



# *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

October, 1993

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Dear Members and Associate Members,

### M.C.A.V. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Association was held in the Boardroom of the Victorian Farmers Federation, Collins Street, Melbourne on Friday 8th October. A number of Members and Associates attended to hear the President's Address, Secretary's report, Marketing report and to examine and approve the financial statements of the Association.

Doug Treasure had announced some months ago that he would not be available to stand as President for 1993/94. Doug's retirement was received with regret, but at the same time with thanks from the members for his dedication and the good work he had done as President in representing the Mountain Cattlemen. Doug had been President for three years and had seen the Cattlemen through the transition from the politics of the 80's into the calmer waters of the early 1990's.

The full reports and Minutes of the Annual Meeting will, as usual, be printed in the 1994 Voice of the Mountains. In the meantime I am sure you will be interested in knowing the office bearers for the coming year.

PRESIDENT:	Mary Goldsworthy
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT:	Harry Ryder
2ND VICE PRESIDENT:	Allan Brewer
SPECIAL PROJECTS OFFICERS:	Jim Commins Doug Treasure
SECRETARY/TREASURER:	Sue Silvers
MARKETING OFFICER:	Roslyn Andrews

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Allan Brewer was appointed Chairman, and Mr. Bill Crump was appointed as Auditor to the Association.

In regard to membership fees for both full Members and Associates, the meeting agreed that there should be no increase in fees for the coming year. This decision was taken in the context of the continuing recession, and the comfortable state of the Association's finances.

Don Porter spoke to the Members about the importance of having their valuable and historic family photographs and documents copied for the MCAV archives. He explained that by bringing these documents to the Get Together he could photograph them on the spot and so they would never leave the possession of their owner. He understands very well how precious these old documents are, and appreciates people being reluctant to let them out of sight! So a reminder: Do fish out all your old photograph mementos and anything else you would like copied, bring it to the Get Together and see Don, there is no charge for this service.

Don discussed the photographic competition, entries for which close at the end of this month. All the details for this were sent out with last month's newsletter, so by this time we hope that you will have sent your entries in for judging. The winning photographs will be displayed at the Get Together.

Don also informed the Members that Tor Holth had offered all his audio tapes, slides, photographs and research materials to the Association. The generosity of this gift from Tor is priceless to the Association, and we thank him very sincerely. Don felt that this extremely important material should be available to the general community, and so the originals will all be forwarded to the LaTrobe Library, meanwhile Don will copy all the material first for the MCAV archives.

The Annual Meeting was followed, after lunch, by a Council meeting. A brief resume follows.

Council discussed proposed changes to the Rules governing the conduct of the Mountain Cattlemens Cup, and agreed that the current Rules covered all contingencies and did not need changing. It was stressed that all information on both the junior and senior Cattlemens Cups should be sent out to all Members well in advance, and this **VITAL** information is clearly set out in this newsletter and should be carefully read by all proposed entrants. OK?

The subject of outside Vendors was also discussed, and after much debate it was agreed that people who had been invited to the Get Together to demonstrate a particular skill, should be allowed to take orders for their product

with the exception of the whip plaiting man, who would be permitted to sell his whips. The proviso is, of course, that none of the products will resemble in any way shape or form, any goods sold by the marketing department of MCAV, and that any resemblance to a fair ground atmosphere be strictly avoided.

Council also discussed the Snowy River National Park draft Management Plan, the outcome of the case relating to an accident, four years ago, to the Hicks familys' travelling stock, the problem of wild cattle on Mt. Baw Baw, Chain Saw sculpture, possibilities of resumption of grazing Wonnangatta Station, and other matters.

#### PROPOSED CATCHMENT & LAND PROTECTION LEGISLATION.

This proposed legislation has been viewed unfavourably by the Association and a submission expressing that view has been supplied to the Department.

In brief it seeks to combine the private sector, and the Government sector into a single land management conglomerate.

The Government has made its task almost incomprehensively complex by trying to combine private landholder advisory groups, local Landcare groups, the Department of Conserveration and Natural Resources and other land management agencies into one super landuse planner. The Association also had problems with the concept of the legislation being able to declare 'special areas' for particular attention to land degradation problems. The powers were perceived to be too wide and could lead to imposition of controls which would be far too restrictive. The Association considers that further expansion of the public service, at a time when Government is attempting to streamline that service, is incorrect.

The Government has received widespread response to the discussion paper, and the submissions are now being assessed and a report prepared. This report which is proposed to be available in early November will be used by the Government in preparing the draft legislation.

I have received a newsheet from the Department which advises that there will be a conference held on the 8th and 9th of November 1993 at Monash University with the purpose of assessing the proposed legislation. On the first day the overall framework for integrated catchment management will be considered, and on the second day the conference will examine how the proposals meet the requirements of that framework, and recommend possible improvements.

