



**MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS NEWS**

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

*April 93*

Dear Members and Associate Members,

1993 GET TOGETHER - KELLYS OMEO

It seems simply ages ago that we all gathered at Omeo for our annual Get Together. It was a marvellous weekend, good weather (exciting evening thunderstorms and showers!), good crowd, good company and very good fun. Thanks to Kevin and Pat Kelly for allowing the use of their property, and thanks to the Omeo Branch and all their helpers for the excellent organization. Barbara Young, who took on the heavy job of Get Together Secretary has asked me to print the following letter, which I do with pleasure:

"I would sincerely like to thank all the stewards, Judges, race starter and helpers who gave their time to make our Get Together so successful, and just a few people who must get a mention as well. To Ross and Magda Brown, Doug Treasure and Rhonda Treasure for their help and advice, to the few Omeo members who were always at our meetings and got the ball rolling, to Jim Commins, Betty and all the Fitzgerald family to whom nothing was too much to ask. To Kellys for such a great venue, and to Rusty and Allan Brewer - a very special thank you. To Sue Silvers and her trusty photocopier for making my paper work so much easier, and to Janelle for all her work over the months. I thank you all.

(signed) Barbara Young, Secretary".

There is no doubt that organising Get Togethers is a complicated, lengthy and sometimes difficult job. We all congratulate Barbara on a job very well done.

Here are the results:

Dog High Jump: 1st Gerald Carroll and 'Arnold'. 2nd Jenny Byrd and 'Blue', 3rd Jeff Stirling and 'Rock'.  
Under 10 years Whipcracking: 1st Simone Kelly, 2nd Ashleigh Cook, 3rd Alisha Thorborn.  
Under 16 years Whipcracking: 1st Jack Cross, 2nd Danny Young, 3rd Cameron Bowden.  
Ladies Whipcracking: 1st Tanith Blair, 2nd Rosemary Hurley, 3rd Diana Hurley.  
Open Whipcracking: 1st Jim Lawton, 2nd Sam Sellwood, 3rd Noel Cutler.

Local Race: 1st Joanne Hill, 2nd Brendan Sam, 3rd Robin Cook.

Packhorse Championship: 1st Ron Connley, 2nd Gerard Egan, 3rd Peter Neal.

Relay Race: 1st Stoney's Bluff & Beyond Team, 2nd Egans Mansfield Team, 3rd Brotherhood Team.

Run-a-Muck Cup: 1st Apache Syndicate, 2nd Resolution Syndicate, 3rd Slipper Syndicate.

Associates Dash: 1st Sharon Pendergast, 2nd Bronwyn Kemp, 3rd Andy Fallow.

Open Sprint: 1st Sharon Pendergast, 2nd Neil Waite, 3rd Melinda Johnson.

Heavyweights Race: 1st John Leek Jnr, 2nd Ian Webb, 3rd Neil Dickinson.

Open Race: 1st Neil Waite, 2nd Paula Morgan, 3rd Dean Pendergast.

Junior Cattlemens Cup: 1st Tim Faithfull - Omeo, 2nd Derek Faithfull - Omeo, 3rd Whelen Connley - Omeo, 4th Rosemary Hurley - Dargo.

Mountain Cattlemens Cup: 1st Peter Faithfull - Omeo, 2nd Ricky Hodge - Buchan, 3rd Leigh Woodgate - Gelantipy, 5th Dean Backman - Omeo, 5th Darryl Faithfull - Omeo, 6th Chris Stoney - Mansfield, 7th Nick Cook - Omeo, 8th Ken Connley - Omeo, 9th Frank Boulton - Sale, 10th Danny Cook - Omeo.

#### MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS BUSH DANCE

This is advance notice for our Bush Dance. Those of you who attended last year will well remember the great success it was last year.

Well its on again!

Please make a note on your calendar NOW. The date is to be Saturday the 28th August, the venue Gumbuya Park Tynong. The Cobbers are booked already, and camping will be available as last year. Dinner will be provided, and it will be BYO drinks.

