



The Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria Inc.

AFFILIATED WITH
THE VICTORIAN FARMERS' FEDERATION

MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS NEWS

Newsletter of the Mountain Cattlemens Association
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March 2001

JUNCTION PLAIN GET TOGETHER.

One of the most successful Get Togethers was held on the 13th and 14th January 2001 at Junction Plain near Omeo. Congratulations to the Omeo Branch of the Association for the excellent organisation.

Many thanks to Don Lawson and Cobungra Cattle Company for the use of this most beautiful site on the banks of the Victoria River. The whole area formed a natural amphitheatre, so that spectators could look down on the action taking place below. The weather was glorious, although hot on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday were just the right temperature for everybody to relax and enjoy the great programme of events.

Who will ever forget the Olympic Games Whipcrackers and their spell-binding performance. The crowd - 5,000 people fell silent as the first cracks rang out along the valley. There were some tears in the eyes of very strong men when the performance was over.

Results were:

Novelties:

Juvenile Whip Cracking: 1st Chantelle Spencer, 2nd Raymond Campbell, and 3rd David Ryder.

Junior Whip Cracking: 1st Tyrone Spencer, 2nd Aleshia Sievers and 3rd Brandon Spencer.

Ladies Whip Cracking: 1st Dianna Hurley, 2nd Angie Mooney and 3rd Allison McGrath.

Open Whip Cracking: 1st Angela Mooney, 2nd Allison McGrath, and 3rd Dianna Hurley.

Beaut Ute Competition:

Best Kept Ute: Washy from Queensland.

Feral Ute - Jord Stower.

Hay Stacking:

Ladies: 1st Sue & Jeanette, 2nd The Wobbles.

Unfortunately the winners of the mens' event was not recorded! Bad luck.

Dog High Jump: 1st Andy Perdon with Casper, 2nd Ewan Lockart with Blue, and 3rd Trent Day with Dash.

The Mulga Bill Event was won by Ryan Hadfield with Daniel Konagh in second place.

Race Events -

Relay: 1st Buckrunners, 2nd G. Forge and 3rd Wright Camp.

Junior Mountain Cattlemen's Cup was won by Brooke Dobson on Zeke, 2nd Sam Levitt on Riverina, and 3rd Jake Faithfull on Bloke.

Wally Ryder Walking Race: 1st Joe Connley, 2nd Nick Cook and 3rd Ron Connley.

Mountain Cattlemen's Cup: 1st Neil Waite riding Wyatt, 2nd Lincoln Adams on Bruno and 3rd Travis Kelly on Jing.

Sprint Race: 1st Carlee Knights, 2nd Ian Forge 3rd G. Forge.

Mountain Cattlemen's Classic: 1st Nicky Cook, 2nd Danny Cook and 3rd Ian Forge.

Pack Horse Race: 1st G. Forge, 2nd Neville Wright and equal 3rd Jim Kiely and Ron Connley.

Open Race: 1st Lincoln Adams, 2nd Mick Pritchard and 3rd Glenn Pattison.

Congratulations to all the place getters, and thanks to everybody who entered the events and helped to create the great atmosphere.

The organisers would have liked to have seen more contestants in the Don Kneebone Heritage Award. There will be more advertising about this important event before the next Get Together. In the meantime the following is a letter written by Dennis Carstairs, a former winner, and a man who has gone on to become one of the country's major bush poets:

"Dear Sir,

Country people in general and mountain cattlemen in particular, have a long connection with 'Bush Verse'. In the early 1900's and before, long before radio or television, Bush Poetry told a way of life. A fair majority of

these early poems told stories in rhyme, serious, funny, thought-provoking, and sad - of cattlemen, shearers, horsemen and swaggies. In the days of Lawson and Paterson, The Bulletin magazine was one of the most sought after items of men in the bush. A proficient teller of these stories, the Bush Poet, was a much sought after man around the lonely campfires of cattle drives.

Don Kneebone was one such man. Although I never had the pleasure to meet him, (Don passed away some ten years ago), from the tapes and books I have listened to and read of this man, I can well imagine the magic spell he was able to cast over his listeners. A Bush Poet and yarn spinner, this man kept the spirit of the cattlemen alive. As a long time member of the MCAV, the organisation saw fit to honour the man with the "Don Kneebone Heritage Award" to be contested at every Get Together of the mountain cattlemen. The award can be performed in either bush verse or song, all material must be original and will be judged higher if contents relate to the mountain cattlemen and their cause. Over the years the 'Don Kneebone Heritage Award' has been very well patronised at the Get Togethers by both the audience and the performers. However this year at Junction Plain, despite the fact that a large crowd gathered to hear the "Don Kneebone Heritage Award" only four contestants competed in the competition. **It would be a blight on the history and the tradition of the mountain cattlemen if this important part of our culture were to disappear.**

As a past winner of this award, I urge every member of the MCAV to rally friends, or to 'ave a go' with your own material at the Rose River next year. Many people came up to the organisers of this year's event to say that they had a poem or two at home that they could

have read had they known the numbers would be so low.

I know in many ways I am preaching to the converted in this Newsletter, but if any of you have any ideas on how we can improve the 'Don Kneebone Heritage Award' please give one of the following a ring:

Linda Barraclough 041
8573828
Debbie Squires 5152 4596
Dennis Carstairs 5145 6128

Yours sincerely,
Dennis Carstairs".

The 2002 Get Together will be held at Rose River on the 12th and 13th January 2002, and will be organised by the North East Branch of the MCAV.

CENTENARY OF FEDERATION - OUR NATION ON PARADE.

