



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, Vic 3722

June, 1994

Dear Members and Associate Members,

MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS OFFICE HAS MOVED!

Over the past six months or so it became obvious that the Mountain Cattlemens office at the rear of 19A Highett Street Mansfield was too small and overcrowded. Files and boxes of books and papers started to pile up on the floor and under the desk, and a decision was finally made to move to larger premises.

The office is now situated at 105 High Street Mansfield in a delightful old brick building. Apart from the larger main office space, there is storage room, and here all the old files are listed and stored in boxes, along with old tapes, notebooks and all the old records collected over the past 10 years.

The telephone and fax numbers have stayed the same, and so has the postal address of course.

The new office is very comfortable and easy to work in and with an outlook onto the main street I can keep an eye on the comings and goings.

Don Porter has visited the office and hung a selection of photographs from the competition on the walls in the hallway. It looks great, and thanks very much to Don who took the time to come up from Melbourne.

Visitors are very welcome. Coffee and tea will always be served! There is also a large selection of copies of Voice of the Mountains, stickers and of course information on grazing.

DESIGN A FLAG COMPETITION

A large number of entries were received in response to the Design a M.C.A.V. Flag Competition. The Judges - members of the Central Council, examined all the entries at the last Council meeting in May. After careful deliberation the choice was narrowed down to two, and the Judges declared that the best design was that submitted by John McKindley. This design comprised the logo set squarely on the flag, with the initials M.C.A.V.

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out to the side. The colours are green and gold. We hope to be able to have the flag made up shortly.

Congratulations to John McKindley, and thanks to all the other entrants who put much thought and time into their designs.

1995 M.C.A.V GET TOGETHER - ADVANCE NOTICE.

The Mansfield Branch wishes to advise all members, associates, friends and supporters that the annual Get Together will be held on **14th and 15th January 1995**. There has been some confusion regarding the dates, but we can confirm the above.

A really surprising, different and first class venue has been chosen at Allan Bay on the shores of Lake Eildon near Goughs Bay, approximately 20 kms out of Mansfield. There will be plenty of top camping areas, and enough room for the main events arena, with an interesting course for the Cup event.

Mansfield are preparing a list of horse events, and propose to introduce an event for harness horses. Heritage displays, and lots of other attractions will make this a great weekend.

Make a note of the dates now. Further information will be provided as it comes to hand.

Enquiries to this office, or to Bruce McCormack on (057) 752 886.

ANGUS McMILLAN RE-ENACTMENT RIDE

In late February and early March, Mountain Cattlemen were asked to assist in the 150th year Gippsland celebrations by taking part in a trek following the trail used by Angus McMillan from Omeo to Tarraville. Doug Treasure and Ross Brown organised a group of Mountain Cattlemen to undertake this ride, and from all accounts it was a great success. Those who took part said that they had found it a very rewarding experience, and took them through country they would not otherwise have seen. Thanks to all those who took part.

MT MAGDALA TRAIL RE-OPENED.

Congratulations to all the hard workers and organisers who undertook this project in March. Work continued over two weekends, and the track was finally cleared by the Saturday afternoon. The project drew the attention of the local media, with good coverage in the

Mansfield Courier. The latest issue of Wild Magazine (Winter No 53) notes:

"Cattlemen reopen Mt Magdala track. An old cattle track in Victoria's high country has been rehabilitated by local members of the Mountain Cattlemens Association. The track, once a stock route, traverses the northern slopes of Mt Magdala situated on the Alpine Track between the Jamieson River and Mt Howitt. Covered by a landslide below the familiar landmark Hells Window in 1984, the track offers an alternative to the steep climb to the mountain's summit by the Alpine Track."

It is pleasing that this Magazine has acknowledged the work done by members of the Association, and thank you to all those who took part.

MARKETING - A NEW STYLE AND DESIGN FOR MCAV WINDCHEATERS

Ros Andrews and Don Porter have been working on a new style and logo design for the famous 'seen everywhere' MCAV windcheater. The new style has a slightly different neckline, a set in sleeve, and a stitched yoke seam. The logo of the three horsemen is set in a circle with the words Mountain Cattlemen around the outside. The fabric is a very good quality fleece. These garments will be available at the end of July. For more information and orders please contact Ros Andrews on (03) 818 7833.

SEVEN YEAR BUSH GRAZING LICENCES

Seven year licences for bush grazing were promised by the former Government at the time of the Alpine Park legislation in May 1989. Seven year alpine grazing licences were issued in August 1991 after a long drawn out battle, and those Cattlemen waiting for their 7 year bush licences could well imagine that they had been forgotten.

