



The Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria Inc.

AFFILIATED WITH
THE VICTORIAN FARMERS' FEDERATION

MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS NEWS

Newsletter of the MCAV
P O Box 294 Mansfield 3722

July, 1995

APOLOGY

Perhaps some of you have been wondering about the long silence. A Newsletter should have gone out to all members and associate members in March giving details of the results of the Get Together, and generally bringing everybody up to date. I apologise that the March Newsletter never appeared. Due to family commitments I was unable to maintain my usual schedule. Things are now back on track - sort of.

1995 GET TOGETHER - MOUNTAIN BAY.

The Get Together was a tremendous success. The Association wishes to thank the Mansfield Branch and offer congratulations for a job well done. Mansfield Branch has the least membership, but somehow they manage to get things done quite brilliantly. Thanks also to everybody who supported and assisted them.

This year we were blessed with a new sponsor NUFARM LIMITED. Philip Sansom, that Company's Market support and Training Manager swung into gear well before the date of the Get Together, and organised a monster auction of donated goods ranging from a mobile telephone, through fencing materials, bush clothing, farm chemicals, right down to dog tucker. In fact the auction was so monster, that darkness had fallen by the time most of the goods had been sold. It was great fun, and raised a substantial sum of money. Part of the proceeds will be donated to charity in the near future.

And now a list of the event winners:

Wally Rider Horse Walking Race: Clancy Burrowes came first, with Liam Wade second and Danielle Clemson third.

Pack Horse Race: 1. Ron Connley, 2. Chris Egan and 3. Neville Wright. The award for the neatest pack went to Noel Graham.

The Junior Dash was won by Ben Blecher, with Danielle Murphy second and Kylie Wilson third.

Associates Dash: Sharon Pendergast, Barbara Cooper, and Nick Cook came home in that order.

The Open Dash was won by Sharon Pendergast with Leigh Bourke second and Kris Humphries third.

Open Race: Kris Humphries first, Neil Waite second and Lindsay Cambell was third.

The Junior Mountain Cattlemens Cup: 1st Derek Faithfull, 2nd Tania Connley and 3rd Clancy Burrowes.

The Mountain Cattlemens Cup: 1st Tim Faithfull, 2nd Anthony Connley and 3rd Craig Burchard.

The Association would also like to thank the following sponsors whose contributions are so important to the success of the Get Togethers.

Thanks to Mazda for the use of their courtesy vehicles, their presentation stage and sound equipment, and for the use of their marquee.

QBE Insurance Limited allowed us the use of the caravan as an office and focal point, and thanks also to their driver Alf Harris who guards it all, and generally joins in so enthusiastically.

Thanks to Mt Buller Freight for the use of their truck as a stage, to the Mansfield Veterinary Clinic who were on duty all weekend, to the local S.E.S. and the Leos.

Various groups also added to the interest in the Get Together by putting on individual displays: Friends of Wonnangatta, Forest Protection Society, Tread Lightly, Australian Deer Association and John Duncan Firth amongst others.

This year Don Porter surpassed himself with the MCAV Photographic Display. The standard of the photographs is quite stunning, and we thank all the entrants, and Don for putting the display together.

Lastly, and most importantly, we thank Brian Johnson, the landowner at Mountain Bay, who allowed over 2,000 to camp on his property for four days. The setting was glorious with magnificent views out over Lake Eildon. The weather, which was blisteringly hot, encouraged swimming, and everybody had a great time meeting up with old friends and making new ones.

Thanks to everybody, it is over now until next January.

Gippsland Branch is running the 1996 Get Together, and the dates are 13th and 14th January 1996, the Get Together to be held on the Howson Family property, 'Tarcool' Wombat Crossing.

PADDOCKS TO PORCELAIN - AN EXHIBITION BY DON PORTER & LORRAINE HANSEN.

I recommend this Exhibition of paintings by our Don Porter and porcelain painting by Lorraine Hansen to everybody. The Exhibition is being organised by our very own Ros Andrews and will run from the 13th to the 19th July at the Cato Gallery, Victorian Artists Society, 430 Albert Street East Melbourne. The official opening will be at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday 13th July. Please try to get to see this Exhibition, it will be well worth a visit.

TRAVELLING STOCK LEGISLATION DISCUSSION PAPER.

In February, at the request of the Minister for Roads and Ports the Hon. Bill Baxter, Mary Goldsworthy and Allan Brewer presented to VicRoads Advisory Board a discussion paper setting out the MCAV concerns regarding travelling stock on roads. This was the first time that an outside group had addressed the Board, and was most successful.

MCAV has long been concerned at the lack of uniformity in regulations regarding travelling livestock on roads, lack of uniformity in signage, difficulty and confusion regarding any defence to litigation which may be brought following an accident involving travelling livestock on roads, and a lack of driver education.

At the present time all rural Shires throughout the State have their own particular local laws and regulations regarding droving stock. The confusion occurs when stock have to be driven through several different Shires with often very different regulations. In some cases droving is almost impossible, and it is easier, although costly, to move stock by road transport.

The experience in New South Wales is quite different. There the regulations are uniform, as is signage, and the Road Users Handbook sets out the obligations of drivers when encountering livestock on roads.

MCAV set out the problems and solutions in its discussion paper, and joined with the V.F.F in a working group to come up with resolutions and advise the Minister.

It has been acknowledged that there is no easy solution to the problems of stock on roads, but the work is being done, and a resolution cannot be very far away.

EASTERN FOREST REGION

MCAV has put a proposal to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources regarding the creation of an Eastern Forest Region including bush grazing licence areas and undeveloped Crown land in order to separate this area from the 'rest of the State' in matters of management and for the setting of fees. The first

proposal was not accepted by the Department for various reasons, but we have requested further discussion with the Department to see whether the proposal has merit in principal, and how best we can work with them to achieve this goal.

ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT - MT STIRLING

The Consultants appointed by the Government to prepare an Environment Effects Statement have released a range of 6 Options for the mountain and have asked for public comment. The Options range from continuing the existing use of the mountain with enhanced management measures, through various low impact priorities, to cross country skiing, cross country/down hill skiing, through to a major ski resort and village. At the present time the majority of the community views support the first Option, however there is a great deal more water to flow under the bridge before a final decision is reached.

MCAV has observer status on the Consultative Committee which is assisting in the preparation of the E.E.S.

If anyone has any concerns about the future of Mt Stirling and would like to make a contribution to the process, please contact Sue Silvers on 057 751 600.

There has been some opportunity for surveys, but unfortunately we have not been able to include the membership of MCAV in any mail out.

ITS THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN - SUBSCRIPTION TIME.

Enclosed with this letter will be your renewal of membership form. Please, please, don't add it to the rest of the rat's nest on your desk or the top of your refrigerator. Please be nice. Fill it in, write out your cheque, and send it off TOMORROW (see I am not pushing too hard, or I would have said Today).

At the last Annual General Meeting members agreed that the associate membership should not be increased. Instead the full members will increase their membership by .25 cents per head to \$1.25 per head.

We hope you have all had a successful end to the financial year. Branch Secretaries please remember to send your Bank statements etc. to Sue as soon as possible so she can start the annual ritual of tearing out her hair.

Thats it for now, regards to all.