

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MOUNTAIN
CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED HELD ON
THURSDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2002 AT THE VICTORIAN FARMERS
FEDERATION 24 COLLINS STREET MELBOURNE.

PRESENT: Sue Reynolds, Colin Reynolds, Bill Crump, Stuart Hicks, Annie Whittam, Ron Briggs, Frank Ryan, John Ryan, Noel Levin, Brian Higgins, Peter McCormack, Rosemary Hurley, Ross Brown, Bruce McCormack, Steve Ware, Bill Cumming Pauline Venn, Harry Ryder, Graeme Stoney, Simon Turner, Tim Barker, Graeme Connley, Ros Andrews, John Andrews.

The President of the Association, Simon Turner, took the Chair and welcomed everybody to the Annual General Meeting. He declared the meeting open at 11:05 a.m. and called for apologies.

APOLOGIES were received from, Linda Barraclough, Debbie Squires, Clive Hodge, Keith Whittam, Charlie Lovick, Buff Rogers, Bruce Commins, Chris Commins, Tim Faithfull and Barry Fitzgerald.

MINUTES of the last Annual General Meeting as circulated in the 2002 Edition of Voice of the Mountains were confirmed on the motion of Harry Ryder and seconded by Ron Briggs.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

This year has been a year of consolidation for the Association. We have dealt with issues both new and old, the first issue being Licence transfers. We had a concerning situation where the Minister for Environment and Conservation, after eleven months, seemed to be stalling with five licence transfers which had been passed by the Alpine Advisory Committee.

In one case the Minister's office suggested that if 80% of the licence was forfeited it might help the transfer of the balance to go ahead. If the area was reduced, this clearly would have made the licence unviable.

After a question in Parliament from Mr Peter Ryan, (Leader of the National Party) - "Will the Minister for Environment and Conservation advise the House whether it is the intention of the government to remove the grazing rights of mountain cattlemen in the Victoria High Country?" Ms Garbutt (Minister for Environment and Conservation) replied: "I would like the Leader of the National Party to listen very carefully, because obviously he has not been listening at all. Of course, this is an opposition which does not listen. It did not listen when it was in government, and that is why it is in opposition now. This government consults as part of its decision making. The government has said time and again, and I have explained it many times, that it will not be changing leases without consultation, without agreement and without the alpine cattlemen volunteering. I hope that is now clear and that the Leader of the National Party has heard it."

After the lengthy process of negotiation by the Association on behalf of its members, all five transfers were completed, unchanged and in time for the 2001-2002 grazing season.

The return of cattle to the Caledonia fire area of 1998 has continued to be of concern and has wider implications for general attitudes towards Park management in the future.

In October 2001 Parks Victoria carried out its annual vegetation surveys to assess the condition for the return of grazing for the 2001-2002 grazing season. Once again we pointed out to Parks Victoria where we felt there were inadequacies in its assessment process. Upon examination of the field data sheets we became concerned as to how Parks Victoria actually performed this task, as there was a greater chance of finding bare ground in the first half of each transect line, indicating there could be bias affecting the process.

We also had concerns with coppicing snow gums, a rabbit warren, and vehicle tracks appearing in the grassland Ecological Vegetation Class, all having an effect on the amount of bare ground recorded, bare ground being the main determinant for the return of grazing.

Another area of concern was the "nine out of ten" rule, meaning nine out of ten sites must pass the 10% bare ground benchmark. With the introduction of this new criteria last year, Parks Victoria seem completely unaware of the mathematical implications this was having on the end result. Put simply, the "nine out of ten" rule changed the 10% figure to 7%, making it more difficult to achieve a suitable environment for the return of grazing.

MCAV has attempted to bring these issues to the attention of Parks Victoria and Professor Nancy Millis. Professor Millis is the chairperson of the Alpine Ecology Scientific Review Panel (AESRP). However Parks Victoria has declined a meeting with Professor Millis and our scientific adviser, on the grounds that he may intimidate her.

This whole process of vegetation assessment is a complete tragedy for the general management of the Alpine National Park.

Parks Victoria created a new and untried method of vegetation assessment which has required continual changes, highlighting the poor design of this new benchmark system, leaving a process which has brought about a lack of confidence in scientific methodology and cost the State hundreds of thousands of dollars, when there is already a widely used and accepted method of assessment - the Cover Class system.

