



*The Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria Inc.*

AFFILIATED WITH  
THE VICTORIAN FARMERS' FEDERATION

## MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS NEWS

Newsletter of the Mountain Cattlemens Association  
of Victoria Incorporated  
P O Box 294, Mansfield, Victoria, 3722  
Phone: 057 751 600  
Fax: 057 751 610

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### OFFICE UP DATE

After the sorry demise of the office typewriter after many years hard slog, the Central Council decided that the time had come to purchase a computer for the Association. Part of the reasoning behind this decision was that much of the history and background to events which have shaped Alpine grazing today can be put into a computer for future reference. The archives and the filing system were becoming unwieldy, and it was time to move forward anyway. Another benefit was seen to be that the computer could be moved around from location to location with any future Secretary. It was also acknowledged that computers were a part of life in the 90's and would continue to be used. I am still experimenting with various formats and styles. This is the first Newsletter on the new system, and I must quickly advise that I am having a bit of a play around, this may not be the final format! You will have to wait and see.

### MATTERS LEFT OVER FROM THE LAST GET TOGETHER

**SUNGLASSES.** Sitting on the shelf in the office are a pair of prescription sunglasses which were found at the Get Together. They are tinted and in a tortoiseshell frame. If the owner would like to give me a call, I will happily return them.

**DOG HIGH JUMP - PHOTOS WANTED.** The following letter explains all:

"Would it be possible to put a piece into your next Newsletter if anyone has photos, or video footage of our dog "Sybil" who entered into the Dog Jump. Sybil is a German Shepherd x Heeler cross, a small dog weighing approx 23 kilos, short haired, black, tan and white colouring. As we do not have any photos, or footage of our dog we would appreciate it very much."

The letter is written by a Mr Neil Moore, 2 Mather Road, Noble Park, 3174.

If anybody can help Mr Moore with any photographs could you please contact him direct. I know that he would be very pleased.

## **R.M. WILLIAMS OUTBACK HERIGAGE AWARD.**

Many of you will remember an August day in 1988 when MCAV President, Mr David Treasure and a small group of Mountain Cattlemen rode through the city of Melbourne to R.M. Williams store in Elizabeth Street to accept the inaugural Outback Heritage Award - a bronze statue of a bush rider. When the R.M. Williams organisation decided to commemorate the mounted stockman as an important icon in Australian tradition and heritage, they decided that the Victorian Mountain Cattlemen were the obvious choice as recipients of the inaugural award. In their letter to the Association at the time they wrote:

“It is in appreciation of this tradition that our company has decided to present an annual award, to be known as the R.M. Williams Heritage Award, which will be presented each year to a person, group, or organisation, who, by their day to day endeavours, our Company judges helps maintain and preserve the culture, crafts and working practices of the traditional Australian bushman, with whom we have been associated for so long.

In seeking to find such a worthy recipient for such an award, we instinctively turned to the Mountain Cattlemen, who in their day to day working lives, do so much to keep this heritage alive....”

The MCAV was very proud to accept the inaugural award.

Some of you who are members of the Stockmans Hall of Fame will have read about the latest recipient of the

Outback Heritage Award in their June newspaper. For those of you who do not receive this newspaper, we reproduce part of the following article -

“The main focus at the shivoo was a presentation of the Outback Heritage Award to Slim Dusty. R.M. Williams himself did the honours. He said “It’s a proud night for me. This award is for someone who keeps the tradition of the Australian outback going and Slim Dusty has been doing it in song for 50 years.” The article says that Slim Dusty was overcome to receive the award which he considered would be one of the most important he ever received.

MCAV congratulates Slim Dusty on receiving the award, without any doubt his music celebrates the heritage and traditions of the bush.

Many of you will also remember that R.M. Williams and Slim Dusty were guests of honour at the MCAV 1986 Get Together held at Catherine Station.

A small world after all!

## **MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN IMMORTALISED IN BRONZE**

A life-size bronze statue of a mounted stockman - dedicated to the pioneer Mountain Cattlemen, has been erected on Mount Buller, commissioned by Rino and Diana Grollo. The unveiling was performed by the Hon Graeme Stoney MLC on the 1st June 1996. In freezing misty weather Mountain Cattlemen and their families, friends and dignitaries assembled on the Mountain for the ceremony, and then joined Mr and Mrs Grollo for lunch. The Mansfield Courier had this to say:

“Horsemen returned in the mist to Cow Camp on Mt Buller on Saturday for the unveiling of a statue honouring the Mountain Cattlemen.

