, and on his high country lease.

The Association was lucky to have had a man such as Lyle to help and guide them in those early days.

Lyle was always there for the Association and always willing to pass on his knowledge and experience. We have lost a wonderful man and a great ambassador.

The Association extends its sympathy to Mrs McCready and family.

To all Associate members - thank you for your loyalty

and support. I also wish to thank Mary Goldsworthy for her untiring commitment as President this past year. I wish also to thank our Secretary for her devotion to the Association.

Good luck to each and every one of you, we all look forward to 1995.

Allan Brewer
September 1994

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to present my ninth annual report.

Full membership for the year 1993/1994 stands at 80 members of which 51 are financial. The Associate membership register lists 737 households. A proportion of this figure represents family membership. At the present time 384 are financial. The Association has 5 Honorary Associate members, and 6 Life members.

The MCAV must be congratulated on its ability to run a full-time professional organisation on such a small membership base. This is achieved through the hard work and dedication of its office bearers and a strong and committed Central Council. It is important however, that all members of the Association should keep in touch with the issues which involve their industry. This is best done initially, I believe, through the Branches, and all members should be strongly encouraged to attend Branch meetings. I recommend that Branch Presidents make personal contact with their members in an effort to promote a higher level of participation.

Subscriptions will continue to come in during the year, with a significant number of Associate members paying their fees at the time of the Get Together.

The past year has been interesting and busy.

From a purely personal point of view, a major event was the removal of the MCAV office from the rear of 19A Highett Street to a new office set-up in High Street Mansfield. The old office was very small and lacked privacy. There was no storage facility for old files and documents, and it became difficult to work amid the clutter. I am pleased to say that the new office has plenty of room, good storage, and presents a more professional profile. All round it is an excellent working environment, and members of the Association who have visited would agree with this view. It also serves to demonstrate just how far the MCAV has travelled in the past 10 years. I used to work from a desk in the corner of a room in my house in Melbourne. We now have a professional office, office bearers communicate through a network of fax machines, and increasing numbers of mobile telephones! Communication is now extremely fast and efficient.

Another change in direction came with this years Get Together at Whorouly. The North East Branch put on a really interesting weekend, and courageously changed the Get Together direction by placing a strong emphasis on the heritage of the Mountain Cattlemen in addition to their horse riding skills. The Branch should be congratulated for their hard work which paid off so handsomely.

Central Council met five times this year, in October, November, February, May and August to conduct the business of the Association, and make some hard decisions regarding the future.

At the November Central Council meeting, an application for full membership by Allan Brewer was approved, and the Council asked him to take the position of Executive Officer for the rest of the year. We thank Allan for taking on this job and for his help and support for our new President, Mary Goldsworthy.

In May the MCAV was named as Defendant in a claim for damages arising from an accident which occurred at the 1993 Get Together at Omeo. Legal representatives for the Association's Insurer have indicated that they will strongly defend this action. Investigations undertaken by the Insurer have revealed that the Association was in no way negligent, and liability has been denied. The case is listed for hearing in the Supreme Court.

In October 1993 MCAV had a meeting with the Minister for Conservation and Environment to discuss various concerns regarding alpine grazing. Matters resolved included the Department's method of charging. Several members had complained to the Association that they were being charged for the number of cattle allocated on the licence, although the numbers sent were significantly lower. The Minister agreed that as from the 1993/94 season, Cattlemen would be charged only for the number of cattle taken to the runs. He stated that the Department would no longer count the cattle as they went up, since a clause in the licences required the licencees to advise the Department of the number sent in each year.

Despite a strong case being put to the Minister on the subject of cattle numbers on the Bogong High Plains, he remains firm in his decision that the number of stock Cattlemen should be allowed to take up would remain at about 3160 adult equivalents. The method of counting cattle in adult equivalents remains an issue of contention.

The Minister has confirmed that although the concept of counting cattle as adult equivalents applied initially to the Bogong High Plains, it was a method of counting which, for uniformity, would be applied to all areas within the Alpine National Park. Adult equivalents will not apply outside the Park as a general rule.

The Association had also asked the Minister to agree to a new agreement on grazing in the Alpine Park. The MCAV felt that this was necessary in order to remove some of the errors and anomalies in the licences. The Minister refused this submission, and stated that he felt it more important to work through particular issues of concern. Furthermore he noted that to negotiate a new agreement would prolong the period of uncertainty

regarding alpine grazing, and any new agreement would need endorsement by all political parties in the Parliament.

The Minister also noted the MCAV concern that the commitment for 7 year bush grazing licences had not been met. He agreed that these licences should be issued before the commencement of the 1994/95 grazing season. I am pleased to report that discussions have now commenced regarding these licences, and although a commitment regarding time was given, it would seem sensible to be flexible on this and get the licences right, rather than push to have them available this summer.

