

Minutes of the General Meeting held at Tobacco Marketing Board Room, 461 Bourke Street, Melbourne on Friday, September 23, 1983.

Meeting commenced at 1.30p.m.

Minutes were read of previous meeting.

BUSINESS ARISING
FROM MINUTES.

J. Commins reported on meeting at Morwell and he felt the general concept of us having cattle on the high plains was accepted and more in favour than not.

Mr. McKenzie has replied to our letter and back-tracked his reported speech.

The Government does propose to restrict the use of traps and they plan to eventually stop the use of them and prohibit them.

A letter from McKenzie to J. Commins saying he is under a lot of pressure from the party.

W. Cumming moved minutes be received. Seconded H. Ryder. CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE.

G. Stoney moved we bring up to date a handout pamphlet with a view to keeping in the "post office preferred size". Seconded D. Rogers.

C. Hodge pointed out that he received copies from people of their submission to the L.C.C. and one in particular from Mary Howson who came from England to Australia to settle and he feels it is great that someone like that can see what is going on. C. Hodge feels it could be worth asking the people concerned if we could publish their letter in Voice of the Mountains or various newspapers. G. Stoney moved we use selected letter for reproduction. Seconded C. Lovick.

Much correspondence received from people interested in becoming Associate members or to buy t-shirts, stickers etc. No business arising from these letters.

Symposium attended by J. Commins. It was said that cattlemen burn in the middle of summer and he had to set the record straight. Mr. Healey suggested the S.C.A. are coming around to our way of thinking.

L. McCready moved our Marketing Officer receive a remuneration salary of \$200 with a view to review next year, and also write a letter to Mrs. Stoney thanking her for her efforts in handling of sales of t-shirts etc. Seconded C. Hodge.

RENTS.

The Minister released a statement on rural rental policy. It is open for submission to October 30, 1983. Working on a dry sheep rate of \$3.00 a year, breeding cow and calf 14 times that, a dry cow 7 times etc. G. Stoney feels this issue is where we can involve the V.F.G.A. G. Stoney moved we

form a committee namely, J. Commins, G. Stoney, C. Hodge to liaise with VFGA in the preparation of a submission on these fees. Seconded J. Lovick

VFGA AFFILIATION.

A general feeling that fee not realistic at an ongoing fee of \$1,000. G. Stoney moved we write to VFGA accepting their proposal. Seconded H. Ryder.

GUEST SPEAKER.

Mr. Thorry Gunnison, Member of L.C.C. representing Commerce and Industry (his interest in Timber).

1970 the L.C.C. Act arose and its membership was the head of every land management agency in Vic. Five or six out of the twelve were under the Minister for Conservation which meant that any conservation issue there was a majority from the conservation element. An Act passed through Parliament to amend the Conservation Act, to extend to one extra member to include Industry and Commerce. The L.C.C. covers the whole of the public land in Victoria. A real key to what the L.C.C. are doing is the alps. When the labour Government became elected, they were elected on the basis of a large contiguous National Park. They ordered the L. C.C. to do a special study. I must congratulate you as the M.D.C.A.V. on your attempts at getting to the politicians. 4,323 submissions to the L.C.C. following the Proposed Recommendations. Of these there were 664 (15.4%) on behalf of the grazing interests in the alps. 1,285 (29.7%) from conservation (a minority) groups, four wheel drive, deer hunters etc. 70.3% were not in favour of extending National Parks. The submissions can be seen by anyone who visit the L.C.C. It will be proposed that a large contiguous park be called an Alpine Parks System. It will not be called a National Park as such. The report has been virtually finalised and will come out in about December. It has been formed toward labour party policy and we now have the Dept. of Parks, Forests and Lands and the head of it is a man from England here to integrate it.

A few questions were directed to Mr. Gunnison, who answered to the best of his ability.

J. Commins thanked Mr. Gunnison for speaking and on behalf of those present, thanked him for a very informative session.

HUTS.

P. Sheehan, P. Lawson, A. Holmes and A. Brookes prepared submission at request of Minister for Conservation. Meeting held July 23 to allow comment from people. They had an original draft that all cattlemen's huts be taken over by the Crown and be known as Crown Huts and cattlemen be given priority to use them. They did not establish how you were going to use the huts if someone else was there first. Harry Stephenson pointed out huts had been there for some considerable time and that they had always been available to anyone and were maintained by the cattlemen. It was generally

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HUTS CONTINUED.

agreed that this should be the recommendation to leave it as is and be grateful the cattlemen are doing it. The committee went away and completely forgot what was discussed and went ahead with their original plan. Harry has the opportunity of pointing out to the Minister this point and he also wants to recommend that no huts should be destroyed.

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The proposal is that all huts/are not cattlemen's huts, may be maintained by a group of people called "Friends of....". Harry is going to have a meeting at his home and will invite persons who he feels would be interested in maintaining huts and draw their attention to this proposal that has been done.

G. Stoney does not agree that general principle that huts be regarded as property of the Crown. However, we do recognize there are some huts which would be designated as property of the Crown, huts in current use by cattlemen, abandoned huts could be left to the Crown, huts of historical value which are at present owned by cattlemen, but are not in present use, should be acquired by the Crown by owners agreement. The cattlemen should be legally known as the owner and the hut is always left open for visitors.

G. Stoney went to the meeting based on What do you see as the problems associated with the amalgamation of the Departments. In the reconstruction, the farmer representative is not enough. The representative, Phil McCallum who works for Department of Conservation. A letter to Mr. McKenzie outlining dissatisfaction with the meeting and the quality of the Minutes should be sent.

BADGES.

D. Kneebone moved the badge be rounded on corners, wider marging with MCAV initials. 150 gold trim and 350 silver trim. Sell for \$3.00. J. Lovick proposed an amendment in price to be \$5.00. Majority moved \$3.00. Members and Associates can purchase a badge for \$3.00 from the Central Secretary. Seconded L. McCready.

TOUR OF INSPECTION.

J. Lovick to follow up Tour with Mr. Walker around 8, 9, and 10th December, 1983.

H. Ryder moved we write a letter of appreciation to the President Bairnsdale Town Council for allowing us to share the stand at the Show. Seconded C. Lovick.

Resolution by Gippsland Branch that this Government do further trials of scientific investigation into the effects of cattle grazing in the alpine area. It was felt that we need to have an independant body to research and that the issue can not be dealt with in full at this meeting.

SEMINAR. Proposed by Assoc. For Protection of Rural Australia.

G. Stoney moved we should not be seen to sponsor but have a representative speak at it or attend. Seconded D. Rogers.

GET-TOGETHER '84.

The venue is Holmes Plain, the first weekend in February (4th and 5th).

List to be passed on from Mansfield Branch. Cattlemen's Cup ongoing attraction. All help gratefully received. Publicity in consultation with Suzie Howie on angle for '84. Feel the need to put more emphasis on those riders who come in on horse back. Advertise it more and make a real show of it.

VOICE OF THE MOUNTAINS.

Harry Stephenson has collected the information and it will make about 64 pages. G. Stoney has agreed to take over and add a few things and print it in Mansfield. Harry has outlets for the Journal and he will contact these people. Recommended 3,000 copies with suggested retail price \$2.50 with \$1.00 to go to outlet for commission. Definite need for more ads.

Meeting closed at 6.00p.m.

Minutes confirmed. 1/12/83

J. H. Gommans

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PRESENT

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