



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, Vic 3722

October 1994

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on Friday 23rd September 1994 at the Victorian Farmers Federation in Melbourne. It was disappointing that only 14 members attended. This is the once-in-a-year opportunity for members to meet and discuss the progress, or lack of it, they believe the Association is making. It is also the forum where direction can be given and policy made. Each year the Association tries to make the Annual Meeting date a convenient one; lets hope that next year there will be more interest shown from the members. Ten associate members attended. There were three visitors.

The full Minutes of the Annual Meeting will be printed, as usual, in the 1995 edition of the Voice of the Mountains. Some major points as follows:

The Association is on the point of setting up a major research project into grazing across the entire alpine area of Victoria. The objectives are to ascertain whether cattle numbers and management regimes have changed to an extent where earlier research might be irrelevant. To build up a body of research where the views and experiences of mountain cattlemen are taken into account. To review existing research on a wider area instead of the narrow focus on small trial plots and then attempting to extrapolate those results to the entire alpine area. To consider the likely vegetation landscape resulting from a number of possibilities, and to examine the role of earlier fires on the vegetation.

All this needs funding and MCAV must be able to pull its weight. With this in mind the Treasurer suggested at the Annual Meeting that the members consider an increase in subscription fees over all categories of membership, both full and associate, with the exception of the student/pensioner subscription.

The last time subscriptions were increased was in 1988, and costs of keeping members and associates informed, as well as running the Association had increased quite significantly.

The members present discussed this matter thoroughly. From the outset of debate it was made clear that there should be no increase at all to associate member subscriptions. The MCAV appreciates and is grateful for the support the associate members give, and in recognition of this it was resolved that associate membership should remain at its current level. On the other hand the members were conscious of the need to maintain a reasonable level of funding, and felt that the responsibility should lie with the full members to give the needed support to the Association for a project which they believe, will be of great benefit to them.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR FULL MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 1995/1996.

It was therefore resolved that full membership subscription should be structured in the following way:

- * The minimum fee should remain at \$100.00. This will cover the first 100 head or part thereof.
- * Over 100 head members shall pay \$1.25 per head to a maximum of \$500.00.
- * This is an increase of .25 cents per head.

It was noted that some members incorrectly pay the minimum fee of \$100 despite the number of head sent to the runs, and that members should be careful in future to pay the correct subscription.

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1994/1995.

Members elected the following office bearers:

PRESIDENT:	Mary Goldsworthy
VICE PRESIDENT:	Harry Ryder
EXECUTIVE OFFICER:	Allan Brewer
SPECIAL PROJECTS:	Jim Commins/Doug Treasure
SECRETARY/TREASURER	Sue Silvers
MARKETING:	Sue Beeton

Members thanked the retiring Marketing Officer Ros Andrews and applauded her for the way she had developed the marketing department of the Association to its high professional level.

Three further appointments were made - Doug Treasure was appointed Chairman, Mr W Crump appointed Auditor, and Sue Silvers appointed as MCAV representative to the Public Land Council of Victoria.

Ross Blair was awarded Life Membership to the Association and Honorary Association Membership was awarded to Don

Porter, Linda Barraclough and Debbie Squires in recognition of the enormous amount of work they do for the Association.

Linda and Debbie are the producers, and often writers, for the Voice of the Mountains. The sheer professionalism of this journal speaks volumes for the contribution Linda and Debbie make on behalf of MCAV.

Don Porter does everything. Photography, graphics, provides bromides, organises displays. You name it, Don does it.

Allan Brewer noted the passing of Lyle McCready, and Jim Commins spoke about the work Lyle had done for the Association in the early days. The members offer sincere sympathy to Mrs McCready and members of the family.

ALTERATION TO THE CONSTITUTION

Members resolved that the Association's Constitution be altered as follows:

That Clause 3(1) relating to Qualification for Membership be altered from "grazing on Crown Land" to "grazing on broad area Crown Land".

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS STATEMENT FOR MOUNT STIRLING

Many members and associate members will be aware of the conflict which developed over proposed downhill skiing development for Mount Stirling. Grazing licences held for nearly 50 years by the Purcell family were terminated two years ago. The Association is of the view that this was an incorrect action on the part of the Alpine Resorts Commission, and is to put a Submission to the consultative committee.

