

THANK YOU MR CHAIRMAN

MRS MITCHELL

BEING PRESIDENT OF THE M.C.A.V. HAS BEEN AN EXCITING
FEW WEEKS FOR ME AND I'M SURE IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE.
I HAVE LOOKED AT WHAT WE ARE REALLY ALL ABOUT.

WE ARE ONE OF THE LAST GROUPS OF PEOPLE WHO STILL ARE
CLOSE TO THE PIONEERS OF AUSTRALIA. PIONEERS WHO HAD
TO WORK WITH EACH OTHER TO SURVIVE, AND ALSO HAD TO WORK
WITH THEIR ENVIRONMENT TO SURVIVE.

SOMETIMES THE DECISIONS WERE HARD, SOMETIMES THE WORK
WAS HARD, BUT THE PIONEERS KNEW THEY HAD TO CONFRONT
BOTH AND GET ON WITH THE JOB.

LACK OF DECISION OFTEN MEANT THE END.

THE CHOICE OF THE EASY OPTION USUALLY SPELT DISASTER

MANAGEMENT WAS THE KEY TO SURVIVAL, AND STILL IS!

TODAY - THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE LAND, MUCH OF THE WORK OUR
FOREFATHERS FACED IS FINISHED, BUT HARD DECISIONS ARE
STILL WITH US.

THE DECISIONS CONFRONTING THE NATION MUST BE FACED UP
TO IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER.

WE LACK INFORMED STRONG LEADERSHIP - BE IT IN THE
ECONOMY, THE ENVIRONMENT, OR THE WORKFORCE.

THE GOVERNMENT IS PLAYING POLITICS WITH THE ECONOMY AND

THE ENVIRONMENT.

THE SILENT MAJORITY ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AND ARE BECOMING MORE CRITICAL OF THE EXTREMISTS WHO MOSTLY AVOID THE HARD ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES OF THE WORLD, AND SEEM TO SPEND THEIR TIME TRYING TO KNOCK A FEW COWS OFF THE BOGONG HIGH PLAINS, BECAUSE THEY THINK WE ARE AN EASY TARGET.

I TELL YOU THEY HAD BETTER THINK AGAIN!.

I BELIEVE THE SILENT MAJORITY HAVE MORE WISDOM THAN POLITICIANS GIVE THEM CREDIT FOR.

THEY KNOW THE CON JOB THE RADICAL CONSERVATION MOVEMENT IS DOING ON THE COMMUNITY, USING THE MEDIA AS POWERFUL TOOLS.

WE NEED TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD IN A SUSTAINABLE MANNER. EXTREMISTS DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THIS!.

SUSTAINABLE USE MAY MEAN LESS USE OF OUR RENEWABLE RESOURCES AND BETTER OVERALL MANAGEMENT.

IT DOES NOT MEAN SHUTTING UP VAST TRACTS OF SUSTAINABLY PRODUCTIVE LAND.

IT DOES NOT MEAN LETTING OUR WELL MANAGED FORESTS DIE OF OLD AGE AND ROT, WHILST USING WOOD PRODUCTS FROM THE AMAZON BASIN AND ASIA.

3.

BETTER MANAGEMENT DOES NOT MEAN REPEATING THE KOSCIUSKO DISASTER IN VICTORIA.

THIS MANAGEMENT FOR DISASTER, SEEN JUST FOUR WEEKS AGO BY JIM COMMINS AND MYSELF, RESULTS IN A POTENTIAL FIRE BOMB WAITING TO EXPLODE.

WILD FLOWER GROWTH IS SEVERELY REDUCED DUE TO THE SMOTHERING EFFECT OF DEAD GRASS, AND THE FIRE POTENTIAL HAS EVERYONE DOWNWIND OF THE PARK, ALL THE WAY TO THE SEA, LIVING IN FEAR OF AN UNCONTROLLABLE HOLOCAUST.

THE SAME SITUATION IS ALREADY EVIDENT JUST ONE SEASON AFTER CATTLE HAVE BEEN BARRED FROM WONNANGATTA STATION.

