

MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS NEWS

Newsletter of the Mountain Cattlemens Association
of Victoria Incorporated
P O Box 294, Mansfield, Victoria, 3722
Phone: 057 751 600
Fax: 057 751 610

October, 1997

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 28TH SEPTEMBER 1997

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at the Victorian Farmers Federation, Collins Street, Melbourne on the 28th September 1997. It was very pleasing to see so many members and associate members present, and we all enjoyed a gossip and the opportunity to catch up over the usual sandwich lunch. Many of the members and several associate members remained and sat in on the Central Council meeting which followed the annual meeting.

The following office bearers were elected for 1997/1998:

President:	Harry Ryder
Vice President:	Stuart Hicks
Secretary/Treasurer:	Sue Silvers
Special Projects:	Jim Commins
Marketing Officer:	Pauline Venn.

Harry Ryder gave the following report:

This has been a year of behind the scenes work for your Executive.

I managed to attend all Branch AGMs and found that to be very worthwhile. It is a great opportunity to catch up

with members who aren't delegates to Central Council.

On public land any long term security can only come from having community acceptance of what we do. This is something we as an organisation must never lose sight of when plotting our future course.

Over the past 12 months there has been much negotiating with Department (NRE) staff in relation to conditions for seven year bush grazing licences and other matters.

This is all vital activity but I feel it is critical not to rely just on the bureaucratic negotiations but to ensure that we do maintain a very public face. Whilst we have public support we will get a hearing from the Government, but the moment they feel we have lost our popularity the end will be nigh.

In the next 12 months we will be facing a number of other serious issues. The major one currently being discussed will be the renewal of the seven year Alpine grazing licence. This has the potential to cause as much headache as anything we have had to face in the past. The Department has indicated

that it wants to discuss almost every issue on the licence.

The Regional Forest Agreements and the associated Forest Management Plan have potential to impact considerably on bush grazing and everyone will need to be vigilant when the plans are discussed in each area. This will require members to write submissions responding to proposals.

Over the next 12 months we face perhaps the most crucial time since the inception of the Association.

As a group we have compromised more than enough over the years and there is no more room for further compromise. I want to take this opportunity to urge all members to become active and not leave the job to the regular few.

The Omeo Branch ran an excellent Get Together at Gibbo Park this year and all members who were involved are to be congratulated on the success of the weekend. The program was great with many events that invited crowd participation as well as the regular horse events. The Cattlemens Cut-out event was tremendous. It captures a bit of the everyday work of the cattleman and puts it on display for the public to enjoy. I would like to see this event continued at future Get Togethers. The weekend had a great atmosphere. Also special thanks to Pauline Venn and Janine Bonney for their very dedicated effort in the Marketing Tent which was such a financial success.

Special thanks must go to Linda Barraclough and Debbie Squires for their enormous effort every year in producing Voice of the Mountains and

also in organising the Don Kneebone Heritage Award.

Our gratitude must also go to Don Porter for his regular efforts with the photo competition and work on the port label. Without support like this the Get Together and the Association would be very much diminished.

The Association is also immensely appreciative of Annie Whittam's untiring efforts in doing all the mailouts.

Another special mention must go to Bruce McCormack, Chris Stoney and Terry Murphy for all the time and effort they put into talking to school groups that request speakers up at Mansfield.

Lastly another big thanks to our hardworking Secretary Sue Silvers who gives our organisation its very professional touch.

GET TOGETHER 1998 - HOSKING'S PROPERTY 'ROSE VALLEY'

The North East Branch is at it again!

The coming Get Together to be held on 10th and 11th January 1998 will be at a very special venue. Mr and Mrs Hosking have very kindly allowed the Association to use part of their property 'Rose Valley' on the Rose River Road near Whitfield. The Association wishes to thank Mr and Mrs Hosking for their most generous gesture.

A flyer with all the information you will need about the Get Together is enclosed with this Newsletter.

**ALSO ENCLOSED IN
NEWSLETTERS SENT TO FULL
MEMBERS OF THE
ASSOCIATION IS THE ENTRY
FORM FOR THE MOUNTAIN
CATTLEMENS CUP - BOTH
SENIOR AND JUNIOR
DIVISIONS.**

It is important to note that Entry Forms for the Cup Race MUST be received in the office by Monday 1st December 1997.

Entries to be sent to:

The Secretary
MCAV Inc
P O Box 294
MANSFIELD VIC 3722

**LATE ENTRIES WILL MOST
DEFINITELY NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Cup Race Entry Forms must be signed by two full members of the Association. These members must also be financial.

Cup Race Entrants, if full members, must also be financial.

