

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Mountain District Cattlemen's Association held at Tobacco Marketing Board Room, 461 Bourke Street, Melbourne on Friday, September 23rd, 1983.

Jim Commins, Chairperson opened the meeting at 11.00a.m.

PRESENT.

C. Aston, L. McCready, F. Crooke, M. Jordan,
G. Macnamara, T. Parker, R. Hebblethwaite, T. Connley
H. Stephenson, J. Lovick, C. Lovick, G. Stoney,
J. Commins, P. Maher, S. Blair, D. Rogers, J. Rogers,
W. Cumming, C. Hodge, J. Hill, D. Kneebone, H. Ryder,
K. Heywood. F.H.L.C.

APOLOGIES.

G. Connley, B. Fitzgerald, D. Treasure, J. Treasure,
T. Murphy.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Another year has passed and the future for alpine grazing remains unclear. We are exposed to two real dangers. The first and perhaps least likely is that a total prohibition of cattle grazing will be gradually implemented. The second, and very much more likely, that the same result may be achieved more rapidly by very substantial rises in grazing fees.

To take and keep control of the cattle on the runs already costs our members as much or more than good pasture in secure paddocks which can often be obtained for agistment and that is before any government charges are met.

In the drought last summer, mountain cattlemen did not have to call for subsidised assistance and had their summer grazing runs not been available, the cost to the State under the drought assistance scheme, would have been well in excess of one million dollars.

For example, for 20,000 cattle at say \$2.50 per head per week. The government contribution (a subsidy of 75% of transport and fodder purchase was available) if it were paid for sixteen weeks, then the cost to the State would have been \$1,000,000.

Submissions in respect of fees have been made to Government, but no discussion on fine details have as yet followed with the M.D.C.A.V., but figures bandied about from official circles, indicate that savage rises in government charges could force run-holders of long standing, out of business. This would be welcomed by our ill-informed and subversive opponents alike, but it would be a very backward move, not only for pastoral interests, but also for water catchment values, for sight-seeing, for intensive local knowledge and so on.

Much time and travelling has been donated to our cause by members of our Association, and many Associate Members have made generous offers of help. Much interest in the mountains and in the people who live and work there was inspired by the presenta-

tion of the film, "The Man From Snowy River", and following that there have been other helpful television and news media releases in which our members have participated. What is most urgently needed is thorough and unbiased studies of matters relating to mountain grazing. If time can be gained for that, it will be shown that grazing has far more benefits to offer than just those gained by the owner of the cattle and many false and distorted accusations will be laid to rest. A good example, is recent research on cattle grazing on the Bogong High Plains.

In February last, we enjoyed another successful Get-together and the Mansfield Branch members who are few in number but who were the hosts and organizers, are to be congratulated on a wonderful achievement. There were many most valued helpers but one I must make special mention of was Miss Suzie Howie, for the generous help and expertise in the field of press relations.

For the production of this issue of Voice of the Mountains, many thanks are due to all those who provided articles, photos etc, and a special thanks is extended to Harry Stephenson for his most valued donation of time, equipment and professional know-how in the type-setting and his part in preparing the magazines content.

It weighs rather heavily upon me that I have been unable to write personal notes of appreciation to all the people who have been so helpful in writing letters of encouragement, as well as supporting submissions to Government and offers of assistance in other ways.

The numerically small (in relation to the population) group of activists who oppose us, are also financially supported by large annual grants from public funds and are organised to even international level, make our contest seem something like a David and Goliath event. However, I am confident that if only a thorough cross section of community opinion can be heard on the matter, we will find that the majority of people can see no harm and only benefits to be gained from our traditional contribution to food production under the most natural and uncomplicated conditions.

Members should actively seek public expression of support and Associate Members can be most helpful in the same way. Since it is possible and indeed likely, that firm decisions will soon be made at Government level before many areas of interest are checked by objective research, it is vitally important that people act without delay.

