

MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

ANNUAL REPORT 1984/1985

MEETING OCTOBER 1984

Following the last Annual General Meeting of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria in September 1984, a decision was made to hold a meeting for people who might be interested in supporting the Mountain Cattlemen in their fight to prevent extensions to the present Alpine National Park system. 900 invitations were sent out. The meeting was held at the Exhibition Building in Melbourne on October 25th, 1984. 300 attended the meeting and 150 apologies were received. This meeting clearly established that there was great support for the Mountain Cattlemen in the community, both in Metropolitan Melbourne, and in the Country, and that there was a widespread feeling of concern regarding Labor Government policy to create further extensions to the already large Alpine National Parks. A decision was made at this meeting to enlarge and expand the already existing Associate membership of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria, rather than to form any new and separate group. In this way the Associates would maintain close links, support and assistance from the Executive of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria. A Steering Committee was announced at the meeting and consisted of Mr. Bill Sweetland, Chairman, Graeme Stoney, Geoff Ritter, Josette Bradley, Neil Perrett, Sue Silvers and Mark Granland.

FEBRUARY 1985 GET TOGETHER AT JUNCTION PLAIN

Associate Members were invited to attend the Get Together at Junction Plain on February 2nd and 3rd 1985, and did so in force. In beautiful surroundings and perfect weather Associate Members watched the thrilling spectacle of Ken Connley winning for the third time, the Cattlemens Cup on Ace. Associate Members assisted in the manning of a stall where T shirts etc. were sold, and the Old Cattlemens Port, 150th Anniversary Special was launched, and in fact sold out. Production of this special ceramic jug of Port was the idea of one of the Associate Members, Kelvin Bush,

and has proved to be an excellent fund raiser, one the Associates plan to continue during 1986 with a different label, and called the 2nd Edition.

Apart from the opportunity for pleasant social contact, this type of opportunity to visit the High Country and speak personally to Mountain Cattlemen involved in high country grazing is invaluable, and should be further encouraged. There is no stronger debating position than first hand experience.

MOOMBA PARADE

Associate Members were pleased to be able to show their support for the Mountain Cattlemen in the Moomba Parade Ride, both personally and financially. The Australian Eagle Insurance Company, through the Victorian Farmers Insurance Agency generously donated substantial funds towards the cost of this Ride and also provided their promotions caravan at Alexandra Avenue where photographs were displayed, promotional literature was handed out, car stickers were given away and T shirts, Windcheaters and Posters were sold. The Australian Eagle caravan was greatly appreciated by Associate Members working on the day, it not only provided professional display opportunities, but made operating the stall much easier, and we hope we will be able to use it again in the future.

BOOK TO BE PUBLISHED BY THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

After many years, and following a suggestion by Mr. Harry Stephenson, the Cattlemen will finally be publishing a book to be launched in 1986. The book is to be published by William Collins. The intention is that it will cover a wide range of subjects and issues related to the High Country and Alpine Grazing and will be entertaining, informative and accurate. The Book will cover such subjects as: Early History the Heritage of the Mountain Cattlemen; the Scientific Debate; Fire and Grazing Management of the Alps; the Mountain Cattlemens contribution to Tourism; Tales and Stories of the Cattlemen; the Craft of Grazing Cattle on the High Plains; the Alps - a renewable resource; and the Economic Significance of High Country Grazing. There will also be chapters on the Cattlemens fight to survive, the Conservation movement, etc.

Whilst this is a project of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria the initial approaches were made through Associate Members,

and it is a pleasure to note that many Associate members in specialised fields are able to directly assist both in providing written material and advice with photographs etc. Associate Members have also supported the project in a financial sense by providing the proceeds of a raffle which amounted to \$1,960. The prize for the raffle was a beautiful painting generously donated by Associate Member and Artist, John Duncan Firth, and we sincerely thank him for his valuable gift.

STALLS HELD AT SHOWS

During the year many Associate members have held stalls at Country Shows selling T shirts, Windcheaters, Posters, car stickers etc. and this has greatly assisted with revenue. Stalls were held at Mansfield Mountain Country Festival, Mansfield Show, Geelong Show, Traralgon Show, Bendigo Easter Fair, Bright Autumn Festival, and the Yarra Glen Show. These are excellent opportunities for the Cattlemens' presence in the community to be maintained and increased awareness of the cause made public. It is hoped that many more Associate Members will be able to extend these stalls in the future.

THE BUSH DANCE

Throughout 1984/5 suggestions were made for various social functions. Anne Whittam very kindly took on the job of Social Secretary in April 1985 and the first function, a Bush Dance, was planned for June 29th. The night was a tremendous success, 570 tickets were sold, and a profit of \$3,500 made. The Dance was held at Berwick Showgrounds. Music was provided by The Cobbers all suitably dressed in Mountain Cattlemen Windcheaters. As this was a family night charges were kept to a minimum, with \$12 per adult and children under 13 years \$4. Supper was provided by the Pancake Kitchen, with both sweet and savoury pancakes. There was a monster raffle with various prizes to be won, and the usual stall was operating. Owing to a massive power failure shortly before midnight, the festivities came to an early close, which was perhaps a blessing in disguise, everyone got home safely, and those who stayed overnight were able to cope with cleaning up next day. The Dance was a great success both socially and financially, however because of the great numbers of Associate Members now on the Register, the organisation of social functions such as these, is a mammoth job and must be limited to only a few occasions during the year.

