



MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS NEWS

Newsletter of the Mountain Cattlemens Association of Victoria
PO BOX 294, Mansfield Vic 3722

September 1990

Dear Members and Associates,

This Newsletter includes the Notice of Meeting and Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the Association which is to be held at the Victorian Farmers Federation, 24 Collins Street Melbourne on Monday 29th October 1990 at 11:00 a.m. A Central Council Meeting will follow the A.G.M. and Notice and Agenda for this will be sent out later on with the Minutes of the last Council Meeting.

All members and associate members are cordially invited to attend the Annual General Meeting.

As many of our supporters are aware, the Association is working on some scientific confirmation of its claims before going further with the public campaign to keep Mountain Cattlemen and their cattle in the Alps.

The National Farmers Federation financial support is being used to commission Rangeland Scientist, Mr. Roger Oxley to work on behalf of the M.C.A.V. Mr. Oxley is at present assessing available scientific papers and identifying gaps in knowledge. He will also be conducting field work on the Bogong High Plains this summer.

The outcome of this far reaching study by Mr. Oxley will not only have its implications for the Mountain Cattlemen, but will, we think, have national importance. The following is taken from an article by courtesy of the Australian Rural Times of July 19, 1990 written by Peter Fray:

"Can and should the nation's food producers, exporters and processors trust the greens?"

The answer to both questions at the moment seems to be a qualified yes, most farmers and business people probably think they want to, but are not sure if its worth it. Quite understandably, they are still unsure if the benefits outweigh the costs.

The more realistic answer is the sector cannot afford not to learn to live with the greens. Cost/benefit

analysis or pure economics may not be the entirely appropriate benchmark in this debate : social, political and ecological considerations will play a vital role.

The greens are certainly starting to look at the environment debate through economic-tinted glasses. They are stealing the march from those who depend on the bush for a living.

The point is that the environment movement will not go away, and neither will it be easily defeated in a head-on clash. As most primary producers are aware, the farm sector is only worth five per cent of the national vote; the greens can probably lay claim to at least 10 times that percentage.

The three main lobby groups have set sights on many issues that will directly affect the food and fibre industries, and are quickly developing positions that embrace both ecology and economics.

They are trying to bring solutions, not only problems, to this country's policy-makers and the general public.

Sadly, the same cannot be said of the farm or business lobby. It may see dollars in landcare or so-called green products, but it has yet to grasp that the long-term future of their industries will involve green-tinged solutions.

Of all the nation's farm lobbies, only Victoria's Mountain Cattlemens Association has, with the aid of the Australian Farmers Fighting Fund monies, employed a full-time scientific advisor able to take green issues on board.

Meanwhile, the rest of the farm lobby, including the National Farmers Federation, seems to think it can achieve a satisfactory result from the sustainability debate mainly by talking economics.

The greens can match - and will largely support - any argument that runs along the lines that Australia needs export income from the use of its land and water resources. Of course, there are basic issues - such as green opposition to further land clearing - on which the two sides may have to shed some blood.

The greens, however, are becoming increasingly capable of honing in on specific areas where straight financial debate will not win the day, but a combination of economics and ecology could.

The Australian Conservation Foundations recent research into Queensland's mulga land is a case in point.

It rings hollow to criticise the foundation for being purists or anti-intellectual and pseudo-scientific, when it spends its own funds and resources on such issues.

This again brings up the question of trust. Several parts of the green agenda - and the methods used to further it - do make the average producer/business person more than a little concerned.

The Greenpeace raid on Nufarm in Melbourne, for instance, has served to highlight that the greens often take actions largely to win the PR battle in the cities.

But the point is the greens and their motives are sincere, they rightly believe that this country's environment and ecology has been stuffed up, that native species are being lost at an alarming rate, that land degradation is probably costing the economy about \$2 billion a year.

They do not really have a hidden agenda; they have a broad open and often controversial one. The food sector cannot afford to dismiss the greens, nor, in the long run, will it really gain from lambasting or distrusting them."

RANGELAND

Mr Jim Commins attended an Australian conference on Rangeland Management in Carnarvon, Western Australia.

After attending the Conference he believes that Victorias attitude on rangeland management is behind, and out of step, with the expressions of protection and sustainable productivity put forward from the rest of Australia, and the explanation of Victorian policy on wildfire control evoked scepticism. This is a worry if we consider that Victoria is the most fire prone State in Australia, and perhaps the World.

