

A stunning mountain location, glorious weather and great music were the back drop for the 34th annual Mountain Cattlemen's Get-Together held over the weekend at Junction Plain on Cobungra Station.

More than 2000 people congregated and camped on the Victoria River to support the Mountain Cattlemen and their families while at the same time celebrating a wealth of Australian culture and tradition.

The highlight of the weekend was the running of the prestigious Cattlemen's Cup which came down to a close battle between reigning champion Lincoln Adams and rival Graeme Rozynski. Lincoln who was fighting for his fourth big win and Graeme his first gave the large crowd a 'nail biting' finish when Lincoln came from behind pipping Graeme by a nose at the finish line.

Third place went to Steven Bolton and fourth to David Olsson.

While the seniors event was a stunning race over very rough terrain it was equally matched by the tussle in the Junior Cattlemen's Cup. A strong field of up and coming horsemen and women fought it out over the very same track the seniors had previously traversed. First across the line was Chris Connley, second Cassie Malady and third and fourth went to Mitchell Ward and Georgia Flannagan.

In other events Jim Flannagan took out the coveted Wally Ryder Walking Race while the Men's Packhorse race was won by Graham Forge and the Ladies Packhorse race went to Anne-Maree Forge.

In the poetry competitions the Don Kneebone award went to Bill Ruth and Alan Mull was named the Bush Minstrel and Greg Oatley was given the Bush Laureate title.

During her speech MCAV president Christa Treasure said the money raised from the weekend would help to position the MCAV with future governments and to formulate a plan for the next election.

"We will not have Australian traditions as history only", she said.

"We will have cattle grazing re-instated into our National Parks,

"We will promote the benefits of mountain cattle grazing – that is, fire fuel reduction, increased water production and a clean product."

Ms Treasure went on to say that the Mountain Cattlemen's Association had worked tirelessly to gather scientific information which supported what the bushmen know that fire, grazing and ecology can support each other.

"We are a young country when it comes to white man's culture, and so we must preserve what we have," she said.

"We have the strength to stand up for what we believe in and that includes sustainable alpine grazing."

Winners of Mountain Cattlemen's Events were:

Junior Whipcracking:

1st: Luke Higgins

2nd: Ellie Woodgate

3rd: Jack Mitchell

Juvenile Whipcracking:

1st Jenelle Kiely

2nd Emma Higgins

3rd Paige Williams

Ladies Whipcracking:

1st Dianne Hurley
2nd Aleshia Sievers
3rd Suzannah Keyte

Open Whipcracking:

1st Dianne Hurley
2nd Wayne Campbell
3rd Alesha Sievers

Cross Cut Saw Competition:

1st Rachel and Sophie
2nd Adam and Chelsea
3rd Tup and Luke N

Dog High Jump:

Equal 1st Britney Bolton with Tip and Greg Cunningham with Tara
3rd Bill Larmbur with Blue

Junior Cross Cut Saw:

1st Rachel and Sophie
2nd Adam and Chelsea
3rd Tup and Ellen
4th Luke and Terry
5th Tom and Mitchell

Ladies Bushmans Challenge:

1st Dianna and Sara
2nd Terrienne Whittington
3rd Sue Newton and Bonnie Newton

Men's Bushmans Challenge:

1st Tom Mitchell, Lloyd Powell
2nd Kane and Grant
3rd Brian and Noel

Ladies Haystacking

1st Amanda and Joe
2nd Kathryn Tobias and Annette Miller
3rd Rosie and Rhonda Bennett

Mens Haystacking

1st Leo and Ben
2nd Steve and Wayne
3rd Don and Paul

Wally Ryder Walking Race

1st Jim Flannagan
2nd Charles Connley
3rd Ann Maree Forge

Poetry Winners

Don Kneebone award – Bill Ruth

Bush Minstrel – Alan Mull

Bush Laureate – Greg Oatley

Packhorse Race Junior

1st Ellen Forge

2nd Georgia Flannagan

3rd Mitchell Ward

Ladies Packhorse Race

1st Anne-Maree Forge

2nd Bonnie Newton

3rd Aleshia Sievers

Cattleman's Cup

1st Lincoln Adams

2nd Graeme Rozynski

3rd Steven Bolton

4th David Olsson

Junior Cattlemen's Cup

1st Chris Connley

2nd Cassie Malady

3rd Mitchell Ward

4th Georgia Flannagan

Relay Race

1st Graham Forge

2nd Ian Forge

3rd Ben Neville

Men's Packhorse Race

1st Graham Forge

2nd Ron Connley

3rd David Olsson

Neatest Pack: Bonnie Newton

Tug-of-War winners: Men's – Mansfield, Ladies – Dusk til Down

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