If any of the Members of Associates wish to attend this

conference, registration is necessary. Registration forms are available from Mr. Ron Hodges on (03) 802 4859. This is an independent forum presented by the River Basin Management Society and speakers include Hon Geoff Coleman, Minister for Natural Resources, Mr. Bob Crawford farmer and Chairman of the Murray Total Catchment Management Committee, NSW; Professor Peter Cullen, and many others.

#### ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW - September 1993.

Great interest was shown by the public in the Mountain Cattlemens packhorse demonstration, and we sincerely thank Allan Brewer and Ron Connley for sparing their time and expending their efforts on behalf of the Association.

We also had a good response to our request for riders in the Grand Parade, and must say a special thank you to the Trail Riders of Victoria who provided seven riders on the day.

#### PIONEER WOMENS HALL OF FAME - ALICE SPRINGS.

I have received a great letter from Peter Clarke - our Longreach bus trip fang-farrier. Peter and Chris have been travelling in 'The Centre' (wonder if they met up with Doug Treasure), and I can do no better than quote from Peter's letter:

"...Chris and I recently spent some time in "The Centre", finishing up at Old Andado - a station in the Simpson Desert - you may have heard of Molly Clarke (no relation) who owns Old Andado - a very interesting lady. Molly is the driving force behind the "Pioneer Womens Hall of Fame" - which is to be formed in Alice Springs, as an annexe to the Stockmens Hall of Fame.

Macka's Australia All Over was recently broadcast from Molly's place. There also were articles about her in the Australian Geographic.

They are looking for support - who isn't these days? - and I said I would send you the literature, thinking that as the MCAV were so interested in the Stockmens Hall at Longreach - perhaps some may care to be members of this new venture - especially the ladies!

Chris and I were stranded by rain at Molly's - she was so hospitable - and that is why I suggested sending you the literature - hope you dont mind! Hope to see you soon, all the best. Love - Chris and Peter."

Now I know several of you will be MOST interested in this new organisation which has grown from a public meeting convened by Mrs. Molly Clarke of Old Andado Homestead. An interim committee has been formed and maintains close contact with the Stockmens Hall of Fame Longreach, and the National Trust of the Northern

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Territory. The paramount priorities of the committee, after preparation of formal documentation for incorporation are:

the establishment of an acquisition policy and process;  
establishing cataloguing procedures and the acquisition of the necessary materials;  
and, the establishment of a venue, first on an interim basis, but with a view to a more permanent home.

The Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame will recognise the important part women have played in our pioneering history, stories which have largely gone untold of their courage, ingenuity and fortitude. The Hall of Fame will become a repository for the memorabilia and commemoration of the women who have taken part in the development of Australia, particularly the Outback.

Contributions are being sought through membership. Details are:

Annual member \$20; Annual family membership \$30, Foundation member \$300 (to 30/6/94), or Patron member \$1000.

Subscription fees should be sent to Pioneer Womens Hall of Fame, Post Office Box 9193, Alice Springs NT 0871, or enquiries can be directed to: Molly Clarke, Old Andado Station, via Alice Springs, NT 0872.

Give me a call if you need any more information.

OUTCOME OF OUR MEETING WITH THE MINISTER, MARK BIRRELL.

On the 18th June 1993, an official delegation appointed by the Central Council and consisting of Jim Commins, Harry Ryder and Sue Silvers (Doug Treasure was the absent member) met with the Minister and raised four issues which needed resolution. These were the basis of charging for cattle sent to the licence areas, a re-consideration of the boundaries of Goldsworthy/Briggs licence area on the Bogong High Plains, cattle numbers on the Bogong Plains, and the flow-on effect of the method of counting cattle in adult equivalents. The Minister requested a further meeting with Harry Ryder and Sue Silvers on Wednesday the 14th October, and we have received a letter from him confirming the outcome of the matters raised.

1. Charging. The Minister has directed that from the 1993/1994 season licencees should pay only for the cattle they take up to the high country rather than for the allocations on their licences. In moving to this system the Minister requests that payments be made promptly

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on receipt of accounts. He also confirms that this new method of charging cannot be applied retrospectively.

2. Goldsworthy/Briggs licence boundaries. Mr. Birrell advises that the Department is endeavouring to work through the issues with the relevant parties.

3. Cattle numbers - Bogong. The Minister has decided that the number of stock which cattlemen with licences in this area should be allowed to take up should remain as about 3160 adult equivalents.

4. Adult equivalents. The Minister confirms his decision that the adult equivalent concept will not apply outside the Alpine National Park, except if the licensee seeks this and agrees in writing.

