



# MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS NEWS

Newsletter of the Mountain Cattlemens Association of Victoria  
P O Box 294, Mansfield, Vic 3722

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July, 1991

Dear Members and Associate Members

## DON KNEEBONE

It is with great sadness that we announce the death, on the 20th June 1991, of Don Kneebone.

Don was a foundation member of the Mountain Cattlemens Association and served as President of the North East branch and delegate to the Central Council for many years. He had lived at Bobinawarra for more than 40 years and served on a number of community organisations including the Country Fire Brigade which rewarded him for outstanding service a short time before his death. More than 400 mourners attended his funeral at Whorouly on Saturday June 22.

Don's wisdom, experience and humour will be very sadly missed by all who knew him, and the Association offers its love and sympathy to Dana and family at this sad time.

## RINGERS MUSTER

The Association is arranging a trip to the Stockman's Hall of Fame, Longreach, Queensland in November, to attend the famous Ringers Muster. It has arranged a 9 day Longreach Ringers Muster Farming Safari which departs Melbourne on Sunday 10/11/91 by coach will travel to Queensland that day and overnight. Day 2, Monday 11/11/91 we cross the state border into Queensland at Goondiwindi and travel through outback Queensland. We arrive at Planet Downs that afternoon and establish camp. During the afternoon we enjoy the use of the facilities of the property and enjoy dinner together. Day 3 (12/11/91) we have a guided tour through the cattle property which includes horse riding, exploring 3000 year old Aboriginal cave painting and observing cattle work being done. Day 4 (13/11/91) we travel north to Emerald on the Capricorn Highway and make our way via Barcardine to Longreach where we set up camp for the following four nights. Day 5 (14/11/91) is the first day of the Ringers Muster. Attend the Muster in the morning, afternoon make our way to nearby Longway Station where we have a property tour, watch a sheep shearing demonstration, inspect the homestead and enjoy afternoon

smoko of billy tea and damper. Stay overnight at Longreach. Day 6 (15/11/91) is spent sightseeing around Longreach. We visit the Australian Stockmans Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre for an insight into the settlement of outback Queensland. A guided tour will include a visit to the Qantas Memorial and original hangar for Australia's first aircraft factory. Overnight, Longreach. Day 7 (17/11/91) we enjoy the activities of the Muster. Day 8 (17/11/91) we depart Longreach and travel on to Blackall where bushranger Captain Starlight terrorised the area and old Jackie Howe shored his way into the history books when he hand clipped 321 sheep in one day. We break our journey at Charleville to see the Vortex Gun rain making machine built in 1902 to end the drought. Continue travel south overnight. On Monday (18/11/91 - Day 9) we complete our journey, arriving at base at approximately 6:00 p.m.

#### TOUR INFORMATION:

Included: 5 Star coach travel, fully equipped safari trailer/kitchen, camping equipment and overnight camping fees, most meals, admissions as per itinerary, 2 coach captains & safari cook, pre-departure information evening. Excluded are: Meals during express travel, lunches while in Longreach, sleeping bag, lilo and pillow, eating utensils, travel insurance and optional extras. Optional: are Ringers Muster optional activities. Highlights: 2 nights at Planet Downs cattle station, 4 nights Longreach & the Ringers Muster, and Longway Station visit.

Tour by: Landmark Tours, expressly for the M.C.A.V.

PRICE: \$550.00 per person.

(Each coach will take 35 passengers).

When considering the price it should be pointed out that the figure is 'all inclusive', providing three meals a day (except Longreach lunch, as most people will be attending the Muster). We have also added on a small amount as a fundraising exercise.

Price is dependent on the minimum number accepting.

Deposit of \$50.00 per head will be required to be paid by 30th August. Final payment will be required by 1st October 1991. Upon payment of deposit a full brochure will be sent.

Come on and join in this adventure! Support the Association in this great fun fundraiser and see Australia as well! Preliminary deposit form is included at the end of this newsletter.

**GET TOGETHER**

The 1992 Get Together is being arranged by the Gippsland Branch, and there is one very important change from the past years - THE DATE - 1992 Get Together will be held on the weekend of the 18th and 19th of January 1992 on the Guys property near Waterford on the Wonnangatta River. A weekend prior to the Get Together will be set aside for Members and Associates to inspect the site. Details from Gippsland Branch Secretary - Magda Brown, 70 Kay Street Traralgon 3844.

Gippsland Branch are well into their arrangements, and are planning some new horse and novelty events. Please note the date, and set it aside!

**1992 EDITION OF VOICE OF THE MOUNTAINS**

Owing to the bringing forward of the Get Together date and the heavy commitments of Linda Barraclough and Debbie Squires who produce the magazine each year, the deadline for articles, letters, photographs and advertisements is now the end of October 1991. Now this is a great opportunity for you all to be involved in the Voice, let's hear from you! If you would like to submit an article, a poem, write a letter or submit a photograph, do it now! Send your contribution to :

The Editor,  
Voice of the Mountains  
P O Box 86  
BAIRNSDALE VIC 3875

Don't be shy - lets make a great issue of the Voice.