Seventeen oilskin clad representatives of cattlemen’s families gathered on horseback to form a backdrop to the statue while 150 spectators and guests braved the near freezing temperature and strong winds.

The bronze statue was commissioned by Rino and Diana Grollo of Mt Buller Resort to honour the families who helped pioneer access to Victoria’s high country. The sculpture by Melbourne artist Michael Meszaros has been placed on a rock base in the Mt Buller village centre adjacent to the clocktower and Cow Camp Plaza. (Article courtesy of Mansfield Courier, with thanks.)

In his capacity as Legislative Council member for Central Highlands, Graeme Stoney had the task of unveiling the statue. He spoke of the hardships that mountain cattlemen endure, of the sacrifices they have made, and of the traditions handed down through the families to the present day.

Mansfield Mountain Cattlemen families, past and present, were represented, and President Mary Goldsworthy attended the ceremony and lunch with Harry, Sue, Adam and Philip Ryder, and members from other MCAV branches.

Two plaques dedicated to the mountain cattlemen and their families will be fixed to the base of the statue.

Members of the Mountain Cattlemen’s Association would like to sincerely thank Rino and Diana Grollo, who in their understanding of history and

tradition have created a milestone in the long process of recognition of the traditions and heritage of the Mountain Cattlemen.

## **NEW MINISTER FOR CONSERVATION**

As a result of the last State election and the re-election of the Liberal/National Party Government there have been some changes in the Ministry.

The Hon Marie Tehan is now the new Minister for Conservation and Land Management in an expanded Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

The Hon Pat McNamara is Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources.

We congratulate them both, and look forward to working with Mrs Tehan, who was at one time Shadow Conservation Minister during the Labour Government years. We have also sent our congratulations to Mark Birrell, who is now Minister for Industry, Science and Technology.

## **ALPINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Alpine Advisory Committee had a meeting in Melbourne in May, and this meeting completed the current agenda submitted to the Committee by Minister Mark Birrell.

We have yet to hear from the new Minister.

## **MCAV MARKETING**

The Association has suffered a slight hiccup in its marketing operations. Our previous marketing officer, Mr Frank Hill found that he was unable to continue with the job. Marketing,

including mail orders, is now being handled by Mary Goldsworthy and Sue Silvers.

New windcheaters have been produced. They are good quality fleecy, made in Australia, have a crew neck and set-in sleeves. The new circular logo - three horsemen - with the words Mountain Cattlemen, and Caring since 1835, surround the logo in a circle. The range of colours is terrific: Burgundy, Navy, Royal Blue, Black, Marle Grey, Gunmetal Grey, Bottle Green and Teal. The size range is from children's' 2 - 14. Adults : Small, medium and large, XL, and XXL. Mail order prices - Adults \$29.00, plus \$4.00 postage, and childrens' are \$18.00 with \$4.00 postage.

These are great garments for the winter, why not lash out and give yourself a treat. The colours are beautiful, my favourite is the gunmetal grey, which is a beautiful soft blue/grey. Very flattering!!!!

Just send a note with cheque to Sue Silvers P O Box 294, Mansfield, Vic 3722.

A full list of MCAV merchandise is listed in the current copy of the Voice of the Mountains. **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**

We also have the T shirts ready for delivery to anybody who might want one. They are in the same colours as the windcheaters, and same sizes - children's through to adults XXL. Prices as per Voice of the Mountains, or give Sue a ring.

## **BUSH ALERT**

Bush Alert, a system of notifying police of any untoward behaviour in the bush by members of the public had some successes, particularly in respect to the timber industry.

Following the incident at Moroka Hut, where Clive Hodge was attacked and injured by a deer hunter, the MCAV discussed the problems and concerns Cattlemen were having with members of the Public Land Council of Victoria, of which MCAV is a member.

The Public Land Council recognised that there was a need for some form of education regarding the rights and obligations of public land users. It was agreed that some system needed to be put into place which could deal with illegal or nuisance behaviour.

Proposals to expand the current and somewhat moribund Bush Alert are currently being discussed. They will require resources in order to employ one full time police officer, allow regular patrols in the bush, and mount major short term operations.

The current Bush Alert system of reporting matters to a central police registry for attention is proposed to continue, and to be expanded to cover all public land. It would also change its focus to include nuisance and irresponsible behaviour, in addition to the current reporting of criminal activity.