It is therefore interesting to note that National Parks officers will be conducting burning trials at Wilsons Promontory National Park. Alex Arbuthnot, President of the Victorian Farmers Federation noted in his column in Stock & Land of 30/8/80 that "apparently the scientists believe they have underestimated the value of burning for retention of native pastures in parks."

How often have we heard Mountain Cattlemen trying to persuade the Department of Conservation and Environment of this fact. Perhaps there is still time to learn that Alpine Grazing reduces Blazing.

ALPINE GRAZING WORKING GROUP

The Department of Conservation and Environment have asked

representatives of the M.C.A.V. to attend a series of meetings to discuss possible solutions to the 1991 Phaseouts which will affect Bogong High Plains, The Bluff, Black Mountain, Cobberas Tingaringy and East Gippsland Mountain Cattlemen. The first meeting was held in August, and was attended by Doug Treasure, Graeme Stoney, Harry Ryder, Kevin Kelly and Sue Silvers. The second meeting is scheduled for early October.

On the agenda for these meetings are conditions which are to be part of the 7 year licences, yet to be issued. The first meeting was cordial, however the tone may change as the harder issues are discussed. The M.C.A.V. has taken the line that, unless the Government can keep its promise that no grazing family will be disadvantaged by the 1991 phaseouts, the M.C.A.V. will recommend to its members that they stay on their leases after 1991. More information at the Annual Meeting.

GET TOGETHER

Mansfield Branch will be hosting the 1991 Get Together. President of the Branch, Mr. Terry Murphy, has announced that the Branch is attempting to obtain permission to use a new, suitable and privately owned site in the district. However, if this fails, it appears the venue will once again be Sheepyard Flat.

The venue and the confirmed date will be announced at the Annual Meeting. Mansfield Branch has only 8 members and is asking for help on the preceding days to set up, help during the weekend, and some assistance to clean up afterwards. If you can lend a hand it would be much appreciated, and you should contact the Secretary of the Mansfield Branch, Mr. John Gough on telephone number 057 752 868, or write to John at 13 Apollo Street, Mansfield 3722.

MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN STICKER

At the last Council meeting the idea was floated that our sticker should include the address of the Association plus perhaps the fact that we operate in Victoria. Any member or associate who cares to submit a new design incorporating this idea, along with our present sticker, please could they write to Sue Silvers, P O Box 294 Mansfield, 3722 enclosing their designs.

HORSE SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

Mansfield bush horsemen have come into their own this Winter after forming a search and rescue unit. Formed under the wing of the Mansfield S.E.S, the horsemen have been invaluable in assisting in several successful searches in the Mt. Buller/Howqua and Delatite areas. Most of the horsemen are full or associate members, and have received high praise from the local Police Inspector for the role they have played in the unusually high number of searches this Winter season.

September 25, 1990

A TOP WEEKEND

Those who have been wouldn't miss it, those who have never been shouldn't miss it. Come and meet old friends and new at our Annual Get Together.

A weekend of exciting horse events, whipcracking and demonstrations. You will be treated to an excellent view of the Cattlemens Cup run over our 1st class course.

Musical entertainment provided by: Threes A Crowd (Sat night 7:00 - 1:00 a.m.) Worlds Worst Band Sunday night. Come along and enjoy yourselves.

A good variety of food, drinks, & all amenities. 2 trailers of Rows A Loo toilets will be provided Unlimited campsites available on the banks of the Howqua River. Separate Horse Camping Area.