If this is the new style of Park management and scientific methodology for the 21st Century, the environment will be the loser.

This year has seen the further development of a Native Title claim over some areas of East Gippsland and the lower North East. Although the process will be lengthy, we hope that the outcomes will be beneficial to everyone involved. I feel that there is a

need for more involvement by the indigenous community in Crown Land management, their traditional methods of land management created what some today refer to as “the pristine environment before European settlement”. If this is the ideal environment, lets have some assistance from those who created it.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of Sue Reynolds to the Association. Sue has been our Secretary for the past seventeen years bringing consistency, dedication and a high level of ethical credibility to MCAV which has enabled us to support a valid case to continue the tradition of Alpine Grazing in the Victorian High Country. Sue’s intimate knowledge of each and every facet of the Association and its members is a vital asset, and I am pleased to say that Sue’s wealth of knowledge will still be available to the MCAV, but in a more low key role. I would like on behalf of MCAV to thank Sue Reynolds for all her efforts over the past seventeen years and wish her all the best for her retirement.

I would also like to thank Pauline Venn (Marketing Officer) for her contribution through the year, also the members of Central Council, our Special Projects Officer and Vice President for their contribution and assistance.

SECRETARY/TREASURERS REPORT

When I told a friend of mine just the other day that I was retiring from the Association, having been its Secretary and Treasurer for seventeen years, her response was “Heavens, you don’t get that long for murder”.

It has been a strange last few months. Simon Turner asked me to provide a draft job description for the Secretary/Treasurer, and I couldn’t for the life or me think of half of what I did, although it looked pretty amazing when it was finally set down on paper. I had also been thinking of how it all began, how very much a city girl had become involved with a group of mountain cattlemen. There was no complicated job description back in 1984. Graeme Stoney simply asked me if I could type, and I said yes.

I had been an associate member of MCAV since about 1982. My family had a holiday block near Mansfield, and we spent weekends and school holidays there. I joined the famous demonstration march to Parliament House in September 1984, on foot I hasten to add - I am not a rider of horses, and after the demonstration, which has been described as the most popular with Melbourne crowds since the Light Horsemen went to War, I was asked the fateful question, and began work opening and answering a mountain of correspondence sent to Stoneys. It became clear there was a very large support base both within Melbourne and in country Victoria for the history and heritage of the mountain cattlemen. Then Jim Commins and other Association members decided to arrange a meeting in Melbourne for interested people, and asked me to help arrange it. This meeting, held at the Exhibition Buildings in November of 1984 showed the cattlemen just what the possibilities were - it was packed. Now with a strong support base the work began of informing and encouraging the associate members as to how they could support the cattlemen.

The next major hurdle was the Nunawading by election in 1985. On the first count of votes for this Legislative Council seat, the two candidates were tied - Bob Ives for Labor, and Rosemary Varty for the Liberals. The returning officer put the two names in a hat and drew one out, and it was Bob Ives. This would have meant the Legislative Council would be held by Labor. It would have meant the end of the mountain cattlemen. Labor policy was to create an Alpine National Park - without grazing. Fortunately Rosemary Varty decided to appeal the decision. The appeal was successful and a new by election was ordered. It was at this point that the mountain cattlemen decided that Rosemary Varty could do with a hand or two. In the weeks leading up to the by election members and associate members manned shopping centres throughout the electorate handing out stickers and other material urging voters to vote Liberal and save the mountain cattlemen. And they did. The cattlemen and their associates rode again - this time through the streets of Ringwood. Rosemary Varty won a resounding victory, and the cattlemen were acknowledged as having had a hand in it. Very exciting times.

The Labor Government of the time took serious umbrage at the success of the mountain cattlemen's lobbying of the Nunawading electorate, and for a time following Mrs Varty's success members of the Association and their supporters were roundly abused in the Parliament, and some very silly stories were repeated by Labor politicians who were obviously unhappy with the outcome. Eventually Graeme Stoney was called to speak in defence of the Association at the Bar of the Legislative Council. An event which had only happened once before in the Council's history. That morning the Council Chamber was packed to the rafters. And in the end Mr Stoney did not get his opportunity to speak, because of a mix-up when it came to a vote. All this is related in the 1986 Edition 10 copy of the Voice of the Mountains.