Junior Cup Entry Forms must also be sent to Post Office Box 294 Mansfield by Monday 1st December 1997. The conditions regarding nominations and the financial status of members also applies to the Junior Cup.

**Other Horse Events and General
Events.**

An Entry Form for other Horse Events on the programme is also enclosed with this Newsletter. The closing date for horse entries is Monday 5th January 1998. In the case of other horse events the Entry Forms must be sent to the Get Together Secretary:

Ms. Sue Briggs,
c/- RMB 6536
WANGARATTA 3677

Sue can be contacted by phone on:

(03) 5853 1699

The full program for the Get Together will be available at the gate to 'Rose Valley' from the 9th January 1998. For further details in the meantime, please phone Sue Briggs.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC
COMPETITION**

Unfortunately the Rose Valley Get Together will not have the usual Photographic Competition as an attraction this year.

This Competition has always been run by Don Porter. Don is leaving Australia in December for a well earned holiday, and will be overseas for the month of January 1998.

**SNOWY MOUNTAINS BUSH
POETRY CLUB.**

The Mountain Cattlemens Association is a member of the Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club. This group is holding its Christmas Get Together on the 30th November 1997, and it should be a lot of fun. Flyer and information is included with this Newsletter.

**LACK OF PROGRESS WITH 7
YEAR BUSH GRAZING
LICENCES. YES - THE USUAL
REPORT.**

In July the Department of Natural Resources and Environment advised the Association that the 7 year bush licences were ready to be issued. It also faxed a copy of the new licence

and the hope that this long, protracted negotiation had come to fruition seemed to be in our grasp. On the day following that tantalizing glimpse of the faxed licence the Department advised that the process had come to a sudden stop. It had just received advice that the licences were not legally able to carry a clause in respect of renewability. It goes without saying that the Association took this last minute retreat in a state of staggering disbelief. Well I did anyway, and I know some others did too. This advice the Department had so suddenly found was later backed up by formal advice from the Victorian Government Solicitor. Another meeting was called for October.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment has now promised that the Licences will be issued **BEFORE CHRISTMAS.**

(I can hear a ghostly HO, HO, HO, coming from somewhere).

When we were moved to asked the Department whether they indeed meant Christmas 1997, there were a couple of embarrassed looking faces.

A compromise has been reached in respect of the renewability clause. This is that there will be a Policy Statement regarding renewability, and this Statement will be incorporated in the Regional Forest Agreement.

Stay tuned for the next Chapter in this epic story.

RENEWAL OF ALPINE PARK GRAZING LICENCES.

The Alpine Park Grazing licences are due for renewal on the 14th August,

1998. Discussions have commenced with Parks Victoria regarding renewal.

Most of the issues brought forward for discussion appear to be mainly management topics. One of the first issues worked through is the possibility of licensees undertaking weed eradication programs. Cattlemen will assess the licence areas and stock routes for weed infestation. It has been pointed out that cattlemen have always made an effort to maintain their licence areas free of weeds, but the need to be ever vigilant for fresh outbreaks is essential.

Parks Victoria have also expressed concern regarding horses being ridden, sometimes with dogs, in areas of the park where that activity is not permitted except for cattlemen in circumstances where they might be looking for straying stock. Apparently when challenged, these illegal riders have claimed to be working for a mountain cattleman. It has been suggested to Parks Victoria that this is not a problem which should be the concern of the Association, as it feels it cannot be responsible for this behaviour. However it may be necessary in the future for cattlemen to inform Parks Victoria of the names of those who assist with their grazing operations.

Another difficulty Parks Victoria is experiencing is in identifying stock. They have suggested some form of ear-tagging. At one point tail-tagging was also suggested, but quickly dropped when it was explained to them that this idea was a rather silly one. It is obvious that ear marking is the proper and most sensible course of action. At present we are suggesting that it might be necessary for Parks Victoria staff to carry a simple chart

with appropriate ear marks, and perhaps learn what they look like.

On the subject of a review of grazing fees, the Association has agreed that this should be done by the Valuer General in consultation with the Victorian Farmers Federation. A review of all Crown land licence fees is currently underway, and it seems logical that the Alpine Park grazing licence fees should also be addressed in this manner.

With increased and very large pay-out judgments being ordered by the Courts, the subject of public liability insurance is also an issue to be addressed. The current required sum insured stated on the licences is \$1,000,000. The Association agrees that this figure should be increased, and \$5,000,000 has been suggested. It will also be necessary for licensees, in the future, to furnish Parks Victoria with some sort of Certificate of currency of public liability insurance.

