

Minutes of the meeting of the Central Council held on October 7, 1985 at Victorian Farmer's and Graziers Association rooms, 24 Collins Street, Melbourne.

Meeting opened at 11.40a.m.

Present:

A. Whittam, G. Date, K. Whittam, G. Stoney, J & C. Lovick, M. Jordan, C. Hodge, R. Brown, D. Treasure, K. Vush, Alan Drash, D. Kneebone, L. McCready, D. & J. Rogers, W. Hicks, K. Heywood, H. Ryder, J. Matheson, B. Jamieson, M. Prince, C. Dicki, A. Brewer, P. Crosly, Bob Gilder, k. Kelly, J. Commins, S. Silvers, H. Smith, J. Bradley, J. Spark, W. Sweetland, C. Aston, J. Burrowes.

Apologies:

L. Barraclough, W. Cumming, J. Mitchell, J. Rogers, G. & T. Connley, R. Treasure, Betty Fitzgerald, J. Gough, T. Murphy.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read. D. Kneebone moved minutes be received. Sec. H. Ryder. Carried. L. McCready moved Minutes be confirmed. Sec. D. Rogers. Carried.

Correspondence:

Subscription to Stockman's Hall of Fame.

Letter from Vic. Four Wheel Drive Club.

Donation from Bob Gilder.

Aust. Eagle Insurance (A. Lang) offer of sponsorship for next get-together.

N.E. Branch to follow up.

M. Prince a copy of a tape of her song.

M. Heaysman quote for printing.

R. McKenzie letter of support.

J. Rogers letter of resignation from Marketing Officer.

J. Franklin.

Jeff Coleman.

Joan Kirner, expressing her disappointment at the dishonesty of our campaign in the Nunawading election.

A. Brewer letter on a trip to Birdsville and the surprise at the recognition from people toward members of the Association.

D. Treasure moved correspondence be received. Sec. K. Bush. Carried.

Liaison Officers Report:

Barmah Cattlemen are faced with a State Park.

Marketing has been a resounding financial success. A need to iron out some problems encountered. A sub-committee, with a co-ordinator needed to consult and make decisions on marketing.

A new book "Challenge of the High Country" by Tor and Jane Holth was launched by myself and Tor has offered the Cattlemen his full support and help.

Freedom of Information Act re Cost of Park. We attended the Tribunal and put our case forward, in ^{July} ~~September~~. A mutual agreement for the Dept. of Conservation, Forests and Lands to release information originally asked for by Sue Silvers last ~~December~~ ^{September} was reached, however the letter to date has not been received.

A lot of enquiries from students, groups and interested people on the Association.

Tim Barker, Jim and I came to an unhappy compromise with Dept. of Conservation on fees for the coming year, with a review in twelve months time. Mrs. Kirner was reported as saying, "if the cattlemen can afford to distribute a colour brochure, she will look at increasing the grazing fees."

A video outlining the Mountain Cattlemen, their history and the current fight has been produced by management and staff of Channel 10 (including several Assoc. Members). It was originally made for the National Gallery for use overseas to explain a little about Victoria's people but is also available to the Cattlemen for their purposes. Many people have viewed it, including the Liberal Parliamentary Party. It is of high technical standard and would have been beyond our means if we had commissioned it.

I attended a strategy meeting with the VFGA to assist with arrangements for the Farmers' Rally. Our experience in September 1984 gave valuable input to the rally. We preferred to keep a low profile and don't want to be seen as general stirrers but concentrate on our own issues. I was invited to speak at the Canberra rally on behalf of grass roots farmers but declined for those reasons, though it was a great honour. The National Farmer newspaper has credited the Cattlemen with swinging the Nunawading election and setting a new rural political trend (5/9/85).

The Interim Land Protection Council of which I was the Alpine representative has now been reconstructed to the Land Protection Council and the Alpine representation will disappear. After some intense lobbying by people to have on the Council someone with special knowledge of Public Land there is a chance a position for a representative of Agricultural use of Public Land may be created along with a VFGA, Union and Conservation rep. I do not expect to be nominated for that position. There has been some backlash towards the more up front members of the Association since the Nunawading campaign by the Conservation movement and a lesser extent, the Minister. "It Takes Faith to Move Mountains", together with another catchy song will be available at the end of October on tape. Contact Sue Silvers if you are interested.

The Cattlemen contributed to Moomba in the 150th Celebration. Thank you to Aust. Eagle Insurance Company for their generous donation which made it possible. Also the group who attended the Royal Show & Elders Ltd. 150th Pastoral Parade, thank you.

The Alpine Park Bill is becoming increasingly opposed. The Nunawading election was the only course we had to take and it proved successful. A tribute to Sue Silvers for her expertise, dedication and unfailing good humour during the campaign and to her family for allowing us to upset their home for a month.

Our opponents are waiting to seize on any incident to denigrate the esteem in which we are held, so it is doubly important we continue to act responsibly, be friendly and helpful and stick together.

Assistant Secretary's Report, by Sue Silvers.

Much of what Graeme has said is included in my report, however a couple of things have been unsaid. The Bush Dance at Berwick in June was a resounding success. Much thanks to the Whittam family for their help. The Bright Autumn Festival in May was attended by Cattlemen and Associates who held a stall. In the afternoon they joined the procession mounted on stock horses and won the prize for "Best Equestrian Turnout".