Meanwhile, at the time the by election issue was before the Court of Disputed Returns, the conservation Minister of the day, Joan Kirner, went up to Bennison Lookout to announce that the Labor Government would be bringing legislation into the Parliament to create an Alpine National Park. We had only a little over 24 hours notice of this splendid occasion - Jim Commins' invitation had come almost too late. It was the only time I ever heard Jim lose his temper. He roared down the telephone to me in Melbourne, demanding that I do something and get a crowd of associates together to greet Mrs Kirner the next morning. Well, with the aid of Keith and Anne Whittam, we did. Quite a convoy of us left Melbourne in the small hours of the morning, and we were all bright and ready to greet Mrs Kirner at Bennison Lookout. She was horrified. She came around the corner in the official white car, and there were the mountain cattlemen and their supporters with banners, smiling at her in the morning sun. She dropped her head into her hands. There was even a banner saying 'Mountain Cattlemen Care for the High Country' placed behind her official podium. Joan Kirner recovered from her initial unpleasant surprise, and invited all of us down to the Wellington River for lunch. And very nice it was too.

Later in 1985 the Labor Government brought the Alpine National Park Bill into the Parliament where it was finally debated in the Legislative Council. The vote went against the Bill.

All of that was just one round in the battle, and those events took place over a period of just over 12 months. So it was a busy time.

The next few years passed relatively peacefully. Quarterly newsletters were established to keep the associate members up to date, the marketing side of the operation was developed, and the Association held a couple of bush dances. The one which comes to mind is the dance held in the Hall of Commerce at the Showgrounds and we had to have 900 people to make it a success. It was, thanks to the incredible amount of hard work done by Anne and Keith Whittam. Anne thought she might have a nervous breakdown, but thought better of it, and Rusty Connley will know the year and date it was held because it was his 50th birthday, and we gave him a cake.

During this relatively peaceful period, in 1987 Jim Commins retired as President. Jim's contribution to the Association was outstanding. He had held the office for ten years. He taught me everything I know about early settlement of the colony of Victoria, the Land Acts, the Fencing Act, lots about rabbits and early research into grazing in the high country, in fact really, just about everything. He was a wonderful and gifted teacher, a great gentleman and a great friend. The Association organised a grand farewell dinner for him at Leonda, and Joan Kirner was one of the guests of honour. You can read about her appreciation of Jim in the last issue of the Voice of the Mountains. Everybody was there, journalists, politicians, associate members, artists, and entertainers, and Don Kneebone sang Waltzing Matilda backwards! Clive Hodge spoke of the early days in the mountains when horses were really the only form of transport, and he recalled the dances and picnics and sports events which were held around the mountains, and everybody rode to them, and all the boys had to sleep in the woolshed.

The peaceful years were not to last. In 1989 the Labor Government signalled that it would be bringing back the legislation to create the Alpine National Park, and the members of MCAV rolled their sleeves up again and rearmed for battle.

The first half of 1989 was spent in lobbying politicians. The hierarchy of the Association were in Melbourne more than at their home properties. Only going home to feed the dog was the expression, and it must have been difficult and frustrating for families left behind to do the work. The Association knew that this time the legislation would be passed. A strenuous effort went in to make sure that it included grazing, seven year terms for licences which had, up to that time been only for one year, use of huts and yards, and in fact all the issues which are now standard clauses in the grazing licences. Association members fought every inch of the way, and finally, very late at night on May the 25th 1989 the National Parks (Alpine National Park) Bill passed into law with seven year grazing licences. The young man from the Victorian National Parks Association burst into tears.

In 1989 the Labor Government decided they would have a big party on Snowy Airstrip to launch the new Alpine National Park. There was a huge marquee which would seat 700 guests for lunch, another huge marquee which was the information area and full of beautiful posters of the Park, and then the ultimate folly, on the cliff overlooking the valley below, was a flag decorated podium and dainty little white chairs arranged in rows for the VIPs to sit on. Now that night a violent and savage storm blew up, it

blew the podium and chairs into nowhere, they were never seen again, the luncheon marquee had its solid posts snapped in half and the marquee itself shredded into 2 foot wide ribbons, and the information tent just vanished. The Minister, who was to arrive elegantly in a helicopter, couldn't, and had to drive up at top speed, one of the DNRE cars failed to properly negotiate the slippery road and crashed, and eventually a replacement marquee was driven up and anchored on four corners to four 4WD vehicles. The cattlemen spent a peaceful, though windy night down on Holmes Plain.