Following is information supplied to MCAV by the Department of Planning and Development with a view that it be circulated as widely as possible. Please note that the Department is interested to hear from members of the public what issues they believe should be addressed when considering the future for Mount Stirling.

MCAV believes that this is an opportunity for members and associate members to lobby the Department of Planning and Development to have included as an option the possibility of restoring grazing to Mount Stirling.

The consultative committee is anxious to develop year round plans for the mountain, and this is an chance to put forward the case that summer grazing is a legitimate use of the high country with benefits to the environment. PLEASE WRITE TO THE ASHLEY STEPHENS OR IAN MURLEY. NEED ANY ASSISTANCE? CONTACT THE MCAV OFFICE.

ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT FOR MOUNT STIRLING



INFORMATION SHEET NO. 1

Call for public comment

The Victorian Government has asked the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) to prepare an Environment Effects Statement (EES) for a range of options for Mt Stirling. The primary focus of the EES will be to ensure the Victorian Government is fully informed on all issues with respect to Mt Stirling so that it can make informed decisions in respect of the future use and/or development of Mt Stirling. The EES will consider the use of Mt Stirling in all seasons of the year and assess various appropriate forms and levels of future usage and/or development.

EES OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the EES will be to:

- analyse the current recreational usage of Mt Stirling and the likely future needs of various user groups who currently use, or may in the future use, Mt Stirling for recreational purposes;
- consider the relationship between the Mt Stirling resort, the Mt Buller resort and the Mansfield community in terms of biophysical, social and economic factors;
- formulate, and prepare conceptual layouts for, a range of options for Mt Stirling;
- provide an objective assessment of the environmental impacts and benefits, including social, economic and physical factors, of the options for Mt Stirling;
- analyse the viability and public costs of the options, covering the provision of infrastructure and the public services required to support them;
- outline the course of action required to implement each option;
- produce an EES covering all the above.

There will be no preferred option in the EES.

EES PROCESS

In order to assist in identifying suitable options and the relevant environmental issues, the Minister for Planning has established a consultative committee to guide the preparation of the EES. The terms of reference for the consultative committee are as follows:

- To consider the relationship between the Mt Stirling alpine resort, the Mt Buller alpine resort and the Mansfield community, in terms of biophysical, social and economic factors.
- To advise and assist DPD in formulating and refining options for the future of Mt Stirling.
- To advise DPD on the scope and content of the EES.
- To advise and assist DPD in identifying environmental factors (physical, social and economic) which should be taken into account in considering the future of Mt Stirling.
- To ensure that all interested parties are informed and provided with an opportunity to express their views on the various options and to put forward other options for consideration.
- To advise the Minister of the need for any amendment or addition to these terms of reference.

The membership of the consultative committee is:

- Department of Planning and Development (chair)
- Alpine Resorts Commission
- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Environment Protection Authority
- Tourism Victoria
- Shire of Mansfield
- Mt Stirling Development Task Force
- Victorian Ski Association
- Ski Touring Association of Victoria
- Buller Ski Lifts Ltd
- Victorian National Parks Association
- Victorian Tourism Operators' Association
- Stirling Experience
- Outdoor Activities Group
- Ms Joan Tehan (member of Mt Buller Committee of Management representing the community, summer use and tourism interests; member of Mt Stirling Liaison Committee; editor of Mansfield Courier)
- Mt Buller Ratepayers' Association
- Mt Buller Chamber of Commerce
- Geelong Grammar
- Mansfield District Water Board
- Mansfield Nordic Ski Club

Other parties with an interest in the proposals are invited to participate in the process.

After the EES has been completed and placed on public exhibition, the Minister for Planning will appoint a number of independent people to conduct an inquiry into the environmental effects of the options in the EES and to provide advice on the most suitable option. Any person or organisation wishing to be heard by the inquiry panel will have the opportunity to do so. The panel's report, which will be a public document, will form the basis for a submission by the Minister for Planning to the Victorian Government for a decision on the future of Mt Stirling.

WHAT OPTIONS SHOULD BE ASSESSED?