It has been stated that the recommendations from the review of the licences should be presented to the Minister for approval by the 1st of June 1998. There is still a great deal of work and negotiation to be completed before then.

Weed removal program.

The idea of a weed removal program was suggested by President Harry Ryder earlier this year. The Branches were asked to discuss the idea, and a weed removal program was wholeheartedly adopted by members of the association at the Council meeting in September. The Association is well placed to do this work as each cattleman has an intimate knowledge of his grazing run and could easily identify

problem areas. These voluntary projects will be undertaken by groups from each Branch. It has also been suggested that some associate members might like to come along to lend a hand, and if so, they should contact the office in Mansfield to register their interest.

At the meeting with Parks Victoria held just last week, the cattlemen's offer to assist in weed removal was enthusiastically received.

Parks Victoria indicated that the offer to assist with weed removal was a powerful indication of the ability of both organisations to work together for the benefit of the Alpine Park.

STOCK ON ROADS.

The Association has been advised by the Minister for Roads and Ports Hon Geoff Craige of Government policy regarding stock on Victorian Roads.

His advice is as follows:

Uniformity of signs.

Currently there is an Australian Standard warning sign which is black-on-yellow - corresponding with warning signs for kangaroos, native animals etc. The black-on-yellow format is used only for warning signs. The sign to be used in Victoria, when driving, will create an enforceable obligation on drivers passing it, and it has therefore been decided that the Victorian sign will be black-on-white.

The Minister acknowledges that in New South Wales the warning signs are black-on-yellow and carry regulatory significance. He informs the Association that New South Wales will be asked to adopt the Victorian sign,

and that Standards Australia will be asked to add it to the standard.

Drivers Handbook

It is intended that material on drivers' obligations on encountering stock on roads will be included in the next edition of the Handbook.

Local Laws in respect of droving.

A model local law has been developed by the Municipal Association of Victoria, and the concerns of the Victorian Farmers Federation have been taken into account. The Mountain Cattlemens Association had significant input into the Victorian Farmers Federation submission. This included a series of exemptions for farmers needing permits when droving stock from the home property to the high country licence areas, and back again at the end of the grazing period.

The model local law however, is only a guideline for local government, and each shire or municipality must draw up its own local laws taking into account special circumstances in their area.

The result of this is the need for mountain cattlemen to be involved in every stage of the process of developing these local laws in order to make sure that the exemptions are included in each particular case. This means keeping contact with the local shire office, rangers etc. It will also mean attending local meetings, and drawing up submissions in support of the model local law provided by the Municipal Association of Victoria.

The situation has already risen in Mansfield with the Delatite Shire.

Its proposed local law regarding droving of stock did not include the exemptions from having to obtain permits for local mountain cattlemen. Mansfield Branch attended meetings with Delatite Shire and also put in a submission. This obviously included concerns other than the droving of stock to and from the high country licence areas. The Shire has addressed the concerns, and the Mansfield Branch is pleased with the outcome of its negotiations.

This will be a process repeated in all shires throughout the alpine grazing area, and members must be alert to their own situation.

JIM COMMINS TURNS INVENTOR.

Members and associate members might like to know that Jim Commins has turned into an award winning inventor.

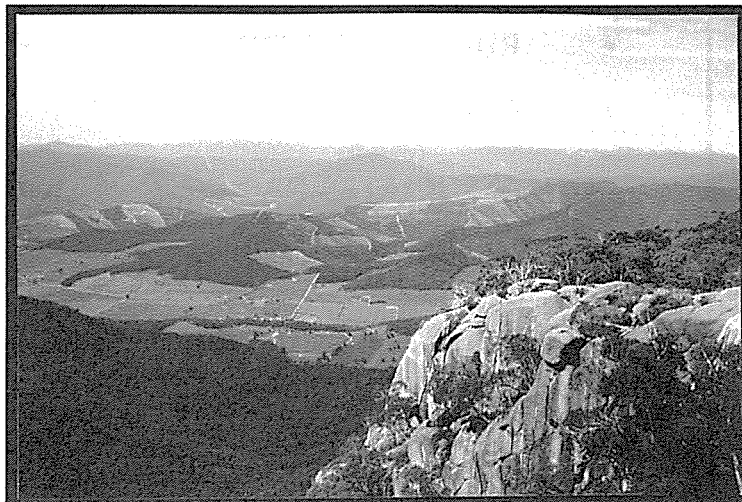
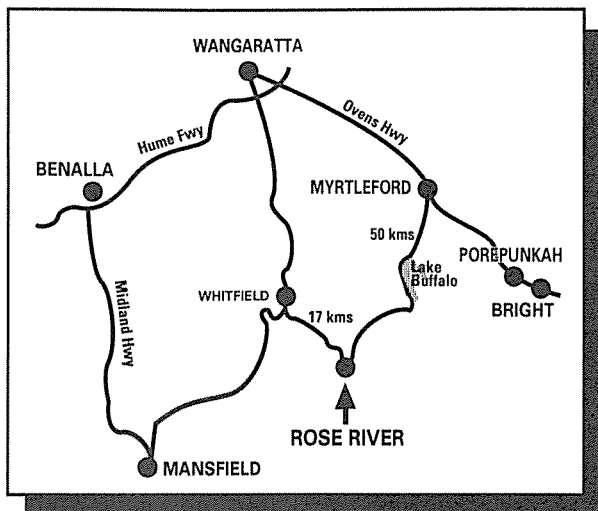
Jim has spent a bit of time flat on his back in hospital over the past few years. Unlike most of us in this situation - we would read a book or just stare into space, Jim found himself thinking about a way to feed the large bales of hay from the back of the vehicle, without somebody having to physically do the works. And so he did. And it works!