Some months after the launch of the Park, the Association held a mass protest rally on the Bogong High Plains at Watchbed Creek to seek support for the cattlemen who were to lose their licence areas in the 1991 phase-outs when grazing was to be removed from the northern area of the Plains. The atmosphere was electric and highly charged with emotion when the members of the families who were to lose their licences appeared in a line on the horizon and rode down towards the crowd. But nobody expected the wave upon wave of riders who followed the families down, and there were plenty of tears as the roars of support went up from the spectators. Unfortunately on this occasion the Association was powerless to stop the 'evictions', and subsequently through a method of cutting stocking rates, the cattlemen in the south of the Plains made room for their displaced fellows from the north.

The Government had not finished with the mountain cattlemen. It formed what was called "the Alpine Grazing Working Group", and its task seemed to be to stall the issuing of the seven year licences for as long as possible. There was meeting after meeting, none getting any further towards the licences, and there were some pretty interesting rows along the way. Finally after more than 12 months talking, the Association had had enough and threw down the gauntlet - we stated that we wanted the licences and we would give the Department six weeks to deliver them. We spent the next month preparing a Supreme Court action to force the Department to issue the licences, and on the very day we were to file our documents, the licences issued. I was actually sitting in our barrister's chambers in William Street with Buff Rogers who had generously agreed to allow himself to be the Plaintiff, when Harry Ryder faxed through his licence. Of course, we found out later that they were issued because of the pending Supreme Court action, and were issued in such a hurry that many of them contained errors which in some cases, remain to this day.

Once the seven year licences were issued the cattlemen believed that peace would somehow miraculously descend and the greenies would go back to wherever greenies go. This was not to be. Having suffered the 1991 phase outs, the cattlemen now had to face the push for wilderness areas. This time the system for creating wilderness was to be very different to anything the cattlemen had faced before. There would be no discussion, and the main points of the management plans for wilderness were to be set by legislation. The legislation 'creating' wilderness passed through Parliament without any proposed areas being identified, and therefore local people did not think they would be affected. The wilderness boundaries came later. Some cattlemen were affected by the wilderness boundaries, and in one case the licensee took the Department of Conservation and Environment (DNRE) was then called, to Court. The Court decided the case in favor of the licensee - a great, but expensive victory.

There was fun and frivolity as well as hard work and worry. Members of the Association took a bus trip to Longreach as guests of honour at the annual Ringers Muster. This trip was one long party and the coach crew - captain, co-driver and cook all became instant members of the Association. We all had adventures, some more unexpected than others. Leonard Ryan went mustering in a helicopter, and years later still could not bear to even see one on television. We discovered the beautiful singing voices of Clive Hodge, Rex Jefferies and Tiger Ripper, the mountain cattlemen beat the locals at mustering cattle, and the coach crew shouted us dinner at the Bourke RSL on the way home. This trip inspired the creation of the Don Kneebone Mountain Heritage Award. I have never been so hot in my life. I think it was over 40 degrees nearly every day.

And then a new Government came into power and nothing much changed.. Two members of the Association stood for Parliament and were elected. I think we can claim that their skills were honed in the fires they had been through as officers of MCAV. During this time the Association had a lady President for the first, and only time in Mary Goldsworthy, and one of her major projects was the standardization of laws and regulations in regard to travelling stock on roads. The MCAV worked closely with the Victorian Farmers Federation, and achieved its aim to move freely with stock from the home property to the high country without hindrance and red tape. Life was a little more peaceful. MCAV, this time represented by the late and great Jim Commins made a major contribution to the Victorian Fire Management Code of Practice, and working with Jim on this project was a delight and taught me much. Jim was passionate about fuel reduction burning and the role grazing had as a management tool in this regard. "The smoke free alternative" he used to call grazing in this context. He went into battle with the bureaucrats on this and other issues, and enjoyed every minute of it.

