

MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.
ASSOCIATES OF THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN

(Copies to all Mountain Cattlemen and Associate members)

NEWSLETTER - No. 7 - JULY 1986

Our announcement that newsletters were only going to be every 6 months was slightly premature!

All our supporters should be informed regarding several important matters, so we decided to circulate everybody.

ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW - 18th to 28th SEPTEMBER, '86.

The Mountain Cattlemen have been asked to demonstrate their craft by driving a small mob of cattle down Swanston Street as part of the Royal Show Street Parade. The Mountain Cattlemen are to be featured amongst some 80 entries. After some consideration, the Executive have left the final decision on the drive to the Mansfield branch, and the Lovick family. It was considered that the Lovicks would have the most reliable cows and calves for such an exercise. The Mansfield branch will have a "practice run" shortly in Mansfield, and a final decision made after problems, if any, become obvious. It is hoped that each branch will finance and send at least 3 or 4 good horsemen to help with the Royal Show drive on Sunday, September 14th. It has been put most strongly to the Royal Agricultural Society that the exercise will be non-political, and that we welcome the chance to do something more in our line - other than political demonstrations. If the exercise does go on (and it jolly well should, the R.A.S. are counting on it - S.S.) we expect a great deal of media coverage similar to Tim Austin and his 1,500 merinos in last year's Parade. We believe that it is important to keep the Mountain Cattlemen before the public in a non-political way, and this offers us a golden opportunity to be seen in Melbourne again.

This brings us to the main point of this Newsletter

THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMENS SHOP
ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW

The Cattlemen and Associates were offered, and we have accepted, a shop of our own at the Show. For a very reasonable sum we can set up shop for the duration of the Show, and sell and distribute out goods and handouts. The shop is in a very good position on a main thoroughfare near the horses and the main arena, and we expect to sell heaps of windcheaters, t shirts, stickers, posters etc. Ross Brown has ordered stocks, and we are very excited about the whole project.

ASSOCIATES - HELP! HELP!

The Show shop is going to need lots and lots of assistants. We will have to open from 10a.m. until 7 p.m. each day. The planning of a roster is an enormous and daunting task, however Keith and Anne Whittam have taken on the challenge - bless their hearts! - and agreed to co-ordinate the staffing and administrative side of the project with Sue Silvers' assistance. Please consider helping at the Show which will be a positive and rewarding project Associates can directly participate in, and at the same time further the Cattlemens cause. We will need at least eight people on duty each day of the Show (passes have already been arranged). Please contact Keith or Anne Whittam, 03 878 7536, or 357 Springvale Road, Forest Hill, 3131, as soon as possible, if you can help. We think that the shop will be a lot of fun. Beside the Associate helpers it is planned to enlist 1 - 2 Cattlemen to be in attendance each day to speak with members of the public, and generally show a presence. Branch Secretaries have been asked to organise this part of the project.

FLORA & FAUNA CONSERVATION GUARANTEE

Serious concern is mounting throughout the farming community about this proposed Legislation. Executive Officer Graeme Stoney has written a very strong submission on behalf of the Mountain Cattlemen, condemning the proposals. The Cattlemen say that the Legislation could give mischievous individuals or extreme Conservation groups a tool so powerful that the use of renewable

resources found on Public land could be almost halted. It is hard to see why such Legislation is needed when present Legislation covers the protection of native flora and fauna adequately. Both Opposition parties have been approached on the subject of the Legislation with the object of having either the Bill stopped, or water-tight safeguards written into it. A bitter fight appears to be looming.

NATIONAL PARKS BILL

As we expected, the Minister has signalled her intention to fight on, and reintroduce the Bill in the Spring session of Parliament. We are not sure that she can do this unless the Bill is substantially altered, or Parliament is prorogued. The Liberals and the Nationals have been contacted and both appear firm in their resolve, unless the Bill is dramatically different, and allows for sensible multi-use of the area. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ABOUT THE FLORA & FAUNA CONSERVATION GUARANTEE AND THE NATIONAL PARKS LEGISLATION.

Please voice your concern to your local Member. The Mountain Cattlemen believe our organisation must show a lead, and highlight to politicians and the media the damage both pieces of Legislation will inflict on the State's economy, and on the community's ability to utilise renewable resources on both private and public land.

THE CATTLEMENS BOOK.

At 6.15 a.m. on a chilly morning the week before last, author Bryan Jameson cast down his pen and cracked a bottle of champagne - it was done!!

Copies have gone to the publishers and to Jim Commins and Graeme Stoney for checking. The next move is to select from the store of photographs submitted by many people. It is planned to use a photograph of one of the Melbourne rides for the cover. Anyone who has a colour shot of the Ringwood ride (taken as the riders came up the hill in Eastfield Road) similar to the one on the cover of the current Voice of the Mountains please contact Graeme Stoney urgently - 057 752 212. Also needed are black and white

photos of rabbits on the high plains, early bush fires, and big mobs of cattle. We do have quite a lot from which to choose, but still need shots of particular subjects, especially in black and white.

CONGRATULATIONS.

Jack Lovick was named recently as one of the 14 living treasures and priceless assets to the State of Victoria by the Tourism Commission. Keep it going Jack, its all good indirect publicity, which is often the best type. Of course as a senior Cattleman, Jack Treasure pointed out there are a heap of Cattlemen in Gippsland who have been Treasures all their lives! And does this now mean that if Jack Lovick can be made a treasure, that the Treasures will shortly become Lovicks?

PUBLICITY.

Our publicity machine is rolling along nicely. Jack of course has had a high profile lately and managed to get in some quiet plugs for the Cattlemens point of view. President Jim Commins has covered grazing fees and other issues. There is an excellent 3 page article in the latest "Bushdriver" 4 x 4 magazine about the Cattlemens issue. Ken Connley has gained some publicity through Aukubra Hats. Graeme Stoney has discussed the Flora & Fauna Conservation Guarantee in the newspapers, and the Cattlemens message has been quite clear. Bill Scott, an Associate member from Gippsland has spoken to a group about the Cattlemen, and is a valuable spokesman down that way with further engagements coming up. Sue Clay and family of Moorooduc, new Associate members, have never actually met any of the Cattlemen, yet have embarked on a remarkable mission. They have collected over 3,000 signatures for a Mornington Peninsular Petition which they will get their local Member to present to the Parliament in the Spring. Sue believes in what the Mountain Cattlemen stand for and she has gone out and done something about it.

The Cattlemens Nunawading involvement and the subsequent police investigation got a run in Tom Duggan's column in the Age in early July. He was emphasising the obvious cover-up of the affair and creating an expectation that there is more to come.

That is all for now. Please give your best effort to helping out at the Show, and contact Keith or Anne Whittam NOW.!

Graeme Stoney,
Mansfield.

The following nominations have been received for the 2 positions for Associate members to join the Executive Committee. Please register your vote by marking two of the squares - one for a Melbourne/metropolitan member; one for a country member and return this page to:

Mrs. S. Silvers,
Assistant Secretary,
13 Tuxen Street,
NORTH BALWYN. 3104

no later than Friday 15th August, 1986

MELBOURNE/METROPOLITAN MEMBER NOMINATIONS:

R. Buckley, Murrumbeena

P. Kennedy, Wonga Park

B. O'Meara, Mt. Evelyn

G. Sandman, Croydon

K.R. Whittam, Forest Hill

COUNTRY MEMBER NOMINATIONS:

J.L. Cook, Benambra

A. Drash, Axedale

B. Masters, Traralgon