## **MT STIRLING - ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT NOW RELEASED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.**

Mt Stirling, once grazed by the Purcell family, was taken over by the Alpine Resorts Commission in 1983, and at that time grazing was removed from most of the mountain. Owing to the

difficult terrain cattle still find their way into forbidden territory, and the summit of the mountain is now fenced off during the summer months.

Proposals have been put to Government over many years to develop Mt Stirling into a downhill ski resort, the latest being in 1993. In 1994 the Government agreed to producing an Environment Effects Statement for the mountain, hopefully to determine its future one way or the other, for all time. This process has now been completed, and the document is available for public comment until the 26th August 1996. Copies of the Environment Effects Statement are available from the Bookshop of the Office of Planning and Heritage, 477 Collins Street Melbourne, or by contacting the Bookshop on (03) 9628 5061.

The EES has produced a range of 6 options for the mountain. Briefly:

- A - Continuation of existing use.
- B - Nature based (conservation focus)
- C - Recreation focus
- D - Day visitor with downhill and cross country (separate centres)
- E - As above with a combined mountain centre.
- F - Ski resort and village.

The Summary says that the mountain is currently used by a wide array of people for experiencing and learning about the environment, for sightseeing, cross country skiing, and a gateway to the Alpine National Park. The mountain is close to Melbourne and is relatively safe. Cultural, historical,

scientific and educational aspects are also important resources. It has significance as a water catchment and has nature conservation habitat values.

If you would like to know more about the EES, please contact Sue Silvers who has some copies of the summary available. If you wish to put a submission to the Government on the future use of Mt Stirling you may view the EES documents at the following venues: Department of Infrastructure Planning and Heritage Office, Ground Floor 477 Collins Street Melbourne. The State Library, Delatite Shire Council, Mansfield, Mansfield Adult Centre for Education, High Street Mansfield. Mansfield Tourist Information Centre. Alpine Resorts Commission Office - Mt Buller. Also at the following Libraries:

Bayside Library - Brighton  
Brimbank Library - Sunshine  
Frankston Library - Frankston  
Maroondah Library - Ringwood  
Darebin Library - Preston  
Nillumbik Library - Eltham  
Knox City Library - Wantirna South  
Boroondara Library - Kew  
Ballarat City Library - Ballarat  
Delatite Shire Library - Benalla  
Mildura Rural Library - Mildura  
Greater Geelong Library - Geelong  
Lalor Shire Library - Traralgon  
Greater Bendigo Library - Bendigo  
Horsham Rural Library - Horsham  
Wodonga Rural Library - Wodonga.

## **7 YEAR BUSH GRAZING LICENCES**

Are you getting a bit sick of seeing this heading and then reading that discussions are in progress, action will be taken etc.? So are we. On 20th June, Mary Goldsworthy, Allan Brewer and Sue Silvers met with members of

the Crown Lands and Assets Section of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment for what will hopefully be the last discussion on 7 year bush grazing licences. (Please, please!!)

The Department proposes to divide these licences into two categories - one which adjoins areas licensed under the National Parks Act, and all others.

For bush licences adjoining existing National Parks licences the same terms and conditions will apply as those relating to the Park with the following exceptions: no requirement to register dogs in the bush area so long as they are controlled by the owner, and the restrictions which apply to firearms in the park will not apply in the adjoining bush licence area.

For all other licences it is proposed to issue the licence for 7 year terms the licences being the same as those now being adopted for other forms of agricultural tenure. There will be exceptions: Stock to be tagged, stock on the licensed area to be owned by the licensee, provision for the occupation of any existing hut or structure; provision for the licensor to direct that stock be excluded from parts of the licensed area identified from time to time. (Generally regeneration areas). The wording of this last provision is still under consideration by both MCAV and the Department. It is envisaged that the new licence documents will be available for signature by the 1st October, 1996. Department staff are obviously embarrassed by the length of time it has taken to produce these licence documents, the explanation being that they were put aside in the general press for change in all agricultural licences. It was noted that the Alpine licences

fall due for renewal in 1998 - the 7 year bush licences will be initially for 2 years for those holding both bush and alpine.

We have also again raised for discussion with the Department the question of an Eastern Forest Region. MCAV is to write again to the Department asking them to review MCAV paper on this subject.

### **TRAVELLING LIVESTOCK ON VICTORIAN ROADS**

A meeting was held on 20th June 1996 with the new Minister for Roads and Ports, the Hon Geoff Craige.