Jim won Farm Invention of the Year and NAB Engineering Award at the Henty Machinery Field Days. We would like to warmly congratulate him.

Now Jim - what about.....?we will have to think of something challenging!



*The North Eastern Branch of the MCAV Inc.
cordially invite one and all to the
29th MCAV Get-Together
10th and 11th January 1998 at
Hosking's Property "Rose Valley"
on the banks of the Rose River at the Foot of Mt Typo.*



Come and join Victoria's Legendary Mountain Cattlemen with their Families, Friends and Supporters for a weekend packed full of fun and entertainment. Camp under the stars along the Banks of the Rose River for three nights.

Dance on Saturday Night to the Popular Country Rock Band "Buffalos".

Sunday Night more dancing or just Talking, Food and Refreshments will be on sale all weekend including Friday.

Main meals including Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner plus Ice creams, Soft Drinks etc. and full Bar facilities all at competitive Prices.

Toilets and showers as usual. The Cattleman's Cup will be run over a breathtaking course which will produce plenty of thrills and spills.

There will also be last years new event the Cattlemen's Cut Out where Mountain Cattlemen on horseback will have to cut out two chosen Mountain Cattle from one mob and drove them to another mob just like it happens on the High Plains.

The Don Kneebone Heritage awards are on again. There will be Photos and Heritage displays all weekend. Plenty of childrens novelty events. Whip cracking with judges that can explain the different types of whip cracking.

Dog High Jumps ■ Tug of Wars ■ Hay Stacking etc.

The official program will be out real soon.

If you would like to spend some time around Whitfield and the King Valley there is plenty to see and do. Go fishing, go the winery's. If you are not afraid of heights you must go to Powers Lookout, the views are breath taking. There is also Peacock Spur, the one not to miss is Paradise Falls on the Wabonga Plateau with its water falls that you can walk under. Lake William Hovell is another place to see. There is ample accommodation and camp sites around the Valley including Valley View Caravan Park at Whitfield.

The Mobil Service Station in Whitfield will help you with Repairs, Fuel, Gas etc.

The Whitfield Hotel is a must on a hot afternoon with its Ice Cold Beer and Memorabilias on display.

ENQUIRIES:

Ron Briggs - President - Ph/Fax: (03) 5727 0227

Sue Briggs - Get-Together Sec. - Ph: (03) 5853 1699

Jack Hicks - Ph: (02) 6027 1846 - Fax: (02) 6027 1078

VALLEY VIEW CARAVAN PARK WHITFIELD



- 75 Shady sites (30 powered), camp sites and seven furnished on-site vans.
- BBQ area
- Very clean amenities block
- Walking distance to hotel & golf course
- ★★ RACV rating
- Scenic 4W driving area

Resident owners Barry, Ann & Monique Minns
Phone (03) 5729 8350
PO Box 1012, Wangaratta 3676

Baker Bros PETROLEUM



- BP Distributors • Farm Deliveries of Petrol, Oils, Greases & General Cartage

Phone: (03) 5727 9468

Fax: (03) 5727 9477

Mobile: 015 480132 • 018 547721
BOX 2 BARTLEY ST,
MOYHU, VIC 3732

THE mountainview HOTEL IN WHITFIELD IS PROUD TO BE A SPONSOR

OF THE 1998 MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S

COME IN AND SEE US FOR

Icy cold beer, great country hospitality,
honest country meals.

For more info please call your hosts

Adam and Natalie on
Ph. (03) 5729 8270.

