



The Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria Inc.

AFFILIATED WITH
THE VICTORIAN FARMERS' FEDERATION

ASSOCIATES OF THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN

NEWSLETTER NO. 10 - MAY, 1987

(Copies to all Mountain Cattlemen and Associate members)

WHAT PRICE MOUNTAIN GRAZING?

By J.A. Commins, President.

After some years during which several ill-considered and unsatisfactory attempts were made by Government to restructure rental rates for mountain grazing, we are now hopeful that the matter will soon be resolved on reasonable terms.

An investigating panel of three men has been appointed by the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands to examine and make recommendations for fair grazing rental for all Crown Land. There has been much dissatisfaction in the recent past with Government charges for not only mountain grazing runs, but also many unused roadways and river frontages, for which grazing licences have been held by adjoining landowners.

The Pricing panel which is comprised of one representative each from the Victorian Farmers Federation, the Rural Finance Commission and the Department of Conservation Forests and Lands has been charged with the task of making value guidelines for all the above areas of Crown Land grazing. I suspect that they are finding it all quite a daunting exercise.

Much time has been spent preparing notes on the unique circumstances of mountain grazing for consideration by the Pricing panel. Last month (April) the three-man investigating panel made a three day visit to the mountains and met members of the Mountain Cattlemens Association rental committee who discussed the problems and escorted them by road vehicles up the Buckland Valley, over Mt. Hotham to Omeo, and around a large section of the Omeo district.

On the third day a helicopter was provided by the Department and a very extensive inspection was made from the air which took about six hours flying time.

Even that amount of flying time was insufficient to cover all the Alpine area, but there would be no doubt that the Pricing panel would now have a much better appreciation of the vastness and the exceptional difficulties associated with grazing

management there.

There has been some further communication, and I expect that recommendations upon which the future of mountain grazing in Victoria very much depends, will soon be made.

FILMING THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER II.

Representatives of most Branches of the Mountain Cattlemens Association and at least 12 Mountain Cattlemen families have been involved in making SnowyII. Several Associate members are also involved in various capacities with the making of the film. Snowy II is being produced and directed by Geoff Burrowes who is a great supporter of the Cattlemen, and brothers Charlie and John Lovick are joint Horsemasters for the production. The major roles in the production are Tom Burlinson continuing as Jim Craig, and Sigrid Thornton as Jessica. Mr. Brian Dennehy is replacing Kirk Douglas as Harrison. Mr. Dennehy, a popular character actor has appeared in hit movies such as First Blood, "10", Gorky Park and Looking for Mr. Godbar. Unlike Kirk Douglas in the original film Dennehy will not have the dual role of Harrison and Spur. Only Harrison returns for the sequel in a strong role which brings him into a potent conflict with the "Man".

Part of the attraction of the film is the mob of 100 horses which Jim Craig has brought down from Queensland, and there is plenty of action with the horses swimming the Murray River, galloping down the Howqua, and being stolen by the "baddies" and recovered in the mountains by the "goodies".

Filming has taken place at Mildura, Mt. Howitt, and many locations around Merrijig and Mansfield.

Shooting at Merrijig will continue until the end of May, and the film is due for release about Easter next year.

(Information about Mr. Brian Dennehy courtesy Mansfield Courier).

PETITION REGARDING EXTENSIONS TO NATIONAL PARKS.

The response to this Petition has been fair, with some members making a tremendous effort. However there are still approximately one hundred or so sheets to be returned. If you have not had the Petition filled could you please do so and return it to Sue Silvers, Secretary M.C.A.V. 13 Tuxen Street, North Balwyn. 3104. If you would like further copies please phone Sue on 03 857 5316, or write to her in North Balwyn. There is no point in presenting

a Petition unless it is substantial.

THE ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW.

After the tremendous success we had last year with our shop at the Royal Melbourne Show, we are bracing ourselves to undertake the same exercise again this year. This is a preliminary notice advising you that the shop will be operating again at the same location, and a notice will go out nearer the time pleading for assistance! The response was great last year, and we all hope that we will have the same response to our plea this year. Whether or not the Cattlemen will be taking part in the Royal Show Parade, and doing what, is yet to be decided.

OVERDUE SUBSCRIPTIONS, RENEWALS ETC.

The support for the Mountain Cattlemens Association is growing constantly and the enormous support from the general community is almost overwhelming. Enquiries come in batches every day of every week, both enquiries regarding membership and also requests from school children and post graduate students asking for up-to-date material regarding mountain grazing, and what the Mountain Cattlemen are doing to retain their right to graze the High Plains. Administrative costs have risen in direct proportion, printing and postage costs form a large part of the annual budget. It is therefore not possible to keep reminding members that their subscriptions are overdue. A new membership card is sent out for renewal of subscription, and if this is not returned a reminder is then sent some three months later. If no reply is received in a reasonable time after that we presume that the membership is no longer required and the name and address is removed from the Register and mailing list.

THEREFORE if you wish to retain your membership please return your renewal form promptly. It saves a lot of office work!

MILLERS HUT - WELLINGTON PLATEAU.

We have recently had a small number of 4WD Clubs joining the Association as Associate members. These Clubs are in every case affiliated with the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs which has a very strong code of ethics regarding the environment. These organizations are all strongly opposed to the present Government's plans to create a contiguous Alpine

National Park, and support the concept of multiple use of renewable resources.

The Range Rover Club of Australia (Victoria Branch) has, during the first few months of this year, undertaken to restore Millers Hut on the Wellington Plateau north of Licola. They must be congratulated for their efforts. The Secretary of the Range Rover Club has written to the Association stating that it is keen to tackle another hut restoration within the next couple of years. If any of the Branches wish to explore this possibility please discuss it at your next meeting and advise Sue Silvers of the outcome.

THE BUSH DINNER DANCE

The Invitation for this social event of the year is enclosed with this newsletter. This Bush Dinner Dance has been planned to be bigger and better than the last, and once again is to be a family night.

DATE: Saturday 11th July, 1987
TIME: 7.00 p.m. to midnight
BAND: The Cobbers
VENUE: Centenary Hall, Royal Showgrounds,
 Entry to Centenary Hall is by Gate No. 4
 in Langs Road, Ascot Vale. (Side of Showgrounds)
COST: Adults \$18.00
 Children (under 16 years) \$8.00
DINNER: Is a Spit Roast with salads and dessert
 and coffee.
 BYO drinks.
TICKETS: Anne Whittam, Post Office Box 133, Mitcham 3132
 or phone 03 878 7536.

This is a great opportunity for all members and associate members to get together again and enjoy a happy night and great company. It is also your opportunity to purchase windcheaters, t shirts, singlets, books, stickers, Cattlemens Port etc. etc.

Only a certain number of tickets will be available, so please be early with your bookings. BOOKINGS CLOSE ON JUNE 30th.

Let's all make this night a great success!!