



*The Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria Inc.*

AFFILIATED WITH  
THE VICTORIAN FARMERS' FEDERATION

MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS ASSOCIATION

OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED

ANNUAL REPORT 1992/1993

Mountain Cattlemens Assocn.  
P O Box 294  
Mansfield. Vic 3722

8th October, 1993

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS - 1993

Many of you are aware that I have just returned from an extended trip around this great country of ours. Whilst away, I came into contact with many land management issues.

It seems to me that in the north of Australia, land management programmes are more advanced than in our area - largely due to a lesser population, which means a greater percentage of people who understand land issues, and less bureaucratic distance from the top of the management system to its implementation level.

When I look at the social and political environment here in southern Australia, where we, as an Association live, I realise the effect the MCAV has. Sometimes one needs to stand back a bit to see where you have come from, and where you are headed. Our past we know and appreciate, but the future of the MCAV has concerned a lot of people of late. I have heard comments like "There is nothing happening", "We need another ride on Parliament House". Well there is a lot happening, but quietly, and if there was a need, we would ride wherever was appropriate.

Our role now is one of input to land management issues, whilst still maintaining our position as guardian of our heritage and cultural links with the past. We must keep this second aspect in front of the community through the media. I congratulate the North East branch of the Association for the 1994 Get Together programme which will do just this.

Our continuing involvement in the Public Land Council, I believe, is very important. The help we can get from liason with other public land user groups through the P.L.C. is worth more than most of us realise. A large part of our input to management issues can be done through this body.

The re-opening of Wonnangatta Station to grazing has not advanced. This is due to a combination of my recent absence, and bureaucratic blockage, however I believe this issue should be pursued with vigour.

Some 3 years ago we received a grant from the National Farmers Fighting Fund of \$25,000 to fund research into Alpine grazing. This was done by Mr. Roger Oxley, and I feel that his work should be worked up into a presentable form and a copy sent to the N.F.F. asking for their analysis and assistance with publication.

The Omeo branch did a great job running the Get Together this year. It seems to get bigger and better every year. Thank you Omeo for doing a great job - it is a lot of work.

2.

My thanks on behalf of the Association, are due to many quiet achievers. Their efforts keep us running like a well oiled machine and I wish to name a few - Debbie Squires and Linda Barraclough for their work putting together the Voice of the Mountains - and please members, let them have some material for the next issue, the deadline is in about 3 weeks. Do it now! Thank you to Don Porter whose photographic work is so important to our history. Don will be at our Get Together in 1994 so bring along your old photos for an on-the-spot copy! To Sue our secretary, who toils away in our office at the back of Shirley's dress shop, or bolts across the country to wherever she is needed, a heartfelt thank you.

I have decided to let the job of President go around. I have had a very enjoyable, interesting and busy time during the past 3 years, and have had experiences you couldn't buy. I hope to be involved in specific projects with the M.C.A.V. from here on.

Thank you.

Doug Treasure.

## SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to present to you my eighth report.

Membership of the Association, both full and associate membership remains static as it has been for the past 2 years, with a small increase for the year 1992/93. New associate membership applications are received at approximately the same rate that old associate memberships fall back. The reasons for discontinuing associate membership can perhaps be attributed to the general economic climate, and the movement of population, notice of change of address is often forgotten. It is very pleasing to get so many encouraging and congratulatory notes with the associates' renewal of subscriptions. It seems obvious that in 1992/93 the associate base is steady - otherwise in the current circumstances, membership would not be retained.

On October 3rd 1992, Victorians went to the polls, and elected by an overwhelming majority the Coalition Government. Two former members of the Association, Mr. Graeme Stoney, and Mr. David Treasure stood as candidates and were duly elected. Mr. Stoney as the member for Central Highlands in the Legislative Council, and Mr. Treasure as the member for Gippsland East in the House of Representatives. Cattlemen, along with all Victorians, expected, and looked forward to a strong blast of fresh wind through Government departments and bureaucracies, and with it, a bold new start and a more sympathetic approach. As far as the Cattlemen are concerned, that wind has dwindled to more of a gentle breeze as an early promise of change has given way to bureaucratic apathy.

There have been four Central Council meetings this year where the smooth running of the Association has been assured.