In December 1993 and January 1994, members of the Association were involved in filming for a video which was to form a major part of the MCAV education kit. It is enough to say that what started out badly became infinitely worse. Some initial private difficulties with the film crew led to one person attempting to complete the project. Filming was completed, and was not satisfactory. It is more than disappointing that an opportunity to produce an important project led to not only a financial loss, but also the loss of valuable time. Negotiations are shortly to take place to allow this project to go forward again.

In January 1994, MCAV responded to the appalling and tragic bushfires which engulfed vast areas of New South Wales with a hard hitting news release. In it, Jim Commins pointed out the folly of removing grazing from National Parks, and the cost to the entire community of a lack of fuel reduction burning. The experienced and commonsense approach to these issues shown by Mountain Cattlemen attracted the attention of the media, and members of the Association put the MCAV view strongly on both radio and television. The Association also took the the opportunity to provide the New South Wales Select Committee into the bushfires with a lengthy and detailed submission on the benefits of fuel reduction burning in conjunction with grazing.

It is interesting to note that suggestions are being made in New South Wales at the present time, that drought affected cattle should be allowed to graze in National Parks. We are watching for any further developments.

February/March 1994 saw MCAV members with support from the Department of Conservation & Environment re-open the old cattle track around the northern face of Mt Magdala. This involved some hard physical work, as a rock slide had blocked the track in 1984. Apart from the historic significance to Mountain Cattlemen, this re-opened track provides a more comfortable path for those who do not wish to climb the summit, and provides a sheltered, less tiring alternative in deteriorating weather conditions. Thanks and congratulations are

extended to all those who took part. It was pleasing to see that this achievement was reported fully in the local newspaper, and acknowledged by Wild Magazine.

In March 1994 Jack Hicks and Harry Ryder represented the MCAV at the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council Seminar on the Bogong High Plains, where Jack Hicks presented the Mountain Cattlemens perspective on alpine grazing. It can only be hoped that some of the old prejudices and anti-grazing sentiments were dispelled, or at least that the Association's perspective gave the delegates some serious food for thought.

During the year the Association has put two lengthy submissions to Government on the subjects of Catchment and Land Protection Legislation, and Fire Management Code of Practice. MCAV was appointed to the consultative committee on the Fire Management Code of Practice project, and Jim Commins presented the MCAV submission and spoke to Government officials on the relationship between well managed cattle grazing in conjunction with fuel reduction burning. An irresistible and commonsense approach to land protection.

The Association has also been granted observer status on the Mt Stirling consultative committee preparing a consultancy brief for an Environment Effects Statement. The Association will also be putting a submission to that committee.

Of recent concern has been the push for World Heritage nomination for the Australian Alpine area. The Association responded with letters to Federal politicians, and the Minister for Conservation and Environment in Victoria. The Minister has replied by letter stating that Victoria is not pursuing World Heritage status for the Victorian Alps, and there the matter currently rests.

During the year the Central Council called for entries in a competition to select a design for a MCAV flag. There was a good response, and the Central Council selected a design submitted by Associate member Mr John McKindley.

Requests from students for information on alpine grazing and the role of the MCAV is an ever increasing burden, as are requests from schools to provide speakers. This can be a problem when a speaker is required in Melbourne. Many schools have camps in north eastern Victoria which makes it easier for Cattlemen by reducing time and travelling. A decision needs to be made as to whether it is worthwhile sending speakers down to Melbourne.

I have represented the Association on the Public Land Council this year, and our President joined one meeting

MARKETING REPORT.

The 1993/94 year for marketing has been an interesting one. It has been a year of sorting out. Turnover for the year was \$28,811, down from \$35,784.71 last year.

Wholesale sales were up and it is good to see our products being marketed more widely through the wholesale network. Miscellaneous sales, e.g. mail order, remained fairly constant but event sales were down by \$5,225.38, or 23%. This was mainly due to a smaller turnover at the Get Together. It was, however, pleasing to see that marketing sales were not down to the same extent as attendance figures, so relatively speaking we did quite well.

There was some conjecture prior to the Get Together as to whether having outside vendors in attendance would prove to be to the detriment of the marketing department. I am unable to say if this proved to be the case. Sales were certainly down, but as previously mentioned, when compared with the attendance numbers, they actually increased. I believe that people who want to buy MCAV goods will do so regardless. There were certainly several favourable comments relating to the variety of activities, things to look at, and goods to buy.