THE PLACE IS A DEATH TRAP AS THE LONG DRY GRASS WAITS FOR ONE SPARK WHICH WOULD INCINERATE EVERYONE IN THE ENCLOSED VALLEY.

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU LOCK CATTLE OUT, AND IS A GLARING EXAMPLE OF POOR MANAGEMENT BY IMPRACTICAL PEOPLE BASED IN MELBOURNE

THIS CONTROL BY MAN, PHILOSOPHICALLY COMES FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE USED TO A CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT.

AUSTRALIA'S GREAT OUTDOORS SUBMITS TO SOME HUMAN CONTROL BUT, JUST WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT - LOOK OUT!

PRESENT GOVERNMENT POLICY ON HIGH COUNTRY MANAGEMENT IS LEAVING OUT THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT - NATURE.

4.

TOO MUCH TIME AND MONEY IS SPENT IN CITY OFFICES ON THE THEORY OF HOW TO CONTROL NATURE.

NOT ENOUGH TIME IS SPENT IN THE FIELD ACTUALLY DOING IT.

WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING TOGETHER MORE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT ALPINE GRAZING.

THE N.F.F. HAS GRANTED US \$25,000 FROM THEIR FIGHTING FUND TO HELP US IN THIS OBJECTIVE.

I WISH TO THANK THEM PUBLICLY FOR THIS.

THE N.F.F. CAN SEE THE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS OF CONSTANT PRESSURE TO CLOSE UP PUBLIC LAND TO ALL COMMERCIAL AND PRODUCTIVE USE.

THEY ALSO REALISE THE PROBLEM IS GREATER THAN JUST OUR SITUATION.

WE WERE DUE TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL FARMERS JOHN ALLWRIGHT TODAY.

UNFORTUNATELY, AT THE LAST MINUTE, FOR FAMILY REASONS, JOHN IS UNABLE TO BE HERE.

HOWEVER HE HAS DEPUTISED THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL FARMERS, AND AN OLD FRIEND OF OURS, HEATHER MITCHELL - WELCOME HEATHER

5.

THE ALPINE MANAGEMENT PLANS ARE OUT.

YOUR ASSOCIATION WILL BE INVOLVED IN SUBMISSIONS TO THE PLANNERS.

I URGE INDIVIDUALS TO TAKE PART - GET YOUR WRITING PADS AND BIROS INTO GEAR.

YOU ONLY HAVE 2 MONTHS TO RESPOND TO THE PROPOSALS.

READ THE REPORTS AND WRITE TO THE PLANNERS AT BRIGHT. IF YOU DONT RESPOND, YOU WILL HAVE MANAGEMENT PUT IN PLACE IN THE NEW ALPINE PARK WHICH IS FAR TOO RESTRICTIVE AND TOTALLY OUT OF STEP WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE HIGH COUNTRY.

SOME OF THE PROPOSALS ARE RIDICULOUS, BUT UNLESS THE PUBLIC RESPONDS THEY WILL BECOME REGULATION.

MY THANKS TO HARRY AND SUE RYDER AND HELPERS FOR A GREAT WEEKEND. IT IS A LOT OF WORK!

I'M SURE CLEAN UP HELPERS WILL BE APPRECIATED.

THE M.C.A.V. HAS BEEN ASKED TO HAVE A LARGE GROUP OF RIDERS IN THE MOOMBA PARADE ON MONDAY 12TH MARCH.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE IN IT, SEE A BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE OR MYSELF.

WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW NUMBERS.

THIS IS A GREAT CHANCE FOR ASSOCIATES TO RIDE WITH THE MEMBERS IN MELBOURNE AGAIN, AND HELP KEEP OUR PROFILE HIGH.

6.

IN CONCLUSION I WANT TO STATE LOUDLY AND CLEARLY -

THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN ARE PART OF OUR HIGH COUNTRY
ENVIRONMENT -

AND WE ARE HERE TO STAY!

THANK YOU.