On Thursday 15th October, a group of Cattlemen met with our new Members of Parliament, as well as Rosemary Varty, David Evans and Steve McArthur, to discuss a submission to Government requesting a new Alpine and Bush grazing agreement. The need for a new Agreement was soon to be illustrated by a number of problems, including confusion about cattle numbers on the Bogong High Plains, the flow-on effect of counting cattle as adult equivalents, dissatisfaction with new licence boundaries and accounts being sent to cattlemen for the licence allocation number, rather than the actual number of cattle sent to the Plains. The Association believes that the old Agreement, conceived on the run whilst the Alpine Park legislation was being debated in the House needed to be examined and revised. It was considered that a new Agreement would permanently set the status of Alpine grazing for the future. Despite letters designed to jog the memories of Members of Parliament that we needed some acknowledgment of this submission,

silence was the only result, and I have recently written to the Minister requesting that a committee be set up to prepare a draft document for his proposal, and requesting that the matter be resolved during the current term of Government.

On November 18th 1992 we met with Minister for Conservation Mark Birrell and Minister for Natural Resources Geoff Coleman and others to flag the submission and to request clarification of cattle numbers on Bogong and to revert to the system of counting cattle on a per head basis rather than as adult equivalents. Despite the fact that the adult equivalent system was devised for the Bogong High Plains only, the Department had applied this method of counting across all grazing areas, thereby causing a reduction in cattle numbers across the board. Attempts to resolve the issues before the 1992 grazing season were undertaken, with David Evans assuming the burden of negotiation with the Department. Despite his best efforts, confusion remained. The exact role of some Department staff in dealing with this matter is suspect, we are still working to get the matter resolved. In June of this year, at a meeting with Mark Birrell, Harry Ryder presented a solution to the Bogong High Plains cattle numbers based on the vacancy left by Cobungra cattle being moved from the area north of the Cobungra River. He proposed that the cattlemen absorb this vacant allocation, and for stock allocations to then revert to the original proposal of the 15/30% reductions in adult stock only. The Minister expressed great interest in this proposal, and despite our pleas for a decision, no resolution has yet been advised. We live in hope that this situation will not carry over into the start of the 1993 grazing season as has happened for the past two seasons. The fact that the problems we have raised are relatively small, and would appear to be easy of resolution, and yet more and more misunderstanding and confusion are the only results, must lead us to wonder whether some Department staff have something to gain by keeping the grazing situation in a state of flux. It is unfortunately all too possible that there are still some Department staff who hold a grudge against grazing within the Alpine Park, despite strong Government policy and support to the contrary. The Minister has made it clear to us on two occasions that he will not listen to arguments to reduce the level of grazing in the Alpine Park, or to remove it altogether, which case apparently is still being lobbied for by sections of the green movement.

In mid December 1992 a group of families, friends and guests joined the Ryder family at Pretty Valley on the Bogong High Plains for a short, informal ceremony to dedicate a plaque to the memory of Walter Ryder. This plaque is to be added to Ben Cooper's cairn at some convenient time in the future. It was a beautiful sunny

and happy day spent with good mates and filled with friendship and laughter. It was also the last time many of us had a chance to enjoy the company of Bill Hicks, who died only two weeks later. Few of us, knowing that Bill's time might be short, failed to be moved at the loving way he spoke of his old friend, and the catch in his voice as he concluded his speech by saying that he saw a man 'coming towards me, with a mob of cattle, and dogs, heading straight and true...." across the Bogong High Plains.

Omeo Branch had the responsibility for running the Get Together in 1993, and rose to the occasion magnificently. Thank you very much to the Kelly family who provided the venue for the Get Together on the banks of the Mitta River, and congratulations to Jim Commins, and the Omeo Branch for their organisational skills and hard work. A special thank you to John Cook and his family who undertook the difficult and wearying task of manning the gate for several days. The junior Cattlemens Cup was won by Tim Faithfull, and the senior Cup by Peter Faithfull. Nothing like keeping it in the family! Jack Lovick kindly offered a free trail riding weekend as a raffle prize to a person joining the Association at the Get Together as an associate member for the first time. This inducement encouraged some fifty new associate members to join, and we thank Jack very much for his generosity.