Mr Birrell has also directed his Department to issue 7 year bush grazing licences to Cattlemen (outside the Alpine National Park), as promised in 1991, and has stated that these licences should be issued no later than the 1994/1995 grazing season.

#### 25TH ANNIVERSARY MCAV GET TOGETHER AND HERITAGE WEEKEND

The September newsletter gave advance information about this very special Get Together, and the North East Branch are working like demons to put together a programme which will be a suitable celebration of this very important anniversary. The concept of heritage, and the demonstrations being organised, is truly exciting, and I know you will all be making a special effort to attend in January 1994.

INVITATION AND INFORMATION FLYER ARE ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER. PLEASE MARK THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW, AND PLAN TO BE PRESENT WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO JOIN IN WHAT WILL BE A SPECTACULAR WEEKEND!!!

AND HERE IS THE MOST VITAL INFORMATION FOR ALL PROPOSED ENTRANTS IN THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS CUPS.

THE JUNIOR AND CATTLEMENS CUP WILL BE SCORED OVER THREE PARTS -

1. TIME TRIAL.

ALL ENTRANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

SADDLE HORSE,  
OPEN AND CLOSE GATE ON NEAR SIDE,  
PICK UP A BUTT OF SALT,  
PUSH PAST SWINGING RAIL,

7.

JUMP THREE LOGS,  
CANTER AROUND DESIGNATED COURSE,  
OPEN AND CLOSE GATE OFF SIDE.

2. WHIPCRACKING.

TO BE CONDUCTED ON SUNDAY MORNING AS PART OF THE  
INTRODUCTIONS:

BASIC WHIPCRACKING,  
ACCURACY,  
TIME LIMIT.

3. CUP COURSE.

OVER DESIGNATED 3KM COURSE  
ALL CUP RULES TO APPLY.

NOTE: THESE GUIDELINES MAY BE AMENDED OR ALTERED BUT  
ANY SUCH ALTERATIONS WILL BE NOTIFIED TO COMPETITORS  
ON THE SATURDAY MORNING.

POINTS WILL BE ALLOCATED FOR EACH SECTION, HIGHEST POINT  
SCORE IS WINNER.

PACKHORSE RACE - ALL COMPETITORS SHOULD NOTE THAT NO  
TRAVELLING EXPENSES WILL BE PAID IN 1994.

WHIPCRACKING - WHIPCRACKING SHALL BE CONDUCTED ALONG  
THE GUIDELINES PROVIDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN WHIPCRACKERS  
AND PLAITERS ASSOCIATION.

As stated earlier in this newsletter, the Association  
has undertaken to advise all entrants of the above  
information, so please read the above directions very  
carefully, and keep them somewhere they can be easily  
referred to. If entrants for the junior or senior  
Cattlemens Cup have any questions about these guidelines  
please phone Harry or Sue Ryder (057) 57 2267, Allan  
Brewer (060) 20 8652, or Mary Goldsworthy (057) 56 2278.

So: M.C.A.V. Get Together and Heritage Weekend, 15th  
and 16th January 1994, on the banks of the Ovens River  
at Bowmans Forest (Blairs) to celebrate the 25th  
anniversary of the formation of the Association.  
Heritage demonstrations to include: bullock teams, blade  
shearing, working Clydesdales, cross cut saws, adzes,  
horse shoeing, whip plaiting, saddle making, our heritage  
photographs, and more.

For the children - an Art competition, paints and other  
materials supplied; and I do hope some protective type  
clothing!! Childrens artwork will displayed throughout  
the weekend.

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M.C.A.V. 1st Photographic competition - come and see the winning photograph, and others.

The special Ray Kernaghan Band will provide music, with backup from a local group - so plenty of music.

There will be the MCAV Marketing Tent as usual, and Ros has organised a couple of new items for sale this year - a great tea towel, and also terrific new plastic mugs, along with all the old favorites of windcheaters, shirts, Port (I am looking forward to the special 25th anniversary label, not the contents of course!), and all the usual goods MCAV has on sale.

Jack Lovick has most generously donated another safari weekend trail ride prize to be won. This is open only to Associates joining the MCAV for the first time at the Get Together. This was a most popular item last year, and a good number of new Associates joined up. This is a very generous gesture of Jack's, and we thank him very much for thinking of the idea, and making such a terrific prize available.

AND FINALLY....

Spare a thought for Annie Whittam, who now has to have this newsletter printed, collated, enveloped and posted! And all in a hurry - and done yesterday - of course. Thanks also to Don Porter who has done the graphics and work on the flyer.

Dearest Annie, I promise I won't go on at such length again!

October 1993.