Jim relished locking horns with bureaucrats and had his own particular style which was, in fact, unbeatable. I was fortunate to see this at close hand, since I usually accompanied him to meetings to take notes. He was an impressive man to look at, tall, straight and with that hint of fire shown by the red hair. He was friendly and he listened carefully to the arguments being put. And then he calmly reduced his opponents to jelly. He most often commenced his defence with a brisk historical lecture on pioneering settlement. He spoke of past problems and lessons learned from mistakes made. He discussed issues of common sense and experience. He explained difficulties which country people had to overcome in relationship to distance and communication. He spoke with authority and from experience and in a manner which assumed that these city bureaucrats would understand exactly what it was like to live and work in the bush. They didn't, but didn't dare to interrupt. He always hoped for, and generally manufactured, an excuse to discuss the role of fire and fuel reduction burning. And he always ended with a concise list of reasons why his position should be accepted. It was a breathtaking performance and always worked.

In 1997 discussions began on the renewal of the grazing licences which fell due in 1998. These negotiations went on for 12 months and looked into every aspect of alpine grazing. Every condition on the original licence was taken apart and examined, and we had some extremely difficult times I can tell you. There were highlights however. Parks Victoria suggested seriously that tail tags should be used as a means

of identification of cattle, as their new city trained Rangers were having difficulty in learning the ear marking system. Despite having diagrams. Another highlight was when a well known researcher frankly admitted that, over seven years of monitoring a burnt site on the Fainter, although the condition of the grassland site varied over time, no statistical trends were detected, and that the variation could have been caused by seasonal conditions. He was shocked to realise that I had taken his statements down in shorthand. We went through the worries of Parks Victoria's contention that the grazing licence fees should be increased by 600%, that there should be a minimum licence fee, that there should be fees for transfers of licences, and then finally that the area of three grazing licences would be slashed. Harry Ryder descended on Parliament House and held discussions with a number of politicians and the chief of staff of the Department of Conservation. Shortly afterwards Parks Victoria informed us that all the licences would be renewed, no licence areas would be withdrawn, and stock allocations would remain. There were a few changes to the licences but these were administrative in nature.

Our next challenge was the Caledonia fire. This is an ongoing issue. It is worth noting that as soon as the Bracks Labor Government came into power the attitude of Parks Victoria hardened significantly. I think it is fair to say that from that time onwards Parks Victoria have done everything in their power to keep the cattle from returning to the Caledonia grazing areas. Expensive vegetation surveys and assessments, bog assessments, formation of expert panels, reports etc. have all cost the poor unknowing taxpayer hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is frustrating to know that these taxpayer dollars have been spent to achieve a result that the same taxpayers would not want. The unending struggle to return cattle to Caledonia is well documented in the last issues of the Voice of the Mountains.

I would like to mention our honorary Associate members. This small group of five dedicated people have been rewarded by the members of the Association for their outstanding assistance over the years. Keith and Anne Whittam, who put their lives on hold during the Nunawading by election, served as the Associates' voice on Central Council for many years, expanded and ran the marketing, arranged social events, and forever afterwards gave their time to getting the Newsletters out. Don Porter whose artistic skills we are reminded of each year when we look at the Port crocks, artwork for marketing, photographs of this and that, constantly at our beck and call, always calm and unruffled and never puts in an account. Don instigated and ran the photograph competition at the Get Togethers up until the last couple of years. Debbie Squires and Linda Barraclough. Each an inspiration. From them came the idea to create the Don Kneebone Mountain Heritage Award. They created, organised and arranged the judging of it. And they donated the prizes. The Voice of the Mountains would not exist today without their dedicated hard work in putting this journal together. And I happen to know that when the journal is a bit short of articles, they write them as well. And poetry. I am sworn to secrecy never to reveal the assumed name Debbie and Linda use as "author" of their poetry. I thank all of them for their friendship and assistance to me over the past seventeen years.

I need to mention those who were made Life members of the Association. Jim Commins, Lyle McCready, Jack Treasure, Ross Blair, Jack Lovick. We have our memories of these men. Graeme Stoney and I were each made Life members in 1991.