In March 1993 the University of Grenoble, France, published their book 'The Australian Alps' to which the Association had contributed a chapter. The book, published in both French and English is distributed to a readership of subscribers, academics, scientists and resource managers as well as university and research institute libraries in 50 countries. The Association collaborated closely with Dr Phillipe Grenier on the project. Dr Grenier visited Australia from the University of Grenoble, on behalf of the French Ministry of Environment. His co-editor from the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service showed a distinct lack of enthusiasm at the inclusion of the Mountain Cattlemen, so various ploys were resorted to, and Dr. Grenier finally had quite a battle to get the chapter written by the Association into the book unedited. We received a triumphant card from Dr. Grenier advising that he had won. I would like to thank Linda Barraclough and Debra Squires for their assistance with writing this material, and for their research and editing.

In March 1993 the Association was represented at a MiniExpo display at Parliament House organised by the Public Land Council of Victoria. The Association concentrated its display on the history and heritage of the Mountain Cattlemen, since it was considered a perilous housekeeping problem getting a cow and calf

into the House. We handed out our Education booklet and stickers, and members from both sides of politics seemed to be interested in our photographs and display.

This year the Central Council lost one of its founding members, Clive Hodge to the green pastures of Tumberumba. His presence on the Council will be greatly missed. There was no 'mucking around' with Clive, he instantly understood the ramifications of an issue, and was never afraid to speak bluntly if he had to. Clive had been a foundation member of the Association, a senior vice president for many years and a leading organiser of the Parliament House ride in 1984. Fortunately Clive will remain as an active member of the Association and made the observation in his farewell speech that it would be impossible to get rid of him, and that he would be hanging around like a hungry dog. We sincerely hope that he will honour his threat.

'Culture' and 'heritage' are the new concepts being embraced by management groups in the Australian Alps today, and it is vitally important that the Mountain Cattlemen make their voices heard in debates on these issues. Cattlemen have a long and proud heritage in the Victorian Alps, and cherish their living link with their pioneering heritage, and the challenge of addressing, and indeed maintaining heritage aspects along with environmental issues must be undertaken when considering management of the Alpine area. It would be hypocritical not to acknowledge the Cattlemens' heritage and the proper conservation of their way of life, and maintenance of their grazing rights along with the conservation and maintenance of Alpine flora and fauna. The Association is determined to have its voice heard in debates on these concepts, and some progress has already been made in this area.

Increasing interest is being shown by teachers and students on the subject of Alpine grazing, and Cattlemen have spoken to many groups of students over the past year. We believe that this is a most important educational and public relations exercise, and as many Cattlemen as possible should be prepared to undertake these engagements. In one amazing week some months ago Mansfield Cattlemen spoke to four separate groups of students, and I would like to thank the Purcell and McCormack families for their involvement and their patience.

The Association attempted to organise a trip to Tasmania earlier in the year for members and friends to travel together and join the Tasmanian Mountain Cattlemen at their Get Together. Unfortunately, despite early enthusiasm, the trip had to be abandoned due to lack of numbers. It just goes to prove that you can't always repeat a success like Longreach. Not now, anyway.

During the year, whilst Doug Treasure was away, I stood in for him as the Association's representative on the Public Land Council of Victoria, and was able to witness first hand how it works. I have to report it works extremely well. At the first meeting I attended a potential disaster was averted when the literature proposed to be distributed by one P.L.C.V. member was, unintentionally, damaging to this Association. PLC Secretary and guide Tim Barker stepped into the breach and suggested a solution agreeable to both organisations. Had this mediation not taken place, serious damage could have been done to the Association and bad feelings generated between MCAV and another public land user.

The Association ended the financial year in better shape for 1993 than it did in 1992 with an increase in net assets, and despite payment of a large sum in legal fees. I believe that the funds are consolidating, and provided there are no unpleasant surprises ahead, the financial position of the Association will, I believe be strong in the coming year.

Finally I would like to thank all members of the Central Council for their support over the year. I must also say a special thank you to Allan Brewer who has gone out of his way to support and assist the Association and I am sure that the members are very grateful for his thoughtful contribution to meetings throughout the year, to say nothing of his willingness to travel long distances to support both members and associate members in their flag waving endeavours. Thanks also to Ros Andrews for her friendly support and great work in the marketing department.

And finally, to Doug Treasure, President and friend, thank you for your dedication, friendship and constant support over the past 3 years, we will miss you at the helm, but will all look forward to continuing to work with you below decks, so to speak.



