

MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS NEWS

Newsletter of the Mountain Cattlemens Association
of Victoria Incorporated
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December, 1997

GET TOGETHER - A FINAL REMINDER

This Newsletter contains important information regarding the official programme for the weekend. Copies of the programme will be available at the entry gate.

Please note the following :

The entry gate will open at 4:00 p.m. on Friday 9th January 1997.

THERE WILL BE NO ENTRY TO THE PROPERTY BEFORE THIS DATE, OR BEFORE THIS TIME. PLEASE REMEMBER THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY.

The catering arrangements are as usual with the addition of icecreams and soft drinks being made available.

This Get Together will also have childrens' novelty events taking place over the weekend.

We are hoping for an extra large crowd over the weekend. The fact that the property is easy to get to, not quite so

far from Melbourne, and good roads, all make for easy access for our Associates and supporters

THIS IS A CRITICAL time for the mountain cattlemen. In fact it is as, if not more, critical as the time of the ride to Parliament House, and the Nunawading byelection.

The Alpine Park licences are now under review and the Association is fighting to keep the cattlemen in the mountains, and to stop any cutting back of grazing areas or cattle numbers.

Promises made at the time the Park was legislated are being vigorously tested.

There is no new evidence to indicate that cattle are having an impact on the alpine areas. All the tired old arguments are being brought out again.

ATTENDING THE GET TOGETHER AND SHOWING YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN SENDS A VERY POWERFUL MESSAGE BACK TO GOVERNMENT. PLEASE HELP

TO MAKE THE 1998 GET TOGETHER A SUCCESS.

The official programme will follow along these lines:

On Saturday 10th January 1998 in the horse arena there will be vet checks for all horses competing in races. The vet checks will commence at 8:00 a.m.

Following this competitors in the Open Race will walk the course.

The Open Sprint heats will then commence at 9:30 a.m.

Open Race heats will take place from 10:15 a.m.

At 11:00 the Wally Ryder Horse walking Race will be held. This has been a feature of Get Together competitions for the past four years and always draws great interest from the crowd.

After an early lunch, and commencing at 1:30 p.m., is the event which drew such praise last year - the Cattlemens Cut Out. This event is open to members of the Mountain Cattlemens Association only, and involves skills used whilst mustering. Make sure you watch this one.

Following the Cut Out will be a new event brought in this year - a Cattle Dog Trial. This should be exciting, informative and demonstrate more of the bush skills we are so proud of, and keen to maintain.

At the same time, but in the novelties and demonstration area, and commencing at 8:00 a.m., will be various heritage displays, whipcracking competitions, haystacking, dog high jump, and tug of war. All at various

set times. You will need to make a note from the programme you will receive at the entry gate. Importantly, for the 6th year, there is the Don Kneebone Heritage Award. This Award for amateur poets, bush story tellers and musicians will commence with heats at 12:00 noon. The presentation finals which always draw a very large crowd will commence at 7:00 p.m. to be followed by the band. Music and dancing until the stars fade.

On Sunday 11th the heritage displays will continue. There will be demonstrations of working Clydesdales, woodworking with cross cut saw and adzes, horse shoeing, whip plaiting, saddle making and slab hut building.

Sunday is, of course, the day when the main horse event is held - the Mountain Cattlemens Cup (senior and junior divisions.)

Vet checks will commence for all competing horses at 8:00 a.m. followed by the Open Sprint final at 9:30 a.m. Other race finals on Sunday are the Associates Dash at 10:00 a.m. and the Open Race final at 10:30 a.m.

The old favourite - the Packhorse Race will be held at 11:00 a.m.

The junior Mountain Cattlemens Cup will take place at 12:15 p.m. following an introduction of riders at noon, and the senior division Cup will take place at 1:15 p.m. after an introduction at 1:00 p.m.

At 2:00 p.m. the more lighthearted races take place with the Relay Race, and then the glorious 'let your hair down and go for it' Run-A-Muck Cup commences with an auction at 2:30.

A full and tightly constructed programme which will leave no time for boredom, by the sound of it.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP

**THE PHOTOGRAPHIC
COMPETITION WILL TAKE
PLACE.**

Since the last Newsletter which announced that this competition would not take place at the 1998 Get Together due to the absence of Don Porter, he has now arranged for somebody to take over from him this year.