Net profit for the year was \$6,626.89, down from \$12,800.80 last year. The main reason for the drop in net profit was the decision to rationalise stock holdings. During the previous two years we were able to identify colours and sizes of garments which were moving very slowly. An example being children's windcheaters. Although we had not purchased any of these in the previous two years, at the current selling rate there was still over 4 years stock on hand. A similar situation existed with teenage and small adult sizes.

The decision was made to discontinue those lines and move the existing stock before it became unsaleable. There is a limit to how many functions garments can be taken (even in plastic bags), and still remain in saleable condition, especially for wholesale. At the 30th June this year the total stock of those lines was just 14 garments. To achieve this result it was necessary to discount the price on these lines with obvious effects on profit.

As a result of comments and suggestions from customers over the last few years, a decision was made to introduce a new windcheater. We had a few hiccups along the way, but we now have a garment with a new look that is of a much higher quality. It has only been available for a few weeks and so far is proving to be very successful. We have been busy clearing the few remaining windcheaters of the previous style.

The 'royalty' system with Thomas Cook continues to work well, and I believe that there will be a much greater demand for the new style windcheater through Thomas Cook outlets.

Thank you to all my helpers. Firstly to my husband John whose accounting expertise, caravan pulling experience, and general assistance has been invaluable. To Tess and Pat Coleman, Geraldine, Mary O'Brien, Carley Andrews, Paul and Judy Dix, Sue Beeton, David Shelton, Carmen Stebnyckyz, Galia Hardy, Kate Stoney, Chris Hammond, Fay Hoffman and her daughter, Frank Hill, Frank Sedgman, Barry Masters, David Morrison, Norma and John Marshall and any one I have neglected to mention - thank you for all your wonderful help at the Get Together, 4x4 Show, and Bush Dance. It is impossible to carry out these tasks without help, and I am very grateful for the assistance from these folk during the year.

Special thanks to Don Porter whose assistance with graphics, bromides, etc. has continued throughout another year in his customary obliging way.

Ros Andrews
September 1994

William G. Crump FCPA

CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANT

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ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO P.O. BOX 256 MOAMA NSW 2731

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members:

THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.

I have examined the records of the Association for the year ended 30 June 1994 and in my opinion the attached Trading and Profit and Loss Statement and Statement of Receipts and Payments reflect the operations of the Association for the year ended thereon and that the Statement of Assets and Liabilities shows the state of affairs as at that date.



WILLIAM G CRUMP FCPA

25 August 1994

THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES AS 30 JUNE 1994

MEMBERS FUNDS

Total Members Funds \$ 82182.16
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Represented by:-

ASSETS

Cash at Bank -		
Central Account	347.85	
Branches - Mansfield	618.18	
- Omeo	759.92	
- North East	441.14	
- Gippsland	125.50	
Term Deposit - Central Account	<u>52000.00</u>	
		54292.59
Net Assets - Marketing		13149.86
Advances - Fighting Fund		1074.35

Fixed Assets - at cost		
Cash Register (1988)	431.00	
Facsimile Machine (1988)	3288.61	
Typewriter (1988)	299.00	
Photocopier (1988)	1100.00	
Toilets (1988)	554.40	
Facsimile Machines (2) (1989)	4010.00	
Caravan (1989)	1000.00	
Answering Machine (1989)	315.65	
Desk (1990)	140.00	
Adding Machine (1990)	269.00	
Facsimile Machine (1991)	1190.00	
Facsimile Machine (1994)	800.00	
Office Furniture (1994)	<u>267.70</u>	
		<u>13665.36</u>

TOTAL ASSETS 82182.16

LIABILITIES

NIL

NET ASSETS \$ 82182.16
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THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1994

RECEIPTS

Advertising - V.O.M.		570.00
Advance - North East re Get Together(Contra)		5000.00
Donations		25.00
Entries - Photographic Competition		56.00
Get Together - Gross Proceeds	52593.40	
Less Expenses	<u>22614.90</u>	29978.50
Interest on Investments		1970.01
Investments Redeemed		19278.75
Refund Telephone		38.92
Subscriptions - Members	9823.00	
- Associates	<u>12668.31</u>	22491.31
Sundry Sales		628.00
Transfers - Omeo (Contra)	3000.00	
- Mansfield (Contra)	1800.00	
- North East (Contra)	<u>35000.00</u>	39800.00
- Marketing		<u>10000.00</u>