## MARKETING REPORT - 1993

The 1992/93 year for marketing has been a profitable one. Turnover for the year was \$35,784.71 with net profit for the year being \$12,800.80.

The Get Together at Omeo was extremely successful for marketing with an increase in turnover and net profit yet again. I am sure that having a wider variety of goods for sale helps. Many thanks to Tess and Pat Coleman, Mary O'Brien, Paul and Judy Dix, Kelvin and Rosie Parker, Chris Hammond, Bruce Insley, Sue Beeton, 'Daffy', Jacinta English, Annie and Keith Whittam, Barry Masters, Mary Goldsworthy, Cath Noble and Frank Hill for their assistance. It was really appreciated.

Good sales were also made at the Bush Dance. Thanks again to Tess Coleman and Geraldine, Mary O'Brien and Carley Andrews for running the shop.

One of the other events that we attended during the year was the Lilydale Agricultural Show. It rained heavily on the Saturday but still proved to be a worthwhile exercise financially.

I would like to say a special thank you to Jacinta English, Peter Koop, Nigel Hogan and John for attending the Victorian Horse Carnival at Terang on the very hot Australia Day weekend. Unfortunately we did not make any money but we did fly the flat (so to speak).

We set up a stand at the 4X4 Recreational Vehicle Show at the Exhibition Buildings in February. This was very successful financially and also from a public relations point of view. We were able to convince many people that all the cattlemen have not gone. Thanks to Galia Hardy, Carmen Stebnyckyj, Paul and Judy Dix, Sue Beeton, Frank Hill, Bruce Insley and Frank Sedgman for helping out during the four days.

Thanks to the Colemans and Magda and Ross Brown for setting up shop at some Gippsland events.

Wholesale sales were generally down on last year with the most consistent sales still being made through a few country stores. Printing the mail-order form in the 'Voice of the Mountains' resulted in quite a number of orders coming in, while the royalties arrangement with Thomas Cook continues to work well.

We have two new products, a plastic mug with logo, and a tea towel which we anticipate will appeal to a different section of the market and should sell well.

My special thanks to Don Porter for his support and creativity in providing the artwork required during the year. Whether it be the picture on the port bottle or a t-shirt, a logo on a mug or hat etc., Don is responsible. I am very grateful for his assistance.

**William G. Crump** FCPA  
CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANT

72 Mayfield Court  
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ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO P.O. BOX 256 MOAMA NSW 2731

AUDITORS 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 1993 and in my opinion the attached Trading and Profit & 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

21 September 1993

THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1993

RECEIPTS

Advertising - V.O.M.	930.00
Donations - General	210.00
Refund - Legal Fees	6775.90
Interest Received - Investments	1214.31
Net Proceeds - Get Together	42779.84
Subscriptions - Members	9237.00
- Associates	14483.89
Sundry Sales - Badges, Magazines etc	122.50
Transfers - Marketing	12500.00
- Marketing - MCAV Stickers	1267.00
- Gippsland	500.00
- Omeo	426.50
Sponsorship	2500.00
Refund - Trademark Costs	209.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS

93155.94

PAYMENTS

Audit Fees	1170.00
Badges & Sundries	1002.70
Bank Fees & Govt. Charges	405.43
Catering & Hall Hire - re Meetings	160.00
Consultancy Fees	9523.71
Donations - O Moriarty	1500.00
- Sundry	100.00
Expenses - President	2472.67
- Secretary	956.76
Fees & Subscriptions	1514.95
Fighting Fund - Audit	480.00
- Transfer	500.00
Framing - Certificates	153.50
Freight	54.00
Honorariums - President	3000.00
- Chairman 1992 & 1993	2000.00
- Marketing Officer 1992 & 1993	2000.00
- J Commins 1992 & 1993	2000.00
- Secretary - Bal 1992	1000.00
- 1993	12000.00
- Secretarial Assistance	75.00
Insurance	1554.68
Legal Fees	17843.85
Marketing Van Expenses	39.10
MCAV Stickers	1267.00
Postage	2831.24
Presentation & Farewell - C Hodge	1315.78
Printing & Stationery	7748.70
Prizes - Cattlemen's Cup	100.00
Refund - 1992 Stockmans Hall of Fame	200.00
Rental - Office	2400.00
Repairs - Office Machines & Office	243.88
Sundry Expenses - Wreaths, Flowers & General	371.00

