



The Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria Inc.

AFFILIATED WITH
THE VICTORIAN FARMERS' FEDERATION

MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS NEWS

Newsletter of the M.C.A.V.
P O Box 294 Mansfield 3722

September 1993

Dear Members and Associate Members,

SUBSCRIPTION FEES

Thanks very much to all those members who have been prompt in the payment of their subs. Those who have put this task off, or perhaps have forgotton - this brief note is a memory jogger. Could you please pay your subscription fees as soon as possible. It is important that the full members make sure their fees are paid. You will note that the Annual Meeting is scheduled for the 8th October, and members will be unable to vote if they are not financial.

1994 GET TOGETHER

The North East Branch has its plans well advanced for this very special Get Together. 1994 is the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Association, then called the Mountain District Cattlemens Association. The 1994 Get Together will be a celebration of this 25th anniversary and will have very strong focus on the culture and heritage of the Mountain Cattlemen. It is to be called "The 1994 Get Together and Heritage Weekend". Mountain Cattlemen have a strong and proud heritage associated with the Victorian Alpine area, elsewhere in Australia, with the banning of Alpine grazing, this living link with the early pioneering history has been relegated to museums and theme parks. In the Victorian High Country can you see mustering still carried out on horseback rather than by vehicle be it motor bike, truck, or helicopter. The old country skills have also been kept alive, mostly through sheer necessity!

The 1994 Get Together and Heritage Weekend will have many surprises, and the North East are still deep in their planning stage, but already some attractions have been confirmed. They are:

- Whip plaiting and saddlery making.
- Horse shoeing.

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Working Clydesdale horses - ploughing
and using other old equipment.
Blade shearing and spinning.
Shingle splitting.
Cross-cut saw demonstration. (Wait till
you see who the exponents of this
old skill are! No! I'm not telling.
Waggon rides for children (and the young
at heart).
Rides in an old fashioned Baker's cart
drawn by horse, of course.
Dog obedience trial.

All this in addition to a Polo Cross demonstration by the Albury Border Polo Cross Association, Ladies Gum Boot Throwing, a Childrens Art Competition (paints, and paper provided at a special Childrens tent - all art work will be displayed and judged), Dog High Jump, and a Photographic competition.

The North East Branch are still hoping to be able to demonstrate milking and butter making, and damper making.

These are in addition to the horse events - there will still be the junior and senior Cattlemens Cups - could not be a Get Together without those events - plus other horse events and novelties, and of course the Don Kneebone Heritage Award.

The Get Together will be held on Max Blair's property at Whorouly, and the dates confirmed as the 15th and 16th January 1994.

More information on this very special weekend will be made available, and invitations will be sent to all members and associates later in the year. This is just an advance notice to tantalise you all. Make a note of the dates now. Incidentally Whorouly - near Milawa, is easily accessible from Melbourne.

CULTURAL HERITAGE WORKING GROUP

The cultural heritage of the Australian Alps is definitely the buzz at the moment, and it is vital that M.C.A.V. be fully involved and work hard towards having its heritage recognised and preserved.

There is currently being carried on a review of cultural heritage management policies in the Australian Alps. This project, titled "Review of Policies for Cultural Heritage Management" is funded through the Cultural Heritage Working Group of the Alps Liason Committee. The Alps Liason Committee is comprised of representatives from New South Wales, the A.C.T. and Victorian Departments of Conservation, and makes recommendations to each of those Government bodies on management practices over the whole of the Australian Alps.

The outcome of the current review will be to develop a discussion paper canvassing existing policies and making recommendations on ways of achieving consistency of policy and its implementation across the Alps.

M.C.A.V. was contacted by the project officer, and in mid-July representatives of the North East Branch met with the Consultant for lunch at the Happy Valley Hotel in Ovens. In discussion before and over lunch, Cattlemen had the opportunity to explain to the Consultant the significance of their heritage and the importance that it should be protected in order to be carried on by generations to come.

The Consultant said that she was most impressed with the Cattlemens' point of view, and appreciated the opportunity to speak with them first hand. She went away burdened with copies of the Voice of the Mountains and all the promotional material we could lay our hands on.

At the same time there is an assessment being carried out by the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources and the Australian Heritage Commission of National Estate values in East Gippsland and the Central Highlands. This proposal stems from a necessity to develop a common and agreed data base (of National Estate), since both State and Federal legislation applies to heritage values. Whilst not directly involved in this assessment process, the M.C.A.V. is kept informed of progress. It is not considered that this assessment will impact upon alpine grazing.

INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL STUDENTS.

There is continuing, almost daily demand for our information kits, and the feed-back - when given - is extremely positive. We are also receiving increasing requests for members of the Association to speak to students at school, and when on school camps. In fact in one week early in August four schools visited the Mansfield area and requested speakers, and another school wanted a Cattleman at Mount Beauty. We have had two phone calls since from teachers, both praising the Cattlemen who spoke to their groups, and saying that issues had been raised which had not been considered before, and many attitudes had been changed to a more positive view. Both teachers said that they had been very impressed with the Cattlemen, and that the informal discussions had greatly benefitted the students. This is obviously an area we cannot afford to ignore.

At present we are exploring the possibility of having a 20 minute video produced as an addition to the school kit, and perhaps as copies for sale through our marketing. Details will be presented to the next Central

Council for decision, since an initial financial outlay will be required. Will keep you all posted on this.

BUSH DANCE

The Bush Dance was held last Saturday 28th August at Gumbuya Park. The crowd was not as big as last year, which made much more room for some energetic dancing, and everybody had lots of fun. The weather on the night was just perfect, and some well known faces were seen still chatting around the fire at 4:00 a.m.

Chris Stoney - Mountain Cattleman, entertained the assembled crowd with recitations of 'Hanrahan', and 'The Droving Days' to their great delight, and Rex Jeffries and Harry Hams sang songs such as Wild Rover no More.

Many people took advantage of the opportunity to camp, and enjoyed visiting the animals and the toboggans the next day.

We most sincerely thank Ros and John Andrews who went to the trouble of organising the Dance for the Members and Associates.

ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW

Mountain Cattlemen are involved in this years Royal Melbourne Show as part of the Show Day programme on Thursday September 23rd. As part of the Show's commitment to the promotion of rural activities, the public will be invited onto the Arena between 12.00 and 2.30 to view various demonstrations and activities. Mountain Cattlemen will be represented by Ron Connley demonstrating packing and pack horses, and Allan Brewer will assist with commentating. If you are going to be at the Show on Show Day do find Allan and Ron and lend your support.

WE NEED MORE RIDERS TO JOIN US IN THE GRAND PARADE AT THE ROYAL SHOW ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18th.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TAKING PART PLEASE CONTACT ROS ANDREWS ON (03) 818 7833 BY MONDAY SEPTEMBER 13.

Thats all for now. Notice of Annual General Meeting is enclosed. This meeting will be held at the Victorian Farmers Federation, Collins Street Melbourne on 8th October at 10:30 a.m. and all members and associates are invited to attend.

AND DON'T FORGET THE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION.