

MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC. EXTRAORDINARY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE GOLDEN AGE HOTEL, OMEO,
ON SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER, 1986 AT 1.30 P.M.

Present: Messrs. J.A. Commins, J. Lovick, David Treasure,
C. Hodge, K. Kelly, K. Heywood, H. Ryder, G. Connley
G. Stoney, D. Kneebone, W. Hicks, Mrs. S. Silvers.
Attending: Mrs. H. Stoney, Mrs. D. Goode.

Welcome: The President, Mr. J. Commins welcomed members and thanked them for meeting at such short notice. The President congratulated Mr. Ryder on the birth of his son. The President then outlined the reason for the meeting, in that there were some questions raised in the book "Movement at the Station" which were causing concern. The author had not made many corrections suggested by the President, who considered that parts of the book were too political, and that there was not enough material concerning questions most asked about Alpine grazing. The President had contacted the Publisher who was prepared to allow a chapter to be added regarding the last point. However because of the deadline, and the illness of the author, this material would have to be prepared by the M.C.A.V. Owing to his closeness to the subject the President stated that he would prefer not to chair the meeting, and called on the senior Vice President to take the Chair.

Appointment of Chair-
man. Moved Graeme Stoney, seconded Harry Ryder that senior Vice President Mr. David Treasure be appointed to chair the meeting.

The Chairman read the two points for discussion:

1. Leave the book as it is but add a chapter dealing with the philosophies of the M.C.A.V. and what the Cattlemen say in relation to Mountain Grazing.
2. Delete Chapters 16 and 17 dealing with some political aspects, as this may harm the M.C.A.V.

The President expressed serious reservations about publishing the book with chapters 16 and 17 dealing with the aftermath of Nunawading, as he felt that the Association was being closely allied to a political party.

Mr. Stoney agreed that there was conflict over the book and the situation was difficult because Mr. Bryan Jameson was so ill, Mr. Stoney went on to point out that when Mr. Jameson took on the project he agreed to do so on the understanding that there would be no interference from the Cattlemen on his style or construction, and that secondly he would agree to change facts if they were wrong or open to question. He has based his book on the fact that the cattlemens fight started with Judge Stretton and ended with Nunawading and the aftermath. The two chapters involved in the President's concern have both been published in the Voice of the Mountains for 12 months, and nobody has criticised them. Mr. Stoney and Mr. Commins working together over the past week have corrected several parts of the book dealing with facts, but Mr. Stoney felt that if the Association altered the construction of the book by deleting chapters the Association could well be liable under law. Mr. Stoney believes that the book is a good one.

Mr. Stoney pointed out that the Publishers had given the Association the right to add a chapter putting forward the Association's point of view. Mr. Stoney considered that the Association needed the book urgently.

The Chairman suggested that the meeting be adjourned so everyone could read the particular 2 chapters.

Moved that standing orders be adjourned J. Commins, seconded Clive Hodge.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10 minutes to 2.

Resumption: Moved that standing orders be resumed D. Kneebone seconded G. Connley. The meeting resumed at 2.20.

The President re-opened the discussion by explaining that the Editor was in Sydney, but that the chapter could be written in Melbourne on Tuesday and sent on a facsimile machine and corrected on the spot. He stated that he was more concerned to get a good book out even if the launch meant missing the Get Together. His concern at the political material was that he did not wish to alienate the goodwill of staunch labour supporters of the Association. His concern was to get the book right.

Copyright: Mr. Hicks asked what the position was with the writer.

Mr. Commins explained that the contract for the book was between the Association and William Collins Pty. Ltd. Mr. Jameson had drawn up an agreement as he was seeking the copyright, however it was never formalised. He has received his money and presented his manuscript.

As Secretary Mrs. Silvers informed the meeting that Mr. Jameson had been paid some \$14,000, \$9,000 of which had come directly from the Association. She also informed the meeting that Mr. Jameson had approached her on the subject of the copyright, and after discussion with Mr. Commins and Mr. Stoney she informed the Publishers that the copyright should not be assigned to Mr. Jameson.

In view of the money paid to the author, the meeting agreed that copyright should continue to be held by the Association.

Mr. Hodge expressed his view that the 2 chapters should remain. He considered they would be of interest and were not detrimental to the Cattlemen.

Mr. Heywood pointed out that the 2 chapters concerned illustrated the depth the whole matter had gone to.

Mr. Lovick supported the President's view that it was of the first importance to get the book right. He pointed out that the book would be with the Association forever. However he stated that he could not see anything wrong with the 2 chapters concerned.

Mr. Stoney discussed the advantages of launching the book at the Get Together with Professor Blainey. He pointed out that Mansfield had recently been used for a festival, and the book launch would add some punch. He stated that the legislation will be reintroduced, and the book will keep the Associations view alive with politicians and others.,

Mr. Kelly expressed his view that the chapters should be left in.

The Chairman stated that it was political because of comment on Mosley, Stretton and Costin, but that he had read the book and was happy with it. He liked the style of the book and felt it covered what was in the synopsis. He considered that deleting chapters 16 and 17 would leave a gap.

Mr. Heywood pointed out that the Association considered the ramifications of Nunawading before that event, and that the Association should not now be ashamed of its actions.

There was discussion that the book was going to cover far more subjects i.e. more about Kosciusko however the meeting agreed that due to the ill health of the author, he possibly did not have time to go as far as he wanted.

The President discussed the prospect of a preface to the book and that it should draw attention to the value of mountain grazing and how successive bureaucracies are rendering the bush useless.

Summary: The Chairman summarised the discussion as follows:

Chapters 16 and 17 should remain. The new chapter should be written with Mr. Commins and Mr. Stoney solely responsible, and they should endeavour to get it done in the next few days. He asked the meeting to consider any subject matter they thought should be included.

Mr. Hicks stated that Houghton and Hamer were responsible for part of the problem as they were looking for the conservationist vote.

Mr. Hodge pointed out the Department of Conservation Forests and Lands are working towards devastation not preservation with their policies against burning. He stated that this was going to lead to a holocaust which would most certainly come.

Mr. Hicks told the meeting that in 1942 Kosciusko was exploited by big companies and large numbers of stock came in during a drought. Some damage occurred but what happened at Kosciusko should not be related to the Victorian High Country. He then went on to outline the history of Costin on the Bogong High Plains, and how Costin used the same photographs over and over again.

Mr. Hodge drew the meetings attention to the statement made recently by Professor David Bellamy that cattle should not be taken from the High Country, and also mentioned a lady called Galbraith from Tyres (a botanist) who told him 6 months ago not to take the cattle out because it would upset the ecology.

At 4.00 p.m. Mr. David Treasure left the Chair which was then resumed by the President.

The President stated that he accepted the meetings direction about the format of the book and the chapters in question. Mr. Stoney expressed the view that the new chapter could be completed on time.

Pricing Panel:

The President then discussed the Pricing Panel and the fact that the Association had to present a clear submission with specific objectives.

Get
Together: Mr. Stoney reported on the progress of the Get
Together at Sheepland Flat in February 1987. He
said they were happy with the progress of their
plans.

Mr. Kneebone asked that there be some event
included which would involve the ladies. Not a
fashion show, but more to demonstrate the ladies'
skills in riding etc.

Brochures: Mr. Stoney asked for clarification regarding the
display of brochures for trail rides etc.

After discussion the meeting decided that only
brochures of full members of the Association should
be made available in the future.

The President suggested that this subject be further
discussed at the next meeting.

Closure: There being no further business the meeting closed
at 4.45 p.m.

Confirmed.....

Chairman.