We are also always looking for new advertisers. Rates are: \$100 full page, \$50 and quarter page \$25. Whether you are an Associate or a full member, if you would like to advertise your product or business in the Voice, write to the above address.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS WEEKEND**

Mansfield Branch would like to host a weekend for Associate Members at Stockyard Creek. This will be a fun weekend of relaxing, fishing, horse riding and camping, with entertainment from your hosts the Mansfield Branch. The weekend is in October (yet to be advised) and the Branch will supply all meals. You will need to bring your own camping equipment and alcohol! Interested in joining in? Contact Mansfield Branch Secretary: Bruce McCormack, 12 Reynolds Street, Mansfield 3722. Phone: 057 752 886, after end of July. Bruce is away on holidays until then, but will be pleased to hear from you in early August. Numbers will be limited, so first in, best dressed!

So, now to more serious matters.

#### **DC&E PROPOSALS FOR BOGONG HIGH PLAINS CATTLEMEN**

The Department of Conservation & Environment has held three meetings for the Bogong High Plains cattlemen, both for those families to be phased out, and for the remaining licencees. These meetings have been at Falls Creek and Harrietville. The preferred option the Department has put to the cattlemen is that the phase out families take a 30% reduction in head allocation and move to new areas in the southern end of the Plains, and the remaining licencees, in order to accommodate the phase out families, take a 15% reduction in stock allocation. The Department has determined that the total number of cattle on the Plains this coming summer will be 3,000 head. We believe this option will have the effect of virtually phasing out all cattlemen on the Plains. We have advised the Department that this option is unacceptable, and at the last meeting of the Central Council the Secretary was instructed to write in reply to a letter sent by the Department to the individual licencees rejecting this option.

#### **7 YEAR GRAZING LICENCES FOR MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN**

This issue was legislated in 1989, and 6 Council members have been meeting with the Department for over 12 months in an attempt to resolve a range of matters. We are of the view that it is the responsibility of the Minister to issue these licences, and that the time which has lapsed is excessive. We have written to the Department requesting that licences be issued to members without further delay.

#### **WILDERNESS**

The Land Conservation Council has produced its proposed recommendations for Wilderness in Victoria. The document can be obtained from the Land Conservation Council at its address which is set out at the end of this item. The proposed creation of Wilderness areas in the Alpine area will have dramatic and significant impact on members of this Association, and we request your assistance in writing a letter by way of Submission to the Council rejecting the proposed recommendations. The following are some quotations from the LCC report:

"In formulating its recommendations for wilderness, the Council recognised that domestic stock grazing in the Victorian Alps is a significant issue requiring particular attention. Stock grazing is presently carried out in parts of all the wilderness areas proposed in the Alps. While all such areas have been identified

as having high wilderness quality, parts have been, or are currently grazed, thereby resulting in a reduction in wilderness quality. However, in a State-wide context they still have high wilderness value.

The Council believes that grazing by introduced herbivores, such as cattle, is incompatible with the concept of wilderness. The issue is essentially that if wilderness areas of any reasonable size are to be established in the Alps, in addition to the existing Avon Wilderness, it is virtually impossible to avoid some conflict with existing grazing use. If the Council were to finally adopt the proposed wilderness areas identified in these recommendations, eight licensees would be affected. Seven of the licencees would be substantially affected.

In recognition of the importance of this issue, **the Council is seeking community views in response to these recommendations on a range of options aimed at reducing or eliminating the impact on individual grazing licensees of designating additional wilderness areas in the Victorian Alps.** (Our emphasis).

.....In some cases whole farm operations may no longer be viable. In total, some eight licensees could be affected, to varying degrees.

Council may resolve to recommend that grazing should be terminated as soon as possible, as the areas currently proposed for protection are so important in terms of wilderness protection. This option would create significant problems for the licensees involved and, as with each of the first five options below, would require amendments to the existing agreement relating to grazing in the Alpine National Park or to the area to which the agreement applies. However, wherever possible, Council is seeking to reduce the impact that the exclusion of grazing would have on individual licensees." (Land Conservation Council Wilderness Special Investigation Proposed Recommendations. April 1991. Pages 24,25, and 26.)

The LCC lists the possible options as -

1. Changing the boundaries of proposed wilderness areas.
2. Seeking alternative licence areas.
3. Government purchase (freehold plus licensed areas).
4. Continuing grazing rights in the medium term.
5. No additional wilderness areas in the Alps.
6. Reduce the number of areas proposed for wilderness.