The Government has directed that the EES examine a full range of appropriate options for Mt Stirling which will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following broad categories:

- do nothing (to include an appropriate management strategy);
- improve existing cross-country skiing facilities;
- promote eco-tourism opportunities; and
- undertake a comprehensive skiing development involving downhill and cross-country skiing with a view to year-round utilisation of facilities.

Prior to consultants being engaged to develop the EES, the DPD would like to canvass public opinion on these options and any other options that should be included in the range to be assessed.

This list will be elaborated and modified through comments received from the public and further discussions with the Consultative Committee. This brochure is the first phase of the public consultation process.

TIME FRAME

Commence July 1994

- Appoint consultative committee
- Public survey of options to be assessed
- Appoint consultants to do EES
- Preparation of EES
- Exhibition of EES
- Public inquiry
- Minister's assessment
- Minister's report to government

Completed: mid-1996

RELEVANT ISSUES

The Department of Planning and Development will engage a consultant or team of consultants to develop the

EES. The consultant will review existing documentation relevant to considering the future of Mt Stirling, and will conduct other inquiries and investigations necessary to gain a full appreciation of the following:

- the strategic planning framework for the area from a regional and state-wide perspective;
- the relationship between the Mt Stirling resort, the Mt Buller resort and the Mansfield community in terms of biophysical, social and economic factors;
- the previous planning studies and development proposals for Mt Stirling;
- trends in eco-tourism and skiing;
- the environmental attributes of Mt Stirling.

A major task to be undertaken will involve identifying and documenting the Mt Stirling environment as the baseline for assessing the impacts of options. This will require the collation of all available information plus the conduct of any further studies that are deemed necessary. The environmental factors will include, but will not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- visual/landscape factors including the identification of landmarks specific to Mt Stirling and important viewpoints in the surrounding area;
- flora and fauna;
- hydrology and water quality;
- land capability;
- Aboriginal archaeology and lore;
- post-contact history and heritage;
- recreational use and potential (including impact of recreational use on adjacent areas);
- snow cover and greenhouse factors;
- social/economic factors (including any subsidy of existing usage);
- existing infrastructure;
- management practices (including current marketing of resort);

The Department of Planning and Development is interested to hear whether there are any other important issues which should be investigated in considering Mt Stirling's future.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

You are encouraged to take part in the study by forwarding your comments on what options should be developed for consideration in the EES process and what are the key issues that should be investigated.

The DPD will issue further information sheets as the EES project progresses. If you want to make any comment or wish to be included on the mailing list for future information sheets please contact:

Ashley Stephens or Ian Murley
Environment Assessment Branch
Department of Planning and
Development
477 Collins Street
(PO Box 2240T)
Melbourne 3000
Phone: (03) 628 5408 or
(03) 628 5139
Fax: (03) 628 5132



Department of
Planning and
Development
Government
of Victoria

6.

TALK TO THE ANIMALS EXPO

Mountain Cattlemen are to be part of this Expo which is to take place later this month at the Caulfield Racecourse and Exhibition Centre.

The Expo continues over four days - each day will be the responsibility of one of the Branches. Each Branch is required to provide four horses for packhorse demonstrations. There will also be a marketing tent set up and we hope to make a dollar or two and to spread the word about the benefits of mountain grazing and the heritage of the mountain cattlemen and its importance to the culture and history of Victoria.

HELP HELP!! OUR NEW MARKETING OFFICER NEEDS SOME ASSISTANCE IN THE MARKETING TENT OVER THE FOUR DAYS.

PHONE SUE BEETON AND OFFER YOUR SERVICES - FOR AS LONG OR AS SHORT A TIME AS YOU CAN SPARE. WE NEED YOUR HELP URGENTLY.

SUE BEETON

**PHONE: (03) 836 7863
018 058 421**

Now the dates for the Talk to the Animals Expo are - Thursday 20th October to Sunday 23rd October 1994 inclusive. Even if you cant assist with the marketing tent, please come along to the Expo. It will be great fun.

MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS ROSTER FOR THE EXPO:

Thursday 20th October - Gippsland Branch.
Buff Rogers, Colleen Hurley, Christa Mitchell and Ben Treasure.