The Cattlemens logo and slogan "Mountain Cattlemen Care for the High Country" is in the process of being registered as a trade mark.

A raffle with a painting by John Duncan Firth (donated) as the prize was won by Stan Champan of South Caulfield. Proceeds are going to the 150th Anniversary Book.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped and supported us.

Soil Conservation Advisory Committee:

W. Hicks reported there are certain parties going out of their way to knock Graeme Stoney. Our Minister is telling untruths. Leases should be transferable. Once the lease closes, the adjoining leases are going to be affected. The Minister is very keen to say on a particular date that steel jaw traps are going to be banned in the control of wild dogs. \$75,000 costs and loss of stock. \$800,000 to employ men to control. Dog trappers have had limits

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put on them. A plea to fill in your forms and give an opinion. You have until the end of the month.

Lunch break 1.10p.m.

Meeting recommenced at 2.10p.m.

Bryan Jamieson author of 150th Anniversary Book has talked to cattlemen, but already a lot of this work has been done by others (Tore Holth, H. Stephenson). There is a need for a political statement and a lot of facts. A lot of tapes have to be transcribed and this is time consuming. The book should sell for about \$12.50 and be suitable for the education system.

Clive Hodge reported that members of Gippsland Branch and other Branches have attended processions, given talks in schools, and attended the Nunawading campaign. Mosley said our ideas are wrong and have no scientific basis. Dick Williams at Adelaide University is doing studies on fire and ungrazed areas. Don Kneebone feels there is a need to get regional CFA Members to squash some of these falsehoods about fire and its effects.

Grazing Fees:

A letter from Joan Kirner was read to the meeting outlining the attitudes on the fees issue. An alternative suggestion was put to the Department of Conservation, Forests and Land but to date there has been no feedback. This is based on values as apply to perpetual lease of Crown Land. The discussions with the Ministers representatives were intensive but remain unresolved. The .40c per head per week is for this year only and it is intended that the matter be finally resolved before next year. General feeling that we should not accept the .40c and set a precedent. Also a need not to use the word "agistment". The meeting did not seem to be able to resolve the fee issue. Tim Barker pushed to get tenure to be able to make long term plans. We would have to go back to the Committee again.

Marketing Officers Report by Joanne Rogers:

Receipts of \$37,753.40 less Payments of \$32,494.49 leaving a balance of \$5,258.91 in the bank with Stock at cost \$2,083.10. There is a consistent demand for various colours of windcheaters and t-shirts, a reasonable choice of colours should be made available. More updated information sheets should be readily available for enquiries. The job of Marketing Officer could be regionalised, perhaps on a Branch basis because it is becoming so demanding and covers such a wide area. C. Hodge moved the report be adopted and the outstanding telephone account be paid, together with the honorarium. Sec. D. Treasure. Carried. H. Ryder moved a letter of appreciation go to Joanne for the excellent job done. Sec. W. Hicks. Carried.

Marketing Committee:

C. Hodge moved Ross Brown be on the Committee. D. Kneebone moved Sue, Graeme, Kelvin Bush and Ross be on the Committee. Sec. K. Kelly. Carried. G. Stoney moved Sue be the convenor. Sec. L. McCready. Carried. A general discussion on avenues for distribution of products, e.g., Target or do we want to keep it on a more personal level.

D. Treasure moved the Branches discuss the idea of the Get-together being held on Australia Day weekend (end of January) after '87, and report back to Central Council. Sec. L. McCready. Carried.

G. Stoney put forward a costing of his expenses. C. Hodge moved he be reimbursed to the sum of \$4,949. Sec. R. Brown. Carried. Jack, Don and Coral to discuss reimbursement to people for past involvement in Association duties.

Jeff Burrowes:

The Nunawading campaign was a worthwhile exercise and well done. The Government have to take notice of you now. We have made a strong point and a strong enemy. The Liberals and Labour have to take notice. I believe there is no chance of convincing the present Minister that she has made a mistake. I think her job is on the line, and do not think she can back down from this one and you will have strong opposition. If she can persuade the Liberals on any basis of amendment, I think the Bill will be amended, in order for her to be seen as winning. The most important strategy will be to soften the Liberals and she will appear to be giving as much as she can. We must make sure the Liberals are on our side. There are still concerns about conservation as an issue. Much of your effort has to be addressed at keeping the Liberals on side. The ACF are fighting for their political lives. Whatever you do be united and stick together. Your policy will be judged by Conservation Forests and Lands and the National Park Foundation. You will have to find some means of which of these Departments is most likely to find support in Government to be the management body. The victory will never be clean but you may gain in small ways. Strategy for the management of that area. The policy must stand up to scrutiny and the test of the Government.

G. Stoney said the Sawmillers Association are calling for a complete review of land management and going back to before the L.C.C. Recommendations 1979, to start all over again. This strategy has its good and bad points. In the short term by trying to turn the clock back you enable Kirner to get the Liberals to admit they made a mistake. The appropriate response would be to support the turning back of the clock very slowly. If the Association is seen to get Joan Kirner sack, then it would certainly have the rest of them sitting up and taking notice.

Kelvin Bush is prepared to be Secretary of Race Committee for next Get-together.

D. Kneebone moved the Member Subscription be discussed at Branch Level and the outcome to be reported back to Central Council within four weeks. Sec. D. Rogers. Carried.

Meeting closed 5.20p.m.

Minutes confirmed. 25/10/85
[Signature]
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Chairman.

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