We must all thank Carolyn Hill for stepping into the breach and taking over for the Rose Valley Get Together.

Time is very short, but if you would like to enter this competition please send your photographs plus \$4.00 entry fee per photograph to:

**CAROLYN HILL
1/148 WALLER STREET
BENALLA VIC 3672.**

All entries must reach Carolyn by the last mail on Wednesday 31st December 1997.

For those of you who were disappointed that the competition was not going to be held, and for those of you who have been thinking of entering **NOW IS THE TIME** to get those photos out and off to Carolyn with the appropriate entry fees.

**DONT FORGET - THE OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME WILL BE
AVAILABLE AT THE ENTRY**

**GATE FROM FRIDAY 9TH
JANUARY ONWARDS. IT IS
IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT
YOU HAVE A COPY OF THAT
PROGRAMME, AS EVENTS AND
TIMES COULD CHANGE.**

**PROGRESS REPORT ON SEVEN
YEAR BUSH GRAZING
LICENCES.**

We think, we think and hope, and we are led to believe, that these will issue by Christmas as promised.

(I am holding my breath and have my fingers crossed)

The final issue to be resolved is on the subject of pricing, however the Department have said that they will issue the licences on the old fee basis, and make any adjustments once a fee is struck.

It is all coming together and should be a great Christmas present - if !

**PROGRESS ON REVIEW OF
ALPINE PARK GRAZING
LICENCES.**

There have been three meetings to date on the review of the Alpine Park licences.

On the subject of licence fees, the Association has agreed that this matter should be considered by the Crown Land Rental Sub-Committee of the Land Use Committee - Victorian Farmers Federation, in conjunction with the Valuer General.

Parks Victoria have stated that they will be strictly adhering to the licence conditions. Therefore all licensees must advise Parks Victoria the names of people who will be working for them over the summer grazing period.

At the same time, if for any reason a licensee (or somebody employed by a licensee) needs to ride into a wilderness zone, Parks Victoria will need to be notified. Naturally this may happen during the course of the working day, but as soon as practical there should be phone call to the local Parks Victoria office. These requirements are set out in Clause 14 of the present licence document.

Insurance: At this stage there has been no firm decision on any increase in Public Liability premium, although the figure of \$5,000,000 has been suggested as more realistic than the present \$1,000,000.

In any case Parks Victoria require a Certificate of Currency at the time of entry of the cattle to the run. The Association has been informed that Parks Victoria will be sending a letter to licensees advising of this requirement. To obtain a Certificate licensees should telephone their local Insurer and simply ask for a Certificate of Currency in respect of Public Liability, and a copy of this should then be sent on to Parks Victoria. This is also a condition of the current licence.

In its negotiations with Parks Victoria the Association is standing firm that there should not be any alteration or change to the clauses in the current licence. The reason for this is that the current licence was worked out after very lengthy negotiations, and the Association believes that it adequately protects the rights, and spells out the responsibilities, of both parties.

There are a number of management issues under review, and future Newsletters will keep members and supporters in touch with the review process.

The first inspection tour will take place on the 5th January 1998, and will take in various sites on the Bogong High Plains.

NATIVE TITLE.

A considerable number of licensees could potentially be affected by a large Native Title claim in East Gippsland. At this stage the claim has not been approved, however if a determination is made by the Federal Court that Native Title exists, Parks Victoria will give 30 days written notice that the licence is to be cancelled.

This will be a standard clause from now on in relation to all activities licensed on public land.

If you are not sure whether your licensed area could be affected by native title, please contact our office.

THAT IS ALL FOR NOW. WE HOPE TO SEE A TREMENDOUS ROLL UP AT THE GET TOGETHER. ALL ASSOCIATES AND SUPPORTERS THROWING THE WEIGHT OF THEIR OPINION STRONGLY BEHIND THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN.

IN THE MEANTIME THE PRESIDENT AND CENTRAL COUNCIL WISH ALL MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS A VERY HAPPY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR. (WITH GREATLY INCREASED CATTLE PRICES PLEASE).