For the future? I will still have some involvement with the Association of course. I have been appointed to the Alpine Advisory Committee, and provided I survive retirement, I will be involved with that for the next three years. I might sometimes be asked to remember something, or to give advice, I don't know. I am sure that the Association will benefit from my retirement. I expect an invigorating mighty rushing wind to roar through the Association bringing new and clever ways and new experience with it. I would hate to be in the shoes of Parks Victoria right now.

This is also, of course, my last year as Treasurer, and I am very pleased with the steady improvement in the Association's finances. You will be aware that the financial position of the Association has caused some serious concern over the past two years, and members and associate members have given generously of their time and money to keep the Association viable. There has been a small increase in income. Members and Associate member subscriptions appear to have increased significantly, and we can wish this was so. However the current figures reflect the fact that the renewal invoices went out in June, and many were paid in that month, although they are not due until the end of July. I recommend that the subscription invoices now be sent out in June prior to the end of the financial year. Part of the increase in subscriptions is also due to the fact that we have now had twelve months to see an improvement since increasing the subscription levels for both full members and associate members.

We have tried, and generally succeeded in keeping the expenses down. It should be noted that the figure for insurance does not show up in this years statement having been paid in advance of the 30th June 2001. You might like to note the bank fees and charges which have nearly doubled over the past twelve months. This reflects a common situation within the community. We have also made credit card facilities more available, and this also has an effect in increasing the bank fees.

Although there is an improvement in the financial position of the Association there is no room for complacency, and I would recommend restraint in spending over the next twelve months.

My parting words of advice would be to remember that the remedy for the Association will always be political. Always keep the war chest full, and learn the wise words of the late Heather Mitchell - "You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar". Very wise words indeed. (Heather Mitchell was a great supporter of the mountain cattlemen. She was also President of the Victorian Farmers Federation and the Public Land Council of Victoria to mention only two of her many contributions to rural communities).

Thanks to all the members of the Association who have worked with me and who I have come to know well and regard as my friends - as delegates on the Central Council, all the Presidents and Vice Presidents, to all the special project officers and marketing officers, and not least Bill Crump, our Auditor. It has been a marvellous experience and privilege to work with you all.

I recommend that the financial statements be accepted by the members.

Moved Harry Ryder seconded Ross Brown that the financial statements as presented to the meeting be accepted. Carried.

MARKETING OFFICER'S REPORT

Marketing has experienced another good year in the value of sales. Compared with last year, our sales increased by over \$2,000. This result, as always, was due to the successful Get Together held at Rose River where takings of almost \$18,000 were recorded.

This increase in sales makes the bottom line net profit, down on last year's figure look disappointing. I expect that this minor downturn will be a one off event, and remain optimistic that the net results for next year will be better.

There are a couple of reasons for the downturn. Last financial year we experienced, for the first time, the full impact of the GST on marketing turnover. Prior to the GST being implemented, careful planning permitted me to stock up in advance. However with a small Association such as ours and with limited finances to carry large quantities of stock, the GST finally caught up with us, that is, the majority of our sales made in the 2000/2001 financial year were made with goods purchased prior to GST. Our mark ups have come under some scrutiny and I report that whilst there are some items where the margin is small, generally we follow current commercial practice in this area. Our aim is to move stock as quickly as possible, this obviously has been helped with regular wholesale sales to retailers, however wholesale sales do reduce our buy/sell margins even though stock is being turned over. I repeat we are not in a position where we have the finances to purchase large volumes of stock. The figure for purchases is also up on last year. The reason for this is that I decided to change the stock to include new lines and continue with those tried and tested at the 2001 Get Together. Marketing cannot be allowed to stagnate, and new ideas must be tried regularly to keep the items we offer new and interesting.

At the Rose River Get Together I put together fifty show bags, these were very popular with the kids. We had no trouble selling them and were able to offload some of the old stagnant stock. It would be in our interest to repeat them again in 2003 and could include tourism brochures should any one want to supply me with some. The marketing raffle was again a huge success with David Belcher collecting the goods with orange ticket F50.

The ceramic port crocks were the number one item on many peoples Get Together shopping lists with over sixty five crocks being secured with the pre release offer. We increased our port order to twelve dozen in 2002, however 10 crocks remained unsold as at the 30th June stock take, thus leading us to conclude that 10 dozen should be adequate going forward.

