



*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  
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### ROSE VALLEY GET TOGETHER IN JANUARY.

It has certainly been a long time since a Newsletter has gone out, although some may not have noticed, since we sent out the Voice of the Mountains in February. However many members and associates would have collected their copies of Voice at the Get Together, and probably wondered what we were doing. More on that later!

The Get Together was most successful. A record crowd of over 4,000 attended for the weekend, and it seemed that everybody had a very good time. Some fine tuning will be applied by Mansfield next January, but we seem to have the formula pretty right.

Thank you to everybody who filled out the survey questionnaire. The results will be announced at the time of the Annual General Meeting on 3rd October 2002. Congratulations to Laurie Morison who won the swag! Laurie has been an associate member for very many years, and is a great supporter of the Association.

All the results from the Rose Valley Get Together will be printed in the January 2003 Voice of the Mountains. Thought we would mention the following however:

Congratulations to the Cattlemen's Cup winners:

Junior section was one by Corey Ferrari riding Mahogany.

Senior Cup was won by Lincoln Adams riding Houdini.

### SPIRIT OF THE OUTBACK - NIGEL AUSTIN'S BOOK.

The mountain cattlemen of Victoria feature in a beautifully illustrated new book about the Australian cattle industry which will be of interest to all in the beef sector.

*The Spirit of the Outback*, by Nigel Austin, with colour photographs by Leon Mead, covers all sections of the beef industry from cattlemen to end markets and highlights the different cattle regions and many of the nation's main producers.

Chapters of interest to members and associate members include an insightful article about the valuable environmental role played by mountain cattlemen in looking after the country, and others about Cobungra Station, and the Stoney family.

The book includes a number of stories about other well known Victorian

cattle families, including the Lawsons from YthanBrae near Yea, Werribee Agriculture, Mel Gibson's Beartooth Ranch at Tangambalanga, Jim Allen from the South Boorook Hereford Stud, the Gubbins from Te Mania Angus Stud, and Paddy Handbury.

The inspirational book captures the essence of Australia's vast outback regions and the people who live there. Appropriately, it has been launched in Australia's Year of the Outback and includes a foreword by Bruce Campbell, founder and chairman of the year.

It magnificently captures the spirit of hardworking men and women of the cattle industry. It also highlights the colour and passion of the Australian people - a proud people with a deep love for their land and their work. It is the story of settlement of inland Australia, its ongoing development and new land uses.

By focussing on the pioneers, the heroes and the many contemporary families who are helping to shape the outback, it vividly illustrates this vital core of the nation's identity and image.

*The Spirit of the Outback* covers the cattle industry from one end of Australia to the other, with stories on many of the nation's largest and most innovative cattle producers. In writing the book Nigel Austin has visited many of the most interesting, most isolated and largest stations in this vast land.

He provides a compelling insight into the crucial economic contributions of outback Australia. The \$7 billion a year cattle industry is the nation's largest rural business and the basis for the existence of many people in the outback. Through its focus on leaders

in the beef industry, *The Spirit of the Outback* features the latest technological and production advances of the beef industry from paddock to plate.

Through a special arrangement with the author, the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria has arranged a special price of \$55 a copy (includes postage and handling) with \$5 a copy going to the MCAV. To obtain your copy complete the form included with this Newsletter, sending your cheque for \$55 to MCAV. The book normally sells in bookshops for a recommended retail price of \$69.95.

**MARKETING: PAULINE VENN HAS AN OFFER TOO GOOD TO REFUSE!**

Pauline is offering a once off!

WINDCHEATERS reduced to only \$30.00 (postage is additional) for the winter months. Full range of colours:

Navy, Burgundy, Green,  
and Red

The Windcheaters are Australian made in poly cotton super fleece, with crew neck and features the original registered logo of the three horsemen.

To take advantage of this offer orders must be placed with Pauline before the 31st July, 2002.

Contact Pauline by dropping a line to her at Post Office Box 814 Eltham 3095 with details of colour and size.

Sizes run from XXL, XL, L, M & S.