The only option acceptable to the Association is No. 5.

The following are 6 points which you could use in your

letter of submission.

A. There is no need to proclaim Wilderness areas. There are many areas in the Alpine Area that are, and remain, natural wilderness areas.

B. People who argue for wilderness have not advanced anything that can not already be achieved in National Parks. They talk about species diversity, scenic grandeur, spiritual experiences, solitude, protection of landscape values, stream water quality - but all of these can be found in National Parks.

C. The proponents of wilderness areas argue that some people feel BETTER if they know wilderness areas exist - even if they never visit the area. We think participants in any activity (such as private four wheel-drive touring or commercial tours, as well as cattle grazing) that is banned from wilderness areas will feel distinctly WORSE. In fact, large numbers of people will feel acutely annoyed, and frustrated on a continuing basis.

D. At the launch of the Alpine National Park, the then Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, Mrs. Kay Setches said that it would be a park for all people, for all seasons, for all time. Any restrictively managed wilderness area that effectively excludes a large proportion of the population would directly contradict the Minister's commitment.

E. People who live in areas close to proposed wilderness areas are not just concerned about the actual areas under consideration. People who have grazing leases and/or freehold land adjacent to proposed wilderness areas are equally concerned about the possible effects of the fire management in Wilderness areas.

F. People will only be able to access Wilderness areas by walking and this means that most Victorians will be denied access to parts of their State.

You should write your letter listing all or any of the above points to:

The Chairman  
Land Conservation Council  
1st Floor,  
477 Collins Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Please note that the date for submissions closes on the 24th July 1991. PLEASE WRITE YOUR LETTER AND SEND IT OFF TODAY.

**CONGRATULATIONS - DAVID TREASURE AND GRAEME STONEY!**

David Treasure and Graeme Stoney have more in common than being Mountain Cattlemen and office bearers of the Association. They both have ambition to serve their State and their fellowmen.

David has gained preselection for the National Party seat of Gippsland East. Bruce Evans currently holds this seat in the Legislative Assembly, but is retiring after a long and distinguished career.

David Treasure was President of the M.C.A.V. in the years 1987/1988 and 1988/1989, and has since remained as a Central Council delegate for Gippsland Branch of which he is also President. David believes that the 'bloke in the bush' is ignored by Melbourne based politics, and is critical of the Labor Party's mismanagement and destructive policies which have significantly impacted on country people, causing unemployment and frustration. He firmly believes that the National Party strategy for primary industry and regional development will create a secure climate for the long-term growth of the vital rural and timber industries.

Graeme Stoney has, for the past 10 years, been the Executive Officer of the Association, and in representing the Cattlemen has had a high media and political profile. He coordinated the dramatic 1984 ride to Parliament House, and the campaign in the Nunawading by-election. In fact it is difficult to find something Graeme has not been involved with.

Graeme has a wide range of interests, the difficult thing is imagining how on earth he has the time to devote to them all! Ranging from tourism, through various local environment and business groups, to community service and the Mountain Cattlemen, Graeme zooms about, with boundless energy and enthusiasm for each one.

Graeme has gained preselection for the Liberal Party seat of Central Highlands in the Legislative Council.

So - David in the Lower House, Graeme in the Upper House. Wish I was a fly on the wall!

Both men are strong negotiators, firm in their integrity, and caring and thoughtful members of their communities. Each has a warm regard and admiration for the other, and they have had the experience of working closely together. Sadly David and Graeme will have to resign their positions with the Association, and they will be sorely missed. It will be very hard, if not impossible, to fill their shoes.

We give them both our heartiest congratulations, and offer them, and their families our warmest wishes for the future.

**MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Membership subscription forms are included with this Newsletter and are due and payable by July 31, 1991. We have accused you before of stashing these subscription forms behind the fridge for later! Please don't be guilty of that crime this year! For the sake of your Secretary's delicate mental health, please pay this account by the due date.

At the last Annual General Meeting of the Association held in October last year it was resolved to set a minimum fee for **full membership**. The full membership subscription is \$100 (includes the first 100 head) with an additional \$1.00 per head thereafter up to a maximum of \$500.

Fees for **Associate** members remain the same as in previous years.

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**RINGERS MUSTER**

I am interested in joining the trip to Queensland for the Ringers Muster.

MY NAME.....  
(please PRINT)

ADDRESS.....

POSTCODE.....

TELEPHONE.....

NUMBER OF PLACES REQUIRED.....

PLEASE CUT THIS FORM OUT AND SEND TO:

The Secretary  
M.C.A.V.  
P O Box 294  
MANSFIELD VIC 3722

**WITH A CHEQUE FOR \$50.00 PER HEAD AS DEPOSIT. PAYABLE BY 30/8/91.**

RECEIPTS WILL BE ISSUED WITH A FULL BROCHURE.