Lovicks Hut is the feature hut for the nineteenth edition 2003 release as a tribute to Jack.

Post Get Together sales occurred on a small scale and we are grateful for the continued support of Stoney's High Country shop. We received a reasonable order from the South Eastern 4 x 4 Centre. In June we gave members an opportunity for a strictly limited time, the change to purchase our adult windcheaters at a reduced price. The offer was successful with over twenty windcheaters being posted to various parts of the continent. Some were even intended for overseas friends.

For those of you who subscribe or read *R.M. Williams Outback Magazine* you could have been mistaken for thinking the Association had embarked on a national advertising campaign.

The June/July issue featured people proudly wearing our gear in three separate stories. First, the story on the High Country calf sales where Fiona Burnell from Benalla was photographed looking very resplendent in her white MCAV polo shirt. Next, the Cook family from Benambra. In a family photograph John's son Danny is wearing a MCAV windcheater and John's two grandkids look cute in their MCAV caps. Finally in the Beaut Ute section we saw Buck Williamson from Heyfield in his MCAV red singlet for all readers to clearly see what our message is.

A new product to the merchandise range for 2002, is a very warm polar fleece vest. Initially thirty of these vests were ordered in April and were offered for the first time in the mail order form that accompanied the June newsletter. I am pleased to announce that as of the 30th June stock take I only had eight left. Another 20 vests were ordered. The vests are embroidered with the MCAV logo and are made with anti pill polar fleece, with zip up fronts and side pockets they come in Red Navy and Black.

As always I conclude my marketing report by giving thanks to friends who give up their weekend to assist me at the Get Together. Rachel Parsons gave us a hand for a couple of hours on Saturday morning and was blown away by how busy we were. Thanks to Kim Rawlings, Jeannine and Fred Pascale for being there all day both days and for making my role easier with set up and pack up and of course the all important sales in between. What a team.

SETTING OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

It was agreed that all subscription fees remain at the same level as the previous year. Moved Peter McCormack seconded Ross Brown that the members subscription remain at \$220 (including GST) for the first 100 head and then \$3.30 per head thereafter. That the Associate member fees remain at family membership \$38.50 inclusive of GST and that single membership remain at \$27.50 inclusive of GST. Carried.

SETTING OF HONORARIUMS.

It was agreed that all honorariums remain at the same level as last year with the exception of that of the Secretary Treasurer which needed to be increased from \$20,000 to \$25,000. The honorarium for the President shall be \$3,000 plus expenses, the honorarium for the Vice President shall be \$1,000 plus expenses, the honorarium for the Special Projects Officer shall be \$1,000 plus expenses, the honorarium for the marketing office shall be \$1,000 plus expenses and the honorarium for the

Secretary/Treasurer shall be \$25,000 plus expenses. Moved John Cook seconded Bill Cumming that these honorariums be confirmed. Carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS.

The Hon Graeme Stoney MLC took the Chair for the election of Office Bearers. The following officers were elected.

President - Simon Turner nominated by Ross Brown was elected.

Vice President - Bruce McCormack nominated by Harry Ryder was elected.

Special Projects Officer - Harry Ryder nominated by Stuart Hicks was elected.

Marketing Officer - Pauline Venn nominated by Simon Turner was elected.

Secretary/Treasurer - Tim Barker nominated by Ross Brown was elected.

Graeme Stoney spoke about Sue Reynolds' place in the history of the Mountain Cattlemens' Association of Victoria and congratulated her on her long service to the Association. Moved Graeme Stoney that this meeting places on record the heartfelt thanks of the MCAV to Sue Reynolds for 17 years of faithful service to the Association. The motion was carried with acclamation.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR.

Moved Tim Barker seconded Simon Turner that Mr Terry Quirk be nominated as auditor of the Association. The Chairman thanked Mr Bill Crump for his long service to the Association as its auditor.

APPOINTMENT TO THE PUBLIC LAND COUNCIL OF VICTORIA - Bruce McCormack was nominated to attend PLCV meetings on behalf of the Association.

OTHER BUSINESS.

It was noted that the new telephone number for the Association would be (03) 9429 8455. The fax number is (03) 9427 9324, email address is: barker@vicnet.net.au. The new address of the Association is Post Office Box 5088, Burnley 3121.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD.....Chairman.