

Minutes of the Mountain District Cattlemen's Association of Victoria held Thursday, March 17th, 1983 on Bogong High Plains.

PRESENT: H. Ryder, W. Ryder, B. & B. Fitzgerald, G. Stoney, J. Commins, D. Kneebone, L. McCready, J. & C. Lovick, C. McNamara, R. & D. Faithfull, J. & B. Purcell, G. Connley, M. Blair, W. Hicks, K. Kelly, C. Aston and other members.

APOLOGIES: R. Treasure, C. Hodge, W. Cumming.

MINUTES: Minutes of the previous meeting were read. B. Fitzgerald moved the minutes be received. Seconded Barry Fitzgerald.

BUSINESS

ARISING: Question of C.R.B. stock movement in Shire of Omeo. R. Faithfull has had talks with C.R.B. and situation has been resolved.

V.F.G.A.: have agreed to affiliation fee but it would not be decided until their Annual Meeting. Move for M.D.C.A.V. to clarify affiliation fee of \$1,000.

FINANCIAL  
REPORT:

RECEIPTS.	\$	\$
Balance at 30.6.82.		7,837.73
Subscriptions - Members	1,147.50	
" - Associate	1,094.00	
Donation	20.00	
Advertising	190.00	
Voice of Mountains Sales	1,937.30	
Stickers Sales	152.00	
Get-together	1,500.00	
Miscellaneous	.90	
Bank	71.49	
		<u>6,113.19</u>
		13,950.92
<u>EXPENDITURE.</u>		
Bank Fees	2.13	
Freight/Postage	127.62	
Copying/Duplicating	123.36	
Catering/Room Hire	140.00	
Professional Advice	298.00	
Public Relations	2,162.25	
Voice of the Mountains		
Stickers/T-shirts	922.00	
Secretary's Allowance	300.00	
Stationary	15.02	
Miscellaneous	630.00	
Investment A/c.	<u>9,300.00</u>	
		<u>14,020.38</u>
		- 69.46
		<u>93.36</u>
Unpresented cheque		CR. <u>35.90</u>

K. Kelly moved Financial Report be accepted. Seconded J. Lovick.

GET-

TOGETHER

J. Commins commended Mansfield Branch on the work and final success of their efforts for the Get-together on Sheeppark Flat by the Howqua River. Thank you's to: Geoff Burrowes, Gus Mercurio, Toney Bonner, Suzie Howie (on her press relations work) and the Police for their handling of a possible disturbance.

During discussions, the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Kent indicated that he was in favour of multiple use of the high

country.

J. Purcell told meeting that the R.S.L. has given their full backing for alpine grazing.

LIAISON  
OFFICER'S  
REPORT:

Parliament has been in recess since early February. L. Lieberman keeps him informed. Plans to meet Minister for Conservation and Mr. Kent. Mr. Kent asked Lyle to keep in touch with him and keep him informed on what is going on.

J. Commins read out a letter from Jock Clough and his suggested ideas for improving our lot through the media etc. His ideas included:-

- (a) Petition(s) to be drawn up by Clough to enable them to be available for distribution amongst the Mountain Cattlemen at the M.D.C.A.V. 'get-together on 5 & 6 February.
- (b) ...a list is required of five members (together with telephone numbers and addresses) who would be willing and capable of answering any questions from the media on the topic of alpine grazing etc.
- (c) ...involve the television programme "60 Minutes" with the subject of alpine grazing. ...the story would be most advantageously presented by showing a family-type muster from the high plains (e.g. Commins style) as against the larger combined-type Bogong High Plains large-scale muster.

J. Commins read out a letter from Des Quoney who points out one aspect of the high plain grazing has been left out of the M.D.C.A.V. Submission to the L.C.C. and that is the fact the cattlemen keep the country clear and provide huts free of charge for anyone to use which have saved lives and given shelter over the years. Jim would like to send this letter to the L.C.C. as a supplement to our submission.

D. Kneebone presented a copy of a Wangaratta Paper which lists Friends of the National Parks, a support group who are trying to get off the ground. Don feels members over that side should try and get to these sort of meetings and try to put a stop to these type of groups by pointing out the facts.

G. Stoney reported on a magazine called "Parks Watch" and a report in which it is stated by Dick Johnston "the ultimate goal is to shut out the cattle grazing".

GET-  
TOGETHER  
'83

Receipts at Gate	\$9,723.00 (approx. 1,000+ people)
Stickers )	) not included in this figure
T-Shirts )	
After deduction of expenses Net Profit \$1,839.00	
Suzie Howie was very liberal with her expense account which only totalled \$200.	

G. Connley felt the future of the Get-together was to cater for the whole family and that we have access to water as a drawcard.

J. Commins felt the '83 Get-together was excellent and extends

SUBS  
IONS:

VOIC  
THE  
MOUNT

REFER  
AREAS

PETIT

thank you's to John Dixon, Andrew Clarke (slogan and design) + Geoff Burrowes, H. Ryder moved we make Geoff Burrowes an Hon. Associate Member in recognition of his work with the Association. Seconded D. Kneebone.

SUBSCRIPT-  
IONS:

A need to tidy up Members subscription and for Central Secretary to take over future notices.  
G. Stoney moved Central Secretary get an upto date register for membership and create a Central Mailing Register. A Cardy System similar to Associate Forms could be drawn up. A copy of register to go to each Branch Secretary.  
Seconded J. Purcell.

VOICE OF  
THE  
MOUNTAINS

Offers of support from Linda Baraclough and Harry Stephenson.  
G. Stoney moved we write to L. Baraclough and H. Stephenson and tell them we are having some difficulty in putting our next Voice of the Mountains together and would they have some assistance to offer. G. Stoney would be prepared to do a final editing. J. Lovick will be seeing Harry early in April. Send any material to Central Secretary. Jack Lovick felt Suzie Howie should be kept informed.

D. Kneebone moved we produce another Voice of the Mountains by end June, 1983. Seconded Mr. C. McNamara.

REFERENCE  
AREAS:

W. Hicks feels reference areas have been allocated in difficult areas where run holders are supposed to keep their stock from grazing on them. Some of these reference areas are in prime blocks and while they remain unfenced some cattle will inevitably stray on to them. General feeling that if National Parks want the cattle off they can fence the reference areas off. Appears to be a degree of dissatisfaction of citing of reference areas. Reference areas are unsuitable because they present a lot of inconvenience where you have to run your cattle on adjoining runs. K. Kelly moved a protest letter go to the Land Conservation Council on location of some reference areas and in addition notify Minister for Conservation. Seconded W. Ryder.

G. Stoney feels most members want us to start to take a hard line with a lot of these issues. D. Kneebone thinks it is a disgrace that there is feed in the high country going to waste and dieing off when their are animals starving. G. Connley reported that on Kosciusko next year it is contemplated that the Kosciusko National Park will be opened up for grazing provided a substantial deposit is lodged.

The meeting felt a harder line is needed in dealing with bureaucracy. G. Stoney would likt to see country re-assessed and not closed and in fact re-opened.

PETITION: The Petition drawn up by Jock Clough to be copied again with a column for "occupation" included. 1,000 copies to be run.

Meeting closed at 4.30p.m.

*Atch Minutes confirmed 27/6/83*  
*John Connley*