

Meeting of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria held at Omeo on March 26, 1984 at the Shire Office.

Meeting commenced at 10.40a.m.

Chairman Mr. Jim Commins declared the meeting open.

PRESENT:

T. Barker, H. Cock and Anne from VFGA, G. & K. & T. Connley, D. Kneebae, J. Hall, H. Ryder, K. Kelly, G. Stoney, L. McCready, W. Hicks, J. Commins, C. Aston, J. Rogers, G. Moon, C. Hodge, J. Gough, J. & D. Rogers and other Members.

APOLOGIES:

W. Cumming, Betty Fitzgerald.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read. K. Kelly moved Minutes be received. Seconded T. Connley. L. McCready moved Minutes be confirmed. Seconded D. Kneebone. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from Myrtleford re submission. Assorted letters from people wanting to become Associate Members. H. Ryder moved correspondence be received. Seconded J. Hall.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Secretary apologised for failing to bring the Treasurer's Report but indicated funds are still in the black.

WANDERING STOCK BILL:

L. McCready had received a letter from D. Evans. As a Solicitor Evans has had vast experience on claims for motor accidents. He feels most cattle running on open country are open to big claims from motorists. L. Lieberman has offered to meet the MCAV and give us a talk on the implications both insurance and political wise.

ECONOMIC REPORT:

G. Stoney moved we write a letter to John Mitchell and follow up his offer to do an Economic Report and for him to contact Lyle. Report to be based on benefit to community, animal husbandry etc. Tim Barker could do a final polish. Seconded W. Hicks.

Lyle and Graeme are going to Melbourne next week to lobby the Opposition politicians. Suggests areas should be set aside for multiple use as is done overseas. The area is just too big to be just a National Park and with severe restrictions. Theory that two classifications of park will be a more reasonable land management concept. Jim, Lyle, Clive and Graeme put a statement together. Copies to L. Lieberman and D. Evans.

Invitation from Peneplain Herefords for G. Stoney to open the sale on 1st May, 1984. Graeme will accept.

TOUR OF INSPECTION:

On 11th and 12th April a tour of inspection by Ministers and Cattlemen in the Benambra, Nunniong and Omeo area will be held. Discussions with Harm Van Rees and people involved with scientific study of cattle on

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GENERAL BUSINESS:

FEES.

H. Cock from VFGA said out of 75-80 questionnaires, 36 were returned. In some cases the fees would increase and in some decrease.

Formula - 1 unit = cow and calf

.6 " = dry cow.

suggested minimum price per week of .30c with a maximum of \$1.00.

Final decision on Formula completed by VFGA. Points of contention are type of country, fire control, distance covered to run et. General feeling of set the cost of .30c per head per week. A survey proved the cattlemen should be paying -.48c and indicates the Government should be paying the cattlemen, but if the Government received eg., .30c they would be doing alright.

Meeting closed for lunch 12.35p.m.

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Meeting opened 2.00p.m.

General feeling that fees should be set at a maximum of \$1.00. They feel that for the people who would have to pay the maximum that they would refuse to pay and eventually leave their runs. Base the fee on actual average over the past 5 years. T. Barker will put this proposal to the Government on Thursday and get back to Jim and Graeme.

AFFILIATION FEE.

VFGA Affiliation Fee to be \$10 per head per member with a rebate of \$10 for those members who are already members of the VFGA. J. Hall moved on receipt of account from VFGA, that it be paid. Seconded G. Stoney.

STOCK ON ROADS.

Letter from Kenned saying legislation will go ahead. Got an opinion from Q.C. who was involved in 76 cases. Rather than let Government turn tables completely and say that neither parties were disadvantaged Sooner or later there will be a precedent set by someone running into some stock and some very expensive litigation will follow. As far as legislation it is too late to change the direction. G. Stoney moved we write a strong letter to the leader of the Opposition, Mr. Kennet voicing our concern, at least then it is on record. Seconded Lyle McCready. (c.c. to D. Evans, L. McCready and G. Stoney).

MARKETING OFFICER'S REPORT:

There are 48 distribution areas of our Journal. 9 have paid for their copies. A letter received from Southland Store saying if books are not sold or picked up then they will dispose of them. Joanne to write to Harry Stephenson to follow up Melbourne agencies. Don Kneebone pointed out his dissatisfaction of the sales of Voice of the Mountains and the manner in which it was handled. Some ads were not put in and dates were wrong. G. Stoney said it was not our responsibility if dates were wrong. The Minutes stated \$2.40 and the book came out at \$3.00. G. Stoney pointed out that after costing was done, it would have meant we would have lost on the books so he had to put up the price.

BENDIGO FAIR:

Banners being made through W. Cumming. Need for stickers, t-shirts and handout material. G. Stoney to update "The Continuing Battle".

J. Commins felt it should be modified and a line taken out where it infers there was damage.

STOCK AND STATION AGENTS:

92% of agencies are members of Victorian Stock Agents Association of Aust. Johnny Farmer, President could be approached to try and gain some support from the Association. L. McCready and G. Stoney will contact J. Farmer.

GET-TOGETHER '84:

W. Cumming has in an account profit from Get-together. G. Stoney moved a motion to congratulate the Gippsland Branch on their success and well organized venue. The bar was well set up and worth remembering for future Get-togethers. T. Connley wanted to thank the Branch for giving his wife and himself the opportunity to get married at the Get-together. Junction Plain next venue for '85 Get-together. Christa Treasure is considering catering for next year. A need to get a V.I.P. list earlier. G. Stoney felt we should form a special Committee for V.I.P., media to be contacted for future Public Relations. We should draw up rules for future Cattlemen's Cup at next meeting. The word "Festival" should be included in the licence for the bar.

STOCKMAN'S HALL OF FAME:

G. Stoney moved a letter and copies of brochure, Voice of the Mountains and a sticker along with subscription be sent to Secretary.

PETITION:

A suggestion that half a dozen members go and present the Petition with horses on the steps of Parliament House, but it would have to be well organized and persons know what to say etc. A representative from each Branch to be able to move at a few days notice. G. Stoney moved we form a Committee from the Executive to investigate the possibility and feasibility to present the Petitions on the steps of Parliament House. Seconded C. Hodge. CARRIED.

Committee - President, C. Hodge, G. Connley, G. Stoney (Convener).

L. McCready moved Secretary write to Parliament House and find out about getting on the mailing list for Hansard in Upper and Lower House and to send to L. McCready.

McKENZIES STATEMENT:

Chairman of Sawmillers Assoc. contacted J. Commins and suggested a transcript of McKenzie's speech be obtained. J. Commins arranged for a tape but it was not forthcoming and would have cost a lot to do a search. General feeling that book by Harry Nankin is totally false and incorrect.

POLITICIAN'S INSPECTION:

*K. Kelly suggested getting use of some Range Rovers which would seat more. Australian Conservation Foundation have invited two Ministers on a trip of Kosciusko on April 25th. Grame felt he and Lyle should go and meet Mosley and see if we can get on the trip. Grame feels it is a dangerous move.

WANGARATTA MEETING:

John Holmes and Harm Van Rees.

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Don Kneebone will ring some members and see if they can go to meeting.

ALP BRANCHES:

ALP should be approached at Branch level. Branches to check out ALP Representative in their area.

ADVERTISING:

H. Ryder will follow up the possibility of advertising on milk cartons.

Meeting closed at 4.50p.m.

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Minutes Confirmed, 31/5/84
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