

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA  
HELD AT THE V.F.G.A. 24 COLLINS STREET MELBOURNE ON WEDNESDAY JULY 24TH  
1985 AT 10.50 a.m.

THE MEETING OPENED AT 10.50 a.m.

PRESENT:

Jim Commins, Jack Lovick, Charlie Lovick  
Ken Connley, Graeme Stoney, Don Kneebone,  
Graeme Connley, Harry Ryder, Rhonda Treasure,  
Clive Hode, Bill Cumming, Ross Brown, Lyle  
McCready, David Rogers, Max Blair Ken Heywood  
and Sue Silvers.

CHAIRMAN:

Mr. J.A. Commins was Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed members and gave a brief resume of events leading up to the meeting. That Graeme Stoney had written to all the Liberal Parliamentarians following a meeting with Jeff Kennett. The letter was to persuade the Liberal Party of the seriousness of the situation facing the Mountain Cattlemens Association of Victoria in the light of the Legislation brought before the House by the Minister for Conservation Forests and Lands.

FEES ISSUE:

The Chairman reported that there had been two meetings with the Minister's representatives to attempt to resolve the fees issue. There is still no resolution of this matter as the department are working on agistment rates for sheep rather than cattle, which does not relate at all to our situation. Fees and rentals at this stage unresolved. Graeme Stoney reported that the agreement was that the Association proceed this year and then come back to the Department again on a without prejudice basis.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
ACT:

Graeme Stoney outlined the background regarding the Freedom of Information Preliminary Conference to take place at 2.p.m. on 24th July 1985. The object of the conference is to try to determine what costing were done on the extension to the Alpine National Park.

BY ELECTION IN  
NUNAWADING

The meeting was informed that it must decide what stand to take in the Nunawading by election. Graeme Stoney advised that the Association had to decide whether to support the Liberal Party in the by election, or stay right out of it. The Chairman indicated that the Association had never taken a political stand before in its history. He also pointed out that the stand was being taken on this particular and singular issue alone. Rhonda Treasure reported that the Gippsland Branch had resolved to support the issue in Nunawading and support the Liberals on this one occassion.. Support use of horses and suggested the Association use a roster system and include the Associate member. The Chairman reported that the Omeo branch is prepared to take part. Don Kneebone reported that North East Branch had a meeting on Sunday and their meeting was in full support. Graeme Stoney mentions the Cattlemen of the Barmah Forest and asks the meeting whether the cattlemen would consider asking them to come in with the Association on this exercise with their horses. Don Kneebone reported that the Barmah Cattlemen were disappointed that they were not included in the Melbourne ride, and made the point that support and strength means everything. Lyle McCready agreed.

Graeme Stoney said that he would like them to join the Association on this. The Chairman asked for a vote - Lyle McCready seconded by Clive Hodge. Carried.

At this stage Graeme Stoney passed around a paper outlining the steps to be taken by the Cattlemen during the lead up to the election. Advised that the best time to launch the campaign would be at the Small Business Rally in Ringwood on 8th August 1985, where he has been invited to speak.

Mr. Stoney went through the Order of Campaign (copy attached) and all points were agreed by the meeting. Ken Connley suggested that a selected street should be letter boxed by cattlemen and pack horses and the media invited to attend. Agreed.

The following Committees were formed:

Publicity and Public Relations: Graeme Stoney  
Jim Commins and Jack Lovick.

Police and Council: Clive Hodge.

Barbeque: Charlie Lovick - he will arrange to get assistance from the Associates.

Polling Booth Roster: Associate Members under the direction of Keith Whittam.

Sue Silvers to forward a list of Associates to all Branches.

It was decided that the question of how many horses etc. be handled at Branch level.

There was here a general discussion regarding the Barbeque, who was to get in free, what cost etc. to others. Rhonda Treasure suggested \$5.00. The Chairman pointed out that the purpose of the Barbeque was to foster good relations and for that reason the press should be admitted free, others to pay. It was suggested that a number of Liberal Party politicians including Rosemary Varty should be included. There was general agreement that the Barbeque should be BYO.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1.00p.m. FOR LUNCH.

THE MEETING RESUMED AT 3.08 p.m. AFTER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE.

Ken Connley asked what the other three parks cost. Should get the cost of the previous three and work out how much. Clive Hodge pointed out that it is Labor policy that there be no commercial activity in National Parks, and the Government must change their policy before the Act can guarantee grazing.

Discussion then centred on a pamphlet to be handed out at shopping centres etc. The Chairman pointed out that the pamphlet should cover five points:  
Grazing combines conservation and production;  
Regular grazing protects water catchments  
Grazing costs the taxpayer nothing and must be preserved;  
Do away with production - introduce tourism (Labor

policy;

There is scope for tourism in a multi-use concept. Clive Hodge said that it should be made clear in the pamphlet that people will lose the freedom of use of the High Plains because the National Park Service will regulate where, when and how the Park will be used. He further emphasised that an "eye catching" heading was required.

Don Kneebone suggested "Mountain Cattlemen, Australias Heritage, Your Freedom".

There was then general discussion relating to various aspects of the pamphlet.

The Channel 10 Video was shown.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4.00 p.m.

*Minutes confirmed 7/10/85*

*James A. Connors*  
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Chairman.