

Minutes of the Meeting of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria Inc. held at Porepunkah on October 25, 1985.

PRESENT:

Mrs. Ryder, H. Ryder, J. Treasure, C. Macnamara, J. Lovick, D. Kneebone, S. Silvers, L. McCready, C. Hodge, W. Cumming, D. Rogers, G. Connley, K. Bush, M. Blair, W. Hicks, F. Ryan, R. Brown, J. Hall, K. Heywood, I. Roper, K. Kelly, G. Stoney, J. Commins, C. Aston.

APOLOGIES:

T. Barker, W. Ryder.

Meeting commenced at 11.40a.m.

Chairman, Jim Commins welcomed the Members and thanked them for their attendance.

C. Hodge moved the Minutes of the previous meeting be received. Seconded K. Kelly. CARRIED.

D. Kneebone moved the Minutes be confirmed. Seconded D. Rogers. CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from A. Drash expressing disappointment on lack of attendance by MCAVI at Bendigo Fair.

Letter from D. Treasure.

Contract from Collins P/L., for book, with cheque for \$1,500.

Letter from Joan Kirner 23/10/85 declining invitation to inspect alpine area.

BUSINESS ARISING:

D. Kneebone spoke on the letter from A. Drash. Allan had been informed that the cattlemen would not be attending Bendigo Easter Fair. G. Stoney feels we must utilise our priorities to achieve the best result. We cannot keep riding in every Show that is on. We appreciate Allan's efforts and the suggestion of a float showing two comparisons (ie. greenery/burnt-out). C. Hodge moved a letter of thanks pointing out we are fully extended at the present go to A. Drash. Seconded K. Bush. CARRIED.

L. McCready commented on the letter from J. Kirner and feels we should take a deputation to see her and find out why she has this attitude. K. Heywood moved a letter asking why she has changed her mind from agreeing to inspect the alpine area, and it is important she sees the area under her portfolio. Seconded F. Ryan. CARRIED.

C. Hodge moved correspondence be received. Seconded G. Stoney. CARRIED.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Since the Annual Meeting we have been named in Parliament virtually every sitting day over the last 3 weeks. It is getting very grubby and some of the muck is sticking. I think we have come out of it fairly well. Phil McGuire an Associate Member and strong supporter whose family comes from the Dargo area has also received bad publicity. They have been trying to link the cattlemen with the Liberal Party and are saying they have been providing funds. A report in today's Sun states Phil is thinking of taking legal action. Caroline Hirsch (M.P.) has slammed the cattlement and has been vindictive, she also claims our "How to Vote Cards" are illegal. We have sought legal advice. It is misleading because it did not say "Liberal" next to Varty's name. Our Solicitor prepared a brief which is going to

a Queens Council. The client has been advised that whether or not the police take proceedings against her, is probably a matter of politics. The defence is strong but it will probably go to Court.

Jenny Cotterell (NDP) backs Phil McGuire up on every thing he has said, also other witnesses. H. Ryder and J. Commins had their photos taken at the election and thought it odd they weren't asked permission. The same fellow took Phil's photo which is when the eruption started.

Jim Brown from Channel 10 was named in Parliament as being the media advisor to the Cattlemen. His coverage was quite extensive (the stunt with Burlinson) The Executives of Channel 10 have disclosed 23 stories on the election have been done and John Brown didn't do any of them. He is not a media advisor and he would not go near the campaign because of his ethics. He has never met Tom Burlinson and Charlie Lovick arranged for the stunt at Ringwood. Jane Phelan covered the story not Jim Brown. He made a statement to The Age where he said he was friendly with the people in the Association and had never acted as a media advisor. His first connection was at the rally to Parliament House. His boss was not aware he had acted as a media advisor. Terry Norris, M.P. was asked to prove it and had said if he was wrong he would apologise in Parliament. He said Channel 10 pulled the wool over the people's eyes and it was grossly dishonest.

T. Austin, L. Lieberman and J. Kennett sprung to our defence. Lou has taken a lot of them to task in Parliament. Alan Hunt rang me and suggested I appear the The Bar of the Upper House and explain the cattlemen's position. I would have $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour to explain and I would have to answer questions from the President, Rod McKenzie. Kennedy, Leg. Council was masquerading as a Press Photographer, surely that is dishonest.

A copy of the Act on Misleading or Deceptive Publications:-

267b) 1A A person shall not, during the relevant period in relation to an election under this Act, print, publish or distribute or cause, permit or authorize to be printed, published or distributed, any matter or thing that is likely to mislead or deceive an elector in relation to the casting vote of the elector.

3B If the offender is a body corporate, by a fine not exceeding \$5,000.

4 It is a defence if the person proves that the person did not know, and could not reasonably be expected to have known, that the matter or thing was likely to mislead an elector in relation to the casting of the vote of the elector.

The Vote Card - point 3 assumes that Mrs. Varty is coming from a major party and by omitting the word Liberal was an oversight. If the Ballot Paper has only names and no mention of party, then what is the difference. They are splitting hairs.