Friday 21st October - North East Branch
Frank Ryan, Leonard Ryan and Max Blair. North East needs another member to attend.

Saturday 22nd October - Mansfield Branch
To be organised by Charlie Lovick.

Sunday 23rd October - Omeo Branch
To be organised by Kevin Kelly.

Cattlemen please note that there are four stables available if necessary.

Final details will be sent to Branches before the commencement date.

SEVEN YEAR BUSH GRAZING LICENCES

MCAV is pleased to report that discussions have commenced on the provision of 7 year grazing licences for the bush grazing areas. From the first meeting with the Department it became obvious that the majority of the issues could be readily resolved.

Definition was needed on bush grazing licences contiguous to alpine grazing licences. The Association has advised the Department that it considers the correct definition to be:

A contiguous grazing area is an area with a common boundary to a licenced alpine area and the licensee holds an alpine licence for an alpine grazing area.

It has become clear during talks with the Department and discussion within the MCAV Central Council, that an Eastern Forest Zone needs to be created for the purposes of bush and alpine grazing, in order that mountain cattlemen are not included in the zone referred to as "the rest of the State". More on this concept in future newsletters.

CATTLEMEN MEMBERS PLEASE MAKE A NOTE - FUEL REDUCTION BURNING ON PUBLIC LAND.

MCAV has received a letter from the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Fire Management Officer Mansfield - Allan Harrison. Mr Harrison notes that in many cases there was not sufficient contact regarding fuel reduction burning programs in Eastern and North Eastern Victoria. He has asked me to advise all members the following information.

Fire Management Officers are located at:

North East Area -

Alexandra	John Hopper	057 720 200
Mansfield	Allan Harrison	057 752 788
Myrtleford	Andrew Pook	057 521 911
Tallangatta	Rob Caddell	060 712 604

Area Fire Management Officer:

Tony Edgar	Benalla	057 611 611
------------	---------	-------------

Gippsland Area -

Cann River		051 586 370
Orbost	Steve De Voogd	051 611 222
Bairnsdale	John McDonald	051 520 400
Heyfield	Tony Willett	051 482 355

Area Fire Management Officer:

David Tainsh	Traralgon	051 722 111
--------------	-----------	-------------

Allan Harrison asks that any queries you might have about fuel reduction burning and/or any fire protection matters on public land should be directed to the personnel as listed.

TRAVELLING STOCK ON ROADS

MCAV has for some time had serious concerns regarding the lack of uniform legislation covering stock travelling on, and crossing, roads in Victoria.

At the present time there is no uniformity of regulation. Different Shires have different regulations throughout the State. There is no standardization of signage, and a mixture of by-laws and regulations make it almost impossible proposition to move stock along roadways.

In New South Wales there is legislation covering travelling stock, and these laws form part of the motorists handbook in that State. Failure by motorists to comply with the law in NSW means a 10 point penalty on the driver's licence.

Members of the Association have discussed our concerns with the appropriate Minister, and it is proposed to set up a working party to address the requirements of such legislation.

It is acknowledged that this will be a complex and tricky issue to resolve to the satisfaction of every party involved, but it is a matter which must be addressed and with the very real possibility of severe drought in Victoria, it is anticipated that there will be more stock on the roads this summer.

More information on progress as it comes to hand.

(TRUMPET FANFARE, PLEASE)

MCAV GET TOGETHER 1995

The invitation flyer for this annual event is enclosed with this newsletter, and contains all the relevant information.

Mansfield Branch would like special mention made of the monster auction which is to be held on the Saturday evening at 5:30 p.m. The auction is being arranged by NuFarm Limited, and the proceeds will be divided 50/50. Half for MCAV and the other half to go towards drought relief. Items to be auctioned will be farm-orientated in the main. For example: chain saws, vouchers for fuel, boots, tyres, bulk dog food and so on. However there might be surprises along the way, who knows? The idea of course is fund-raising SO MAKE SURE YOU BRING PLENTY OF CASH!

Must stop here because I've run out of space - BUT WHAT IS A MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS TRIATHLON? I have never seen a Mountain Cattlemen on a bicycle, have you?