It has been estimated that there will be some 300,000 spectators lining the route to watch this spectacular parade on Sunday 6th May, 2001. We are hoping that many of these will be you - our supporters!

Riders, supporters and families will be asked to assemble at the Melbourne Showgrounds on Saturday 5th May in readiness for the Parade which commences at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday. Riders will leave on horseback from the Showgrounds on Sunday morning and ride in formation to the Parade assembly area near the corner of Swanston Street and Victoria Parade. A letter with full instructions and details will be sent to all riders and associate members early in April.

This is a great opportunity to join the crowd and watch not only a spectacular parade, but to cheer with pride the 205 contingent of mountain

cattlemen and their supporters forming our segment of the Parade. It will really be something worth seeing.

NOTE at this time it is highly unlikely that the Flemington Cup Family day will be going ahead, so far as the cattlemen's participation is involved. This will mean that practice sessions will not be necessary, as it is assumed that all riders and their horses will have practised with traffic, noise etc. prior to taking part in the Parade.

More information regarding all details for the Parade will be sent out shortly.

**PLEASE MAKE SATURDAY MAY
5TH AND SUNDAY MAY 6TH
FIRM DATES IN YOUR DIARY TO
COME ALONG AND SUPPORT
THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN!**

COBUNGRA STATION IRATE OVER INACCURACIES ON VICTORIAN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION WEBSITE.

Don Lawson's attention was drawn recently to a statement in the VNPA Website relating to Alpine Grazing which said that Cobungra Station had been sold into foreign ownership, and asked its supporters to contact the Minister to request that the grazing licences should be cancelled rather than transferred to the new owners.

Unfortunately for the VNPA, their information was completely wrong. Cobungra Station had not been sold, and there were indeed no foreign owners.

Mr Lawson contacted VNPA and requested that they remove all reference to Cobungra from their Website. He followed this with a letter pointing out the inaccuracies in

the information being put out and pointing out that the false information had the potential to damage, commercially, any intended sale of the Station. Mr Lawson also expressed concern about other incorrect information which VNPA were possibly spreading.

The credibility of the Victorian National Parks Association, in so far as alpine grazing is concerned, is now completely destroyed.

MCAV STRONGLY REQUESTS THE OPPOSITION TO MOVE AMENDMENTS TO THE PROPOSED VICTORIAN ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT COUNCIL.

Earlier this month the legislation to create a Victorian Environment Assessment Council came before the Victorian Parliament. This Bill was proposed to replace the Environment Conservation Council, which in turn replaced the Land Conservation Council. The Victorian Environment Assessment Council Bill (VEAC) posed serious threat to private land owners in rural areas, and proposed a Council of five members appointed by the Minister. Significantly any representation from people using private and public land resources, and any people using private and public land for recreation, were left out of the process. Clearly the VEAC would be very much out of balance, and it is assumed, would favour radical conservation groups without any input from public/private land user groups.

It is interesting that when the current Minister was in opposition she spoke strongly against the Environment Conservation Council Bill, angry that the public would have no input, and

that members of the Council would be appointed by the Minister, and that it might be a good idea 'to be a mate of the Minister'. Her words, interestingly, have come back to haunt her.

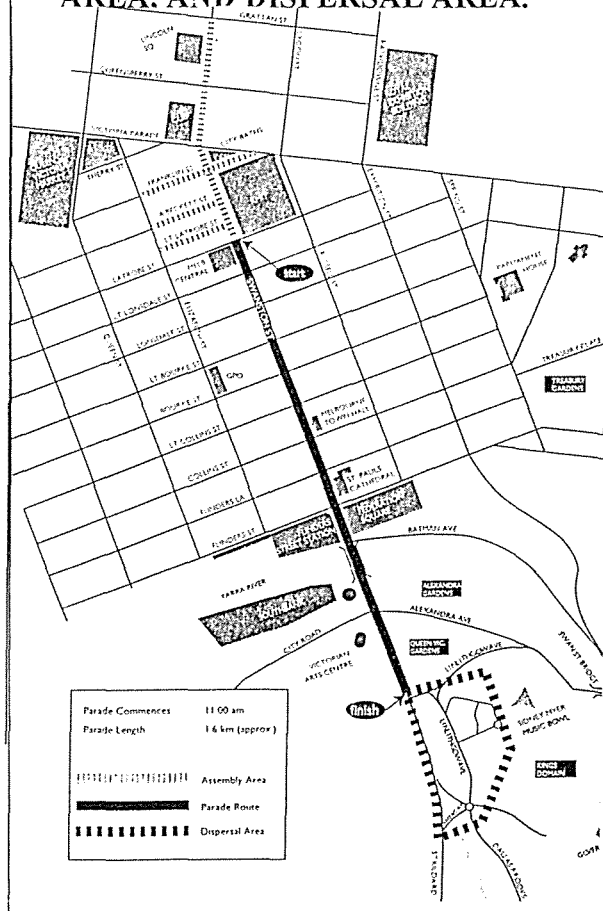
We believe that the Opposition must amend the proposed legislation to limit the power of the Council to make recommendations over private land, and without proper consultation.

We believe that all stakeholders must be represented on the Council to provide balance.

We should all hope that the Opposition's amendments will be accepted by the Government, otherwise Mr Braces could suffer the type of backlash experienced by his predecessor.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE NATION ON PARADE DATES.

MAP BELOW SETS OUT THE PARADE ROUTE, ASSEMBLY AREA, AND DISPERSAL AREA.



NDA CMAV 2011