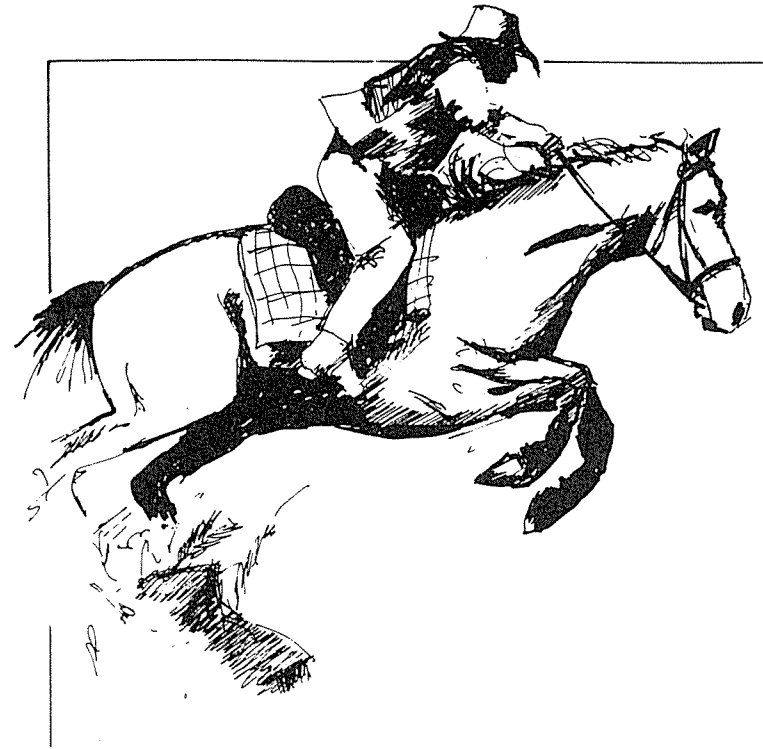
Entry Fee \$20 per head for the weekend & \$10 per head for Sunday. Children 15 years and under FREE

The proceeds for the weekend will be used in the continuing fight to retain the multiple use of the High Country and Bush.

The BOCZE BUS will patrol the area at all times

NO DOGS

NO CAMPFIRE AT ALL



Cover sketch by Don Porter

THE MANSFIELD BRANCH OF THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC. INVITE YOU TO OUR:

1991 SHEEPYARD FLAT GET TOGETHER

TO BE HELD SATURDAY THE 2ND & SUNDAY THE 3RD FEBRUARY

1991

COME ALONG FOR TWO FULL DAYS OF NON-STOP ENTERTAINMENT



The Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria Inc.

AFFILIATED WITH
THE VICTORIAN FARMERS' FEDERATION

MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS GET TOGETHER 2/3rd FEBRUARY, 1991

Program of events subject to change without notice.
Entries close for Packhorse Race, Stockmens & Associates Dash, Relay Race and Stock Horse Trial - 2:00p.m. Saturday.
Entries for all other events close at Secretary's Office 15 minutes prior to starting time.

SATURDAY

- 1:00 10 YEARS & UNDER WHIPCRACKING
- 1:30 OVER 10 YEARS & UNDER 15 YEARS WHIPCRACKING
- 2:00 LADIES AUSTRALIAN WHIPCRACKING CHAMPIONSHIP
- 2:30 ASSOCIATES DASH HEATS
- 3:30 STOCKMANS DASH HEATS
- 4:30 OPEN WHIPCRACKING
- 5:00 PACK HORSE HEATS
- 5:30 CATTLEMENS WHIPCRACKING
- 6:00 OPEN WHIPCRACKING ON HORSEBACK
- 7:00 BAND STARTS

SUNDAY

- 8:30 FINAL PACK HORSE RACE
- 9:30 JUNIOR CATTLEMENS CUP. AGE 14-20. HATS COMPULSORY
- 10:00 CALL TO ORDER
- 10:30 INTRODUCTION OF CUP RIDERS
- 10:45 CATTLEMENS CUP (OPEN ONLY TO MCAV MEMBERS & EMPLOYEES)
- 11:00 PRESENTATION OF CUP
- 11:30 FINAL STOCKMANS DASH
- 12:00 FINAL ASSOCIATES DASH
- 12:30 RELAY RACE
- 1:00 RESCUE RACE
- 1:30 RUNAMUCK CUP
- 2:00 STOCKMANS EVENT

OTHER EVENTS ON SUNDAY, AND A TALENT NIGHT!

BAR & B.B.Q. available Friday night onwards
Trophies to be given as soon as event finishes
Stack Hats to be worn by children 16 years & under in all Horse Races
Enquiries: Bruce McCormack, 12 Reynolds Street Mansfield (057 752886)
Entry forms for Cattlemens Cup available from Branch Secretaries.
Entry Forms for remaining horse events at Secretary's Office before 2:00 p.m. Saturday.

COMPETITORS PLEASE NOTE: THE PROGRAM WILL BE RUN ON TIME. LATE ARRIVALS WILL BE LEFT BEHIND