Now we can only take 400 people, and last year we were booked out and had a waiting list. So this year make sure that when booking is made available YOU GET YOUR TICKETS AT ONCE.

Further information in the next newsletter. Mark your calendar with 28th August 1993 now.

Note to all full members and their families. We hope to see a full roll-call of full members at the bush dance to support the supporters!!

## MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER - CRAIGS HUT RESTORED

Craig's Hut, one of Australia's most internationally recognised images, was a symbol of what much of Australia is all about, according to Conservation and Environment Minister, Mark Birrell.

Re-opening the hut, first built 10 years ago at Clear Hills, east of Mansfield for the filming of The Man from Snowy River, Mr. Birrell paid tribute to those involved in its restoration.

Constructed as a film set only and not intended for permanent use, the hut had gradually fallen into disrepair. The Mansfield Alpine Four Wheel Drive Club took on the daunting challenge of organising teams of workers to demolish the structure and rebuild it as a shelter hut with its original facade.

Located on an exposed grassy ridge, 4 kms east of the summit of Mt Stirling, the hut looks over the King River valley, with spectacular views across the mountain ranges.

Craig's Hut had become an icon of Australia, recognised overseas, Mr Birrell told a crowd of about 250 people who made the four-wheel drive journey to the re-opening of the hut on Sunday 11th April 1993. He said it was a symbol of the Australian way of life - the outdoors, the high country, a spirit of co-operation and hard work.

The restoration was carried out in rugged and extreme weather conditions over the past few months and ensured that one of Victoria's most popular tourist attractions will be preserved for many years to come. (Courtesy Mansfield Courier).

Congratulations to the Mansfield Alpine Four Wheel Drive Club (which has only 10 members), and to the members of Mansfield MCAV - the McCormack family, Gough family, Wayne Lovick, Rick Spotswood, John Martin and Bernie Corcoran who assisted with the work. The members of the Mansfield Branch provided the bark used for the roof, and were responsible for putting it in place.

## BOOK NEWS

MCAV CONTRIBUTES TO 'REVUE DE GEOGRAPHIE ALPINE - LES ALPES AUSTRALIENNES'.

In June 1991 MCAV was contacted by Dr. Philippe Grenier of the Laboratoire de la Montagne Alpine at the University of Grenoble who was in Australia on behalf of the French Ministry of Environment to prepare a report on the management issues of the Australian Alps.

Despite a lack of enthusiasm on the part of the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service which was assisting with the production of the report, Dr. Grenier managed to contact the Association and arranged a meeting in June 1991 at which we agreed to contribute a chapter to the Revue.

The papers provided to Dr. Grenier were published by the University of Grenoble as a full journal volume, in both French and English, and in March this year, were distributed to a readership of subscribers, academics, scientists and resource managers as well as university and research institute libraries in 50 countries.

As the preface to this volume states:

"For the Revue de Geographie Alpine, founded in 1913 by Raoul Blanchard and thus one of the oldest French geographic reviews, it has become almost a tradition to devote certain issues to mountain areas situated outside the European Alps. Among the most recent examples are the special numbers on the Caucasus in 1981, the Argentinian Andes in 1988 and the Saharan mountains in 1991. This special double issue on the Australian Alps is a further example of our desire to perpetuate this tradition....."

Chapter 17 of the Revue was prepared by the MCAV and very many thanks to Debbie Squires and Linda Barraclough for their assistance and editing. The chapter entitled "Cattle grazing in the Victorian Alpine Area 1835 - 1991 and onward" covers a brief history of mountain grazing, the cattlemen's use of fire as a management tool, the beginning of the decline in mountain grazing, the formation of the MCAV, a question of scientific or ideological arguments, observations of the alpine environment, MCAV view on land management, a brief comparison with Kosciusko National Park, the MCAV in the 1980's, and finally a section on the cattlemens' role as part of Australia's national heritage.