Somehow bush licences became buried deep in the dark recesses of the Department of Conservation, and some bureaucrats were doubtful whether there was indeed any obligation to issue them at all.

The Minister, Mark Birrell has given a committment in writing to the Association that these licences will be issued prior to the 1994/5 grazing season. The Association has written to him suggesting that a working party be set up to discuss terms and conditions which will, in several instances, differ from the alpine grazing licences.

We are awaiting his reply.

THE AUSTRALIAN ALPS - MOVES FOR WORLD HERITAGE LISTING

In early May, the Age newspaper carried two short articles on a report commissioned by federal and state governments into a future nomination of the Australian Alps for World Heritage listing. This report, by Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick, called on governments to act against perceived 'major natural integrity problems' in the Alps. These problems were listed as stock grazing, the need to control exotic plants and animals, a ban on further intensive development, and logging. These were seen, in the report, to be inconsistent with World Heritage qualities. The Australian Conservation Foundation immediately claimed that the Alps were "in danger of being wrecked".

The Association believes that it is important that the community should understand that 'major integrity problems' does not mean environmental damage. The 'integrity' referred to is the definition of World Heritage values, which find private commercial use of public land unacceptable.

It is also important to note that Mr James Thorsell, the executive officer of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) had made an inspection of the Victorian Alps in 1988 and reported that while the Alps were of importance nationally, he did not consider that they could be considered on a world basis.

The Mountain Cattlemen in Victoria have a strong heritage in an unbroken link to the early pastoral pioneers of the State, and are very proud of this. We believe that the real challenge for the conservation movement is to recognise and agree to protect this heritage which is unique in Australia.

The Kirkpatrick report referred to above has not been released. We will need to respond formally, if and when it is.

SCHOOL VIDEO

We have received the rough cut of the Video we had been working on during last summer. Central Council, and members who have seen the film are not altogether happy with it, and at present it is being looked at by people experienced in the field, to determine how to proceed.

At the same time it has been suggested that any video might be backed up with a selection of colour slides. We are therefore appealing to members and associates who may be prepared to lend us slides which we can have copied. Originals will be returned to their owners.

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Cattle Grazing in the Alpine Area is a topic for study in Years 11 and 12 VCE, and the Association is continually asked for information to assist students in their research into the subject. The questions the students are asked to cover are:

Origins and Development of the Association.

MCAV views regarding the environment.

Methods used to promote the views of the Association to Government and the public.

A major campaign undertaken by the Association and its effectiveness.

How the Association resolves conflict with other interests.

If you have any colour slides which would demonstrate any of the above questions could we borrow them? They will be copied and returned.

Please label them with your name and address and the question to which they refer, and send them to Sue Silvers, PO Box 294 Mansfield 3722.

We really need some assistance with this project. Help!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - ADVANCE NOTICE

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Friday 23rd September 1994 in the Victorian Farmers Federation Boardroom, 6th floor, 24 Collins Street Melbourne at 10:30 a.m.

All members and associate members are cordially invited to attend. This is the opportunity for you to air your views, and to bring yourselves up to date with the progress of the Association, and to hear reports of the year's activities.

The date has been specially planned for the Friday at the end of Royal Show week, and we hope for a large attendance. (Notice of meeting enclosed with this Newsletter).

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE NOW

A renewal notice is enclosed with this Newsletter. We will not go on and on with the usual begging and pleading for this to be attended to promptly. We just know that you will all complete the form and return to us without delay. I don't really know how we know this, I just have a sort of childlike blind trust. Don't shatter it! OK?



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NOTICE OF MEETING

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of The Mountain Cattlemens Association of Victoria Incorporated will be held on Friday the 23rd September 1994 at the Victorian Farmers Federation Boardroom, 6th floor 24 Collins Street, Melbourne at 10:30 a.m.

AGENDA

Apologies.

Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

President's Address

To receive Annual reports from:

Executive Officer
Secretary/Treasurer
Marketing Officer.

Setting Membership & Associate membership fees.

Fixing Honorariums

President
Chairman
Executive Officer
Secretary/Treasurer
Marketing Officer
Special Projects Officers

Election of Office Bearers

President
Senior Vice President
2nd Vice President
Executive Officer
Special Projects Officers
Secretary/Treasurer
Marketing Officer

Appointment of Chairman

Appointment of Auditor

To consider the Motion:

"That Clause 3 (1) of the Constitution relating to Qualification for Membership be altered from "grazing on Crown Land" to "grazing on broad area Crown Land".

Any other business.