TOTAL RECEIPTS

129836.49

PAYMENTS

Advertising & Signwriting		350.00
Audit Fees		1230.00
Bank Fees & Govt Charges		466.13
Catering & Hall Hire re Meetings		344.25
Consultants Fees		2060.00
Donations		135.00
Electricity		220.15
Expenses - Secretary		1050.11
- Other		659.87
- Secretary re Motor Vehicle		2000.00
Fees & Subscriptions		1195.95
Freight & Couriers		104.00
Honorariums - President	3000.00	
- Chairman	1000.00	
- Secretary	12000.00	
- Marketing	1000.00	
- Special Projects(2)	<u>2000.00</u>	19000.00
Insurance		2568.28
Investments - Term Deposit		32000.00
Marketing Van - Registration & Insurance		174.62
Postage		2354.35
Printing & Stationery		6752.81
Purchases for Resale		235.60
Rates		428.35
Rental - Office		2840.00
Repairs - Office Machines		809.10
Reports		40.95
Secretarial Assistance		180.00
Sundry Expenses - Funerals etc		137.50
Telephone & Facsimile Expenses		5183.87
Sponsorship - re 1991 Get Together		100.00

Transfer - North East re Get Together(Contra)	5000.00
- Omeo (Contra)	3000.00
- North East (Contra)	35000.00
- Mansfield (Contra)	<u>1800.00</u>
- Fighting Fund	94.35
Trophies - 1993 Get Together	548.00
School Video	2000.00
Capital Purchases - Facsimile Machine	800.00
- Office Furniture	267.70
Reinvested Term Deposit Interest	<u>1687.50</u>

TOTAL PAYMENTS

132818.44

EXCESS OF PAYMENTS OVER RECEIPTS

\$ 2981.95

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THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.

MARKETING ACCOUNT

TRADING & PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1994

Sales

Events & Shows	17221.67	
Wholesale	3958.87	
Miscellaneous	1967.10	
Stock Transfers - Central & Branches	<u>805.00</u>	
		23952.64

Less Cost of Sales

Stock on Hand 1 July 1993	11728.63	
Add Purchases	<u>15608.72</u>	
	27337.35	
Less Stock on Hand 30 June 1994	<u>9785.41</u>	

Cost of Goods Sold 17551.94

GROSS PROFIT 6400.70

Add Other Income

Royalties Received	970.00	
Interest Received	<u>88.64</u>	

NET OTHER INCOME 1058.64

Add Bush Dance

Gross Receipts	4677.00	
Less Expenses	<u>3696.70</u>	

NET PROFIT - BUSH DANCE 980.30

8439.64

Less Operating Costs

Advertising	35.00	
Bank Fees	114.28	
MCAV Promotions	173.70	
Miscellaneous Supplies	1116.45	
Postage & Freight	313.40	
Stationery	<u>49.92</u>	

1802.75

NET INCOME

\$ 6636.89

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THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.

MARKETING ACCOUNT

STATEMENT OF POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 1994

Opening Balance - 1 July 1993		17327.97
Add Net Income - Year ended 30 June 1994		<u>6636.89</u>
		23964.86
Less Transfer to Central Account	10000.00	
Transfer to Central - Membership	10.00	
Stock Transferred	<u>805.00</u>	
		<u>10815.00</u>
<u>NET FUNDS</u>		\$ 13149.86
		=====

Represented by:-

Cash on Hand	463.03	
Cheque Account - ANZ	1998.08	
Savings Account - ANZ	58.49	
Stock on Hand	9785.41	
Net Receivables	<u>844.85</u>	
<u>NET ASSETS</u>		\$ 13149.86
		=====

William G. Crump FCPA

CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANT

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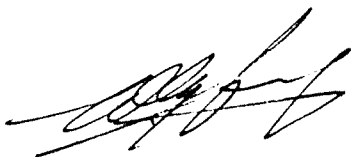
ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO P.O. BOX 256 MOAMA NSW 2731

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Trustees:

THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION FIGHTING FUND

I have examined the records of the Trust for the year ended 30 June 1994 and in my opinion the attached Income and Expenditure Statement reflects the operations of the Trust for the year ended thereon and that the Balance Sheet shows the state of affairs as at that date.



WILLIAM G CRUMP FCPA

25 August 1994

THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION FIGHTING FUND
INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT - YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1994

INCOME

Interest Received 234.44

EXPENSES

Accountancy re Tax Return 200.00
Audit Fees 260.00
Bank Fees & Govt Duty 35.04
495.04

DEFICIENCY TO CORPUS \$ 260.60
=====

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 1994

TRUST FUNDS

Settled Sum 20.00
Corpus -
Balance 1/7/1993 5292.36
Less Deficiency 260.60
5031.76

NET FUNDS \$ 5051.76
=====

Represented by:-

ASSETS

Savings Account 20.00
Cash at Bank 948.86
Term Deposit 5157.25

TOTAL ASSETS 6126.11

LIABILITIES

Advance - Central account 1074.35

NET ASSETS \$ 5051.76
=====