**Edition No. 18 Special Release -  
Centenary of Federation Port.**

There are only 4 of these Centenary of Federation Port crocks left. If you would like to buy one please contact Pauline Venn as above. The price is \$35 plus \$10 postage. Postage can be avoided provided arrangements for delivery can be made with Pauline.

**PETER RABBIT INVADES THE  
ALPINE NATIONAL PARK.  
WILL MR McGREGOR BE ABLE  
TO DEAL WITH HIM OR NOT?**

Simon Turner is one member of a volunteer group who have been maintaining fencing in the Park as part of a research project on brumbies.

On a recent field trip the group found a rabbit warren near to their research project. Concerned, they approached the local Parks Victoria ranger and asked whether, on their next trip, they could take some chemical with them and fumigate the burrows. We all know that rabbits can multiply in vast numbers in a short time. This group of volunteers thought it would be a sensible and helpful thing to get rid of rabbits in the Park.

Unfortunately this was not to be the case.

The ranger denied permission to fumigate the burrows on the grounds that there could be public liability issues, but more importantly there had to be a 'strategy' developed. Firstly the size of the rabbit population had to be determined (tricky since it could double in the blink of an eye), secondly the extent of the warren had to be determined, and then the warrens needed to be located using a global positioning system. Terrific!!!

This is the sort of problem users of the National Parks in Victoria face. It is the responsibility of Parks Victoria to protect the conservation values of the Park. Clearly this has gone by the board. We all know what rabbits, left to their own devices, do to conservation values. When a group of volunteers, several with certificates to use chemicals offer to do the work for Parks Victoria, they are frustrated by all the mind boggling red tape which is required before a simple task can be undertaken.

The late Jim Commins would turn in his grave.

The last thing anybody, Parks Victoria, or Park users want is for a bunch of people going about the Park with pockets full of chemicals.

However this issue was approached in a proper commonsense manner, with permission first being sought.

Poor Mr McGregor, Peter Rabbit has won again.

**SUE REYNOLDS RETIREMENT**

After 17 years as Secretary and Treasurer, Sue Reynolds will not be seeking re-election at the Annual General Meeting in October 2002.

Sue has reached retirement age, has recently remarried, and needs to spend more time at home. It is also time for a change, and whoever takes over will bring a fresh perspective to the job.

If you are interested, or, if a member you are interested yourself, or have a friend or family member who might fit the bill, please provide details in writing with CV to The Secretary, P O

Box 294, Mansfield, 3724 before the end of July, 2002.

The incoming Secretary/Treasurer will be elected at the next Annual General Meeting to be held on the 3rd October, 2002 at the Victorian Farmers Federation, 24 Collins Street, Melbourne. (Notice will be given prior).

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE AT THE END OF JULY.**

An invoice is included with this Newsletter. The next two years will be crucial to the mountain cattlemen. Grazing licences are due for renewal in August 2005. The policy of the Australian Labor Party is to remove all grazing from the National Park. A document received from Parks Victoria this week states:

“With respect to management of grazing in the Alpine National Park as a whole:

The Victorian Governments policy was to investigate the options for removal of grazing from the Park, and the Government’s investigation was in its preliminary stages.”

The importance of keeping your subs up to date cannot be too strongly stressed. Particularly at this time. The amount of work to be done to counter moves to remove grazing and the mountain cattlemen from the high country is immense. This work cannot be done without the proper funding. And funding comes from you!

Please make sure you send your correct subscription as soon as possible. It is not important to wait until the end of July! But it is important to have subs

in, and not have members of the Association chasing after people who forget.

If you think you might be a forgetter - DO IT NOW!!

This is also the time to let you all know that there is to be a crack down on unfinancial members and associate members. No further information, newsletters or copies of the Voice of the Mountains will be sent to unfinancial members. The cut off date will be the 1st August 2002.

**VOICE OF THE MOUNTAINS.**

We are always looking for articles and items to include in the Voice of the Mountains.

Any photographs you have, particularly of the last Get Together at Rose River would be very gratefully received.

We are also looking for articles, poems and anything else. Don’t be shy - send your contribution direct to:

Debbie Squires,  
P O Box 816  
BAIRNSDALE 3875.

The earlier the better!

And thats all folks!