If they have already written to their Member of Parliament, or other Members of Government, or made representations to any public organisation, they may be involved in, then they might try and persuade their neighbours to do the same.

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Any such message, no matter how brief, must help and any sympathiser who does not make a personal representation might at least add his or her signature to a supporting submission if the opportunity arises.

There is an urgent need to have impact at political level now.

G. Stoney moved the report be accepted. Seconded C. Hodge. G. Stoney thanked Jim for his work and time taken for the job of President in the past year.

CARRIED

MINUTES.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

J. Commins mentioned the V.F.G.A. are prepared for us to become affiliated and has a letter to that effect. It was moved \$1,000 be paid as a joining fee to be reviewed annually. G. Stoney felt the copy of the letter should be got from V.F.G.A. office and we can fully discuss the issue. J. Lovick moved Minutes be confirmed. Seconded H. Ryder. CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT.

A.N.Z. Access Account

Cash Float

\$ 200.00

Add, Interest Received

3.33

BALANCE AS AT 30TH. JUNE, 1983

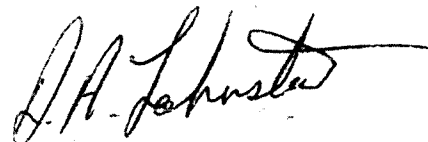
\$ 203.33

A.N.Z. Investment Account

Balance as at 30th. June, 1983

\$6,800.00

I report that in my opinion the above statement of Income and Expenditure for the period ended 30th. June, 1983 shows a true and fair view of the operations of The Mountain District Cattlement' Association of Victoria for the period ended and the state of affairs of the Association as at that date.



DUNCAN A. JOHNSTON A.A.S.A.
PARTNER
WOOD, JOHNSTON & ASSOCIATES
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE PERIOD
1ST. JULY, 1982 TO 30TH. JUNE, 1983

<u>1982</u>		<u>1983</u>
2,943.28	Balance as at 1st. July, 1982	\$ 7,837.73
	<u>Add, RECEIPTS</u>	
508.00	Members Subscriptions	1,938.50
561.00	Associate Members Subscriptions	1,374.00
5.00	Donations	20.00
5.75	Miscellaneous Receipts	10.60
-	Sale of T-Shirts	65.00
952.50	Advertising	190.00
3,117.80	Sale of "Voice of the Mountains"	2,344.20
34.70	Sale of Stickers	406.00
4,903.54	Receipts at annual get together	1,500.00
98.65	Bank Interest	71.49
<u>10,236.94</u>	<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>	<u>7,916.79</u>
13,180.51		15,754.52
	<u>Less, EXPENDITURE</u>	
-	Branch Float	600.00
2.90	Bank Fees and Charges	6.85
257.44	Freight and Postage	208.12
89.09	Copying and Duplication	506.79
39.00	Stationery	15.02
242.50	Catering and Room Hire	140.00
175.00	Professional advice and instruction	332.00
-	Advertising	2,162.25
4,077.25	Publication "Voice of the Mountains"	55.00
286.60	Central Secretary Allowance	425.00
-	Stickers	922.00
123.00	Miscellaneous Expenditure	20.00
-	T-Shirt purchase	1,061.60
-	Transfer to Investment Account	6,800.00
<u>5,342.78</u>	<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>13,254.63</u>
<u>7,837.73</u>	<u>BALANCE AS PER CASH BOOK 30TH. JUNE, 1983</u>	<u>\$ 2,499.89</u>

BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 30/6/83

Balance as per Bank Statement 30/6/83	2,602.89 (Cr.)
Less, Unpresented cheques	<u>103.00</u>
<u>BALANCE AS PER CASH BOOK 30/6/83</u>	<u>\$ 2,499.89</u>

T. Connley moved report be received. Seconded. C. Hodge CARRIED.

ELECTION OF OFFICE
BEARERS.

President

J. Commins nominated by L. McCready. Seconded G. Stoney. Elected. J. Commins accepted but has offered resignation at end of 1984.

