

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS ASSOCIATION  
OF VICTORIA, INC.

HELD AT CATHERINE STATION

SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 1986  
AT 2.20 P.M.

This informal meeting of the Association held at Catherine Station on the 1st February 1986 included members of the Executive of the Association, Associate Members, their families and friends.

President Mr. Jim Commins declared the meeting open at 2.20 p.m., welcomed all those who attended, and called for any apologies.

Apologies were received from: Mr. Ian Morton, Mr. Peter Ross-Edwards, Mr. Geoff Coleman, Mr. David Evans, Mr. Ken Jasper, Mr. Stan Vail, Mr. David Hamilton, Mr. Tom Wallace, Mr. Des Crowe, and Mr. Barry Murphy, and David Sexton.

Mr. Commins read a letter from Mr. John Cook from Benambra which was a letter of encouragement, and thanks to Mr. Commins, Mrs. and Mrs. Stoney and Mrs. Silvers for all the work they had done over the past 12 months. The letter also enclosed a donation, and mentioned the support the Association has from Mr. K. Twitchett, who also sent a donation.

Mr. Commins introduced Graeme Stoney, and asked him to report on recent events.

Mr. Stoney spoke of the death of Mr. Norman Chester and told the meeting of Mr. Chester's reputation as a mountain cattleman extraordinaire. Mr. Chester was widely respected in Mountain Cattlemen circles.

Mr. Stoney introduced Bryan Jameson to the meeting, and said that Bryan was very pleased with the progress being made into the writing of his book. The book should be published some time this year.

On the fees issue Mr. Stoney said that the Cattlemen were getting deeper into the mire with the Department of Conservation Forests and Lands. In 1974 a book was written called "Alps at the Crossroads", in 1985 it was the Mountain Cattlemen at the crossroads.

Mr. Stoney thanked Linda Barraclough for the enormous amount of work she put into the current issue of the Voice of the Mountains.

Mr. Stoney pointed out to the meeting that the Bill was still sitting in the Upper House. He took the opportunity to welcome Mrs. Rosemary Varty to Catherine Station and pointed out that she was the majority in the Upper House.

The Government still want the Bill and will rush it through the House at the first opportunity. He said the Association was pessimistic about the outcome and urged everyone present to pressure their local member to reject the Bill. The Opposition was standing firm, but pressure needed to come from other sources. He commented that peoples' needs had changed since the 70's.

Mrs. Kirner would be a guest of the Association at Catherine Station on Sunday, however she had declined to speak publicly.

Mr. Stoney welcomed Mr. Jeff Kennett who is a strong supporter of the Mountain Cattlemen, and also Lou Lieberman

The police enquiry is now over, and was a costly exercise in which the Association had to vindicate its stand at Nunawading.

A letter was read from the Public Prosecutor regarding the recent cattle stealing case. The Association had made a formal complaint to the Public Prosecutor regarding the light sentence received in the case.

Mr. Commins spoke in regard to the fees question and explained to the meeting how impossible the proposed fee structure was. He also pointed out that having to make a Statutory Declaration regarding stock was inappropriate.

Mr. Ross Brown spoke to the meeting about the marketing situation. He informed the meeting that prior to Christmas he had spoken to Mr. Murray Cook, and will have a meeting with him later this month to further clarify the situation. It is hoped that Cooks will market the Mountain Cattlemen clothing, at the same time allowing the Cattlemen to do their own thing on such occasions as this particular weekend.

Graeme Stoney introduced the shadow Minister for Conservation Forests and Lands, Mr. Jim Plowman, who had just arrived.

Mr. Plowman thanked the Association for the invitation to attend the get together and mentioned the victory the Mountain Cattlemen had at Nunawading where they took their message to the people and the people saw reason. He stated that he wanted to <sup>hear</sup> ~~hear~~ about the problems the Cattlemen faced and to see how his party could help.

Mr. Stoney called for the entrants in the Cattlemens Cup. From Gippsland Branch: Christa Mitchell, Kevin Higgins and Rob. Elliott; Omeo Branch: Peter Faithfull, Ken Connley and John Coles; North East Branch: John Witheron and Dick Gale; Mansfield Branch: Chris Stoney and Neil Waters.

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Mr. Commins introduced Mrs. Rosemary Varty to the meeting.

Mrs. Varty thanked the Association for the opportunity to attend the get together, to speak personally to as many people as possible, and to publicly thank the Mountain Cattlemen for their assistance at Nunawading. She remarked that the Mountain Cattlemen showed what could happen when people get their act together. She said that the Liberal party could not have done what they did without the support of the Cattlemen. She advised the Association to keep up the pressure, as there was no question that the Government is waiting to rush the four Bills through, and one of them is the Alpine Parks Bill. She stated that there was still a lot to be done, thanked the Association again and ended by saying that she wanted to hear from everyone.

Mr. Commins introduced Mrs. Pat Coleman to the meeting. Mrs. Coleman has a problem in that the Department of Conservation Forests and Lands has included various walks, etc. incorporated into their Summer Programme for the Licola area, and one of the properties belongs to her, and is private freehold land, over which she did not invite the Department, and indeed did not know about the activities until she read about them in a pamphlet. She stated that the people employed by the Department to conduct these walks were inexperienced. She has made formal complaint to her regional office, and said that the regional officer was sympathetic. She intends to take the matter further.

Mr. Commins thanked Don Kneebone and the North East Branch for all the organisation for the get together and remarked that it was a very good job well done.

Mr. Stoney thanked Ron Farrell of the Australian Eagle Insurance Company for the use of their caravan and also for the generous sponsorship.

Mr. Farrell wished to make some observations on the property issue raised by Mrs. Coleman. He drew the attention of the meeting to the legal liability of the property owner if somebody got hurt, or if a fire started and burned out the neighbouring property. The consequences could be horrific. He suggested taking the matter up with the V.F.G.A. He stated that in his opinion the matter was a major problem.

Mr. Commins thanked Mr. Farrell for his contribution to the meeting, which then closed at approximately 3.50 p.m.