CATTLEMEN OF THE HIGH COUNTRY - VIDEO

This 15 minute Video was produced with the kind assistance of Channel 10 immediately prior to the Nunawading by-election campaign, and was used as promotional material generally. It has also been shown to both the Liberal and National Parliamentary parties. We have been advised that this is a very professional job and should be put into schools, community service groups etc. with accompanying back-up literature. The possibility of this will be examined in 1986 with also the possibility of producing a number of copies for any interested Associate Members.

MINISTER ANNOUNCES NATIONAL PARK LEGISLATION - BENNISON LOOKOUT

The Minister for Conservation Forests and Lands, Mrs. Joan Kirner, announced on July 4th 1985 that the Legislation to extend the Alpine National Park had that day been brought before the House. Several Associate Members, at very short notice, travelled to Bennison Lookout to support the Cattlemen in a protest drawing the Minister's attention to their opposition to this Legislation. The protest was successful with some thirty to forty Cattlemen and supporters, far many more than the official party. Mrs. Kirner remarked that the Cattlemen were a well organised lobby group.

NUNAWADING BY-ELECTION CAMPAIGN

This by-election held on August 17th, 1985 demonstrated the dedication and support all Associate Members have for the Mountain Cattlemen, and showed the work involved in binding the Associates into a "back-up fighting force" had paid off. As soon as the date of the by-election was announced the Associate Members swung their not inconsiderable talents firmly behind the Cattlemen. Organized with military precision and working to a step-by-step campaign strategy devised by Graeme Stoney and approved by the Mountain Cattlemens Executive Committee, teams of Associates were sent to all major shopping centres throughout the electorate for three weeks prior to Election day, handing out car stickers and leaflets explaining the Cattlemens' position. Associates assisted at Press Conferences, organized the Eastfield Park venue, joined the Cattlemen in the Ringwood Ride, assisted in the design of the colour brochure and How-to-Vote card, printed them both, and finally helped in the manning of all 52 polling booths for the entire day.

Congratulations and thanks must go to each and every one of the Associate

Members who gave up their time and talents so willingly.

Special thanks are due to Frank Sedgman, the printer who did not go to bed for two days and nights, Don Porter the artist who provided the sketches at the shortest notice, and to Keith Whittam who organized the roster for the polling booths.

Thanks also to Geoff and Kay Sandman who hosted the "helpers" party that night.

The entire campaign was paid for by the Associate Members of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria, thus confounding any critics who attempted to infer that the Cattlemen are a wealthy lobby group. Rather it was able to be pointed out that the funds, manpower etc. were supplied in the main and with the Cattlemens' support by the hundreds of supporters throughout Melbourne and country Victoria.

STEERING COMMITTEE

The original task of the Steering Committee is now complete. In the future the assorted talents of Associate Members, and their manpower, will be called upon to undertake any special projects such as may arise from time to time, at the request of the Executive Committee of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria. Sue Silvers who earlier in the year was elected Assistant Secretary to the Mountain Cattlemen's Association will continue to deal with the Associate Memberships and will attend to all Associate matters. *Ann Jones/Barker - prints labels*
b w v j c (H) e r \ AW backstop - typing etc.
SUMMARY *Pres. Jim always had time to explain things I didn't know + J. G. S*

The concept of extending the Associate membership of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria and the ability to harness its strength, whether in specialised professional fields, or the necessary day to day hard work, and also as a financially supporting group, has been a success. There are currently 839 members on the Register, 649 of which are financial.

Associate Members are a strong group which can only become stronger in the future, and their strength and determination must be considered by all future decision makers in regard to policies affecting the Mountain Cattlemen. Associate Members write letters, question Members of Parliament, display Posters, sell T shirts and travel great distances to rally behind the Cattlemen in a show of solidarity unmatched by any other rural lobby group in this Country.

It has been an exciting, busy and very satisfying year.

Alan

October, 1985.

MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1984/5

AS AT 30/9/85

REVENUE:

Subscriptions	\$5,200.00	
Sales	20,198.71	
Social Account	3,572.19	
Donations	4,310.18	
Book Fund - Raffle	1,961.40	
	<u> </u>	\$35,242.48

OUTSTANDING REVENUE:

Pauline Connley		240.00
Joanne Rogers		655.50
Anne Whittam		179.00
Frank Sedgman		90.00
Value of Stock on hand 30/9/85		<u>1,125.00</u>

Total Revenue:

\$37,531.98

EXPENSES:

Purchases	\$11,805.28	
Bank Charges	49.20	
Printing & Stationery	6,156.56	
Postage	1,986.64	
Telephone contribution	635.00	
Insurance	555.00	
Photocopier - lease & repair	851.88	
Freight	134.20	
Moomba Ride	7,817.08	
Other sundries	2,073.33	
	<u> </u>	\$32,064.17

OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS:

Harry Ryder		165.00
Margro Industries		1,342.50
Leader Westernport Printing Pty.Ltd.		<u>1,708.50</u>
		<u>\$35,280.17</u>

Balance - Cash at Bank

\$ 2,251.81

S. Silvers

S. Silvers, October 1985.