Graeme needs direction from here as to handling the next battle. A fighting fund would be a good idea. Any public comments must go through him. I. Roper moved to commend the work that Graeme and Sue have done and that they continue with the work. Seconded J. Lovick. CARRIED.

Break for lunch 1.05p.m.

Resumed meeting 2.10p.m.

The Liberal Party has asked the Cattlemen to put together a dossier on future Park Management if the Bill is thrown out. We have asked Bryan Jamieson to help put this together in terms everyone will understand, due to his considerable political experience. We have approached the Sawmillers Association for input. L. McCready moved the Executive Officer's Report be received. Seconded G. Connley. CARRIED.

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GENERAL BUSINESS:

C. Hodge moved Members Fees be \$50 for first 100 and \$25 for every part thereof. Seconded W. Cumming. CARRIED. J. Lovick feels sub should be higher. Sue and others should be recompensed for all their efforts. G. Stoney should also be receiving more than he is. D. Kneebone pointed out a Committee which comprises himself, Jack and Coral were given the power to reimburse some members for their costs. J. Lovick moved \$1 per head flat rate be subscription. Motion lapsed.

Grazing Fees:- John McKendrick, Dep. Conservation, Forests and Lands and Tim Barker, V.F.G.A. briefed Graeme on what is to be discussed today. John Wright was the former contact and now it has changed. The Dept. is in a shambles. J. McKendrick is very keen to have the same charge for all Crown Land in Victoria and have deductions for disabilities (competition with horses, distance lease is from home, etc.). We cannot really make a decision this way and any travelling from now on is going to be added to our costs. Jim Treasure pointed out the work we are doing. We have spent 1,000's of dollars getting rid of weeds. It costs about \$80 per head to have a lease on the high plains. He is against the agistment system.

There was a lot of discussion on grazing fees and points are as follows:-
- land should be valued by taking the respective prices for land 30-40 years ago.

- who determines site value (i.e. sub alpine, bush, low land).
- have the system on Bogong High Plains changed to the licence system.
- a committee go and speak with them in Melbourne.

Graeme pointed out what is being said has already been said in Melbourne and it is like talking to a brick wall.

C. Hodge moved the present licensing system, not agistment be adopted with a minimum of a 7 year tenure. Seconded W. Cumming. CARRIED.

STOP PRESS!!! Graeme just came off the phone from talking to Tim Barker who had talks with McKendrick and the Minister who want actual market rentals less disabilities. A committee to meet with Department and VFGA. K. Kelly moved a committee comprising a delegate from each Branch be appointed to meet with them. W. Hicks, G. Connley, C. Hodge, J. Lovick committee members. Seconded D. Kneebone. CARRIED.

C. Hodge moved that the MCAVI defines who is suitable for alpine grazing licences only when runs are being transferred (see Alpine Grazing Licences Policy Clause 1). Seconded W. Cumming. CARRIED.

W. Cumming moved for a licence to be held by an estate, it must be shown that freehold property is retained basically intact, and ownership to comply to the immediate family definition because as family parts fragment estates, runs will not be allocated. Seconded C. Hodge. CARRIED.

Marketing Report:- Ross Brown is now convenor of the Committee. We have approached connections of Kelvin Bush, with a view to offering them the franchise for distribution of windcheaters for the Association. Next week we talk with Thomas Cook and Co and a deal may be made. We propose that Joanne's books be transferred to Ross and her stock distributed and sold as soon as possible and Ross will oversee the books from Cooks to keep upto date. It is proposed that he receives \$200 plus expenses by Central Secretary. The profits will come back to Association. Any orders are made direct to Cooks and an advertisement in The Weekly Times will inform buyers. K. Kelly moved Ross Brown be appointed convenor with a suitable honorarium and expenses. Seconded D. Rogers. CARRIED.

Jim Commins asked H. Ryder to attend at speak at Howmans Gap Family Camp in January 1986.

Get-together:- Associates will have a tent for selling things. It is expected the Lions Club will cater. The Whip Cracking Championship will have three from each branch nominated by a Member. Two events for children. The prize is a whip handle. A need to get invitations out by December Emphase NO fuel available after Myrtleford or Whitfield.

G. Stoney moved we write to Municipal Association supporting the efforts of rural shires to remain autonomous. Seconded C. Hodge. CARRIED.

G. Connley moved we support the deduction of Shire Rates before any other charges are paid. Seconded G. Stoney. CARRIED.

J. Lovick moved a suitable gift be purchased for Sue Silvers to who our appreciation. Seconded J. Commins. CARRIED.

C. Hodge moved we support Liam Bradly in the promotion of his new song with the option to use our Logo if required after discussion with G. Stoney. Seconded D. Rogers. CARRIED.

General discussion on honorarium for G. Stoney and J. Commins. C. Hodge moved \$3,000 in Investment Account be withdrawn, and when monies become available, \$3,000 be paid to J. Commins and \$5,000 to G. Stoney for 84/85 upto the annual meeting. Seconded K. Kelly. CARRIED.

J. Lovick moved that funds held by Joanne Rogers in Marketing Account be transferred to the Central Cheque account. Seconded C. Hodge. CARRIED.

Meeting closed 5.30p.m.

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Chairman.
Date.....

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