HAY & FERTILIZER CONTRACTOR

- HAY CUTTING, RAKING & BALING
- BULK BINS & SPREADING BULK LIME

ALLAN EVANS
King Valley

Phone: (03) 5729 3520

Mobile: 015 261 047

Alan Laverty

Tel 011- (03) 5729 8492
All- (03) 5729 8340

KING VALLEY MAINTENANCE SERVICES

FOR ALL CAR, TRUCK, TRACTOR & MACHINERY
SERVICE AND REPAIRS
P.O. WHITFIELD, 3733

M.C.A.V. INC. GET TOGETHER 1998 'ROSE VALLEY'
ENTRY FORM
HORSE EVENTS

	Closing dates	Entry fee
• RUN A MUCK CUP	5TH JAN '98	\$5.00
• OPEN RACE	5TH JAN '98	\$5.00
• ASSOCIATES DASH (Entrants must be financial Associate members)	5TH JAN '98	\$5.00
♦ OPEN SPRINT	5TH JAN '98	\$5.00
♦ THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN PACK HORSE RACE	5TH JAN '98	\$5.00
♦ CATTLEMENS CUT OUT	5TH JAN '98	\$5.00
• LOCAL EVENT	5TH JAN '98	\$5.00

- Horse events run under the Australian Mountain Racing Rules
- ♦ Horse events run under the MCAV Inc. Rules

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$.....

RIDER'S NAME:

HORSE'S NAME: PACKHORSE'S NAME:
 (if applicable)

COMPETITORS PLEASE NOTE:

1. Stack hats are compulsory. 2. Riders compete at their own risk. 3. The programme will run on time. 4. Late arrivals in the marshalling will be disqualified.

I, of
 agree to be bound by the conditions and rules as set out by MCAV Inc. and will not hold MCAV Inc. or its servants or agents responsible should I suffer any loss, damage, or injury (including death) to property or person.

SIGNED DATE

AMBULANCE MEMBERSHIP No. EXPIRY DATE
 (COMPETITORS MUST ATTACH A PHOTOCOPY OF CURRENT MEMBERSHIP FUND)

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM, WITH CHEQUE, TO ENTRY SECRETARY BEFORE 5TH JANUARY 1998 (IF APPLICABLE)

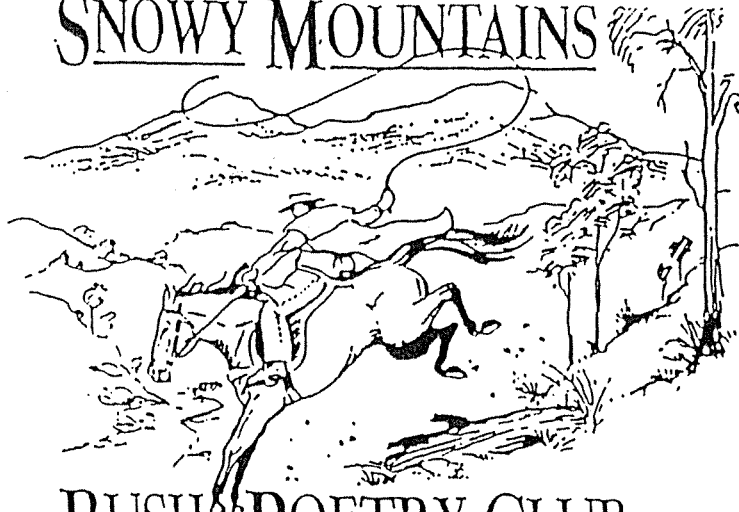
ENTRY SECRETARY: SUE BRIGGS, C/- RMB 6536, WANGARATTA, 3677. PHONE: (03) 5853 1699

OTHER EVENTS

Open Whipcracking \$5.00	Junior Whipcracking (16 yrs & under) \$2.00
Juvenile Whipcracking \$2.00	Dog High Jump \$5.00
(10 yrs & under)	

ENTRIES CLOSE 12 Noon Saturday 10th January 1998

SNOWY MOUNTAINS



BUSH POETRY CLUB

JOIN THE FUN!!!

THE ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS
"GET TOGETHER"

WILL BE HELD AT
WOOMARGAMA HOTEL
ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30, 1997
STARTING AT 11.00 AM

* * **BARBEQUE LUNCH** * *

FOR CATERING ARRANGEMENTS
R.S.V.P. PLEASE PHONE BETWEEN 15-25 NOV.
OR WRITE BEFORE 25 NOV.

SEC. Neil Hulm Ph: (02) 60253845
361 Cheyenne Drive
Lavington. 2641