V. President

C. Hodge nominated by L. McCready. Elected. C. Hodge accepted but under the condition he may not be able to take on Presidency in 1984.

ELECT
BEARERS

LIAIS
REPORT

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS CONTINUED.

- V. President 2 H. Ryder nominated by W. Cumming. Elected.
- V. President 3 W. Cumming nominated by L. McCready G. Stoney nominated by J. Lovick. W. Cumming elected.
- Liaison Officer G. Stoney nominated by L. McCready. L. McCready as Special Assignments Officer, nominated by J. Commins. Elected.
- Secretary/Treasurer. C. Aston nominated by D. Kneebone. Elected.
- Marketing Officer. J. Rogers nominated by J. Commins. Elected.

L. McCready moved J. Rogers be able to take any expenses out of her own out-of-pocket expenses. J. Commins, C. Aston and J. Rogers to be able to sign cheques (any two). Seconded C. Hodge CARRIED C. Hodge moved any finances be left to delegates to be decided. Seconded J. Lovick.

LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT.

The heads of government departments are giving us a good hearing (e.g. National Parks and Forest Commission) and are co-operative. They have also very nicely asked when we are making a public statement, not to point the finger at Government departments, because they are very particular the public do not get the wrong impression.

R. McKenzie is a conservationist and hard to sell on any new idea. The Premier, Lyle feels is going to say to us the matter will be considered along party lines. With a view to preventing that, Lyle is in the middle of arranging a meeting in October and we have to prevent them from forming a National Park from Bogong to Kosciusko by pushing the noxious weeds issue.

The L.C.C. are very co-operative. Phone calls from Sam Dimmick asking questions or clearing up some issue. He has said that there will be no more country taken from the cattlemen. When the final re-establishment of the L.C.C. will have a supervisory control over the Dep. of Crown Lands. Some of the leased country has come under the control of two or more Departments. Licenses by National Parks and you pay them your run fee. The maps drawn by L.C.C. in many cases do not follow natural boundaries or natural obstacles. As soon as cattlemen give an inclination of the land where boundaries are not satisfactory, the Chairman of National Parks and Forests can have this meeting and make a move toward altering the boundaries.

National Parks Chairman, said he has a Senior Ranger in a lot of our districts and that the branches should ask him along to Branch Meetings and try and sort out problems. The Association is so well

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received and it is a pleasure to be received in this way now we are known, The Government is more interested in the urban community and not prepared to come out to the bush and have a look. Mr. Cain needs to understand that we will not be pressed out. D. Rogers moved report be received. Seconded W. Cumming.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

J. Treasure sent along copies of some writing he has done and there are copies on the table for anyone who would like to take one.

Mrs. Jill Glass sent a survey form and wants to have them completed by cattlemen and sent back to her. Jim emphasised he would like the forms filled in and returned as soon as possible.

D. Kneebone pointed out a member has wrongly accuses some members of a trail riding group of wrecking and damaging the huts and said "and quite frankly we do not want you here". This group has sent in a submission on our behalf and feels very disappointed at this member's attitude. We must be careful of how we treat visitors to the high country and try not to give the wrong impression. It is possible this person is not a financial member but has attitude reflects on the Association.

J. Lovick moved we have a list of members circulated. Compile list from list already in existence and send copies to President and Secretary of all branches for them to comment and follow up. Seconded G. Stoney.

A copy of "completed list" to be sent to Managing Authority at a later date.

Branches to be sure to follow up list of members who are having boundary problems. (i.e. Connley, Heywood, Cumming, Hodge, Rogers, Hall, Commins, Kelly, etc.)

SHOW REPORT

The stall at the Melbourne Show seems to be reasonably successful with sales of t-shirts, stickers and distribution of an information hand-out. C. Mitchell will forward a full report to Central Secretary.

Meeting closed at 12.30p.m.

Minutes Confirmed 28/9/87
Jeff Commins

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