Enquiries regarding copies of this 550 page volume should be directed to: Roger Good, NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service, P O Box 733, Queanbeyan, NSW.

#### SKYLINE TOUR ALBUMS

Do you have any early copies of these bushwalking tours? Linda Barraclough and Debbie Squires are looking at re-publishing these albums and are missing a few early copies. If you can help, could you contact them at Post Office Box 86 Bairnsdale 3875. I know they would be very grateful.

SELLING THE MOUNTAIN CALVES - A Personal History of the East Gippsland Calf Sales - Ian Balmer with photographs

by Frank Johnson.

This is a fascinating book with the most beautiful photographs of sales, travelling stock, and some interesting studies of personalities.

This book is a 'must have'. As Jim Commins writes in the Foreword: "There is no one better qualified than Ian Balmer to give an overview of the pastoral industry in Victoria, as it has evolved during the past six decades. From the days when all livestock travelled either on foot, in the care of drovers, or on the railway system that served the big metropolitan market as well as provincial centres, through to the speed, flexibility and capacity of modern road transport.

Ian has made a vast number of friends throughout Victoria and beyond, and has seen productivity and improvements on his clients' properties that far outweigh the examples of degradation we have heard so much of in recent times....."

Available from Kapana Press at \$16.50 (inclusive of postage). Post Office Box 86, Bairnsdale 3875.

#### PUBLIC LAND COUNCIL - MINI-EXPO FUNCTION

On 16th March 93, Doug Treasure and Sue Silvers represented the MCAV at the Public Land Council's Mini-Expo held in the Legislative Council Committee room at Parliament House. All members of the Public Land Council were represented, and each group had a display of their use of public land, and handed out promotional material to the politicians who called in for a drink and a chat.

It was encouraging to see that many of the new members elected in October called in to see what the Public Land Council were doing, and in fact who they were.

MCAV concentrated its display on history and heritage since it would have been somewhat tricky to get a cow and calf into Parliament House without some problems with housekeeping. Our display seemed to interest many of the politicians, and we handed out our education booklet and a sticker. Thanks to Ros Andrews for assistance with posters and the heritage display material.

This was an interesting and well organised event. Tim Barker and Heather Mitchell are to be congratulated. We will certainly want to be involved in any further displays of this kind.

## FOUR WHEEL DRIVE SHOW - EXHIBITION BUILDING

Ros and John Andrews took the MCAV to the Four Wheel Drive Show earlier in the year. Held at the Exhibition Buildings the Show took place over 4 days. Ros reported that the Show was successful both financially and as a 'flag waver', and we agree that it is important for the Mountain Cattlemens' presence to be seen at all possible venues. The problem is, of course, that it is difficult to attend all the shows with the limited resources at our disposal. Ros and John give up a lot of their time to the MCAV for which we are most grateful and thank them both sincerely. At the Four Wheel Drive Show they were assisted over the four days by Carmen Stebnyckyj, Paul and Judith Dix, Frank Hill, Frank Sedgman, Galia Hardy and Sue Beeton. Well done team!

## THE FINAL WORD

A Mountain Cattleman walked into the bar of a hotel in north-east Victoria and said to the barman "Give me a pot, and a shot of whiskey please". The Cattleman drank the pot, and poured the whiskey into the pocket of his shirt. Mountain Cattleman to barman "That was very nice, I'll have the same again please." Once again he drank the pot, and poured the whiskey into his shirt pocket. Well, this went on for three hours, and at the end of that time the Cattleman was very much the worse for wear. He staggered to the bar, and asked the barman for a repeat of the order, but the barman said "Listen mate, you're drunk and I'm not serving you any more. Go away". With that the Cattleman became very wild, and leaning aggressively against the bar, said to the barman : "Look, if you don't give me another pot and another whiskey, I'm going to leap over this bar and punch you right in the face". And his pet mouse climbed out of his shirt pocket and said to the barman - "And that goes for your cat too."

Hope the Autumn sales are productive for you all.

S. Silvers  
April 1993