Members of MCAV who use Victorian roads to move stock from home properties to high country runs in summer, and back again in the autumn have been concerned for many years at the lack of uniformity in regulations regarding travelling of livestock on roads. Their concerns are with lack of uniformity in signage, difficulty and confusion regarding any defence to litigation which may be brought following any accident involving stock travelling on roads, and lack of driver education on how to deal with stock on roads generally. It is noted that in New South Wales there is uniformity of signage, and knowledge of what rights exist in respect to livestock on roads is included in the NSW road users Handbook. There is also an Australian Standard governing travelling stock on roads.

In March MCAV members met with the then Minister, Mr Bill Baxter to discuss their concerns. The Minister agreed to set up a working party consisting of representatives from VicRoads, the Municipal Association of Victoria, the Victorian Farmers

Federation, MCAV, the Insurance Council and the Stock Agents Association of Victoria. This working party was never convened in the form originally intended. The Victorian Farmers Federation began working on the problems of stock on roads, as did the Municipal Association of Victoria and VicRoads Advisory Board. At the request of the Minister the MCAV presented a discussion paper to VicRoads Advisory Board in February of 1995. The presentation was well received by the Board. MCAV then met with the Municipal Association of Victoria and a way of exempting MCAV members from permits was worked out using definitions and exemptions. The issues of driver education and uniformity of signage were worked out with the Victorian Farmers Federation, who also incorporated in their strategy the system of definitions and exemptions. MCAV understood that the VFF would put its proposal to Government.

In the meantime, to the dismay of MCAV members, local municipalities were going ahead drafting their own regulations regarding travelling stock. The opportunity for addressing MCAV concerns appeared to have been lost.

MCAV believes that the Minister must now intervene to bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion. There needs to be clarity and uniformity to all Victorian regulations regarding the travelling of livestock on roads.

MCAV had a most encouraging meeting with the Minister, who has undertaken to see that these concerns are resolved.

## **1996 MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS ASSOCIATION - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

### **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association Incorporated will be held on Friday 27th September, 1996 in the Board Room, 6th floor, Victorian Farmers Federation, Farrer House, 24 Collins Street Melbourne commencing at 11:00 a.m.

### **AGENDA**

Apologies.  
Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.  
Presidents Address.  
To receive reports from:  
    Executive Officer  
    Secretary/Treasurer  
    Marketing Officer.  
Setting Membership & Associate membership fees.  
Fixing Honorariums  
Election of Office Bearers  
Appointment of Auditor  
Any other business.

Lunch will be provided.

Last year the President appealed to all members and associate members to attend the Annual General Meeting, and the attendance was excellent. This is an opportunity to meet old friends, and catch up on all the activities of the Association. It is also an opportunity for associate members to show their support for the Association, and to have some input to the decisions for the year ahead.

We know this is advance notice, but please make a note in your diary now,

we would love to see as many as possible attend.

**AND NOW THE OTHER NEWS -  
ITS SUBSCRIPTION TIME  
AGAIN!**

Just look at how clever this machine is at drawing your attention to **VERY IMPORTANT MATTERS**. Like your annual subscription to the Association!

We do value your support, and we do value your membership. MCAV has no firm policy on how long it should carry unfinancial members with newsletters and so on. However we recently went through the computer listing in Melbourne and removed the names and addresses of those who had been unfinancial for more than two years. We are prepared to continue to send material to those over 12 months in arrears (Associates only!!) because we know how easy it is to mislay membership cards, or lose them down behind the refrigerator.

Another problem is members who change address and forget to tell the Association. We hate losing members this way.

So - all memberships are due for renewal at the end of July 1996. A card is enclosed with this newsletter.

Please fill it in and return to:

MCAV  
P O Box 294,  
Mansfield Vice 3722.

The address is on the card as well, you just can't miss it.

**MAKE MY DAY!!!!!!**

And while you are in this warm and expansive mood, what about a smallish, or biggish mail order to help the funds along a bit?

Just a quick line will do it. Mail order details are in the Voice of the Mountains - latest issue, the one with the cattle in the snow on the cover.

Just make sure that the mail order is sent to the same address as the membership renewal. Please note that the Kyneton address is no longer operational.

Or else give me a ring if you need any clarification. I am happy to chat!

Office hours:

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays in each week.

Some of you may have tried to get me at other times and instead have met the charming answering-machine. Messages can always be left on that of course.

**1997 GET TOGETHER**

The Omeo Branch are already gearing up for the 1997 Get Together.

The date: 11th and 12th January 1997

The place: Gibbo Park.

More information as it comes to hand.

Well, I think that is all for now. Most people would say its quite enough!