Telephone & Facsimile Charges	3456.81	
Transfer - Mansfield - re Bush Dance	600.00	
- Gippsland to Central Account	500.00	
- Omeo to Central Account	462.50	
	-----	83003.26
		-----
OPERATING SURPLUS		10152.68
	-----	
Transferred to Term Deposit	10000.00	
Reinvested Term Deposit Interest	621.41	
	-----	10621.41
		-----
EXCESS OF PAYMENTS OVER RECEIPTS		\$ 468.73
	-----	=====

THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES AS AT 30 JUNE 1993

MEMBERS FUNDS

Balance 1 July 1992	63418.74
Add Operating Surplus for year	10152.68
	-----
TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS	\$ 73571.42
	=====

Represented by:

ASSETS

Cash at Bank -		
Central Account - Cheque Account	80.41	
- Savings Account	73.59	
Branches - Mansfield	1044.69	
- Omeo	3748.06	
- North East	239.76	
- Gippsland	161.62	
Investment - Mansfield	1445.55	
- Central A/c Term Deposit	36072.11	
	-----	42865.79
Net Assets - Marketing		17327.97
Advances - Fighting Fund		980.00
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	
	-----	12597.66
		-----
TOTAL ASSETS		73771.42

LIABILITIES

Office Rental	200.00
	-----
NET ASSETS	\$ 73571.42
	=====

THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.

MARKETING ACCOUNT

TRADING & PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1993

Sales

Events & Shows	22505.05	
Wholesale	3176.38	
Miscellaneous	2692.00	
		28373.43

Less Cost of Sales

Stock on Hand 1 July 1992	11345.62	
Purchases	16678.20	
	28023.82	
Less Stock on Hand 30 June 1993	11728.63	
Cost of Goods Sold		16295.19
GROSS PROFIT		12078.24

Add Other Income

Royalties Received	870.00	
Interest Received	146.28	
NET OTHER INCOME		1016.28

Add Bush Dance

Gross Receipts	6395.00	
Less Expenses	5357.40	
NET PROFIT BUSH DANCE		1037.60
		14132.12

Less Operating Costs

Bank Fees	128.11	
Postage & Freight	99.30	
Events Expenses	376.99	
Miscellaneous Supplies	526.91	
Petty Cash	200.00	
		1331.31
NET INCOME		\$ 12800.81

MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC

MARKETING ACCOUNT

STATEMENT OF POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 1993

Opening Balances 1 July 1992		18294.16	
Add Net Income - year ended 30 June 1993		12800.81	
		-----	
		31094.97	
Less Transfer to Central Account	12500.00		
Payment MCAV Stickers	1267.00		
		-----	
		13767.00	
		-----	
			\$ 17327.97
			=====

Represented by:

Cash on Hand		500.00	
Cheque Account - ANZ Bank		4729.72	
Savings Account - ANZ Bank		58.49	
Stock on Hand		11728.63	
Net Receivables		311.13	
		-----	
			\$ 17327.97
			=====

*William G. Crump* FCPA

CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANT

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Facsimile : (054) 82 6388


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

AUDITORS 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 1993 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

21 September 1993



THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION FIGHTING FUND

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT - YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1993

INCOME

Interest Received	283.17	
Donation	52.00	
	-----	335.17

EXPENSES

Accountancy - re Taxation Return	200.00	
Audit Fees	280.00	
Bank Fees & Govt Duty	28.18	
Legal Fees	441.21	
	-----	949.39
		-----
	DEFICIENCY TO CORPUS	\$ 614.22
	-----	=====

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 1993

TRUST FUNDS

Settled Sum		20.00	
Corpus -			
Balance 1/7/92	5906.58		
Less Deficiency	614.22		
	-----		
		5292.36	
		-----	
	NET FUNDS		\$ 5312.36
	-----		=====

Represented by -

ASSETS

Savings Account		20.00	
Cash at Bank		1115.11	
Term Deposit		5157.25	
		-----	
	TOTAL ASSETS		6292.36
	-----		

LIABILITIES

Advance - Central Account			980.00
			-----
	NET ASSETS		\$ 5312.36
	-----		=====